
Term 1 – 25th September 2026

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



Last year, we had the Bomb Disposal team come to visit the school to talk about their work and what to do if you should ever come across an old WWII bomb (which happens far more often than we

all realised!) The team invited us to run a competition to name the Bomb Disposal robot that came on the visit to the school. The winning name was



'Disposeasaurus' suggested by Louie. Mrs Fell who organised this (with the help of her husband who is a member of the Bomb Disposal team) has sent through some photos that I thought you would all like to see, to show it has now officially been named.



Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

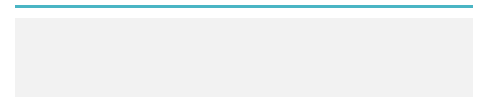
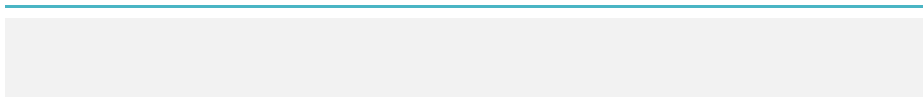
Upcoming Events

21 st Sept	Flu Vaccinations
15 th Oct	Harvest Festival at the church 9:15am
22 nd Oct	Last Day of term 1
23 rd Oct	Staff Training Day
2 nd Nov	Start of Term 2
6 th Nov	Interim reports out
16 th Nov	Odd Socks Day
	Anti-bullying week
16 th Nov	Parents Evening 5-7:30pm
18 th Nov	Parents Evening 3:30-6pm
25 th Nov	Open Evening for Prospective Year R parents 5-7pm
17 th Dec	Christmas Church Service 9:15am
18 th Dec	End of term 2

Secondary Admissions – Year 6 pupils.

Please see attached flyer for more information.

Online applications opened on Tuesday 1 September 2026 and will close on Monday 2 November 2026. Applications can be made at www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions. If parents are unable to access the online site, an alternative format can be requested by emailing kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk.



Emotional Wellbeing Teams

Please find attached flyers that detail all the online workshops available from the Emotional Wellbeing Teams during terms 1 and 2. These can be accessed by any parent so please do take advantage if you feel it would be useful for you and your child.

Open Evening – Wednesday 25th November

We will be holding our annual Open Evening for prospective parents of children starting school in September 2027 on Wednesday 25th November from 5-7pm. Please see attached poster with further information and I would be grateful if you could share with any other families you may know, who have a child starting school next year.

After School Club message

We have started to put together a craft box for the After School Club. If you have any unwanted card, craft bits, wool, paper plates, bubble wrap, kitchen roll card, etc (sorry - no toilet roll card) could you email me on Kim.wenn@mersham.kent.sch.uk and I can arrange to meet you to collect any items at the school reception before the club starts, or when you collect your child from the club at the end of the day. Many thanks Mrs Wenn and Miss Norman

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – October Half Term

Kent County Council are pleased to confirm that funding has been secured through the Crisis and Resilience Fund to extend the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme into the October 2026 school holidays.

The HAF Programme offers funded holiday activities, enriching experiences and healthy meals for children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals. The programme helps children stay active, build friendships, develop new skills and access nutritious food during the school holidays. Please note however, that the recent changes in free school meals eligibility will mean that some families may not now be eligible for the HAF Programme.

Further information about the programme is available on the Kent County Council website: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf>

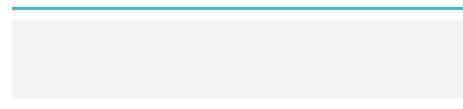
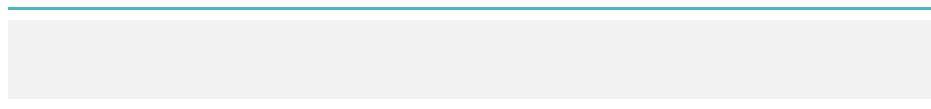
As in previous holiday periods, bookings will be managed through the **HolidayActivities** platform and automated EVouchers will be issued to eligible families on **1st October 2026**.

Some families who were previously eligible for a funded HAF place may no longer meet the eligibility criteria following changes to their Free School Meal status. Further support and information can be found here:

Further support with childcare costs <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/help-with-childcare-costs/further-support-with-childcare-costs>

Crisis and Resilience Fund <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/cost-of-living-support/crisis-and-resilience-fund>

Kent Family Hub <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub>



Ashford Borough Council – Why I love Ashford competition

Please find attached information regarding a competition being run by Ashford Borough Council. More information can also be found on their website on the Love Ashford website and

PTFA Update: Introducing Our New WhatsApp Community!

We're excited to announce the launch of our new **PTFA WhatsApp Community!**

We know that life is busy, and it can be difficult to keep up to date with everything that is going on with our events and fundraisers. Our new WhatsApp Community will help us share PTFA news, event updates, volunteer opportunities and reminders quickly and conveniently, all in one place. You can pick and choose which groups and chats you join – no pressure! The new Community set up will enable us to:

- provide updates about upcoming PTFA events and fundraising activities
- ask for volunteers and donations
- give important reminders and flag key dates
- celebrate fundraising successes and how funds are being used to support the school
- share formal papers for committee meetings and our AGM

The WhatsApp Community is designed to be a simple and reliable way for parents and carers to stay informed and connected with our PTFA community.

Joining is completely optional, but we hope as many of you as possible will take advantage of this new way to keep in touch.

Look out for joining details on our Facebook page, our notice boards and your Class WhatsApp groups over the coming days or use the

link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HUxhVeTUY2pAOkGqfrqHBC>

Come Along to Our PTFA AGM & Committee Meeting

We are currently finalising the date for our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Committee Meeting** which will take place in October.

The AGM is a great opportunity to hear about the PTFA's activities over the past year, learn how fundraising has benefited the school, and find out what's planned for the year ahead.

We're always keen to welcome new ideas, new faces and new volunteers. Whether you'd like to take on an active role, help at occasional events, or simply find out more about what we do, we'd love to see you there.

Getting involved doesn't have to mean a big commitment. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps us create memorable experiences and valuable opportunities for our children.

Why attend?

- Meet other parents and carers
- Hear about PTFA plans and finances

- Share your ideas and suggestions
- Learn about volunteering opportunities
- Help shape future events and fundraising activities

Please keep an eye out for the date and we would love to welcome as many of you as possible!

The PTFA Committee

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1

Tuesday 1st September – Friday 23rd October

Staff Development Days – Tuesday 1st September and Friday 23rd October

Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

Term 3

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

Term 4

Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March

Term 5

Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May

Term 6

Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days – Monday 19th July, Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July

