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Term 3 – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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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

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**As it has been a bit colder recently, please can you ensure your child comes into school with suitable additional clothing to keep them warm outside i.e. hat, gloves, scarf etc, particularly if they are involved in Forest School or are offsite on a visit somewhere in the next few weeks before the end of term.**

**Please make sure these items are all named as they can easily go astray in school. Lost property is filling up again so if any of your child's items are missing, please check there first. Thank you.**

**Mrs C Chalkley  
Headteacher**

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## **Class Assemblies – Terms 3 and 4**

These assemblies will be performed at 9:05am in the school hall. Dates are as follows:

30th January	Kingfisher Class
6th February	Duckling class
13th February	Parrot Class
27th February	Penguin Class
5th March	Toucan Class
19th March	Falcon Class
26th March	Robin Class

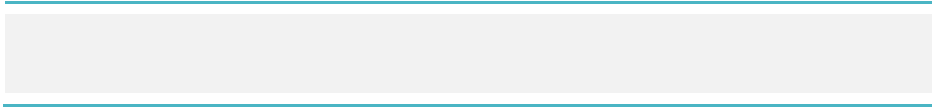
## **Year R applications for September 2020**

If for any reason you are aware of someone who has missed the deadline for completing their application for a place in Year R in September, Kent County Council have informed us that they have extended the deadline for online applications to the 10<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Plastic Ring Packaging Recycling**

Our school has been accepted as a recycling point for plastic ring packaging. The Eco-eagles have been excited to start a recycling scheme since before our Christmas break. We have until the 24<sup>th</sup> January to collect any used plastic ring carriers from cans and tins such as the ones in the picture. The collection area will be in the

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## **Upcoming Events**

21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	PTA Meeting and AGM
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Walk in Wednesday
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Young Voices O2
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Friends and Family week
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of Term 3
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Staff Training Day
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Start of Term 4
2/3 Mar	Parent's Evenings
9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Science Week
13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Non-Uniform Day for Easter Egg Bingo
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	KS1 Easter Egg Bingo
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Easter Service 9:30am
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	KS2 Easter Egg Bingo
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	End of Term 4
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Staff Training Day

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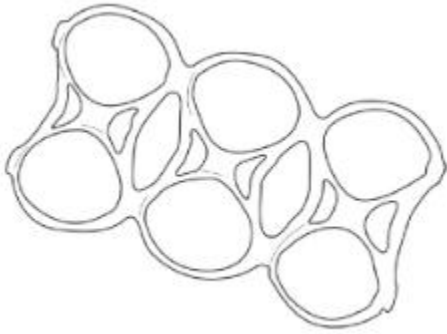
## **Online Safety Guides for Parents**

This week's guide from National Online Safety is all about **Smart Devices in the Home**. Increasingly we are using smart devices across our homes and this guide provides some useful tips on how to keep our homes safe from cyber - attacks.

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box outside the school office. Families are able to bring in as many as they would like or are able too.



Many thanks,  
Mr Ives and the Eco team

### **Co-opted Governors Needed**

**We already have our full quota of parent governors but should you be aware of anyone from the general community who would be interested in taking on this role and would like to learn more please contact Lesley Caldwell (Chair of Governors) on [chair@mersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chair@mersham.kent.sch.uk)**

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding voluntary role. It provides an opportunity for people to make a real difference to our young people, and to give something back to the local community. Individuals will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country. Our school needs a governing board that has balance and a diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective.

There is no requirement for interested individuals to understand the education system, just to possess the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help new governors learn about education plus we offer a mentor to support. Schools benefit from a range of professional knowledge on their governing board.

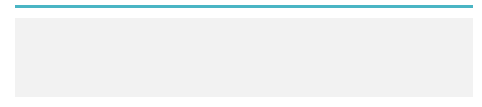
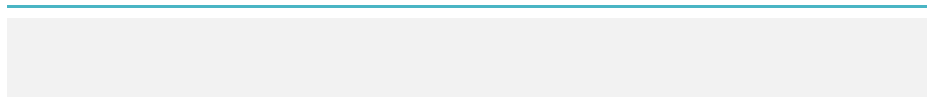
The governing board provides strategic leadership and accountability in our school. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The average time commitment is four hours per month, although it will vary depending on the needs of the school and the role. This includes 7 full governing body meetings per year. As well as these meetings governors may like to contribute to such specific areas as Health and Safety and Finance. We are currently seeking co-opted governors with experience in one or more of the following areas : finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management or organisational change.

### **Winter Weather Guidance for Parents**

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 <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/winter-service> for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school carefully – the hill can become very icy and it may be preferable to park at either the top or bottom and walk to the school entrance.
- 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 backup 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.

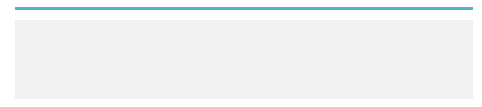
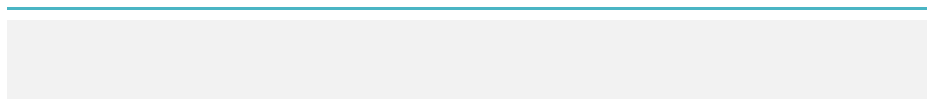
Many thanks for your support in helping Mersham Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

### **PTA News & Updates**



### **Recent purchases!**

- ❖ PTA has covered half the cost of a new Oxford Press KS1 reading scheme
- ❖ PTA has paid for 7 new tablets (one per class)



**Save the dates:**

**Tuesday 21 January – THIS WEEK**

PTA annual general meeting, 7pm at the Farriers. Please come and join us for a drink, all very welcome...



**Friday 7 February**

School disco!

More details to follow!

