



Term 2 – 3rd December 2018

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



Please can I clarify for parents the arrangements at lunchtime for those children who have a packed lunches, as there seems to be some misunderstandings. Eating lunch outside is, and always has been, optional and all children have the choice to eat their packed lunch indoors if they would prefer. Years 5 and 6 can eat in their classrooms during the winter months and all other year groups can go into the hall when their year group is called in for school dinners.

**Mrs C Chalkley
Headteacher**

Winter Wonderland Morning – Friday 7th December 9:30-11:00am

If you have a child due to start school in September 2019, why not come and discover what it is like to belong to Donaldson Class for the morning. The classroom will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the season, your child can explore all the exciting opportunities for learning in our setting while you ask the staff any questions you may have following your recent school tours.

Christmas Fair – Friday 7th December

The fair will open at 2:00pm for parents with pre-schoolers only. At 2:30pm parents can collect pupils from Years R, 1 and 2, from the playground, to take them to the fair whilst it is less busy. Class stalls from just these year groups will open. At 3:00pm, pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 can be collected (again from the playground) and their class stalls will also open. Please note that if children in Key Stage 2 have siblings lower down the school, it will not be possible to collect them earlier than 3:00pm. If you are unable to collect your child earlier, they will of course be supervised in the Year 4 classroom until the usual time.

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.

Upcoming Events

5 th Dec	Walk in Wednesday
7 th Dec	Christmas Fair
10 th , 11 th	KS1 Performances
13 th Dec	all at 2:00pm
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 Kinney class (Year 3) who have won the reading award again this week with a total of 82% of children in the class reading three times or more during the week. This was closely followed by Hawking class (Year 5) with 67% and Nightingale class (Year 2) with 60%

Multiskills Tournament – Year 1 and 2

On Tuesday 27th November a team of six year 1 and 2 pupils represented the school at an Infant Multiskills Competition at the North School. The children had worked hard to prepare for the event during Multiskills Club and their efforts were rewarded. The event involved the children taking part in a carousel of events which included Speed Bounce, Javelin Throw and Dribbling a ball. The whole team excelled in the tennis ball balance, all exceeding the target of a 30 second balance. Once again the children were a credit to the school and all supported each other, giving praise and encouragement throughout. Miss Ireland

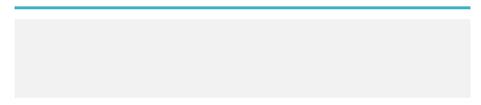
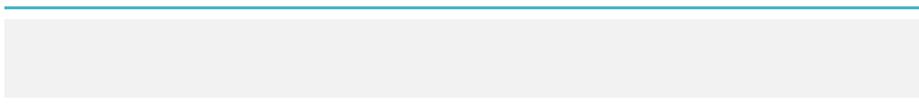
Carmen at the Royal Opera House 27th November 2018

Earlier this year, Mrs Chalkley bid for tickets to visit the Royal Opera House. We were selected and on Tuesday Churchill Class headed up to London to take in a production of Carmen at the Royal Opera House. It was truly breath-taking! Although opera may not appear accessible to children of this age, all the work Mr Ives put in to prepare the children really did pay off and the class were very engrossed! What an incredible opportunity for all – the staff included! The children represented the school so well and ROH staff commented on how well behaved and polite our class were. Well done to Churchill Class! Miss Hanson.



Mersham Christmas Tree Festival 1st - 2nd December 2018

Some of our talented artists helped to decorate a tree for the festival at the church this weekend. Mersham Monkeys also submitted a tree. I popped into the church to have a look at the trees and it looked very magical. What a lovely way to kick off December! Miss Hanson



Eco Eagles Update – visit from the Mayor

On 20th November, the Mayor of Ashford (Cllr Jessamy Blanford) and an Environmental officer from the local authority (Amy Casey) visited our school. They came to our school to encourage the children to think carefully about their rubbish. During an assembly, they discussed that single use plastic is a global issue and shared a series of videos which helped show the children what the problems are. Afterwards, they met with our school's Eco-Eagles. The group discussed what they had done already for our school and what they planned for the future. Reebie and Finn then took the Mayor and Amy on a tour of our school to show off all the Eco-Eagle's achievements. Our visitors were very impressed with our school site and are looking forward to having a further update in March. Mr Ives



PTA News & Updates

Christmas Fair - Friday 7 December

The Christmas fair is just around the corner! We are all really looking forward to this, and hope many of you can make it.

Please can all raffle tickets (and money) be brought back this week. There are some great prizes on offer, make sure you are in with a good chance! All profits go directly to the school.

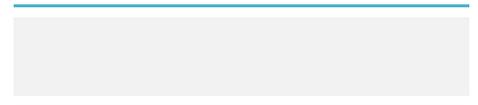
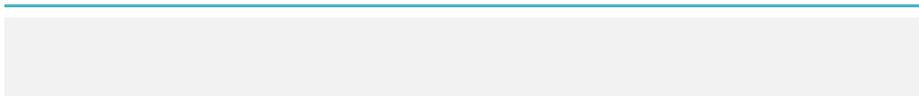


Mersham Primary School Christmas Fair RAFFLE!

Below are the fabulous prizes that we are including in our raffle draw – so please do buy as many TICKETS as you can to support your School!
Each ticket is £1. The draw is at 4.00pm during the Christmas
GOOD LUCK & THANK YOU!!



Ladies Watch
Champneys Gift Set
Harrison's Hair Gift Set
AVL Beauty Gift Voucher
Zagara Fine Cakes Christmas cake
Afternoon Tea at Bilsington Priory
Potten Farm Shop Christmas Hamper
Family Pass to the 'Rare' Breads Centre
Family swim session at the Stour Centre
Wells & White Bespoke Upholstery Cushion
1 hour Photography Session by Time Stop Creative
Bottle Of Lanson Champagne from GBS Freight Services
3 x month Gym Membership at Slice of Life for 2 x Adults
Dobbies Christmas Hamper
Baylis & Harding Gift Set
Bottle of Port



Father Christmas – Friday 7 December

Just a reminder to please pay for Father Christmas, as per the letter that was sent out last week. Any pre-schoolers can be paid for in the office via Miss Tripp in cash.

Thank you to everyone for generous donations for the chocolate tombola!

See you on Friday for lots of festive fun, don't forget your small change!

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.

