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Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've reached the end of a very challenging term and, whilst we haven't been able to provide the normal Christmas that you or the children would normally expect, we hope that we've managed to create a little Christmas cheer with the children.

#### Christmas Dinner

Well done and thank you to Dan, Helen, Deana and Sam in the school kitchen for providing, not one but, two Christmas dinners this week. They work incredibly hard all year round and all the children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunch.

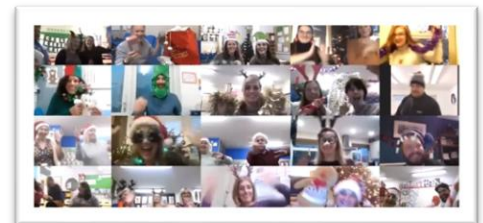
#### Year R Nativity

The Year R team, along with the children, have been working exceptionally hard to produce a nativity performance that they can share with their parents. This is now uploaded to our school Vimeo account but can only be accessed with the correct password which has already been shared with our Year R parents. It is an excellent performance and I know that it had already bought a tear to the eye of at least one member of staff!

#### Staff Video

You'll know by now that we have an annual tradition of presenting a staff video for the children at Christmas time and this year is no exception. You can watch our 'masterpiece' behind Day 18 of our school [advent calendar](#) on our website.

Our advent calendar has been a huge success this year and I'd like to thank Mr Miles and Mrs Brookes for coordinating and arranging this.



#### A Final Thanks

As we reach the end of what has been an incredible year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all as parents. You have been very generous in expressing your gratitude and appreciation for the staff at the school and, whilst I have no doubt, they have expressed that individually, I would like to extend my own thanks on their behalf.

I was particularly touched at the efforts that a great many of you went to thanking those staff who so often go unrecognised because they don't have direct contact with the children in class: the kitchen, premises and office teams.

In this week's newsletter:

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A Time to Reflect

Throughout the Christmas story, angels appear with important messages and play a key role in the whole story. Over the course of this week, in their Collective Worship, children have been learning about the visits of angels to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds.



*<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

*Luke 2: 10-11*

At this special time, I would like to wish all our families a restful and healthy Christmas break and hope we can look forward to a much better 2021.

See you all back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

James Tibbles

### Christingle Services



This week, the children of Bridge & Patricbourne CEP School returned to church for the first time this year.

Rev. Estella kindly hosted all of the separate bubbles at St Peter's Church, Bridge for a Christingle service. After a welcome and an opening prayer, Rev. Estella retold the Christmas story with some help and sound effects provided by the children. The children then beautifully sang 'Away in a Manger' - we were particularly impressed with the younger children who hadn't practised this song as much.

Rev. Estella then asked the children about the meaning of the Christingle and it was clear that the children had a very good understanding of the symbols associated with the Christingle.

After lighting the Christingles, the children then sang 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus before blowing out their candles. We finished our Christingle Service with prayers from Rev. Estella and the children and, as tradition, a rousing verse of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'.



I'd like to thank Rev. Estella and Mrs Perfect for organising this. We were all so pleased that we were able to do this and every child at Bridge School has had the opportunity to visit the church and celebrate Christmas.

### Salvation Army Appeal

I have received an email from the Salvation Army thanking the school community for their incredible generosity in giving food and presents as donations. They've missed not being able to perform at Bridge School this year but were incredibly appreciative of everything.

### Reporting COVID over Christmas

As we enter the Christmas break, I would urge everyone to remain vigilant and take care over the holidays. Despite the temporary easing of restrictions, the risk that COVID poses has not lessened.

If you do have any positive cases over the holiday **and symptoms have developed either on Saturday or Sunday**, then please do contact me ([headteacher@bridge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@bridge.kent.sch.uk)) as this may impact upon other children or adults in the school.

I will be checking my emails daily up until Christmas Eve and I would also ask parents to make sure that they are checking their emails daily just in case there is a case that I need to make you aware of.

Children will return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and I will be checking my emails again from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

### Changes to Ordering School Meals

Starting in January we are going to move the school dinner system fully over to ParentMail. This means that we will be asking all parents to book their child's selection for school dinner in advance through your ParentMail account and paying online where applicable. This is a really simple system and one that I use with my daughter's school.

Clare in the office has put together a guide on how to make a booking through your ParentMail app if you are unsure on how to do this. We are going to ask that all school dinners be booked and paid for online in advance. This should mean that parents are up-to-date with payments and the kitchen have the numbers for the different options. The booking window closes the night before so you need to ensure that you have selected the meal in advance although I would personally recommend that you book the week on a Sunday (you can always make changes up until the night before).

Although the system is fairly straight forward we do appreciate that there may be difficulty initially so we will be flexible with the system for the first half term. However, after this, if school dinners are not booked in advance and a school meal is required on the day then we won't be able to guarantee a hot meal if we don't have enough.

If you are unsure please contact the school office and speak to either Hannah or Clare who will be able to assist you. Information, including the 'how to' guide will be published on the [School Meals](#) section of the school website before the start of the new term.

### Parental Consultations

In a few weeks' time, we will once again be holding parental consultations to discuss your children's progress across since September. As before, these will be held via Teams or a phone call and you will be asked to select your preference when booking your appointment on ParentMail.

The arrangements for the consultations will be the same as they were previously. There will be a morning slot, an afternoon slot on one day and an evening slot on a separate day. These will all take place w/c 25<sup>th</sup> Jan and w/c 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and further details will be in the first newsletter of the new term.

### Kent Teacher of the Year Awards

Once again, it's that time of the year where nominations open for the Kent Teacher of the Year awards. Below you will see an announcement from the KM charity team and I would encourage parents to nominate any member of staff who feel deserves special recognition. Thank you.



Nominations are now open for the Kent Teacher of the Year Awards 2021

This has been a difficult year to say the least but out of this situation we have seen heroes come to the fore, staff of the NHS and care workers have quite rightly received the accolades and publicity they deserve for their amazing efforts but there are many other heroes that have gone unnoticed.

Our colleagues in the education sector, working tirelessly to ensure our children have been taught, fed, inspired and motivated, are among those heroes and deserve the recognition for everything you and they have done.

Anyone can nominate and it's not just teachers who are recognised – these awards celebrate every role in schools from school secretaries to caretakers, heads and volunteers. Not everyone can win but all nominees receive notification of their nomination and that in itself goes a long way to them knowing how appreciated they are.

Winners from every district will be honoured at the awards ceremony with the overall countywide champions announced on the night. In addition, they will also be airing a pre-recorded version of the event simultaneous in order for everyone to celebrate.

To nominate is as simple: go to [www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/awards/toty/](http://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/awards/toty/) and complete the online nomination form.

## 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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|---|--|
| ☆ <b>Kiera W (RAM)</b> for going out of her comfort zone and trying something new. <i>Miss Maw</i>  | ☆ <b>Sophia S (4ST)</b> for always putting 100% effort into her learning. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Lucinda R-A (REC)</b> for always being a superstar during her time at Bridge. <i>Miss Cowley</i>   | ☆ <b>Melita M (4JH)</b> for always trying her best in class and getting involved in class discussion. <i>Mr Harris</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Niamh N (1CS)</b> for an excellent attitude and learning to take her time with tasks. <i>Mrs Cork</i>  | ☆ <b>Beatrice V (4JH)</b> for always being kind and caring to others. <i>Miss Briggs</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Ruby M (1LA)</b> for her positive attitude to her learning. <i>Miss Andrews</i>  | ☆ <b>David G (5JP)</b> for his excellent all-round effort this term and producing lots of quality work in many subjects. <i>Mr Perfect</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Evie R-A (2FP)</b> for bringing fun, enthusiasm and kindness to everything she does at school, we will all really miss her. <i>Mrs Franks</i>                                | ☆ <b>Zach Y (5JS)</b> for creating a great piece of persuasive writing for our class debate and for excellent focus and attention during lessons this week. <i>Mrs Smith</i>                                 |
| ☆ <b>Erin B (2GD)</b> for having an excellent attitude towards her learning. She always tries her best and sets an excellent example to the rest of the class. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ <b>Harry A (6NA)</b> for fantastic, enthusiastic singing in church (and always being on hand to help with technological issues!) <i>Mrs Allen</i>  |
| ☆ <b>Sophia M (3HA)</b> for producing some excellent work while at home and always having a positive attitude to her learning. <i>Mrs Langsdon</i>                                | ☆ <b>Nick G (6MB)</b> for always having a positive and growth mindset in everything he does, for always contributing to class discussions and for always producing fantastic pieces of work. <i>Mr Beard</i> |
| ☆ <b>Rosa B (3SA)</b> for excellent technique when producing an Egyptian necklace. <i>Mrs Amelia</i>  |  |

### Millionaire Readers

Well done to Nick (6MB) who joins Alicja (6NA), Christina (5JS) and Seb (5JP) in our Millionaire Reader Hall of Fame.

After a short delay, the book vouchers have arrived and we're pleased to award each of these four children a £10 Waterstone's voucher.



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

4pm: FGB Meeting

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Parental Consultations  
(all week)

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Parental Consultations  
(4pm to 7pm)

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January**