

Miss A Lavelle
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Mereworth Community Primary School
"Lasting learning experiences for life"

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Friday 7th May 2021

Dear Parents,

We have lots of information to share with you this week, including several opportunities for you to share your views and get involved - on a school, local and national level.

School Sponsored Walk May 2021:

Thank you all for your very kind donations and support so far - we have already raised an amazing £625.00. We hope that we will be able to raise enough money for a new Clever Touch screen for our ICT suite. **Please encourage your family and friends to support this school event by donating any amount via the JUST GIVING PAGE and stating the year group they are supporting:** <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mereworthsponsoredwalk>

Breakfast Club wraparound care provision from September 2021

As previously communicated to all parents, we are planning to review our wraparound care provision for Breakfast Club from September 2021. **Please click on the link to complete the survey:** <https://forms.gle/aBcQ12rtHNa1Z5wR6>
We need to reassess potential demand for this service and to inform the decision making process regarding the reopening of this service. **The deadline for responses is Wednesday 12th May.** Thank you.

Online support for parents: Twitch:

Please find attached a National Online Safety poster about Twitch - a game-focused live streaming service. 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.

KCC information for Parents and Children:

KCC SEND strategy:

Kent County Council have asked schools to publish their **new SEND strategy**, which can be viewed here:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

KCC Reconnect programme:

Kent County Council are also working on a **Reconnect programme** for children and young adults in Kent and are currently seeking views on this to enable them to design a community-based programme. You can give your feedback here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DaJTMjXH_kuotz5qs39fkJRDrKCS7QBOhAIGBFqnhIVURE9ORIZKMzNBVTILSVA4RkZNEJIOEJQY4u

'The Big Ask' National Survey:

The country's newly appointed **children's commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza**, has launched **'The Childhood Commission'**: a once-in-a-generation review of the future of childhood. This review will identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their full potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve. At its heart will be **'The Big Ask'** - the largest ever consultation with children in England - to gather their views, opinions and experiences and understand their concerns and aspirations for the future. **As a school, we will be completing the surveys with children from Year 2 to Year 6 before the end of this term and using the support materials provided as part of our PSHE lessons.** If parents would like to complete this with their younger children from Year R and Year 1 at home, you can access the age appropriate survey here:

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https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2021/03/16/were-launching-a-once-in-a-generation-beveridge-report-for-children-with-an-ambitious-call-to-rebuild-childhood-after-the-covid-19-pandemic/?utm_source=dynamics&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tba-school-initial&msdyntrid=1yH2NnSiystKB6XE9FXblqePTdpOfimWJGEoWMUnmgM . If you click the link to 'The Big Ask' that is within the text on this page, it will take you to the children's surveys.

Key dates for Term 5:

Thursday 13 th May	Year R-6	Special Lunch Taster Day – seasonal vegetables
Thursday 20 th May	Year R-6	Special Lunch Day – Burger Bar
Tuesday 25 th May	Year R/1/2	Sponsored Walk Event – Year R / Year 1 / Year 2
Wednesday 26 th May	Year 5/6	Sponsored Walk Event – Year 5 and Year 6
Thursday 27 th May	Year 3/4	Sponsored Walk Event – Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 27th May		Last day of Term 5
Friday 28 th May		Staff Training Day
Mon 31 st May- Fri 4 th June		Half Term
Monday 7th June		First day of Term 6

Reminders:

Lateral Flow Tests vs PCR Tests:

Several parents are using Lateral Flow Device (rapid) tests to check for COVID-19 when they have one or more potential COVID symptoms (a temperature/persistent cough/loss of or change in sense of taste and smell). However these LFD tests are designed for asymptomatic use, to pick up cases of COVID -19 in the community that would otherwise have gone unnoticed. Anyone with symptoms should book a PCR test at a test centre, not a Lateral Flow test.

Parking:

There have been numerous instances of parents parking in the bus stop, on the double yellow lines outside the school/on the other side of Seven Mile Lane, and on the zig-zag lines outside the school. Please do not do this under any circumstances as it blocks the road for other users, is dangerous and illegal. It also has a very negative effect on the school's relationship with the rest of the community. Special parking arrangements are in place for individual families depending on their particular needs or circumstances, so please can all other parents park further up the road and walk if there are no spaces outside the school. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your kind offers to help with redecorating some of the outside areas at school. This work will take place over the next 3 weeks and if you would like to join those who have already volunteered, it's not too late; please email the school office with the dates and times you are available.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Lavelle
Head Teacher