



Term 2 – 10th December 2018

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas fair on Friday, it was lovely to see so many people supporting the school. I would also like to say a very big thank you to all the members of the PTA who worked tirelessly to get everything in place, particularly Louise Morgan who co-ordinated all the arrangements and Santa and his elves who, despite the awful weather ensured all children received a Christmas gift.

**Mrs C Chalkley
Headteacher**

Breakfast Club and Early Drop off

We are starting to see quite high numbers of children coming into Breakfast Club and Early Drop off on some days, which is great. However, please could I ask that you book in advance so that we are aware of numbers and can monitor health and safety for the children accordingly. If numbers continue to rise we may need to consider whether we need to impose a maximum number of children who can attend.

Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 18th December

School Christmas lunch will be taking place on Tuesday 18th December. If you would like your child to have a Christmas Dinner please could you order via Parentmail and arrange payment of £2.05 which can be either direct to Caterlink or via cash to the school office.

Social Media

Please can I remind all parents that no personal information about children at the school should be posted on social media without the parents' explicit permission. This includes names, photographs and video clips. This also applies to closed groups. This is for safeguarding and data protection reasons and individuals who do post information without permission need to be aware that they could be subject to legal action. Thank you for your co-operation.

Pantomime Arrangements

Following the letter sent last week, just a reminder that the children will be picked up and collected from the gate to First Crop Seeds on Friday – please see letter for all the details. If you have not received the letter for any reason, please contact the school office to get a replacement.

Upcoming Events

10 th , 11 th	KS1 Performances
13 th Dec	all at 1:30pm
14 th Dec	Carol Service - 9:45am
14 th Dec	Pantomime
19 th Dec	End of Term 2
3 rd Jan	Start of Term 3
7 th Jan	Creative Maths week
14 th Jan	Closing date for Year R Applications 2019
14 th Feb	End of Term 3
15 th Feb	Staff Training Day

Reading Award

Well done to Nightingale class (Year 2) who have won the reading award this week with a total of 60% of children in the class reading three times or more during the week. This was closely followed by Churchill class (Year 6) with 46% and Donaldson class (Year R) with 42%.

PTA News & Updates

Christmas Fair - Friday 7 December

The Fair on Friday was a great success, thank you to all those who attended, helped set up/clear up, ran stalls, and generally made it a really fun event for the children. There were so many happy faces. We raised approximately £1300, which is amazing, and all goes directly to the school to benefit the children.

KS1 Christmas performances

We will be serving hot drinks and mince pies on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

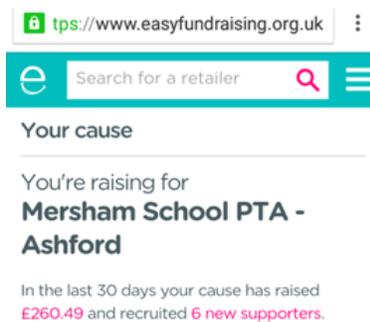
Church service – Friday 14 December

We will be serving hot drinks and mince pies before the service

Easy Fundraising

Please remember to use Easy Fund Raising when doing your online Christmas shopping (including food!). It is such an easy way to raise money for the school.

Signing up for Easy Fundraising is quick and easy, and doesn't cost you anything. There are over 3,300 retailers, ready to make a free donation every time you shop online. All you have to do is go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select Mersham School PTA. You can also download as an app from iTunes or Google Play. Let's get fundraising!



Local Church Services this Christmas



around The Stour Downs this Christmas...

Christmas Eve

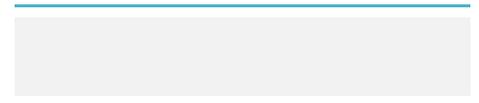
- 4pm Crib Service at Mersham
- 4pm Crib Service at Smeeth regular Srip
- 6pm Carol Service at Monks Horton
- 10pm Communion for Christmas Night at Mersham
- 11:30pm Communion for Christmas Night at Smeeth
- 11:30pm Communion for Christmas Night at Sellindge

Christmas Day

- 9:30am Christmas Day Service at Mersham
- 10am Christmas Day Communion at Brabourne
- 10:30am Christmas Day Service at Stowting
- 6th January 2pm-4pm at Mersham
Epiphany fun! "Camels & Crowns in the Stour Downs"
- 13th January 9:30am Christingle at Smeeth

Join in "The Mystery of the Noisy Neighbour"...

www.stourdowns.org.uk



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 e.g. gritting pathways, clearing access points etc.

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 front entrance as usual.
- 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.

