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Term 3 – 17<sup>th</sup> January 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



With plan B restrictions in relation to COVID officially being lifted from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, I am hoping we can in turn lift some of the restrictions we have had to impose in school from the week beginning 31<sup>st</sup> January. I will confirm more details in due course. In the meantime, self-isolation has been reduced once more so that if you test negative on day 5 and then again on day 6, you can return to school on day 6. If a test is still positive, once you have two negative tests, 24 hours apart, you can return to school on the same morning of the second negative test. Please can I ask parents to be cautious with regard to checking the test is negative – even a very faint line means it is still positive! Thank you all for your support.

**Cheryl Chalkley**  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Events

8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Safer Internet Day
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Interim Reports to Parents
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of Term 3
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Start of Term 4
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Year 6 Bikeability
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents Eve
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Parents Eve
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
8 <sup>th</sup> March	International Women's Day
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
1 <sup>st</sup> April	End of Term 4
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Term 5

## F1rst Class Quiz – Falcon Class

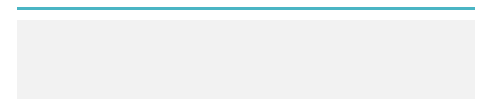
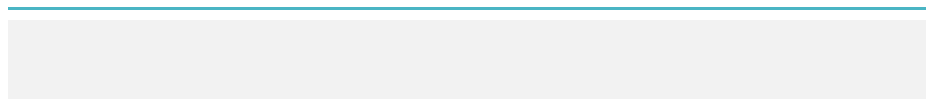
On Thursday, Falcon Class took part in the F1rst Class quiz which challenged teams of Key Stage 2 children from across England (50 schools took part) to answer trivia questions and solve problems. The children completed six different rounds: English, Science and Nature, History and Geography, Maths and Problem Solving, STEM Challenge and General Knowledge. Questions were provided by famous authors, quiz shows and even an astronaut. The class demonstrated brilliant teamwork and achieved a **fantastic 7<sup>th</sup> place!** Well done Falcon Class!

## Forest School

Miss Dengate who runs forest school for the school would like to set up a mud kitchen down in the forest school area. If anyone has any unused kitchen utensils, pans, kettle etc that they would be willing to donate to the school, we would be really grateful.

## Parking outside the school

We have had issues outside the school again this week in relation to inconsiderate parking meaning that vehicles had huge difficulty getting down the road, past the school. This affects the whole local community. Please can I remind all parents to avoid parking on the lines in front of the school as well as ensuring that they are allowing sufficient passing places down the hill to enable vehicles, including lorries, to get past. Thank you for your support.



## 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

Tuesday 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

## KM Charity Team

Please see attached flyers regarding events organised by the KM Charity Team that we have been asked to advertise to all families.

## Little Wandle Videos for parents

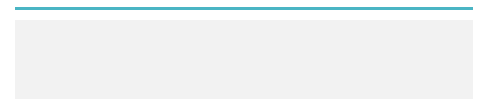
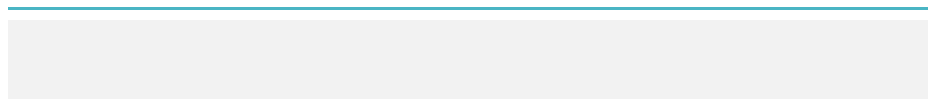
Little Wandle is the DFE approved scheme that the school is now using to teach phonics. If you would like to know more about how we teach phonics and reading as well as how you can support your child at home with their phonics learning, Mrs Sly has produced a short video which can be found in Google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

## 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. 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.

## 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.

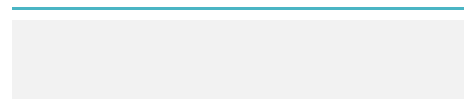
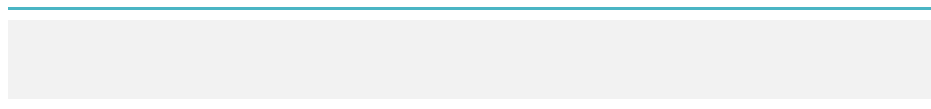
We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Mersham Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc on the school site.

*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](http://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](http://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....

