



Term 2 – 16th December 2021

Mersham Primary School

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I would like to say a huge thank you to you all over the last couple of weeks for your support in enabling a number of school events to take place - Christmas at school this year has definitely been more enjoyable for the children than it was last year! The younger children had a great time performing to their families and it was a real pleasure to see how much the children enjoyed the trip to the pantomime. I would also like to thank the PTA for all their organisation and hard work in putting together the raffle, the chocolate tombola as well as a Christmas message and gifts from Santa. Not an easy task but they did it brilliantly and the children were thrilled.

It has been another challenging term and I would like to add a special thanks to all the staff who have adapted and coped amazingly with the challenges that have occurred over the term. I am not quite sure what the New Year will bring but I have every confidence that we can manage whatever comes next!

It just leaves me to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 16 th Dec | End of Term 2 |
| 17 th Dec | Staff Training Day |
| 4 th Jan | Staff Training Day |
| 5 th Jan | Start of Term 3 |
| 11 th Feb | End of Term 3 |

Changes to Term Dates

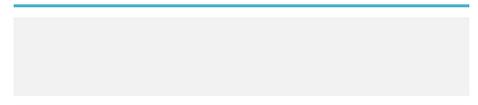
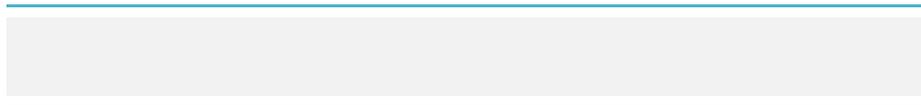
Due to the additional bank holiday during the May half term to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, all schools will have an additional days holiday. We have therefore added it to the start of the Summer break and the last day for the children will be Tuesday 19th July and they will not be in now on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

Planning Permission for the new school hall

I am very pleased to announce that we have just been granted planning permission to build the new school hall. Once built, the existing hall will be converted to two classrooms and the mobiles will be demolished. We are hoping that this work will begin in the Spring and I will be providing more information in the New Year.

Free School Meals Vouchers for the holidays.

All children who are eligible for free school meals will receive an email from Wonde tomorrow with information on how to claim their supermarket vouchers for the school holidays. In addition,



information will also be sent regarding access to free bus travel for the holidays as well as information about accessing holiday activities. More details will be sent directly to eligible families.

Staffing update - Mr Oatham

Many of you will have noticed that Mr Oatham, our new caretaker is now with us fulltime which has already made a significant difference in school. Along with his general role maintaining the school, Mr Oatham will be on the gate mornings and evenings as well as in the hall at lunchtime supporting with school lunches.

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.

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

These assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall. **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 |

Changes to guidance for Close contacts

Further to my email yesterday, the DfE has sent the following:

From 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Once notified by Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students are strongly recommended to take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the online reporting system and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow national guidance. This approach should also be adopted over the Christmas holiday and on return in January.

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....

