
Term 4 – 14th March 2022

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



This week has been an incredibly difficult week with regard to staffing with several members of staff testing positive for Covid-19. On Tuesday, we had 4 out of our 7 class teachers not in school and no supply teachers available anywhere! I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff team who have rallied round to ensure that all classes could remain open and we have not had to revert to home learning for anyone. I would also like to say well done to all the children who have coped incredibly well with all the staffing adjustments that have had to be made and showed great resilience in terms of continuing with their learning. Whilst some staff members may still be off next week, I am sincerely hoping that everything will be virtually back to normal by the end of the week.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

14 th March	Science Week
25 th March	Non-uniform day for Easter Egg Bingo
29 th March	KS1 Easter Egg Bingo
31 st March	Easter Service at the Church – 9:30am
31 st March	KS2 Easter Egg Bingo
1 st April	End of Term 4
19 th April	Start of Term 5
29 th April	School Disco
2 nd May	Bank Holiday
9 th May	Year 6 SATS week
20 th May	Jubilee Tea on the Field
23 rd May	Year 6 Residential
27 th May	End of Term 5

Science Week

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed to our growth project – we had so many donations of plants and seeds!

The friendship garden was in need of a little TLC. Recently, it was discovered that this area was the perfect ground for insects, is a feeding place for the birds and even home to lizards. Years 3, 5 & 6 used their best efforts to upgrade the friendship garden with over 150 bulbs, 100 wild flower seeds and 28 herbs. The children enjoyed smelling all of the herbs, particularly the mint and curry plant- there is nothing like getting the chance to think about food! It has been a huge success, with even more being planted across the week.

Year 1 have been busy too with plenty of planting happening in the Year 1 garden beds, including more bulbs and seeds. Many of the children have been telling me how excited they are - they are very proud of their work!

I have enjoyed seeing the gardening around the school engaging so many of the children. The children have thoroughly enjoyed planting but also the chance to think about their environment. I am looking forward to seeing the summer arrive, when many of the plants will be flowering, and all of our hard work paying off. Mr Ives

Book Fair

Thank you again to everyone who came along to the Book Fair, a couple of weeks ago and purchased a book. I am pleased to say that as a result the school has received a donation from Scholastic for £588. This will be used to purchase new books for the school.

Year 2 Parents – KS1 SATS meeting

Mrs Maher will be holding a meeting on Thursday 24th March at 3:30pm in her classroom for all Year 2 parents who would like to have more information about the statutory tests that all Year 2 pupils will be taking in May.

Walk in Wednesday

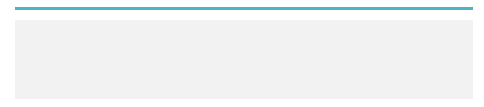
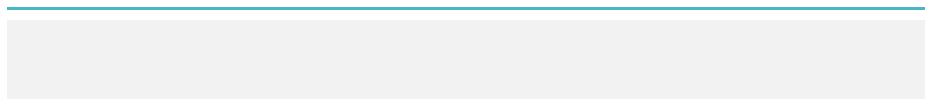
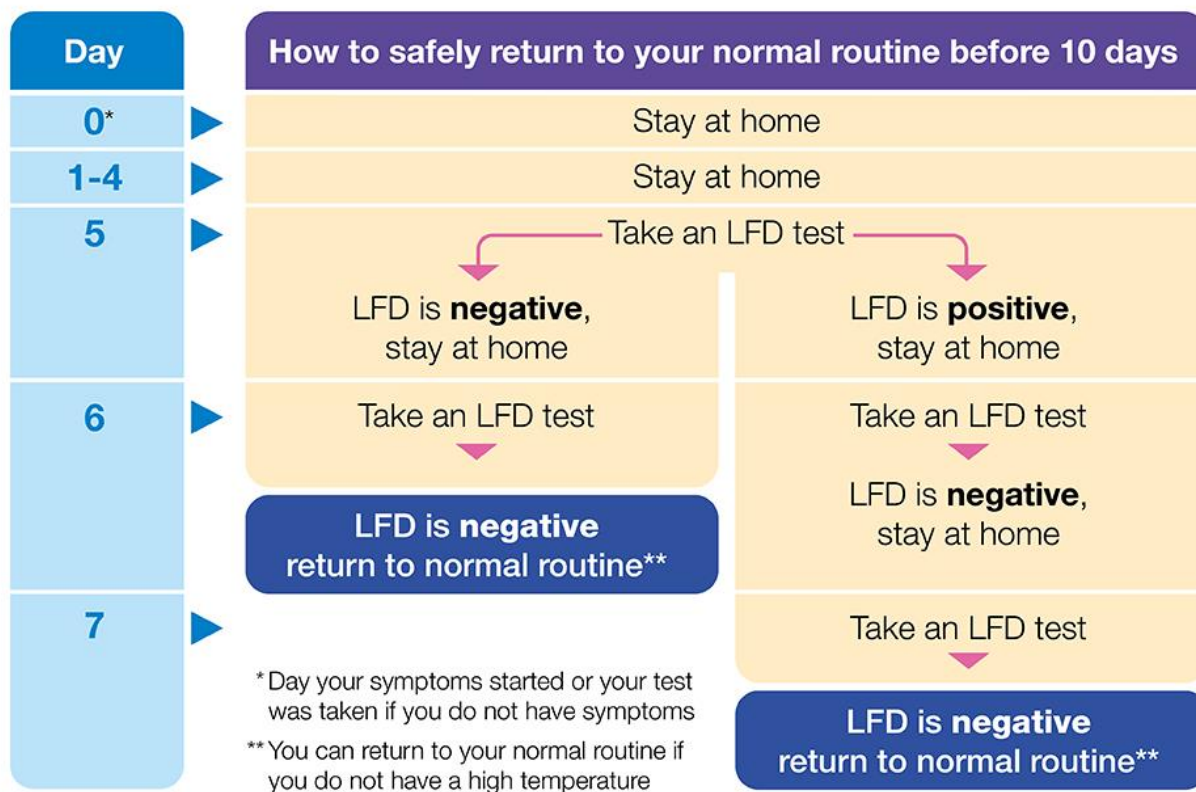
We will be holding a Walk In Wednesday on Wednesday 30th March for all parents so that you have an opportunity to see your child's work before the Easter holidays.

Easter Events

Please note the dates of Easter events above. I am very pleased to be able to invite parents to the church once more and you will all be very welcome to join us for the Easter Service.

COVID-19 Update

Guidance has now been issued to schools linked to the national changes to restrictions. Schools will continue to maintain their cleaning routines including regular hand washing and will also ensure adequate ventilation whilst indoors. Staff are no longer required to take twice weekly lateral flow tests. However, if a pupil or member of staff has signs of Covid-19 (new continuous cough, high temperature, change in sense of taste and smell) they should still obtain a PCR test. Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause. Should a member of staff or a pupil test positive either using a PCR test or an LFD test, they should remain at home for at least 5 days. (see below).



If the day 5 LFD test result is positive, you should continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the school can refuse the pupil as is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

Should there be a significant rise in cases within the school, we may also need to bring back additional measures for the health and safety of staff and children. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Stour Downs Parish – Easter Holiday Club

Please see attached flyer for further details.

Easter school holiday fun for 4 – 12-year-olds!

Premier Football School are delighted to announce they are running a kid's football school in Ashford this Easter at The North School from Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th April for boys and girls aged 4 - 12 of all abilities. Parents simply drop-off at 10.00am and pick up at 3.30pm. The fee is just £13 per day and all children who attend receive a trophy! Activities include a kids World Cup tournament and a penalty shootout competition with prizes! We are a non-elitist grass roots organisation and children play in groups according to their age and abilities in a fun safe environment. Should you wish to book, please visit www.premierfootballschool.co.uk or call 07821 573837.

Free School Meals Vouchers and Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

All pupils eligible for free school meals will receive details next week regarding vouchers for the Easter Holidays.

Affordable Bike Sale – Goldwyn School

**AFFOR:)ABLE
REFURBISHED
BICYCLES**

BUY a BIKE

Pick up an affordable refurbished bike at our next bike sale event at Goldwyn School, Ashford (TN23 3BT). Bikes are fully serviced, clean and available in a variety of sizes.

DONATE a BIKE

Bike too small or sitting unloved gathering dust? Donate it to us and we'll find it a good home. If you need a replacement, we'll offer you a discount on a more suitable refurbished bike.

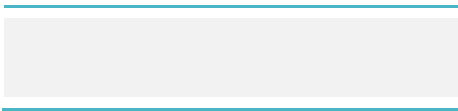
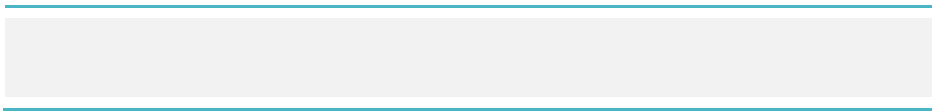
BIKE SALE EVENTS

Goldwyn School, Ashford (TN23 3BT).
Saturday 12th February, 19th March, 14th May, 18th June and 23rd July (10.00-13.00).
For more info email: info@CycleCommunity.org

Supported by

ReCycle
www.CycleCommunity.org

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk



Term Dates 2022-23

Please find below the term dates for the next academic year:

Term 1

Monday 5th September – Friday 21st October

Staff Development Days - Thursday 1st September and Friday 2nd September

Term 2

Monday 31st October – Friday 16th December

Term 3

Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 10th February

Term 4

Monday 20th February – Friday 31st March

Term 5

Monday 17th April – Thursday 25th May (

Bank Holiday – Monday 1st May

Staff Development Day – Friday 26th May

Term 6

Monday 5th June – Wednesday 19th July

Staff Development Days – Thursday 20th July and Friday 21st July

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

These assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall and will focus on Online Safety.

Please note the change in date for Year 5 assembly

Dates are as follows:

17th March

24th March

Kingfisher Class

Toucan Class



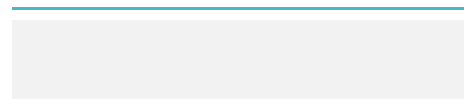
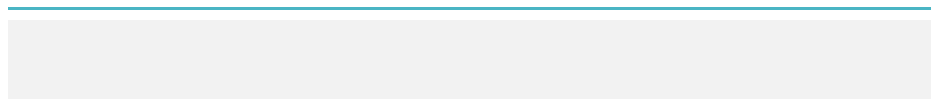
Thanks for your support!

A massive thank you for your continued support. The little amounts add up to a lot, just this week we've collected:

- £54 from the charity bin collections
- £13 from Amazon Smile
- £40 from the second-hand uniform sale

Plus, the school earned money to spend on books with every purchase made at the book sale

We know times are tough for a lot of people, so your support of the PTA is so appreciated. We'll share more about how the PTA money will be spent as we're sure you'll like to know.



Easter Egg Bingo

Our legendary, fabulous and quite frankly CRAZY Easter Egg Bingo event back for 2022! For those who haven't taken part before:

- There will be a non-uniform day held on 25th March 2022 in exchange for your kind donations of an Easter Egg per child.
- We'll hold two sessions after school for the bingo:
 - KS1 29th March 2022
 - KS2 31st March 2022

We appreciate some parents have siblings across both stages (or year-specific clubs might be taking place on one of the days). In this instance, you can choose to attend one or the other rather than both.

Amazon Smile

Just by making your normal purchases through Amazon, you can raise money for your children via the PTA....



The screenshot shows the Amazon Smile interface. On the left, it says 'smile.amazon.co.uk' and 'Experience feel-good shopping'. Below that, it says 'Shop at smile.amazon.co.uk and we'll donate to your favourite charitable organisation, at no cost to you.' There is a 'Get started' button and a note: 'Same products, same prices, same service. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases.' On the right, under 'Your current charity', there is a 'Change charity' button and the selected charity: 'Mersham Cp School Pta' with the location 'The Forstal'. Below that, the mission statement reads: 'Mission: To compliment and advance the education of pupils within the school through purchasing of equipment and providing activities that the school and wider community can also enjoy.'

Go to Amazon via the link smile.amazon.co.uk, login with your usual Amazon login and select "Mersham CP School PTA" as your chosen charity. Every time you make your purchases via this link, Amazon will donate to our school PTA. It's literally money for nothing so please do use this link when you can.

