



Term 2 – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

# Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

[www.mersham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.mersham.kent.sch.uk) 01233 720449



It was a very busy, but incredibly enjoyable week last week, with Carols by Candlelight at the Ashford International for some of members of the school choir, the performances by Years R, 1 and 2, the Christmas service and the pantomime. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who were involved in ensuring all those events went so brilliantly, to the PTA who very kindly ensured refreshments were available at many of those events and to all of you for your support in enabling the events to go so well. It just leaves me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all at the start of term 3.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> December

School Christmas lunch will be taking place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Upcoming Events

18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas lunch
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Start of Term 3
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Creative Maths week
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Closing date for Year R Applications 2019
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of Term 3
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Staff Training Day

## Parking at the Village Hall

Please can I remind all our parents that the parents of children attending Mersham Little Stars have priority parking at the Village Hall when the nursery is open. I have received several complaints that some of our parents have been extremely rude and inconsiderate to parents and staff at Mersham Little Stars and whilst I know parking is difficult at key times, this is not acceptable within our community.

## PTA News & Updates

### 100 Club – December winners!

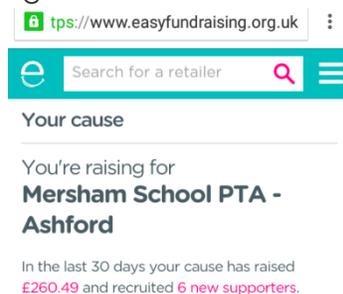
1<sup>st</sup> prize – Carly Finch

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Alan Norley

### 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](http://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!



The PTA would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas, and say a big thank you for all your support during 2018. Here's to a great 2019!

### Local Church Services this Christmas

 around The Stour Downs this Christmas...

*Christmas Eve*

- 4pm Crib Service at Mersham
- 4pm Crib Service at Smeethgular Snip
- 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](http://www.stourdowns.org.uk)

**Camels & Crowns**  
In the Stour Downs



**Epiphany Fun!**  
**Craft, Camel races and more!**  
**2pm-4pm on Sunday 6th January**  
**Mersham Church**



Contact [office@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:office@stourdowns.org.uk) for further details

## 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](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 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.

