
Term 3 – 10th January 2022

Mersham Primary School

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Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term. As mentioned in my letter last week, there have been a number of changes to government guidance in the last week in relation to COVID. Please can I ask that if you haven't already, you read that letter carefully, so that you are aware of those changes. Please can I also state again that the typical symptoms of the Omicron variant look very like those of a regular cold e.g. sore throat, runny nose, sneezing and not necessarily the high temperature/new cough/change in taste and smell that we have become used to hearing. Please therefore can I ask that children are tested, before they come to school, if they are showing any signs of the symptoms above. Thank you all for your support.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Changes to Term Dates

Due to the additional bank holiday during the May half term to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, all schools will have an additional days holiday. We have therefore added it to the start of the Summer break and the last day for the children will be Tuesday 19th July and they will not be in now on the 20th July. The 21st and 22nd July were already allocated as staff training days.

Little Wandle Videos for parents

Little Wandle is the DFE approved scheme that the school is now using to teach phonics. If you would like to know more about how we teach phonics and reading as well as how you can support your child at home with their phonics learning, Mrs Sly has produced a short video which can be found in Google Classroom for all classes.

At the end of last term you received information via Parentmail regarding Little Wandle and our new ebook library. Please note this was only sent to parents if your child is following the Little Wandle scheme. All children following this scheme have a login for our 'Collins Ebook' Library where they can access books they have been reading at school, this will improve fluency. Please refer to Mrs Sly's video in your child's google classroom for more information. **Ebooks will be allocated every Friday.**

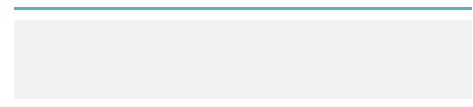
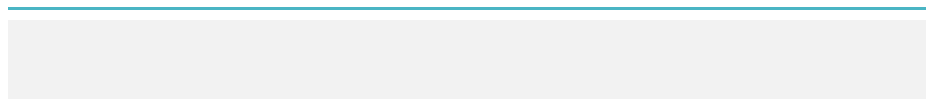
Online Safety resources for Parents

Please find attached two really useful resources for parents – one all about TikTok and the other about WhatsApp. We have had online safety issues involving pupils at the school and both these



Upcoming Events

11 th Jan	Swimming starts for years 5 and 6
17 th Jan	Closing date for Primary applications
8 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
11 th Feb	Interim Reports to Parents
11 th Feb	End of Term 3
21 st Feb	Start of Term 4
28 th Feb	Parents Eve
2 nd March	Parents Eve
3 rd March	World Book Day
8 th March	International Women's Day
14 th March	Science Week



apps in the past so please do have a look at how you can keep your children safe from harm if they are using these apps. <https://www.childnet.com/blog/helping-your-child-with-whatsapp/>

Extra-curricular Clubs

Unfortunately, due to the high COVID infection rates at the moment, we will not be able to run indoor clubs this term. Outdoor clubs will run as normal. Those parents who have paid in advance for Dance club will be credited directly. We really hope all clubs can resume in Term 4.

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

These assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall and will focus on Online Safety. **We would appreciate it if all adults could wear a face covering.** Dates are as follows:

27th January	Parrot Class
3rd February	Robin Class
10th February	Falcon Class
3rd March	Duckling Class
10th March	Penguin Class
17th March	Kingfisher Class
23rd March	Toucan Class

Swimming – Years 5 and 6

Please can I remind parents of children in Years 5 and 6 to organise payment, if they have not done so already, via Parentmail, for swimming that starts this week. Whilst I appreciate this is a contentious issue for some parents, without these voluntary contributions towards the cost of swimming, the school has to divert finances away from other essential resources required in school, so parental support with this is hugely appreciated.

Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion

Our annual Poppy Appeal in November raised £266.29 this year for the Royal British Legion. Thank you very much for all your contributions.

Starting School in September 2022?

Just a reminder that if you have a child who is due to start school in September, applications for school places must be received by Kent County Council, via their website, by 17th January.

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Mersham Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc on the school site.

How will we let you know if the school is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Mrs Chalkley may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether Mersham Primary School is open or closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk . Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Mersham Primary School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school from the usual entry points.
- Check with the school to see whether you need to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping Mersham Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

PTA News & Updates



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE 100 CLUB!!

ONLY £12 FOR THE WHOLE YEAR!

The 100 club is a mini lottery set up by Mersham School PTA, to fund extra equipment that is chosen directly by the children via their school council. It's the one fund they can actually have a direct say how the money is spent.

There are currently 40 members, so the prize fund is £20 per month, which is split £15 first prize and £5 second prize.

PAYMENT DETAILS - You can pay in 2 ways:

PARENTMAIL : Go into SHOP to pay. You can pay for multiple subscriptions this way too, by choosing a number from the drop down menu.

BACS: An electronic transfer using the following account details:

Account Name: Mersham School 100 Club

Sort Code: 60-01-21; Account No: 52849783

Please reference the payment as your child's name.



Easyfundraising – an easy way to raise funds for the school!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Raise money for Mersham School when you shop online. There are many retailers who support this, making a small donation whenever you shop. Why not start this now, especially in the run up to Christmas....

