

Term 1 – 22nd October 2026

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

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We have already reached the end of Term 1 (the longest term of the year)! It has been a great start to the new academic year and I would like to particularly mention our new Ducklings who have settled in so well – you would think they have been here a lot longer than one term! Next term is one of the busiest of the year in the lead up to Christmas so do make a note of significant dates including all the PTFA events. Wishing you a relaxing and restful half term break and I look forward to seeing you all again on 2nd November

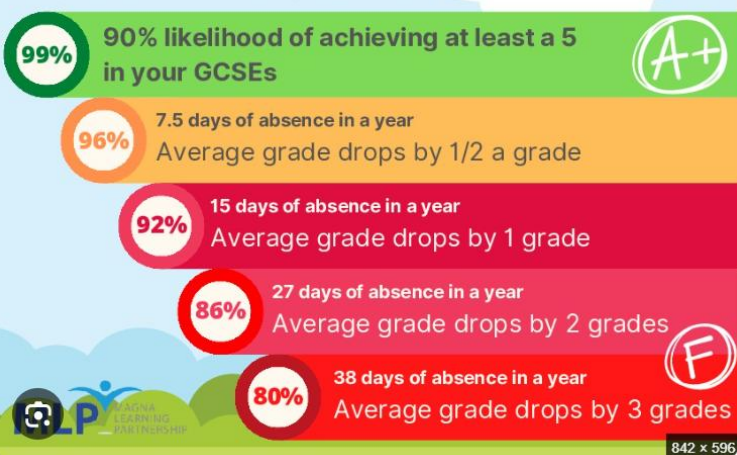
Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Attendance

One of the key priorities for all schools is to ensure that children attend school regularly. It is proven that where children's attendance is not consistent, this has a significant impact on their future attainment and progress. Good attendance is an expectation from the moment they start school in Reception (even if they are not yet at statutory school age). All children may have occasional illness and be absent from school from time to time, but as a school we are expected to monitor and track pupils' attendance and to intervene

early if attendance is below expected levels of at least 95%. Attendance below 80% is considered persistent absence and below 50% it is recorded as

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Upcoming Events

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

severe absence. When attendance is either persistent or severe it is a serious concern.

The visual above refers to GCSE's which may seem a long way off but attending school regularly is a habit that starts in primary school. Poor attendance has a similar impact on progress and attainment in primary school and the cumulative effect significantly affects learning over time.

It is also important to recognise that there are 175 days in a year where children do not have to attend school – wherever possible these are the days that should be used for holidays, days out, appointments etc.

Later in term 2 we will be writing to all parents where attendance is falling below 95% to make sure parents are aware as well as offer appropriate support to improve attendance where we feel this is necessary.

New School Dinner Menus

Please find attached the new school dinner menus that will be served after the half term break.

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.

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.

Class Assemblies – Terms 1 and 2

Class assemblies will be performed at 9:00am in the school hall.

Dates are as follows:

26 th November	Duckling Class
3 rd December	Robin Class
10 th December	Toucan 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.

PTFA Update:

Thank You!

A huge thank you to the new parents who attended our committee meeting on 21 October. Your input was incredibly valuable, and it was wonderful to hear your ideas and suggestions. We hope to see you, along with many other parents, at future meetings as we continue to plan exciting activities for our school community.

Save the Date - PTFA AGM

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11 November. The venue is still to be confirmed, so please keep an eye on our social media channels for further details. We would love to see as many parents and carers there as possible. At the AGM we elect a new committee, hear about the year's achievements and plan priorities for the year ahead so it is always a good one!

Christmas Volunteers Needed!

The Christmas term is fast approaching, and we're already busy planning a range of exciting festive events. To make them a success, we'll need lots of volunteers to help with organisation, set-up, running activities, and more. Whether you can spare an hour or a little longer, your support would be greatly appreciated. Watch out for volunteer opportunities coming soon or contact us if you would like to get involved – we would love to have you!

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

