

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, Monday 5th September 2016

Dear Parents, welcome back to the new school year and the start of the Autumn Term 2016. 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 a great school year ahead! **Please see attached dates for your diary for this term** and a reminder of the **INSET days for 2016-17** as holidays should not be taken during school time.

Tomorrow at school we will be recognising **National Fitness Day** and the start of the **Paralympic Games**. This will take place as part of the curriculum and will not require any support from home. Please can I ask that all PE uniform bags are in school ready for lessons.

Curriculum Information / Meeting

This week you will receive information from the Class Teacher 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 14th 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. 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 to 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).

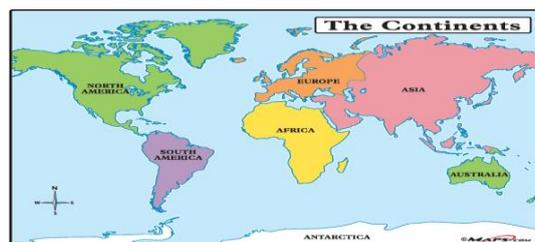
EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS - All clubs start next week (except Karate that will start this Thursday)

I am delighted to announce that we have a variety of new Sports clubs available this school year starting with two **TAG RUGBY clubs**; one for Year 1, 2 and 3 children every Tuesday and the other for Year 4, 5 and 6 on Thursday. We also have a new **Cricket Club** for all Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children every Wednesday and a Tennis Club every Monday for Y1 – Y6. **Please see the attached information sheet for Term 1 clubs** and ensure that your child is signed up for these clubs if you wish them to attend.

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.

NEW for this school year – Maths Passports



Since the introduction of the 2014 National Curriculum for Maths there is a very clear emphasis on the importance of children knowing their number facts and times tables thoroughly and having instant recall of this information. Consequently, we have introduced a new mental Maths programme called **'Maths Passports,'** starting in Reception and progressing through to Year 6. We will send information to all parents and also have information on the school website. In addition to this we are holding an Information Meeting on **Wednesday 21st September (week 3)** at 9.00am, 2.30pm and 5.45pm.

Important Information:

School Dinner payments for 2016-17

School meals are £2.30 per day from September 2016 (the last increase was in September 2013). Please can you make a payment at the beginning of the Autumn Term via cash or cheque – thank you.

Water bottles in school

As part of making sure that children have plenty of water during the school day, 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.

Fruit or Vegetable snack for Playtime

Please can I remind you that all 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 us if they are going to be late as soon as possible 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

Once children are dismissed they must be supervised by their parents, if you remain on school premises. Please can I remind parents that the Monkey Bars are only for Year 6 pupils.

Swimming arrangements 2016-2016

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**

Values Based Education:

Our school Value for September is POSITIVITY.

This is a great 'value' to get the school year started and to encourage positive thinking, attitudes and behaviour. 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, 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 have been 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!

New Children joining our school

We would also like to welcome to our school, Annie - Year 2, Thomas - Year 3, Francesca – Year 4 and Malachy – Year 5.

New Staff

Finally I would like to formally welcome new staff to our school including, **Mr Mitchell** (Year 4 Class Teacher), **Mrs Manklow** (Year 3 Teaching Assistant), **Mrs Gibbs** (Year 2 Teaching Assistant for a child with Special Educational Needs) and **Mrs Edwards** (Year 5 Teaching Assistant for a child with Special Educational Needs).

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