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Term 1 – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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# Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

[www.mersham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.mersham.kent.sch.uk) 01233 720449

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**Thank you to everyone who came to the Church this morning for Harvest Festival – it was wonderful to see so many people in the Church especially as parents have not been able to attend for the last three years, due to Covid! Thank you also for all your donations of food. These will be added to the other donations received by the Church over the weekend and distributed within the local community, to those in need.**

**I would like to congratulate all the children on their wonderful performances and thank the staff for their hard work in preparing the children for the service. It really was a fantastic end to the week.**

**Cheryl Chalkley  
Headteacher**

## Upcoming Events

21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Interim reports to parents
21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	End of term 1
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Start of term 2
1/2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Parents Evenings
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Walk in Wednesday
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Service (9:15 at the Church)
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Trip to Pantomime

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### Water Bottles in School

Please can we strongly encourage parents to only put water in children's drinks bottles for school. Water is by far the healthiest option for children – not only from a dietary perspective but also because drinking fruit juice and squash regularly is one of the largest causes of tooth decay in children. The other problem that has been arising a lot recently is that water bottles, occasionally, get knocked over in class and if they contain squash, it leaves a sticky residue as well as a strong smell that is more difficult to clean up. All the staff thank you in advance for your support with this.

### Free School Meals Vouchers

If your child is eligible for free school meals, you should receive an email at the end of next week with details on how to claim your food vouchers. Each child is eligible for £10 for the half term break

### Message from Marie Christian – Neonatal Parents and Family Engagement Lead

I am the Neonatal Parents and Family Engagement Lead for the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Neonatal ODN (Operational Delivery Network). We are currently looking to build membership of our Neonatal Parent Advisory Group and want to ensure that membership reflects the diverse communities in the region. We want to hear from people who have experienced Neonatal care at one or more of the 13 Neonatal Units in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Membership would include an expectation to attend meetings (mostly virtually due to large area covered) and working groups and provide parent feedback to the Network – each member varies in the time they are able to commit but ALL input is welcomed.

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Please see the attached poster for further information. You can follow the QR code on the poster or click here to express an interest. <https://forms.office.com/r/Mn5ctsHCtE>

### **Message from Ashford Borough Council – Cost of Living Crisis**

Ashford Borough Council is currently undertaking an online survey to better understand how we can support residents through the cost of living crisis. We would like to reach as many residents as possible, particularly those with families. Please see link to the survey below - the closing date for the survey is 31 October 2022.

<https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/2022col/>

### **School Dinners on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Due to the fact that the builders will need to start to move the school kitchen equipment into the new hall ready for the start of term 2, the school will unfortunately not be able to provide a school dinner to any pupil on the last two days of term (20/21 October). Those children eligible for Universal Free School Meals i.e. pupils in Year R, 1 and 2 as well as all those children in Key Stage 2 who are eligible for a free school meal will be able to have a packed lunch that will be prepared offsite at another school. **These must be ordered in advance.** If your child falls into the categories above and you would like them to have a packed lunch on those days, please can you let the school office know by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October. The school office will be providing more detailed information in due course and I apologise to families for any inconvenience caused.

### **New Menu from Term 2**

Please see attached new menu for school dinners, starting after the half term break.

### **Parking outside the School**

I am once again receiving lots of comments from concerned parents and members of the public about dangerous parking outside the school at pick up and drop off times. Whilst I appreciate that parking is difficult at those times, please can I ask parents not to park up on the yellow lines outside the school and drop children off – this is extremely dangerous due to the restricted view of the road caused by the railway bridge. We have also now not got railings out the front (a tractor knocked them over and KCC have said they cannot replace them!) that help prevent children running into the road. The Farriers Arms, at the bottom of the hill, have kindly said that parents are welcome to park in their car park for drop off and pick up. There are also other roads in the village, within walking distance, where it is safe to park for short periods. Please do park considerately for the safety of all those in the community.

### **Year 6 Parents – Secondary School Open days**

The online application window for children enrolling into Year 7 in September 2023 opened on Thursday 1st September 2023 and will close at midnight on Monday 31st October 2023.

### **Governor Vacancies**

We currently have two vacancies on the Governing Board for co-opted governors. These are often sourced from the local community and are people who would like to volunteer to give something back to education. Many businesses also actively support employees in being a school governor. Unfortunately, for these positions, we are unable to accept current parents of the school but should you know anyone else, either personally or professionally, that may be interested in getting involved with being a school governor, please ask them to contact Mrs Chalkley on [headteacher@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@mersham.kent.sch.uk) or the Chair of Governors, Lesley Caldwell, on [chair@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chair@mersham.kent.sch.uk).

