
Term 1 – 12th October 2020

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



With all the health and safety restrictions in place at the moment, we are unable to conduct any tours for prospective parents in the way we would like to – all tours have to be after school when there are no children around. This really does not enable prospective parents to get a true ‘feel’ for what the school is like on a normal day. Hence, we have updated the school promotional video to help prospective parents to visualise what a great place the school really is. The video has now been uploaded onto the school website if you would like to see it – a huge thank you to those staff and children who contributed to the parts that have been updated, they really have done the school proud!.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

15 th Oct	Kent Test
19 th Oct	PTA Meeting 7pm via Zoom
23 rd Oct	End of Term 1
2 nd Nov	Start of Term 2
24 th Nov	Flu Vaccinations (all Year groups)
17 th Dec	End of Term 2
18 th Dec	Staff Training Day

Social Distancing Outside the School.

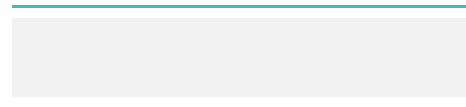
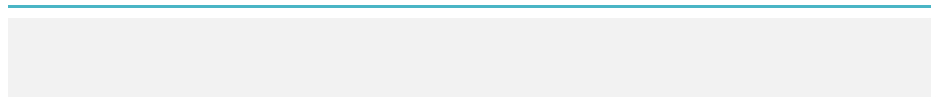
In the interests of the health and safety of all members of our school community, please can I remind all parents to ensure they maintain social distancing outside of the school at drop off and pick up times. Can I also please ask that you are considerate if talking to another parent that you are not blocking the path way making it difficult to maintain social distancing to get past.

School Policies

Just to let you know that a number of key school policies have been updated in light of new legislation and with regard to COVID-19. This includes the policies covering Health and Safety, Child Protection, Special Educational Needs, Behaviour and Acceptable Use of Technology. These can all be found on the school website.

Flu Vaccinations

All children at the school are eligible for a free flu vaccination that will be administered as a nasal spray by the school nurses, in school on 24th November. The government has urged as many people as possible to take up the offer of a flu vaccination this year to support the fight against COVID-19. A letter from the NHS has been sent to all parents today requesting parental consent and I would encourage all parents to complete the online form. If you have any questions regarding this please



contact Mrs Chalkley. The school has also arranged for all staff to have access to a vaccination this year (if not eligible via the NHS).

Year 6 Parents

Following a couple of enquiries, this is just a reminder that applications for secondary schools must be in by midnight on 2nd November.

COVID Symptoms – Guidance for schools from Kent County Council

There is a lot of frustration at the moment I know, with regard to children having to be kept off school with a mild illness that is unlikely to be Covid-19. With the challenges associated with the testing system as well, this is just making the situation for parents worse. Whilst I fully appreciate these challenges, the guidance is quite clear and is as follows:

There is a national 'case definition' which identifies Covid symptoms as:

- *a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

Where an individual presents with one of the above symptoms they should self-isolate and receive a test. We understand that there is much discussion nationally regarding additional symptoms and their link to Covid 19, however the above three symptoms remain the only symptoms where an individual needs to isolate and seek a test unless they are requested to seek a test by a health professional.

We are also aware of cases where children or staff present with one of the above symptoms for a short period of time, such as 1 day, and then wish to return to school without testing or self-isolation when they no longer have these symptoms; often after having discussed their symptoms with a health professional such as a GP who concludes they are likely to have an illness other than Covid.

We have sought advice on this matter and it remains that anybody presenting with one of the three symptoms must isolate for 10 days and only return prior to that if they have received a negative test result and feel well. It is important that schools consistently follow the procedures set out in their policies and risk assessments and that those policies are based on current guidance, which has not changed on this matter. A telephone consultation with a health professional that reports Covid is unlikely is not a reason for the school to deviate from the policy where an individual has had one of the three Covid symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#ending-self-isolation-and-household-isolation>

Parents Evenings

Just to let you know that Parent's evenings, that usually take place at the start of term 2 will all take place virtually this year. Further details will be available nearer the time.

PTA News & Update



PTA meeting – Monday 19 October 7pm via zoom

New members welcome!

Please see Louise Morgan (07778 764863) if you would like to join and need the zoom link



JOIN THE SCHOOL'S 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. The chin up bars on the field were paid for by the 100 Club proceeds, so please do join it!

Each month we hold a draw and TWO cash prizes can be won!!

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.

Cauliflower Christmas cards!

Orders need to be placed online in advance, and artwork forms must be returned to school by Monday 2 November AT THE LATEST, in order to guarantee they will arrive early December.



GOOD LUCK TO ALL CHILDREN SITTING THE KENT TEST THIS WEEK!

