

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, Tuesday 1st November 2016

Dear Parents, welcome back after half term. Term 2 is always an exciting term as we head towards Christmas. There is a busy schedule of events and activities this Term including Parents Evening on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th November. Appointment times will be sent home on either Thursday or Friday this week confirming your day and time.

Please see attached the dates for Term 2. We have a variety of extra curricular clubs running this term and due to the popularity of Tag Rugby this will continue this Term with Coach Gurdip, in addition to Football club starting. We have a wonderful opportunity for children to join a **FREE 'Strings instrument Club'** running after school on a Monday. If you have any questions about our clubs programme or opportunities for your child to learn to play an instrument, please speak to Mrs Brydon-Brown in the school office.

Last Term we really enjoyed the special curriculum day learning and celebrating the important facts about the **Battle of Hastings** through a variety of subjects including Geography, History, Art, DT and French. We also raised an amazing **£1,011.60** for the **NSPCC** as part of the sponsored march! Thank you all for supporting this charity.

New Play Therapy room

I am delighted to inform you that we now have a NEW designated **Play Therapy room**, thanks to the hard work of Mr Belcher who has been very busy over the half term holiday. This has also enabled us to re-vamp the existing **Music room** to create more opportunities for children to learn a greater variety of musical instruments. We **LOVE** music at Mereworth and this is reflected in our Music curriculum, singing and the number of children learning to play instruments, but we want to do even more! During this Term, myself and Mrs Jones will provide more information on our current clubs and our plans to increase Music lessons this school year.

Our school Value for NOVEMBER is Compassion.

The children will learn how to consider the feelings of others and the importance of empathy and being mindful of others. We will look at the many ways we can show compassion through our actions and words.

School Behaviour Policy

At the beginning of this school year, all staff were involved in revising our school 'Behaviour policy' and you may have heard your child talking about a BRONZE, SILVER or GOLD step on the ladder. Your child may have come home with either a GOLD sticker (Infants) or a GOLD certificate (Juniors). At Mereworth we want to use praise and reward to drive our behavior expectations. Please see the school website for more details about this policy.

Pokémon Cards at Playtime and lunchtime

The children are really enjoying *Pokémon cards* at the moment and we do not want to discourage this, but we are experiencing some problems with children swapping cards and also children bringing in large quantities of cards. We want our children to be independent and responsible showing that they can play sensibly, so at this stage we hope that we will not need to ban this activity. Please can we ask you for your support by making sure that your child does not bring in any more than 10 cards. Thank you.

CLASS ASSEMBLY DATES 2016-2017 starting in Term 3

Term	Date of Assembly	Class
Term 3	Week 5 Wednesday 1 st February 2017	Year 3
	Week 6 Wednesday 8 th February 2017	Year 1
Term 4	Week 4 Wednesday 15 th March 2017	Year 5
Term 5	Week 5 Wednesday 17 th May 2017	Year R
	Week 6 Wednesday 24 th May 2017	Year 4
Term 6	Week 4 Wednesday 28 th June 2017	Year 2
	Week 5 Wednesday 5 th July 2017	Year 6

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

Reminders/Important information:

OPEN DAYS for new parents

If you know anyone looking for a school for their child in September 2017 then our open days start this term:

Friday 4th November 9.30-11.00am

Thursday 17th November 1.30-2.15pm

Thursday 1st December 9.30-11.00am

Friday 16th December 1.30-2.15pm

Friday 6th January 1.30-2.15pm

If you are able to help us advertise the dates we have flyers that can be distributed – please see the school office staff. Thank you.

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.

Parent Helpers

If you are interested in becoming a 'Parent Helper' for 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.

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. Thank you for your support.

Maths Passports

It has been really good to see such a successful start to the **Maths Passports** and the number of children that are already achieving key objectives. Please continue to support your child at home. For more ideas please visit the school website. Thank you.

Our School website: www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk

Please visit our school website to see all the latest news, photographs, videos and for other information that you might need about the school.



Thank you to FOMS for their hard work with the *Children's film night* and *Boot Fair*. The next event coming up is the **WINTER FESTIVAL** on **Saturday 26th November**.

Please can we ask you to support the non-uniform day (bring in Tombola items) and of course any help on the day itself, however small, is very much appreciated. The more money we raise, the more we are able to invest in the school for the benefit of all our children. Please see the FOMS recent newsletter for more information and you can help advertise our Winter Festival by putting up a 'Daisylets' board outside your home. For every board FOMS will receive £10.00! Thank you all for your support in helping us make Mereworth a great school with excellent resources that the children deserve! Please visit the FOMS page on the website for more information about upcoming events and activities.

Finally I would like to welcome two new Teachers to our school. **Mrs Phypers** will be joining Mr Mitchell in **Year 4** and **Mrs Eastley** will be joining Mrs Booth in **Year 5**; this now completes our full complement of teaching staff. I would also like to welcome **Mrs Adamthwaite** a Teaching Assistant for a child in Year 6 with special educational needs.

Miss Lavelle – Head Teacher