

NEWSLETTER

Issue 11, Monday 2nd July 2018

Dear Parents, this is the last newsletter for this school year and I would like to thank you all for your continued support and partnership with us. There is so much to be proud of this academic year as we have made really good progress on many key areas of our school action plan, including our whole school curriculum through the introduction of a new *Progression of Skills* and *Assessment of Skills* documents for all Foundation subjects and Science. We have also embedded our new Maths resources and teaching programme (Maths No Problem) which is having a very positive impact on learning and attainment. Last week we were informed that we achieved the **GOLD AWARD** for singing and recognition of music in our school. We are delighted to have achieved this award. You may also remember that earlier on this school year we achieved the **Early Years Quality Mark** in recognition of our highly effective provision. Throughout this school year professional development for staff has been a key priority and we have focussed on whole school staff training in Maths, Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) including *Dyslexia*, *Autism*, *ADHD* and pupils with *social and emotional needs*. Two of our teachers have completed Leadership Training; Miss Ovenell, Middle Leadership and Mrs Pearson, Senior Leadership Training. This is part of an ongoing programme over the last three years for our teachers and as new members of staff, they have completed their 1 year course this week. I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Taylor will complete her Forest Schools qualification before the start of next school year. We hope to build upon our positive start to Forest Schools next academic year with more classes and staff involved. This academic year the school was invited by Kent to be part of a 1 year programme called '**Journey to Outstanding.**' This has been a very positive experience and we have gained from the training sessions and visits to other schools while also providing Head Teacher visits to our school. At the start of next school year we will share with you our key actions for 2018-2019 as we work towards securing an outstanding curriculum and outcomes for pupils.

Parent governors

I am delighted to announce that following our recent parent election **Mr Davis** (parent of a child in YR) received the highest number of votes and will join the school governing body from September 2018.

Inter-school Times Tables Competition

I am excited to inform you that Mereworth School is taking part in an Inter-school Times Tables Competition on Tuesday 17th July at Kings Hill Primary School. This has been organised by the Maths Subject Leaders from several collaborative schools: *Mereworth*, *Kings Hill*, *Discovery*, *Ryarsh* and also joining us, *Igtham Primary School*. Children have been told about the competition in an assembly last week and are aware that each Class Teacher will be choosing a Class Champion to represent their class and our school, based on pre-agreed criteria. This is a fantastic opportunity for all the children to aspire to and it reinforces all of the focused learning that has been taking place around Times Tables over the last couple of years. Whilst there is only space for 1 champion in each class this is an activity we plan to continue next year, so there is always the opportunity to be Class Times Tables Champion next year as all our children work on improving their fluency in this area of maths.

Annual survey to parents

We are now in the process of planning key actions and areas for development for next school year and would appreciate your feedback via our annual survey to parents. Please take the time to complete this survey as it is always very helpful to have your views on the good work that the school is doing as well as any areas where you feel we can improve. I will also send home a separate survey to ask for your views on our current *school values* and *mission statement* next week. **Please return all surveys by Monday 16th July (Week 7) Thank you.**

Finally ... I look forward to seeing you all at **Sports Day** next week. **FOMS will be serving refreshments and breakfast.** You are welcome to stay for a **picnic lunch with your child.** If your child is entitled to a free school meal (Year R - Year 2) they will receive a 'grab bag' consisting of a sausage in a roll (and a vegetarian option), chips drink and dessert. The children always enjoy the 'grab bag' and look forward to this special lunch that they are offered twice a year. If your child does not require a lunch on this day, please ensure that you have informed the school office.

Miss Lavelle – Head Teacher

Year 6 School Journey

Last week our Year 6 children had a fantastic week at the Swattenden Centre in Cranbrook Kent. They were a credit to the school. We will have photographs on our school website for you to see this week.

Make a difference day

A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents and governors that are helping today. We are very grateful for all your support.

Our school value for July is PRIDE

In the final month of this school year our school value will be *Pride*. We will encourage the children (and staff) to look back and reflect on their individual achievements and successes this school year. We will learn how to be proud of ourselves and others and how we can support each other to achieve even more!

Skipping workshop this Wednesday

The whole school skipping workshop has been re-booked for this Wednesday. The aim of the workshop is to encourage children (and staff) to take up skipping as a healthy and fun form of exercise. Skipping appeals to children of all ages and helps with co-ordination, concentration, co-operation, and communication. **Skipping ropes will be on sale at the end of the day.**

Extra Curricular Clubs 2018-2019

We are busy planning clubs for next school year. The schedule will be published before the end of this term, giving you a chance to select clubs for September 2018. All clubs that require a payment must be paid for in full by the first week of the new term, in advance of the club starting. I would like to remind you that we also have an excellent range of musical instrument lessons provided by our external music teachers. Please contact the school office if you would like your child to play an instrument from September 2018.

School Lunch 2018-2019

From September 2018 all children in our current Y2 class will need to pay for their school lunch. A flyer will be going out before the end of term with more information. School meals must be paid for in advance; this can be done via SCOPAY. The Edward and Ward Catering policy is **'No money, No meal.'**

Sponsored Walk

I would like to thank you all for supporting our school sponsored walk. This year we raised an amazing **£2050.000** for the school and we will use this money to buy new Teacher Laptops for each classroom. This will really make a difference to teaching and learning and will ensure that we have the latest technology!

School communication to parents - New text App

Due to the new GDPR regulations, **Teachers2Parents** have changed their texting system, so texts are now sent from a selection of mobile numbers, rather than Mereworth CP School. This can be confusing but unfortunately we cannot influence it. To keep all texts from school in one place, please download the free app on your mobile by clicking the link **edsp.co.app** at the bottom of the texts.

Emails/Letters: Please check your email inbox and child's book bag regularly to ensure you are not missing out on any important communications from school. We are sending less reminders in an effort to not bombard you with information, so please do read the newsletters and other information sheets and make a note of important dates in advance. Thank you.

FOMS - THANK YOU

*A BIG THANK YOU TO FOMS FOR ORGANISING
FATHER'S DAY GIFTS AND SUMMER FESTIVAL*

£214.00 profit Father's Day gifts

Summer Festival money raised

£2,283.00 profit

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank all the FOMS parents and helpers that have given so much of their time and energy to the school this year to raise money and to provide a wide range of events and activities for our school community to enjoy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank again Mrs Katie Wilson for all her excellent work with FOMS over the last 9 years and as Chair of FOMS for the last 4 years. I would also like to thank Mrs Kirstie Peachy as she has stepped down as the FOMS Food and Beverage director after more than 11 years of active involvement with the school and FOMS.

Our new chair of FOMS, Mrs Gigney, has worked extremely hard since taking up the position earlier this year. I would encourage all our parents to give her as much support as possible next school year to ensure the continued success of FOMS. All money raised comes back to the school and enables us to buy resources and equipment for the children that we may otherwise not be able to afford. Your support is very much appreciated.