

Term 1 – 19th October 2020

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



I am pleased to announce that the school has received a National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation for its whole school community approach to protecting children in the online world. This has been achieved through a comprehensive programme of training involving staff, pupils, governors and parents. Thank you very much to all those parents who signed up to complete the training!



Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

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

Mrs Shepherd

I am very pleased to be able to announce that Mrs Shepherd had a baby boy last weekend, Rupert Shepherd weighed 7lb 12oz and both mum and baby are doing really well.

Class Emails

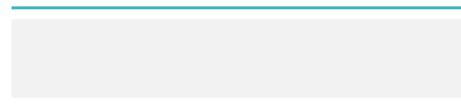
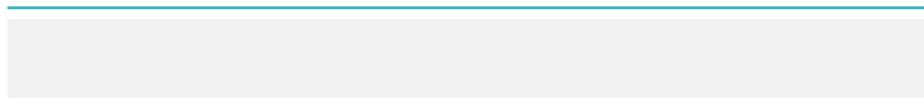
Please note that class teachers will not be answering any emails sent to the class email addresses over the half term break. All emails will be responded to once we return the week beginning 2nd November.

Drop off and Pick up – staggered timings for classes

Please can I remind parents again to be on time for the class allotted drop off in the mornings and collection at the end of the day. Where this is not happening, children are in close proximity to pupils from other classes which completely defeats the object of having staggered timings to minimise the risk of mixing with other classes and puts the whole school community at greater risk. This is particularly at pick up time – please ensure you are arriving at the school to collect whichever of your children is the first to come out of school – usually the youngest so that they do not have to wait with a member of staff. Thank you.

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.

2020 Affordable Refurbished Bicycle sales

Just to let you know that the remaining 2 Affordable Refurbished Bicycle sales in 2020 at Goldwyn School (TN23 3BT) are:

- Saturday 24th October, 10-1
- Saturday 5th December, 10-1

We will continue to keep our hygiene and social distancing procedures in place.

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

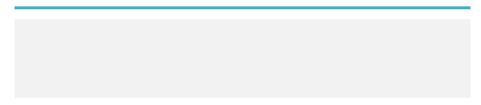
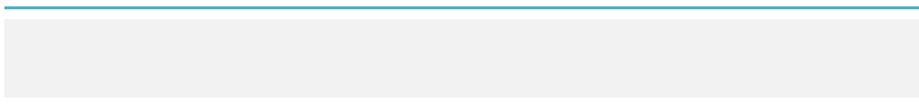
There is a lot of frustration at the moment I know, with regard to children having to be kept off school with a mild illness that is unlikely to be Covid-19. With the challenges associated with the testing system as well, this is just making the situation for parents worse. Whilst I fully appreciate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

Cauliflower Christmas cards!

Orders need to be placed online in advance, and artwork forms must be returned to school (please send in with your child. There is an envelope in each classroom in which teachers are collating the forms) by Monday 2 November AT THE LATEST, in order to guarantee they will arrive early December.



Easyfundraising – an easy way to raise funds for the school!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Raise money for Mersham School when you shop online. There are many retailers who support this, making a small donation whenever you shop. Why not start this now, especially in the run up to Christmas....



We know that it has been tough for small businesses over the last 6 months, we would like to support as much as we can!

So, in the run up to Christmas we would like to invite you to advertise your business for free on the PTA Facebook page.

