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Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Wednesday this week, I was very touched to receive letters from the Year 1 children asking for permission to have a party in their classes today although I was told, in no uncertain terms, that I couldn't be invited as I wasn't part of their bubble! I am sure that they all had a good time regardless.

Whilst I am on the subject of bubbles, I would like to reinforce that we are still maintaining separate bubbles in school and ask for your support in this. We are hearing stories from children about going to friends' houses, having sleepovers and we see a lot of social mixing on the Rec. I'm sure you can understand that this can be quite disheartening for the staff given the efforts that we are going to as a school.

Please bear this in mind and thank you.

Lateral Flow Tests for Households & Parents

You may be aware that parents of school-aged children are now eligible to order Lateral Flow Tests to use at home.

These tests are specifically for adults within households that have school-aged children, **primary-aged children are not being asked to be tested.**

You can find more information on the gov.uk website here:

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests](#)

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We've had a couple of days of the new gate system and it seems to be working well so we'll keep it moving forward.

Please note that the gates open at 8.40am and will close at 8.55am promptly from Monday. We need to start getting back to 'normal' as much as possible and this means that children should be in school by 8.50am - we are, of course, allowing for some leeway given the current circumstances which is why we are holding the gate open until 8.55am.

In the afternoon, the gate will open at 3pm for collection and close at 3.20pm although we are planning that, after Easter, we will revert back to school finishing at 3.15pm as was the case pre-pandemic (remember those days!)

I'd also like to remind parents that they should not be using the care home car park. Thank you.

Return of Loaned Laptops

Over the lockdown, we loaned out 20 of our school laptops – could I now ask that these are returned as soon as possible please so that they can be used by the children in school. Thank you.

Lateral Flow Tests can be obtained through the following ways:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION



School Dinners

At the beginning of January, we started asking parents to book their child's school dinners on ParentMail. It would be incredibly helpful if parents could do this as it gives us a better idea of numbers which means less wastage. It also means that you're more aware of what your child is eating during the week. I've spoken to two children today who did not eat their fish fingers because *'they don't like them'* (but they still ordered them this morning!)

In our household we (or more accurately Mrs T!) goes through the week's menu with my daughter on a Sunday and order the week's lunches – this works really well.

Red Nose Day

Earlier this week, I was approached by three girls from Year 3 who asked if we could arrange our next fundraising activity to link with Fairtrade as they have been learning about this as part of Fairtrade Fortnight. So, for Red Nose Day this year, we are asking people to wear red next Friday in return for a donation of a Fairtrade product to the Canterbury Food Bank.



As the theme of this year's Red Nose Day is 'Share A Smile', we'll also be running a competition where children can share their favourite joke. Jokes can be submitted from Monday and, on Wednesday, we'll be asking each class to choose their favourite joke which will be recorded and posted on our school website. Mr Taylor, Mrs Long and I will also be choosing our favourite joke out of these top 14!

To get you in the mood, here's one of my favourites:

"Why are elevator jokes so good? They work on many levels."

Community Wardrobe

I was contacted by a parent this week about a new Community Wardrobe scheme at Querns Community Centre being supported by Morrisons and the Thanington Resource Centre.

Every year our children grow out of their uniforms and various club kits, i.e. karate, cubs, guides, football, etc and rather than having these go to waste, a Schools Eco Wardrobe has been set up. Items of clothing including coats and footwear can be donated at Morrisons in Wincheap from Easter.

This is a wonderful initiative that will prevent clothing ending up in landfill and also support those families for whom the cost of these items may be a barrier to their children's participation.

A Message from Rev'd Estella

Usually, we have a child friendly family service for Mothering Sunday (this coming Sunday), which of course we are unable to do.

However, our churches will be open on Mothering Sunday so if anyone wants to pop in for prayer or quiet time they can do. Some churches, including Bridge, will also have small posies which can be taken to give to mothers or special carers.

Our online service this week will also have a different format. I am preaching in Canterbury Cathedral at the 10.30 Eucharist service, so encouraging everyone to join this live stream in place of our usual pre-recorded service on YouTube. The Cathedral Livestream on Sunday can be accessed here:

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/#eucharist>

Reading Volunteers

Given the fact that case numbers are currently low (and contingent on them remaining low), we would very much welcome parental help as Reading Volunteers in school. This would have to be carefully managed to avoid 'bursting of bubbles' but, if this is something that you would be willing to help with, then please drop Morny a call or an email (morny.starling@bridge.kent.sch.uk) and we'll be in touch.

Professor Robert Winston

On the 17th March, Professor Robert Winston will be holding a virtual talk to the children of St Edmund's School and they have kindly extended an invitation to the children of Bridge & Patricbourne to join this event. He will be talking about how the brain works and linking this to the theory of growth-mindset and I don't doubt that the children will learn a lot from this opportunity.

This is a remote event so we be accessing this via Zoom from school and will run from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This means that children will have to remain in school until this time, i.e. not leaving part way through.

This is open to all Key Stage 2 children and, if your child would like to be a part of this, then please email Morny in the school office (morny.starling@bridge.kent.sch.uk)



A Time to Reflect

As the children returned on Monday, we took this opportunity to reflect upon who we are as a school community and, in Monday's Collective Worship, we acknowledged that there would have been a lot of mixed feelings around all children now being back in school.

We discussed that, as a church school, we use the teachings of God and Jesus to help us and we remind ourselves of this daily when we gather for Collective Worship: *Guide us and shine your light on our daily path.*

Jesus said, *I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Without me, you can do nothing.* (John 15:5) and we discussed that this means in our school.

If Jesus is the vine and we are the branches then this means that we are all connected to one another and the health and wellbeing of one of us affects us all. This means that we need to look after each other – to love our neighbour as ourselves. We can do this by keeping the lessons that Jesus taught us in our hearts, demonstrated through our Christian Values.

Ask your children what our Christian Values are – I'm sure they'll be able to tell you.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

With best wishes,



James Tibbles
Headteacher



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.

☆ Camillia D (RAM) for using her creative skills to make some wonderful models this week. <i>Miss Maw</i>	☆ Seren T-S (3HA) for being a kind and supporting learning friend to another child in the class. <i>Miss Allison</i>
☆ Elodie W (REC) for being kind, supportive and helping her friends in class! <i>Miss Cowley</i>	☆ Dominic G (4ST) for being a trusted learning partner during lockdown. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i>
☆ Evie (1CS) for her enthusiasm for learning. <i>Mrs Cork</i>	☆ Rosie B (4JH) for showing compassion and kindness to others in the class. <i>Mr Harris</i>
☆ Heidi (1CS) for trusting in her own abilities and growing in confidence. <i>Mrs Shirley & Miss Harvey</i>	☆ Oscar B (5JP) for his exceptional service to the local and wider community for his fundraising efforts over lockdown. Oscar raised nearly £1000 for the local food bank. <i>Mr Perfect</i>
☆ Pelham B (1LA) for showing compassion to other children in the class this week. <i>Miss Andrews</i>	☆ Noah M (5JS) for being compassionate and kind to his peers, and to adults, every day. Keep being you, Noah! <i>Miss J Smith</i>
☆ Mabli W (2FP) for compassion towards others in the class and for being a great help in PE. <i>Mrs Franks</i>	☆ Lucas C (6NA) for being trustworthy and displaying excellent cooperation with his partner in Gymnastics. <i>Mrs Allen</i>
☆ Rupert P (2GD) for being a kind and caring friend who is always ready to help others when they need it. <i>Mrs Dennett</i>	☆ Megan S (6MB) for trusting her partner during their challenging gymnastics routine. <i>Mr Beard</i>
☆ Amelie T (3SA) demonstrating compassion to those less fortunate than ourselves when helping to plan Red Nose Day this year. <i>Mrs Amelia</i>	☆ Iris R (6MB) for trusting her partner during their challenging gymnastics routine. <i>Mrs Corral</i>
☆ Polly P (3SA) demonstrating compassion to those less fortunate than ourselves when helping to plan Red Nose Day this year. <i>Mrs Holdaway</i>	
☆ Hanna L (3SA) for demonstrating compassion to those less fortunate than ourselves when helping to plan Red Nose Day this year. <i>Mr Tibbles</i>	

Million Word Readers

We've had some very productive readers during this lockdown period and we now have another nine children who have joined the 'Million Word Reader Hall of Fame'

Once a child reaches a million words, they are awarded a gold star badge and a £10 book voucher. They are given awarded an additional gold star for each further million words. Who will be next?



Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3
Alicja ☆ ☆	Christina ☆ ☆ ☆	Finley ☆	Sacha ☆
Andrew ☆	Emma ☆		
George ☆	Euan ☆		
Jemima ☆	Milo ☆		
Nicholas ☆	Noah ☆		
	Seb ☆		

Latest Blog Posts

Highlights from blog posts during lockdown.

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)

5th March 2021



'the monster'

Outside the walls of the village in the dim and the dark there stalked an enemy from hell itself, the monster, the sworn enemy of God and men alike, a beast born of evil and shame.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

3rd March 2021



Year 2 Wallpaper Business

Pupils have explored William Morris' textile and wallpaper designs and used them as inspiration to design their own repeat patterns.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

11th February 2021



The Great Kapok Tree

To complement Miss Smith's and Mr Perfect's English work based on the book 'The Great Kapok Tree', Year 5 pupils have been making their own scarlet macaw pictures. They have used mixed-media – including paint, colour pencil and collage.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

11th February 2021



Norse Monsters

As part of the Year 6 Norse Mythology project, pupils have been painting the Kraken and other mythical monsters. It has been fun and slightly scary at times.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

Upcoming Events

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

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 15th March	
Tuesday 16th March	
Wednesday 17th March	2.30pm: Robert Winston Zoom Talk
Thursday 18th March	
Friday 19th March	Red Nose Day – donate a Fairtrade product

Monday 22nd March	
Tuesday 23rd March	
Wednesday 24th March	
Thursday 25th March	
Friday 26th March	

Monday 29th March		
Tuesday 30th March	Easter Services in Church	GB Meeting: Teaching & Learning
Wednesday 31st March	Easter Services in Church	
Thursday 1st April	LAST DAY OF TERM	
Friday 2nd April		

EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 19th April	
Tuesday 20th April	
Wednesday 21st April	
Thursday 22nd April	FGB Meeting
Friday 23rd April	