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Friday 4th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 Update

I obviously tempted fate yesterday when I started writing my newsletter as I'd written that we'd had no new confirmed cases this week. As you know, late last night I spoke to a parent who informed me that her child had tested positive and this means that Class 3HA will be self-isolating until Wednesday 16th December. We did have a couple of children in 3HA come to school this morning so could I please ask parents to just check their emails in the mornings just in case anything comes through late in the evening.

On the plus side, I'm very pleased that we'll be welcoming back Class 3SA on Monday along with Mrs Amelia, Mrs Holdaway, Mrs Langsdon and Mr Harris.

Library Books

Emma, our school librarian, has been going through the books in the library and discovered that we have over 200 books missing from the school library which are currently 'on loan' to children at the school. We have all invested a lot of time and money into the library over the past couple of years and many of our families have donated books. It would be a shame if this were not returned. Over the next week, parents may receive an email asking them to look for a particular book that their child has been loaned – please do look for these. I'm have no doubt that in most cases, they'll be buried amongst over books or in toys somewhere.

School Calendar

Now that we've fully migrated across to Office 365, we have been able to link our website calendar with our school system. This means that it is easier for us to update the calendar on the school website. A function that you may not be aware of is the ability to 'subscribe' to the calendar which means that a copy is kept on the calendar app on your phone. You can set this up by clicking the link on the school calendar and any updates will automatically appear!

Virtual Dance Competition

Thank you to all those children who sent in a video in order to enter the Virtual Dance Competition within our Sports Partnership. We have watched all the videos and have been really impressed with all of them. Whilst we would like to enter everyone, sadly we cannot so we (with the help of Laura Andrews) have chosen the following dancers: Darwin (Reception) for KS1 Novice Male, Arianna (1SA) KS1 Novice Female, Megan (5JP) KS2 Competitive Female and Heather (6NA) NKS2 Novice Female. Well done to EVERYONE and you will all receive a certificate to take home.

Sports Crew

A special thank you to all of the Year 5 Sports Crew who have been an amazing help to Mrs Pearson in getting the virtual league events completed. They are Hanish, Tate, Louis, Hazel, Christina, Lara, Emma, Theo, Cayman and Verity.



Christmas Events

Christmas Jumper Day

Just a reminder that next Friday is our chance to dust off and once again, don our Christmas Jumpers! For this privilege we are asking for a £1 donation to Save the Children which will be collected in classrooms.

Christingle Services

Sadly, because of the current situation, it has not been possible to attend St Peter's church this year but I'm pleased to be able to tell you that, in the last week of term, we will be taking the children down to the church to take part in a Christingle Service.

We will, of course, maintain the integrity of our 'bubbles' at all times – there will be individual services for each year group and the surfaces will be cleaned in between each service. I'm very pleased that we are able to maintain this tradition at Christmas time.

Christmas Dinner

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, in order to offer a Christmas Dinner, we will need to spread this out across two days and ask all families to provide a packed lunch on the day that it is not their turn for Christmas Dinner. Next week, we will be asking parents to 'book' their Christmas Dinner so that we have an idea of numbers. Thank you in advance for your support in this.

Rapunzel: The Lockdown

The Christmas Panto is a tradition that we don't normally have at Bridge School (as there's usually so much else going on!) but this year, we've arranged for the children to watch Rapunzel: The Lockdown at 1.30pm until 2.40pm. If any of our families are shielding or self-isolating then you can still join in the fun by registering online (*link below*).

[Register online](#)

Message from Rev. Estella

I am so sorry that we still aren't able to meet and that being in Tier 3 means we are unlikely to be able to hold any Messy church events or activities for Christmas. I know it's not the same but here is a little video message (with an Advent activity) for you to watch together as a family (only 5 minutes long!).

<https://youtu.be/uHGSfQVqeBA>

Also, here is another little video all about Advent - it's called Advent in 2 minutes which I hope you will enjoy:

<https://youtu.be/eC0FGQLBp7w>

Lastly do look out for our Advent window trail in Bridge, and Advent number trail in Lower Hardres, in both cases the final number on 24th December will be at the church and there will be little gift bags for children to collect.

With my prayers and best wishes

Estella

Salvation Army Appeal

This year, we have set up a 'Giving Tree' and we are seeking gifts suitable for children aged between 3 and 15 that the Salvation Army can distribute to families who need a bit of help this Christmas. If you can provide a small gift, I know that it would be very much appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office or at the SLT office on the school playground (there will be a bag or box!)

Advent Calendar

As we are missing so much this year, we've put together a special Bridge-style advent calendar and each day there will be something special for you to share with your children: <https://bridge.kent.sch.uk/school-life/advent-calendar>

Year R Nativity

I know that everyone in Year R has been working exceptionally hard to produce a virtual nativity performance which we hope to share with you soon. Well done to all the children and staff.

A Time to Reflect

In our Collective Worship this week, the children have been learning about the Jesse Tree, which is a very old tradition used to tell the story of the bible from creation to the Christmas story. The name comes from Jesse who was the father of King David – ancestor of Jesus.



Over the course of the week, the children have been learning about the People of God: Isaiah, Adam & Eve, Abraham, Moses and (today) Joshua.

After Moses had led the people of God to the edge of the Promised Land, Joshua was the one who led them across the River Jordan to take Jericho. This was a great victory and something to celebrate.

¹ Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

² Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. ³ March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

⁶ So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." ⁷ And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord."

²⁰ When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Joshua 6: 1-7, 20

In today's Collective Worship, I asked the children to reflect upon their 'victories' this week. What personal victories could they (and you) celebrate?

One victory that I know Mr Taylor would like to celebrate this week is over technology and the remote learning that has taken place with 3SA. Mr Taylor has been very impressed with how well the children have done with their remote learning (with parental technical support no doubt!) and as much as we're looking forward to having the children back next week, he's also pleased that we'll be back to 'normal' teaching.

With best wishes,

James Tibbles

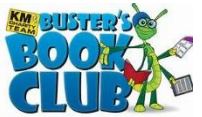
Celebration

Star Pupils

Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

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| ☆ Kaylon F (RAM) for always being enthusiastic towards his learning and doing an amazing job of his role in our nativity. <i>Miss Maw</i> | ☆ Gaija M (4ST) for lovely RE work and illustrations. <i>Mrs Saint</i> |
| ☆ Eva S (REC) for her super enthusiasm and dancing in our nativity! <i>Miss Cowley</i> | ☆ Lily S (4ST) for being a lovely member of our class and also being an enthusiastic reader. <i>Mrs Saunders</i> |
| ☆ Albie C (1CS) for his great attitude this week and for doing his excellent writing. <i>Mrs Cork</i> | ☆ Alex C (4JH) for always being participating in class discussion and asking lots of interesting questions. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> |
| ☆ Fatiha A (1LA) for her excellent independent writing of her nativity play this week. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Verity A (5JP) for her determination and perseverance in division during maths, her hard work and accuracy in science and her fantastic reading. <i>Mrs Andrews</i> |
| ☆ Lawley C (2FP) for remembering to use interesting description and time connectives in her newspaper report. <i>Mrs Franks</i> | ☆ Euan B (5JS) for being an excellent team player in Handball, during PE, and for good listening and attention skills in class. <i>Miss J Smith</i> |
| ☆ Oakley E (2GD) for his enthusiastic attitude and progress with his reading both in school and at home. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Jack W (6NA) for excellent effort in maths and always putting a smile on everyone's face. <i>Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Poppy S (3HA) for her enthusiasm and energy in her learning both at school and at home. <i>Miss Allison</i> | ☆ Harry B (6MB) for producing an excellent blog on den-building during ICT this week. <i>Mr Beard</i> |
| ☆ Jessica B (3SA) for excellent contributions during our online learning this week. <i>Mr Taylor</i> | |

Buster Book Club



Well done to **3HA** who won the class 'Buster Book Club' award again this week having read a total of 788 minutes between them (an average of 26 minutes each) and to **5JP** who read a total of 1124 minutes (an average of 37 minutes each).

Times Table Rock Stars



We've also been tracking the number of children engaging in Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars. Well done to **3SA** and **6MB** as they both had the greatest level of engagement this weeks, i.e. how many children have been playing.

Millionaire Readers

Well done to Alicja (6NA), Christina (5JS) and Seb (5JP) who have become the first pupils in the school to read one million words read on Accelerated Reader since the beginning of the school year. They will each be awarded with a £5 book voucher for their efforts.

Accelerated Reader is a fantastic resource that enables children to really improve their reading ability. The challenge is on to see who the next person will be to read a million words. Will it be you?



Upcoming Events

CALENDAR >

All dates and events can be found on our new school calendar.

You are also able to 'subscribe' to the calendar (there is a link underneath the calendar) which means that you can have the school calendar on your phone or tablet and any updates will automatically appear on your device!

Monday 7th December

Tuesday 8th December

Wednesday 9th December

Thursday 10th December

Friday 11th December Christmas Jumper Day
(£1 donation to Save the Children)

Monday 14th December

Tuesday 15th December Christingle Services
(Year R to 2; Class 3SA)

Wednesday 16th December Christingle Services KS1 Christmas Dinner Christmas Panto
(Year 4 to 6; Class 3HA) (KS2 Packed Lunches please) Rapunzel: The Lockdown

Thursday 17th December KS2 Christmas Dinner
(KS1 Packed Lunches please)

Friday 18th December Christmas Parties in class
(Last Day of Term)



Christmas Holidays

Monday 4th January

Tuesday 5th January

Wednesday 6th January

Thursday 7th January 4pm: FGB Meeting

Friday 8th January

Monday 11th January

Tuesday 12th January

Wednesday 13th January

Thursday 14th January

Friday 15th January