

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 5, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents, welcome back after the Christmas holiday, I hope that you all had a lovely time. This is the start of the Spring Term 2018 and which is a short term with 5 weeks in Term 3 and 6 weeks in Term 4, taking us up to the Easter holidays. **Please find attached the dates for Term 3 and Term 4. Our extra-curricular clubs will start next week and run until the end of term (week 5).**

Please remember that we have fantastic opportunities in place for children to learn a wide range of musical instruments. If you have any questions about this please see the school office or Mrs Jones our Music Leader.

### Class information for Term 3 and Term 4:

Class Teachers will send home their class letter and Curriculum topic information this week so that you are aware of the learning that will take place during Term 3 and Term 4.

### Every school day counts!

There are **54 school days in total** during the **Spring Term 2018** and every school day counts, so please can I remind parents that children should not be taken out of school for holidays during term time. At the end of the Autumn Term 2017, there were **64 pupils** with **100% attendance**. This is an excellent achievement and we hope that we can continue this during the Spring Term. Well done to Year 2 and Year 5 as they have the best class attendance so far this school year. Our whole school attendance is **96.1%** and our target for this school year is **97.7%**.

**Term time dates 2018-2019:** Please find attached a copy of the school dates from next academic year.

### Severe weather:

If we do have snow or bad weather, we will update our school website with information by 7.30am. Alternatively you can access this information from KCC Kent School Closures website at <http://www.kentclosures.co.uk/>. Everything is in place for the school to open if we do have severe weather and information will be shared with parents at the earliest opportunity.

### Special English Curriculum Week – week 2:

We are really looking forward to our special curriculum event that will take place next week on Monday 15th January - Friday 19th January. Mereworth will be taken over by Fairy tales and Nursery Rhymes! This will be our first 'Special Curriculum Week' where the children will be participating in a range of activities including: drama, retelling tales around the campfire in our Forest School, composing fairy-tale music and baking fairy-tale treats. It will all build to our performance assembly on Friday where we will share all our learning, dressed as our favourite Fairy Tale or Nursery Rhyme characters. **Please remember that children should come to school dressed up as their favourite book character on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

### Our school value for JANUARY is RESPECT

This month we will be thinking about the important value of **Respect** and how we can live out this value through our actions and words. We will focus on respecting the fact that we are all different, including respecting others, ourselves and our world. The children and staff will be able to award 'RESPECT CARDS' to one another when they see respectful behaviour, actions and words. **This value is part of our 'high five' school values: Loyalty, Kindness, Responsibility, Perseverance and Respect.**



### Date for the diary:

**Maths No Problem – A workshop for parents will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 4.30pm (Term 4).** Please save this date and come along to find out all about supporting your child with Maths and how we teach the subject in school. Please complete the reply slip on the accompanying poster and return it to school. Thank you.

## Reminders/important information:

### OPEN DAYS for new parents

We have one more meeting for parents looking for a school place for their child for September 2018. This will take place tomorrow **on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 1.30-2.45pm**. If you are a parent of a child at the school and require a place for September 2018 you must complete your online admission form by **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018**.

### Donate a book on your birthday

A BIG thank you to parents and children that have already donated a book on their **birthday**. This is a great way to support our LOVE OF READING focus and an alternative to bringing in cakes and sweets. Thank you for all your support.

### Hearing your child read at home

We place a very high importance on **reading** and particularly the partnership between home and school in establishing a culture of daily reading. All of our pupils have a reading record book and we ask that you hear your child read on a regular basis, signing the book to record that the reading is taking place. This includes all children that are 'free' readers and in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. Thank you.

### End of the school day procedures

At 3.30pm we would like everyone to leave the school premises and not continue to play and use school equipment. This will alleviate traffic on The Street and also enable our After School Clubs to run effectively and be supervised properly. Thank you.

### Home Learning Survey and Results 2017-2018

Thank you all for sharing your views on Home Learning last term. **Please visit the school website page 'OUR PARENTS' and then the tab 'SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS' for the whole school results and a break down by class for parents and pupil surveys. We also have the results of the staff survey.** During our January training day we carefully analysed the data and have used this to inform future home learning practice. We have updated our policy and will take this to governors for approval at the next Full Governing Body Meeting that will take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Following this meeting we will publish this policy on the school website for you to read.



## TERM 3 and TERM 4 FOMS EVENTS 2018

### Term 3

Children's Film Night: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Term 4

Children's Disco: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Mother's Day gifts: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Mereworth Easter Egg Rolling competition:  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

FOMS will send out further information and details to all parents for each event planned. All money raised goes towards helping the school provide resources and equipment for the children.

*Thank you all for supporting FOMS!*

**Our School website:** [www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk](http://www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk)

Please visit our school website to see all the latest dates for the diary, news, photographs, videos and any other information that you might need about the school. We have a wonderful PowerPoint presentation of our Autumn Term 2017 for you to enjoy!

**Congratulations:** Miss Grogan (our Year 5 Teacher) got married in December and is now known as **Mrs Pearson**.

Miss Addison (Teaching Assistant in Year 2 and Year 5) will be called Mr Turner from January 2018 and will be using male pronouns. We are sure you will support us in supporting him with this transition. This change will of course be explained to the children at school, in an appropriate, sensitive manner.

**Miss Lavelle – Head Teacher**