

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

Start of school year 2021-2022: Term 1

Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family have had a wonderful summer holiday. We are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday. We have been busy planning for this term and I am delighted to say that it certainly feels as though we are getting back to our normal school activities. Our wraparound care for Breakfast Club and After School provision, Extra Curricular Clubs and Music lessons will start from Monday. Parents need to book and pay the club provider/music teacher directly; you can find more information and contact details here: [School Clubs | Mereworth Community Primary School](#) All extra curricular clubs operate from 3:25pm – 4:25pm. Please collect your child from the gazebo.

I am delighted to announce that we will also be returning to swimming lessons at Tonbridge School for all year groups, starting with Year 2 and Year 5 on Thursday 9th September. Our sports coaches are also back and will be supporting our teachers with their professional development, working this term with Year 1 and Year 3 every Tuesday afternoon. This will provide a rich and varied curriculum offer for the children and important access to swimming lessons as part of their Physical Education.

We are happy to welcome a number of new staff to school this term, including;

- Mrs Dunn – Year 5 Class Teacher
- Mrs Ryan – Year 4 Teaching Assistant
- Miss Whyman and Miss Lockwood – Apprentice Teaching Assistants completing their Level 3 qualification.

Other staff information:

- Mrs Mayhew will be leaving Mereworth at the end of this term for personal reasons. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in the future. I would like to thank her for all her work and contributions to the school.
- Congratulations to our Year 1 Teacher Miss Watts who got married during the summer holiday and will now be known as Mrs Benham.

Parent volunteer readers:

If you would like to volunteer your time and work with us in school, please can you let the school office know the days and times you are available and we will organise your class deployment and induction. We are hoping to start all parent volunteers at the beginning of week 4.

NEW Clever Touch Screens:

Our new school computer screens have been fitted during the summer holidays in the ICT suite, Year R and Year 1 classrooms. A massive thank you to all the parents that supported the sponsored walk fundraising event that made this possible.

Returning to school and government guidance for September 2021:

The government guidance for the start of this school year means that we are no longer required to operate in bubbles, wear face masks or ensure social distancing. There are also no 'close contact' and/or self-isolation requirements. **The school will have a contingency plan that will form part of our school risk assessment, in the event that we may need to adapt our day to day operations due to a high number of cases of the virus. All school systems will be kept under review and will be subject to change as needed.** Our risk assessment will be published next week on the school website to reflect these changes. As a result, we will be operating many of our pre-covid systems and have taken into account feedback from the parent, staff and pupil surveys to help with key operational decisions for this school year. 100% of parents that completed the end of year survey have asked that we keep the class email address system. This

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will be fully operational from Monday 13th September (week 2) from 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday-Friday. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response. All urgent messages should be given directly to the school office.

School start and finish times:

Please be aware of the start and finish times of the school day:

Year 1 – Year 6:

- **The main school gates will open at 8.30am and the children can come onto the playground until 8.40am.** All children are expected to be in class at 8.40am for early morning learning activities and registration.
- **The school day will finish at 3.15pm** and parents can collect their children from the main playground.

Year R:

- **The EYFS playground gate will open at 8.40am.**
- **Year R children should be collected from the EYFS playground between 3:00-3:10pm**, enabling parents to collect older siblings from the main playground afterwards.

Wraparound childcare provision: Breakfast Club 7:30-8:45am and After School Club 3:15-6:00pm

All booking forms for Term 1 must be submitted today to ensure that we have the correct staffing levels in place. Please click on the links below to find out more information including the menus, activities, session times and costs:

[Breakfast Club | Mereworth Community Primary School](#) and [After School Club | Mereworth Community Primary School](#)

- Children attending Breakfast Club should come into school with their parent/carer via the white doors opposite the hall.
- Parents/carers collecting their child from After School Club should come via the car park gate and back door.

If you have any unwanted board games at home that you would like to donate to our clubs please bring them into school next week. Thank you.

Year 1-Year 5 Meet your child's new Class Teacher(s):

Meet the Teacher sessions will be next week on Wednesday 8th September at 5:15pm and 6:15pm. The Class Teacher(s) can introduce themselves and share important information about the children's learning in their new year group and provide you with a copy of the Home School Agreement. We have organised two meeting times to allow parents to attend two different classes where needed. The Year 6 Meet the Teacher and Secondary School Transfer session will take place on Thursday 16th September (Week 2). **Please find attached the Meet the Teacher poster.** Next week, parents will also receive the Class Teacher Letter for Term 1. This will have important information linked to your child's class and also information about the year group curriculum. Please can all parents ensure that children are wearing correct school shoes and full school uniform in line with our expectations. **Please see the link to school uniform expectations:** <https://mereworth.kent.sch.uk/uniform/>

What children need to bring to school in the first week back:

- **Wellies and waterproof jacket.** These are to remain in school for the term.
- **Named water bottle to school each day.** It must be taken home each night and thoroughly washed.
- **Healthy nut-free snack** for your child to eat at break time if you wish.
- **Sun hat** for the start of the term as children will be outside for breaktime and lunchtime/outside learning.
- **PE kit** in school for the whole term. This should include tracksuit bottoms and a warm top, in plain, dark colours.
- **Pencil case/School bag.**

Please ensure every item belonging to your child is labelled with their name. Thank you.

We look forward to seeing the children's summer learning projects next week. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Lavelle
Head Teacher