

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents, welcome back to the new school year and the start of the Autumn Term 2017. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday with your family. I would also like to welcome all our new Reception children and families to the school. All the staff and governors at Mereworth are really looking forward to the school year ahead! **Please see attached dates for your diary for this term** and a reminder of the **INSET days for 2017-18** as holidays should not be taken during school time. School attendance is inextricably linked to attainment. Please can I ask you to read our School Attendance Policy and the letter about school attendance that will be sent home this week.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS - All clubs start next week**

**(except Karate that will start this Thursday)** I am delighted to announce that we have a variety of clubs on offer including an excellent range of sports clubs for the children to enjoy throughout the school year. **Please see the attached information sheet for Term 1 clubs.** All club payments must be made in advance.

## **New children joining our school**

We would also like to welcome to our school, Year 2: Hannah Clarke. Year 3: Harriet Lewis and Darcey Godsalve. Year 4: Joseph Clarke.

## **New Staff**

I would like to formally welcome new staff to our school including, **Miss Ovenell** (Year 1 Class Teacher), **Mr Smith** (Year 2 Class Teacher), **Miss Grogan** (Year 5 Class Teacher). We also have four new members of staff joining our Teaching Assistant Team; **Miss Giorgi, Mrs Green, Mr Bodle** and **Mrs Maitland**, adding extra support to our classes and individual children with special educational needs. We also welcome **Mrs Beaumont** to our school office.

At the end of this week Mrs Saunders (Teaching Assistant – Year 5) will be leaving to take up a new post outside of education and we wish her every success in this new venture and thank her for all her great work at Mereworth over the last 7 years.

## **NEW CLASS INFORMATION AND MEETINGS**

This week you will receive information from the Class Teacher(s) about the curriculum for your child and other important information regarding the class timetable. There will also be an opportunity to meet the Class Teacher(s) next week at the **'MEET THE TEACHER MEETING' (YEAR 1 - YEAR 6)**. **This meeting will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September (week 2)**. There will be two meetings where you will be able to spend time with your child's Class Teacher(s) and find out important information about this school year. The first meeting starts at **5.30pm** and a second meeting starts at **6.30pm**; allowing time between each presentation so that you can attend two different classes, if you have more than one child at the school. These meetings will include an explanation about the curriculum and the expectations for your child in their new year group. There will also be information on homework and key events throughout the year. During the Year 6 meetings we will also go through the process of applying for a Secondary School. It is important that all parents attend these meetings as this will help you support your child and will provide you with all the information that you need to work in partnership with your child's Class Teacher(s).

## **Parent Helpers**

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Helper, hearing readers, supporting the running of our School Library or School Clubs, please register your interest with the school office. We are immensely grateful for the support we already receive but welcome any extra support or time that any parent or grandparent can offer the school.

Finally I look forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks and at the **Meet The Teacher Meetings** next week.

Kind regards, Miss Lavelle – Head Teacher

### Important Information:

Please can we ask you to make sure that your child has a **water bottle** that can remain in class and is separate to their packed lunch bottle. Thank you for your support with this. Mereworth Primary School water bottles can be purchased from the school office for £2.00.

### School Dinner payments for 2017-18

School meals must be paid for in advance; this can be done via SCOPAY. The new Edward and Ward policy is no money/no meal.

### Nut free School

Please can I remind parents not to give their child any food containing 'nuts' as we have children in school that are highly allergic and this could result in a serious and life threatening reaction. Children should not have peanut butter in sandwiches. Thank you for your support.

### Fruit or Vegetable snack for Playtime

Please can I remind you that children are allowed to bring in fruit and/or vegetables for their mid-morning break. Please do not give your child any other snack.

### Collection of children at the end of the school day

Please inform us if there is a different adult collecting your child from school, including other parents from the same class. In the interest of your child's well-being and safety, staff should not release a child to another adult unless we have been informed in advance. Thank you.

### Late Collection

The school day finishes at 3.10pm for KS1 children and 3.20pm for KS2. We ask that all parents call the office and inform as possible us if they are going to be late, so that we can pass on this information to the child and Class Teacher. Any child not collected before 3.25pm for KS1 children and 3.35pm for KS2 children, will be taken to the After School Care Service and a charge of £5.00 per child will be made.

### Playground Equipment after school

If you remain on school premises after children have been dismissed, you must supervise your child.

**Donate a book on your birthday** – We would like to encourage children and parents to donate a favourite book on their birthday for their class. This will be shared with the children and is a great way to support our LOVE OF READING focus and an alternative to bringing in cakes and sweets. Thank you.

### Values Based Education:

#### **Our school Value for September is HOPE.**

This is an uplifting and inspiring value for the start of the school year and will help us to encourage positive thinking about our hopes and dreams and what we can do to make them happen. During this month we will share information about this value and would encourage you to support this at home.

**Our five HIGH FIVE Values are: Loyalty, Kindness, Responsibility, Perseverance and Respect.**



These core values are at the heart of everything we do at Mereworth, alongside our **Growth Mindset culture** of a **'Can do attitude!'** This week the children will be reminded about the importance of challenge, working hard and trying their best and above all making their brain work hard as they learn new things!

#### **CLASS ASSEMBLY DATES 2017-2018 starting in Term 3**

Term	Date of Assembly	Class
<b>Term 3</b>	Week 4 Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	Year 1
	Week 5 Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Year 4
<b>Term 4</b>	Week 4 Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 5
<b>Term 5</b>	Week 5 Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Year R
	Week 6 Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018	Year 3
<b>Term 6</b>	Week 4 Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Year 2
	Week 5 Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Year 6

Please see above the planned dates for Class Assemblies for this school year. Assemblies will start at **9.10am**.

#### **Swimming arrangements 2017-2018 starting in Term 3**

The following classes will receive swimming lessons as part of the PE curriculum during this school year at the Tonbridge School Centre:

Term 3 **Year 3**  
Term 4 **Year 4**  
Term 5 **Year 1**  
Term 6 **Year 2**