Term 2 – 13th November 2026

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU
www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449

Next week is Anti-bullying week and the theme this year is 'Break the Silence' - encouraging children, young people and adults across the UK to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together. Throughout the week, the children will be engaged in a range of age appropriate activities linked to this theme. To start the week off, all children are encouraged to wear odd socks on Monday to celebrate what makes us all unique



We hope as many children as possible will be able to take part.

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

16th Nov	Odd Socks Day Anti-bullying week
16th Nov	Parents Evening 5-7:30pm
18th Nov	Parents Evening 3:30-6pm
20th Nov	Non-uniform day for Christmas Fair
25th Nov	Open Evening for Prospective Year R parents 5-7pm
2nd Dec	Walk in Wednesday
4th Dec	Christmas Fair 3:15pm
8/9th Dec	Ducklings and Parrots Christmas Production 2pm
17th Dec	Christmas Church Service 9:15am
18th Dec	End of term 2
4th Jan	Start of term 3

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – Christmas holidays

The HAF Programme offers funded holiday activities, enriching experiences and healthy meals for children eligible for **targeted** Free School Meals only. Please note that with the changes to free school meals, some families who were previously eligible for the HAF programme may no longer be able to access it.

The programme helps children stay active, build friendships, develop new skills and access nutritious food during the school holidays. Vouchers will only be issued to parents of eligible children on 1st December via email. More information on how to book activities can be found on https://help.holidayactivities.com/hc/en-gb/categories/33249075495837

Further information about the programme in general can be found on the Kent County Council website https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf

Christmas Events at The Royal Oak in Mersham
Please see attached flyer for more information.

Cycle Circle – see attached flyer
Keep your bike running smoothly this winter with our free cycling events at The Coachworks.

FREE BIKE CHECKS AND MINOR REPAIRS

10am–12 noon

Bring your bike along for a free check, minor repairs and friendly, impartial maintenance advice.

LEARN-TO-FIX YOUR BIKE WORKSHOP

12.30–2.30pm

Learn the basics of bike maintenance and gain the confidence to carry out simple repairs yourself.

Workshop dates:

- Saturday 14 November
- Saturday 5 December
- Saturday 9 January

CHRISTMAS BIKE RIDE

Join us at 12 noon on Saturday 19 December for a festive group ride through the local area.

Dress up in your favourite Christmas outfit, decorate your bike and bring plenty of festive spirit! The ride will be approximately 10 miles, so participants should be comfortable cycling this distance.

All events are free and ideal for adults and accompanied teenagers.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

https://bbr.cyclinguk.org/?cycle-circle-limited

For more information, email spencer@cyclecircle.co.uk.

Christmas Card competition – Ashford Borough Council
We're inviting primary school aged children (4 to 11 years) from across Ashford and Tenterden to draw, colour or paint a festive image related to the borough to become the council's annual Christmas eCard.
The winning design will be incorporated into our Christmas eCard which will be sent out to local businesses and organisations throughout the borough. We'll also be showcasing the winning design across our social media channels!
The winner and two runners up will be invited to have tea with the Chief Executive and Mayor of Ashford, Cllr Winston Michael, at International House in the Mayor's Parlour where the winner will be presented with a £30 Waterstones voucher, with the runners up each receiving a £10 voucher.
As an added festive treat, we'll also arrange for 10 physical cards to be printed, so the winner and runners up can personally send their artwork to their family and friends in time for Christmas.

The extended closing date for entries is Monday 23rd November 2026

Visit our website for the full competition guidelines and how to submit your entry
https://www.ashford.gov.uk/news/latest-news/ashford-borough-councils-christmas-card-design-competition-is-back/

Canterbury Brick Festival – see attached flyer
The CANTERBURY BRICK FESTIVAL is an exciting celebration of all things LEGO, but it isn't just about fun – although it is absolutely packed full of that too! Brick Festival events also invite visitors to explore a range of STEM subject skills through the medium of LEGO bricks.

Santa Special – Kent and East Sussex Railway – see attached flyer
Christmas is a magical time at the railway, and our Santa Specials offer a wonderful festive experience for children and their families. Climb aboard one of our steam trains and enjoy a special Christmas journey, where Santa himself will be making a visit to meet the children. Every child receives a special named gift, and there is plenty more festive fun to enjoy, including our magical Winter Wonderland and unlimited rides on the gallopers. Whether it's a family Christmas tradition or a first visit to see Santa, it's a lovely way to make special memories together.
A quieter Santa experience
For families who prefer a gentler environment, we are also offering a Relaxed & Quiet Santa Special at 11.15am on Saturday 29 November. For this particular service, there will be no Christmas music played at the station, providing a quieter and more relaxed atmosphere. All the magic of the Santa experience will still be there!
Our Santa Specials run on selected dates throughout November and December, with full details of dates, ticket options and prices available on our website: https://kesr.org.uk/santa-2026/
Alternatively, our team will be happy to help on 01580 765155 or by email at enquiries@kesr.org.uk.

Class Assemblies – Terms 1 and 2
Class assemblies will be performed at 9:00am in the school hall.
Dates are as follows:

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

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 everyone who joined us for our AGM on Wednesday, 11th November. We appreciate your time and support in helping us plan another fantastic year for the children.

Reminder: Non-Uniform Day – Friday, 20th November

Don't forget that next Friday, 20th November, is a Non-Uniform Day! In exchange for wearing your own clothes, we are asking for donations at the school gate in the morning.

We are collecting two types of items:

- **Chocolate Tombola:** A chocolate item for our upcoming Christmas Fair on Friday, 4th December
- **Elfridges Shop:** A new, unopened gift for our Elfridges event.

Please give generously if you can to help enrich the children's experiences!

Elfridges Shop – Friday, 27th November

We are so excited to bring back the Elfridges Shop on Friday, 27th November! This popular pop-up shop gives pupils the wonderful opportunity to experience the joy of independent giving.

During school hours, children will be able to visit our festive stall and handpick low-cost, high-quality gifts for their parents, grandparents, siblings, or carers. All presents will be sold at a fixed, low price, and payment will be managed in advance online (keep an eye out for final details on pricing and slot booking soon). Our festive PTFA "elves" will be on hand to help wrap and label the chosen presents so they can go straight under the tree at home.

Term Dates 2026-2027

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