
Term 1 – 16th October 2026

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



Many thanks to all of you who came along to the Harvest Festival at the church yesterday – it was lovely to see so many people there. The children sang beautifully and the year 6 pupils did an excellent job taking us through the service as well as reading extracts from the Bible. A huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work in getting the children ready to perform and particularly to Mrs Fellows for organising the service as well as her practice with the choir. Thank you also for all the harvest contributions. They will be distributed to the local community alongside the donations received directly by the church.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Staff Training Day

Don't forget the last day of term is next Thursday 22nd October. The school will be closed on Friday for staff training.

Sporting News

Cross Country

On Tuesday afternoon, 30 children from Years 3,4,5 and 6 represented the school in the 'My Run' cross country event. Years 3 and 4 ran a course of 1000m and years 5 and 6 ran 1600m (1 mile).



We were so pleased to have so many children wanting to take part after our practice session on the field. Every

single child completed the course and should be extremely proud of

Upcoming Events

22 nd Oct	Last Day of term 1
23 rd Oct	Staff Training Day
2 nd Nov	Start of Term 2
4 th Nov	Walk in Wednesday
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
2 nd Dec	Walk in Wednesday
4 th Dec	Christmas Fair 3:15pm
8/9 th Dec	Ducklings and Parrots Christmas Production 2pm
17 th Dec	Christmas Church Service 9:15am
18 th Dec	End of term 2

themselves as it took a great deal of stamina and perseverance. A special well done must go to Daniel who came 1st in the year 4 boys' race, Dylan who came 1st and Alex who came 4th in the year 6 boys' race - they were amazing! As well as the brilliant running, the support that the children gave each other was incredible; along with all of the adults, there was a real sense of our Mersham community. Thank you to all who came to support and well done again to all of our fantastic runners - you made us so proud. Mrs Maher

Football

What a fantastic start to the season! Mersham celebrated a 9–2 win against Aldington in our first school football league match of the season. The children did brilliantly and should all be proud of their performance. Dylan scored an impressive five goals, Daniel added two, whilst William and Alex scored one each to bring our total to nine. It was a wonderful result to celebrate as a team and a memorable way to begin our league campaign. There was some fantastic teamwork on show, with the children working together to make this a real team success. Just as pleasing as the score line was how much the children enjoyed playing. It was lovely to see their enthusiasm for football, and every player deserves a big well done for their part in such a successful opening match. A big thank-you to the adults and the other children from school who came out to watch and cheer us on. It was wonderful to have such great support from the side lines! Mr Fraser

KS2 Discover the Bayeux Tapestry!

On Wednesday, our KS2 children took part in an exciting live-streamed session presented by the British Museum, exploring the fascinating story of the Bayeux Tapestry, which is currently on display in London. The children watched with great interest as they discovered how this remarkable piece of history tells the story of how William the Conqueror became King of England in 1066, following the Battle of Hastings and the end of Anglo-Saxon rule. They were particularly intrigued by how the tapestry acts like a historical cartoon, using pictures to tell a story from the past. The children also impressed us with some brilliant questions, showing their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning more about this important event in British history! Mrs Cox

After School Club

For all those of you who have children that access After School Club, we now have a phone number to call the staff directly during After School Club hours (3:15-6:00). The number is 07442 525790. Please do make a note of this for future reference.

Mrs Wenn and Miss Norman would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated arts and crafts materials to After School Club – they really are thrilled with the response and very grateful for all that has been received.

Class Assemblies – Terms 1 and 2

Class assemblies will be performed at 9:00am in the school hall.
Dates are as follows:

22 nd October	Parrot Class
26 th November	Duckling Class
3 rd December	Robin Class

Primary Admissions - Year R 2027

Applications for primary admissions for September 2027 open between Friday 6th November 2026 - Friday 15th January 2027 and can be made at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions . If parents are unable to access the online site, an alternative format can be requested by emailing kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk . Please see attached flyers with more information for parents with children starting school next September.

Secondary Admissions – Year 6 pupils.

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 .

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.

Royal Oak Halloween Party

Please see attached flyer about an event on Friday 30th October

Ashford Family Hubs

Please see attached flyers with details of events being run by Ashford Family Hubs.

Ashford School Discovery Day

The Ashford School are running a Discovery Day next month offering children in Years 5 & 6 an opportunity to experience a range of different academic and co-curricular disciplines. The day will finish with practical session from our Combined Cadet Force which is run in partnership with both Wye and Chilmington Green Schools'. Please see attached flyer with more information.

Ashford Borough Council Competition – please see attached flyer

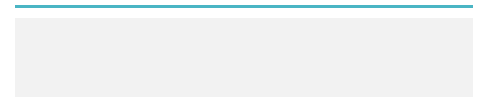
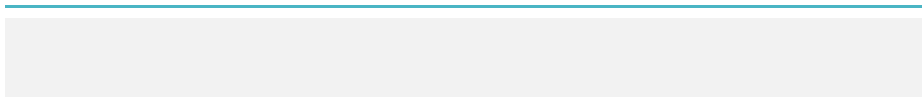
Ashford Borough Council (ABC) is launching a competition with school children and students to find out the best reasons why we Love Ashford!

Is there something you love doing, a place you like to visit, a special memory you have? To enter our competition either draw a picture or take a photo of that location, activity or moment along with a short explanation of why it is special to you.

Entries can be submitted via email to competition@ashford.gov.uk by the end of October.

There will be three age categories:

- Primary school children (under 11s)
- Secondary school children (11- to 16-year-olds)
- Further education students (six form, college students).



ABC also asks that the name of the child, their age and their school/college are included with every submission, as well as a parent or guardian's contact details, so we know who to contact if they win.

Winners will receive £100 of Love 2 Shop vouchers. (There are three prizes in total – one winner per age category).

The winners will also have their submissions included on hoardings displayed around the town as well as on the Love Ashford website and in a future edition of Ashford For You magazine. They will also be shared on Ashford Borough Council and Love Ashford's social media channels.

The competition opens on Friday 25 September and the closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 30 October.

Entries can be submitted via email or by post: Ashford Borough Council, Communications Team, International House, Dover Place, Ashford, TN23 1HU.

Competition guidelines

- Entrants must be within the specific age categories set out above
- It must be their own original image (no cheating parents!)
- It must be in landscape format and either A4 or A3
- It must be a jpeg or pdf attachment (not embedded in the body of an email)
- It must be supplied as a high resolution (at least 300dpi)
- ABC staff or direct family members cannot enter the competition

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

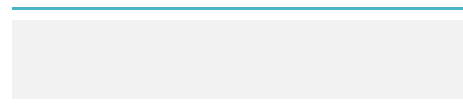
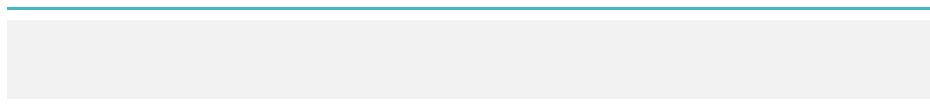
Kent County Council are pleased to confirm that funding has been secured through the Crisis and Resilience Fund to extend the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme into the October 2026 school holidays.

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>

PTFA Update:

Halloween Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to today's Halloween Sale after school! We were thrilled to see so many families supporting the event, and we're delighted to share that we raised over £100 for the school! Your generosity and engagement help us to continue supporting exciting opportunities and resources for our children.

Upcoming Dates

If you'd like to get more involved, we'd love to welcome you to our next PTFA Committee Meeting, which will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams at 7.00pm on Wednesday 21 October. Contact us for joining details – they will also be shared on our noticeboard and banner, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram.

We would also like to invite all parents and carers to attend the PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11 November. The venue will be confirmed shortly. This is an opportunity to elect a new committee and help set the plans for the coming school year – please do join us! Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, new faces and ideas are always welcome! Thank you for your continued support.

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

