

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, Monday 3rd September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and I would like to officially welcome our new Reception children and families to the school. The staff and governors at Mereworth are really looking forward to the school year ahead and we have been busy planning our actions for this academic year.

Please see attached dates for your diary for this term and a reminder of the INSET days and term dates for 2018-19. Holidays should not be taken during school time.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS - All clubs start w/c

Monday 10th September (except Karate which starts this Thursday). We have an excellent range of clubs for the children to enjoy throughout the school year and I am delighted to announce that we have several new clubs on offer this term. **Please see the attached information sheet for Term 1 clubs** and check the individual club flyers for payment details.

Swimming arrangements 2018-19 starting in Term 3

Below is the timetable for swimming lessons that are part of the PE National Curriculum. Lessons will take place at the Tonbridge School Centre:

Term 3 Year 3

Term 4 Year 4

Term 5 Year 1 and Year 5

Term 6 Year 2 and Year 6

Parent Helpers

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

NEW CLASS INFORMATION AND MEETINGS

This week you will receive information from your child's Class Teacher(s) about the curriculum, class weekly timetable and key events. There will also be an opportunity to meet the Class Teacher(s) next week at the **'MEET THE TEACHER SESSIONS'** (Year 1 - Year 6 classes). **These will take place on Wednesday 12th September (week 2).**

There will be two sessions: the first starts at **5.30pm** and the second 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 a session 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).**

CLASS ASSEMBLY DATES 2018-2019 starting in Term 3

Please see the planned dates for Class Assemblies for this school year. Assemblies will start at 9.10am and parents are welcome to attend their child's class assembly.

Term	Date of Assembly	Class
Term 3	Week 4 Wednesday 30 th January 2019	Year 3
	Week 5 Wednesday 6 th February 2019	Year 1
Term 4	Week 4 Wednesday 13 th March 2019	Year R
Term 5	Week 5 Wednesday 15 th May 2019	Year 5
	Week 6 Wednesday 22 nd May 2019	Year 4
Term 6	Week 4 Wednesday 26 th June 2019	Year 2
	Week 5 Wednesday 3 rd July 2019	Year 6

Important Information

Teachers2Parents

Due to GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), 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](https://www.edsp.co.uk) at the bottom of the texts.

Emails/letters:

Please check your email inbox and child's book bag regularly to ensure you don't miss 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.

Water bottles:

Please make sure that your child has a **water bottle** every day for use in class, which is separate to their packed lunch bottle. Thank you for your support. Mereworth Primary School water bottles can be purchased from the school office for £2.00.

School dinner payments for 2018-19

School meals must be paid for in advance; this can be done via SCOPAY. The 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.

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 as soon as possible if they are going to be late, so that we can pass this information onto 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.

OUR SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES:

Thank you all for returning the survey on our school values and mission statement. The results were as follows regarding the **mission statement**:

Do you think that the mission statement encapsulates the core purpose of the school?

Parents 45 returns: strongly agree = 22 / Agree = 23
Disagree = 1

Staff 15 returns: strongly agree = 15 / Agree = 5

Governors 8 returns: strongly agree = 4 / Agree = 3
Disagree = 1

Y5 & Y6 pupils 57 returns: strongly agree = 42
Agree = 10 / Disagree = 5

We have decided to keep our school mission statement as responses were so positive.

"Lasting Learning Experiences for Life"

Our school values:

We had a number of new values suggested and received all of these before finalising our **new HIGH FIVE VALUES: Honesty, Teamwork, Responsibility, Perseverance and Respect.**

These core values are at the heart of everything we do at Mereworth. Full survey results and further information will be on the school website by the end of this week.

Our school value for September is POSITIVITY

This is a great 'value' to get the school year started and to encourage positive thinking and behaviour. During this month we will share information about this value and would encourage you to support this at home.

Parking, collection and drop off

A huge thank you to those of you who continue to park safely and considerately on The Street. We had fewer incidents and complaints regarding road safety towards the end of last school year, and parking in the bus stop has been dramatically reduced. Your support, collaboration and encouragement is greatly appreciated and we will continue to focus on our 'safer parking' initiative this year. We are actively investigating options to improve the parking situation. In the meantime, please remember that it is illegal to park on double yellow lines, zig-zags and in the bus stop. Anyone seen parking there will be contacted by the school.

Kind regards, Miss Lavelle – Head Teacher