

Term 3 – 24th January 2022

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



With Plan B restrictions being lifted this week, we will be aiming to remove the measures in school that we have had to impose over the last couple of months. From Friday, we will be having whole school assemblies in the hall once more and all children will be able to eat their school lunch in the hall, rather than in classrooms. We will be reintroducing Walk in Wednesday (see details below) and indoor clubs will resume after half term. Having said that, as guidance currently stands, if we were to see an increase in infections in a particular class we would have to 'bubble' that class. If a class is in a bubble they would not be able to mix with other classes and so would not be able to attend assemblies and indoor clubs. School lunches would also be back in their classroom until we were confident the infections in the class had reduced sufficiently.

Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

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
21 st Feb	Year 6 Bikeability
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
1 st April	End of Term 4
19 th April	Start of Term 5

Visit from the Rt Hon Damian Green, MP for Ashford



We were pleased to welcome the Rt Hon Damian Green to the school last Friday to present Rebekah in Year 5 with her prize for winning a poster competition organised through a project called Litter Angels. Rebekah's poster encouraged people to pick up their litter and was part of a wider competition across all Ashford schools. Well done Rebekah! Damien Green's visit also gave children in Year 5 and 6 a brilliant opportunity to find out more about how the country is run and what the job

of an MP involves. They came up with some fantastic questions and found out how to become an MP, what the job entails as well as getting an insight into some little known facts about Parliament – did you know that in the cloakroom, all MPs have a hanger with their name on that also has a pink ribbon attached, which historically was used for hanging up your sword! In addition Damian Green was happy to answer some more challenging questions from the children about the Downing Street parties! A fantastic learning opportunity for all.

Walk in Wednesday

With Plan B restrictions being lifted, we will be resuming Walk in Wednesday which will operate in the same way as we did in term 1, over two weeks. If your **child's surname starts with A-M, please feel free to attend on Wednesday 2nd February**. If your **child's surname starts N-Z, please can we ask that you come along on Wednesday 9th February**. We would appreciate it if all adults could **wear a face covering**. As a reminder to all parents, Walk in Wednesday is traditionally on the first Wednesday of each month and is an opportunity for parents to pop into the classroom, after school and take a look at the work their child has been doing in school. It is not an opportunity to discuss your child's progress in school with the class teacher – if you would like a more in depth conversation, please feel free to arrange a convenient appointment time with the class teacher. Walk in Wednesday finishes promptly at 3:45pm.

Covid – when do I need to get a PCR test

Please can I clarify for all parents that if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 i.e. a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in their sense of taste or smell, they must still get a PCR test irrespective of the results of a lateral flow test. It is only if a person has no symptoms but has a positive lateral flow test that there is no longer a requirement to get a follow up PCR test but they should follow self-isolation guidance in the same way as anyone else who tests positive.

Collection at the end of the day

Please can I remind all parents to supervise younger children at the end of the school day whilst waiting for children in Key stage 2 to finish. Children should not be disrupting learning in Years 5 and 6 – I have had reports from the class teachers about banging on doors and looking through the window. I have also had reports of young children throwing sticks at the electrical cable that runs across the path down to the lower playground. Children should also not be on play equipment or in the friendship garden as there is a greater risk of an accident. Members of staff will be monitoring the situation and asking young children to return to their parents if needed.

Let's Move Dance Club

Let's Move Dance Club is back in Term 4 for pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. If you have credit from the previously cancelled classes please make sure this is used by 31st March. 7 spaces have already been snapped up so there are only 13 spaces left, be quick to avoid disappointment! Please see Mrs Sly for more information.

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.

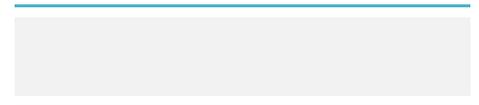
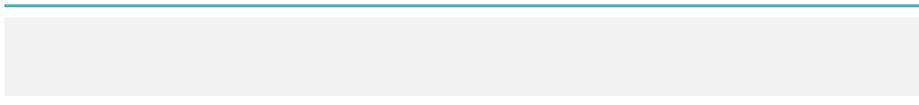
Year 4 Multiplication Check

Please find attached a leaflet for parents, produced by the DfE, about the Year 4 Multiplication Check. Whilst this is primarily of interest to current Year 4 parents, other parents may also like to know more.

PCSO Newsletter

Please find attached the latest newsletter from the local PCSO

Maidstone Girls Grammar School Open Days – Year 5 parents



Please see the attached flyer for further information.

Parking outside the school

We have had issues outside the school again last 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

Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4

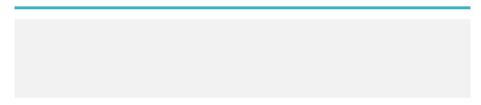
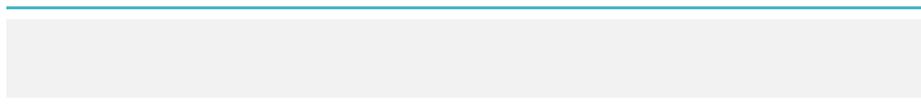
These assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall and will focus on Online Safety. **We would appreciate it if all adults could wear a face covering.** Dates are as follows:

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 . 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....

