
Term 2 – 2nd November 2020

Mersham Primary School

Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NU

www.mersham.kent.sch.uk 01233 720449



Welcome back to term 2 – I hope you were all able to enjoy some quality time during the holiday before we have all headed into another four week lockdown.

The situation remains largely unchanged in primary schools and we will continue to operate as we did in Term 1. We will be monitoring the situation carefully and will make changes as necessary to ensure the health and safety of our whole school community. Many schools are now requesting parents to wear face coverings at drop and pick up times – it is not something I feel I can enforce but I would encourage parents to consider doing so to protect the health of everyone during this second period of lockdown. If you have any concerns, please contact me.

**Cheryl Chalkley
Headteacher**

Upcoming Events

2 nd Nov	Start of Term 2
9-20 Nov	Parent Consultations
24 th Nov	Flu Vaccinations (all Year groups)
27 th Nov	Non-uniform day – Class chocolate Tombola
11 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
17 th Dec	End of Term 2
18 th Dec	Staff Training Day

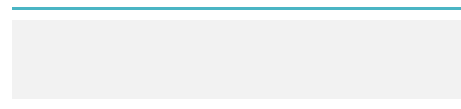
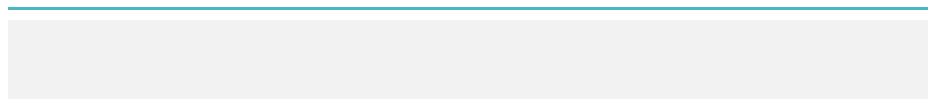
Please can I also reiterate the following to everyone, especially as we are now in a second lockdown.

Drop off and Pick up – staggered timings for classes

Please can I remind parents 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.

School Dinners

I am aware that there has been a lot of discussion amongst parents about the hot meals that are currently being served. We are unable to serve hot meals in the hall at the moment because it is too small to do so safely – we cannot keep classes at a safe distance from each other. The logistics of our school site also mean that we cannot carry hot meals to classrooms safely. I am continuing to work with Caterlink to try to improve both the availability as well as the variety of hot food available and I will keep you updated with any solutions that can be found.

Information for Parents for children starting school (Year R) in September 2021

Please find attached information produced by Kent County Council for parents who have a child starting school next September. Please do share this poster with anyone else that you may know who has a child starting next year.

PCSO Newsletter

Please find attached the newsletter from Anne Martin, the local PCSO

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 5th December, 10-1

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

Flu Vaccinations

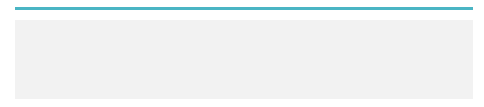
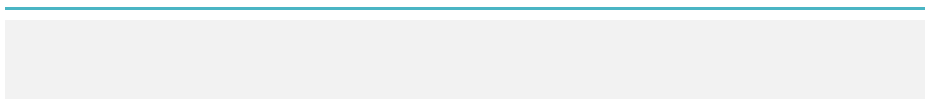
All children at the school are eligible for a free flu vaccination that will be administered as a nasal spray by the school nurses, in school on 24th November. The government has urged as many people as possible to take up the offer of a flu vaccination this year to support the fight against COVID-19. A letter from the NHS has been sent to all parents 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.

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>

PTA News & Update



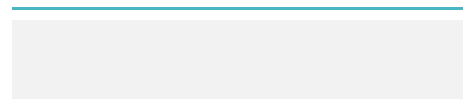
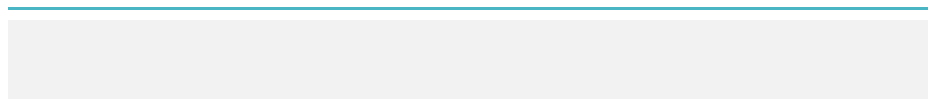
100 club winners!

September

1st prize – Louise Morgan

2nd prize – Helen Evans

October



1st prize – Sadie Burgess
2nd prize – Rose Jakeman



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.

