

Miss A Lavelle  
Head Teacher BEd (Hons) NPQH

Miss K Maryon BEd (Hons) NPQH  
Deputy Head teacher



The Street  
Mereworth  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME18 5ND

Tel: (01622) 812569

**Mereworth Community Primary School**  
"Lasting learning experiences for life"

Email: [office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk)  
[www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk](http://www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk)

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

We are delighted that from Monday all children will be back at school. **Please find attached our Parent Protocol.** The school has in place rigorous COVID-19 safety measures including twice weekly testing of all adults working in the school. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults (with no COVID-19 symptoms) living in households with children at school or college can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

More information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

**Please can I remind everyone to keep to your child's drop off and collection times and to ensure that you are in your designated drop off and collection areas.** With everyone returning to school, please allow more time to park and walk down the street to the school. Please do not park or stop in the bus stop or on zig zag lines.

Year Group / Family	Drop off	Collection	Area of school
Year R	8.40-8.50am	3.00-3.10pm	EYFS gate/EYFS playground area
Year 1	8.50-9.00am	3.10-3.20pm	Main gate/small pedestrian gate for Year 1 outside area
Year 2	8.40-8.50am	3.00 3.10pm	Main gate/front playground
Year 3	8.50-9.00am	3.10-3.20pm	Main gate/front playground
Year 4	8.40-8.50am	3.00 3.10pm	Staff car park designated area
Year 5	8.50-9.00am	3.10-3.20pm	Staff car park designated area
Year 6	8.30-8.40am	3.15-3.20pm	Staff car park designated area / walk home to church
<b>FAMILY - siblings</b>	<b>If you have more than one child in the school after dropping off your first child please go to your designated drop off or collection 'parent waiting area' for your next child</b>		

School meals will commence from the first day back - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. **I have attached an Edwards and Ward newsletter and the current weekly menu.**

#### **Online support for parents: Instagram:**

Please find attached a National Online Safety poster about Instagram. We recognise the challenges of ensuring that your child is safe online and each week we will provide information to support you as a parent. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any advice or support regarding the online safety of your child.

#### **FOMS:**

Now that we are all back to school, we are hoping to resume as much as possible our FOMS events and activities for the remainder of this academic year, starting with the one and only, long standing and traditional 'Mereworth Egg Rolling competition' (this will take place in class bubbles this year; unfortunately, due to the ongoing restrictions, parents will be unable to attend). We are also looking forward to running our annual EGGTRAVAGANZA egg decorating competition – this year's theme is 'LOCKDOWN EGGS!' There will also be Easter Class Hampers with raffle tickets on sale for family and friends. Our non-uniform day for donations for your class hamper will be Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

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As you may remember, Mrs Gigney, the Chair of FOMS, will be stepping down this school year, **and we really need another parent to come forward to take up this position.** I can't stress enough how important it is for our wonderful school to have a FOMS Chair and team of parents that are committed to running fundraising events and activities for our school community. Now more than ever, the school needs the considerable additional income that is generated each year by these wonderful events. COVID-19 has had a significant detrimental impact on our school budget and everything that can be done to continue raising money for the school is very much needed, so I am asking each and every one of you to consider forming a new FOMS team with a new FOMS chair. Of course, we need everyone to support FOMS by taking part in the events organised, but without strong leadership and commitment from the Chair, it is difficult to see how we can continue to benefit from these events and the essential funds they raise. **Please contact the school office if you are interested or would like to know more. The children at Mereworth deserve the very best and I would appreciate parents coming forward to find out more about this important role within our school community.**

**WE ARE SO EXCITED...!!!** Next Friday at 10.30am, we have a virtual aerobic workshop, led by none other than the amazing Mr Motivator himself! Promoting physical and mental health is very important to us at Mereworth and we hope this fun event, that will take place alongside our collaborative schools; Ryarsh, Kingshill, Discovery and Offham Primary School, will be enjoyed by everyone. We would also like to invite parents to join us by using the link provided in today's covering email from the school office. **Please do not share this link with people that are not part of your family.** During the workshop, all participants need to be on mute unless prompted otherwise and, at the request of Mr Motivator, we will be asking for cameras to be on. This will help make the workshop more interactive and allow Mr Motivator to engage with the children and families. As cameras will be on, please remember to make sure that there is nothing inappropriate in the background. In terms of other arrangements for the day, our usual COVID-19 procedures will be in place such as increased classroom ventilation, hand washing/sanitising and room cleaning. The children, staff and parents can wear 'keep-fit' clothing to school on this day – sweat bands too! Throughout this pandemic we have worked very closely with our collaborative schools and it is lovely that all 5 schools will be taking part. I would like to thank Mr Childs from Ryarsh Primary School for organising this event for all our children and families to enjoy!

#### **Additional parent information and diary dates for Term 4:**

**Week 3:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am – Mr. Motivator virtual aerobic workshop!

**Week 4:** Parent Consultations week / Please bring in your child's Class Project Work

**Week 5:** Parent Consultations week / Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – FOMS Non-uniform day for Easter chocolate and donations for Class Hamper

**Week 6:** Easter activities including the one and only... Mereworth Egg Rolling / children bring in their 'Lockdown Egg Extravaganza!' / FOMS Easter Class Hamper Raffle (dates and further details to follow)

**Week 6:** Last day of term is Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April Staff Training Day.

Easter Holiday from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April. **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April first day back for all children.**

#### **Reminders:**

- Please support our class libraries by donating high quality children's books between now and the end of this term.
- Please can all parents check your child's school uniform to ensure that all items still fit and that you are following our school uniform policy. More information is available here:

<http://mereworth.kent.sch.uk/uniform/>

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Lavelle  
Head Teacher