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Friday 14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will know that, from Monday, restrictions are easing across the country – the most visible impact will be seen in indoor hospitality and the ability to host up to six people (or two households) in our houses. I don't doubt that many of you have been looking forward to this easing, I have as well, but I would still urge a modicum of caution/common sense; there is still a way to go.

As a school we would love to open our doors and welcome parents back to see the fantastic learning that your children have been doing over the year and we do have plans for some events to take place in Term 6 such as Sports Days and the Year 6 production but we will still be bound by the government restrictions at the time and it is my hope that the next step of the government's roadmap will allow for these events to take place.

You may have read in the news that the government are no longer requiring secondary-aged pupils to wear masks in schools but these are still recommended (although not mandatory) for adults. Therefore, you may still see adults in school still wearing masks, particularly where there are direct conversations taking place.

The decision to wear a facemask whilst walking through the school grounds remains with parents but please do ensure you are wearing a face covering if you are unable to maintain a 'social distance' or are engaging in conversation.

I am fully aware that not everyone agrees with, or is able to, wear a face mask and I do feel that it is important to respect the circumstances and views of others however, as a school, our prime responsibility is the safety and welfare of the children in our care.

You may be aware that yesterday, some literature relating to a planned rally in Canterbury was distributed and unfortunately was also given directly to pupils with the message that 'face masks and vaccines are bad for us' – this should not have happened and I am aware that this caused some upset. I can only apologise that some children were exposed to this message whilst in our care. I have made it clear that any political messaging (small p or big P!) is not permitted in or near the school and I have to trust that this will not happen again.

Phones

We appear to be having an influx of mobile phones coming into school and this raises a number of concerns. Whilst I don't doubt that there are times it is necessary, i.e. child walking home, these can be a distraction and also raises some safeguarding concerns should they be used inappropriately. I have no concerns that this is the case as our children are very responsible but I would hate to see a phone get lost or damaged.

If your child does need to bring their phone in, we are asking that these are kept in the school office where they can be securely stored until the end of the day. Thank you for your support in this.

Playing in the Bushes

Can I also ask that parents prevent their children from playing the bushes opposite the school? Pieces of broken glass have been found there and I would hate any child to hurt themselves.



Annual Parent Survey

As you will know, we need to start thinking about our plans for next year. Once again we've had a disruptive year but I feel that we've achieved a lot this year.

As part of our regular practice, I am inviting all parents to complete our annual parent survey which is on the linked Google Form below. I have removed the COVID-related questions from last year as there was a specific survey about this a couple of months ago. There is also a section about the planned mixing of classes at the end of Year 4.

Parental Survey (Summer 2021): <https://forms.gle/ufFSkdAWh97J1GLeA>

Thank you in advance for sharing your views. The form will close in four weeks' time on the 11th June.

Parking in the Village and Bridge Haven

Sadly, I've received two complaints regarding parking this week. The most recent was a phone call from Bridge Haven today asking us to remind parents that they should not be parking in their car park – apparently when a parent was asked to move their car, they were quite rude to the member of staff.

The other was about parking in Patricxbourne Road – it was reported that parents are blocking drive ways and double parking. We did have a visit from parking enforcement officers a few weeks ago and I can't imagine it will be too long before they come again. Please can I ask for consideration towards our neighbours in the village?

Holiday Club

As I wrote last week, I am sorry to have to inform you that we will not be able to run a holiday club this May half-term. In our most recent inspection, asbestos was discovered in the boiler room and we are having remedial work completed to make sure that this is removed and made safe.

Part of this work means interrupting the water supply and so we will not be able to have the building open to staff or children for the duration of the works.

I'm very sorry for the inconvenience but this is unavoidable.

A Time to Reflect

This week, in our Collective Worship, we've been reflecting upon 'mercy' and 'justice'.

The children have learnt about this through the example of supporting the homeless, mercy ships and, of course, the excellent example that is set by Christian Aid.



'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God'

Micah 6:8

As it is Christian Aid week, we discussed some of the work that they do around the world and reflected upon what difference we could make to work for mercy and justice in our lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles".

James Tibbles
Headteacher

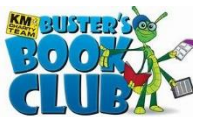
Celebration

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.

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| ☆ Ava W (RAM) for using her creative skills to make a fantastic paper landscape. <i>Miss Maw</i> | ☆ Lois H (4ST) for generosity in raising money to help save hedgehogs by doing a sponsored run. <i>Mrs Saint</i> |
| ☆ Ziva U (REC) for always trying her best and showing her amazing creative ideas through her writing. <i>Miss Cowley</i> | ☆ Amelie P (4ST) for generosity in raising money to help save hedgehogs by doing a sponsored run. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> |
| ☆ Max B (1CS) for excellent independent writing on a life cycle of a butterfly. Your confidence is growing every day! <i>Miss Smith</i> | ☆ Miller B (4ST) for improving his focus on his work and his respect for others this week. <i>Mrs Saunders</i> |
| ☆ Kayden P (1LA) for always showing kindness and service to others in the class. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Ruzain A (4JH) for showing great passion and interest in all subjects especially in RE and Science. <i>Mr Harris</i> |
| ☆ Lennon K (2FP) for trusting in his own ability and completing his writing task independently! <i>Mrs Franks</i> | ☆ Sophia-Rose D (5JP) for showing resilience throughout our day at Creed Outdoor Learning Center yesterday. Well done! <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Oliver P (2FP) for service. Oliver is always ready and happy to help anyone with anything. <i>Mrs Franks</i> | ☆ Stefan P (5JS) for leading his team to build a successful den and thinking through his ideas. Great teamwork Stefan. <i>Mrs Prescott</i> |
| ☆ Scarlett O (2GD) for being a kind and caring member of the class helping others when they need it. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Holly P (6NA) for showing an excellent desire to display her leadership skills in PE and for being an all-round wonderful role model to others. <i>Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Ella J (3HA) for all of her efforts in her learning, doing well in her reading and not being scared of computing anymore. Keep going Ella! <i>Miss Allison</i> | ☆ Oliver F (6MB) for displaying excellence in computing this week by showing the class (and Mr Beard) how to manipulate user inputs. <i>Mr Beard</i> |
| ☆ Alfred K (3SA) for his care and creativity in his art work and for being a helpful member of the class team! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | |
| ☆ Neil K (3SA) for always showing respect and kindness to everyone and consistently trying to do the right thing. <i>Mrs Holdaway</i> | |

Buster Book Club



Well done to **3SA** who won the class 'Buster Book Club' award again this week having read a total of 834 minutes between them (an average of 28 minutes each) and to **4JH** who read a total of 1365 minutes (an average of 46 minutes each).

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!

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|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Monday 17th May | | | |
| Tuesday 18th May | | | |
| Wednesday 19th May | | | |
| Thursday 20th May | | | |
| Friday 21st May | 9am: Governor Meeting (Finance & Personnel Team) | Year R: Ugly Bug Ball | |

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| Monday 24th May | Year 5 Bikeability (Group 1 – Level 1) | | |
| Tuesday 25th May | Year 5 Bikeability (Group 2 – Level 1) | | |
| Wednesday 26th May | | | |
| Thursday 27th May | Year 5 Bikeability (Group 3 – Level 1) | Year 6 First Aid Training | 4pm: Governor Meeting (Full Governing Body) |
| Friday 28th May LAST DAY OF TERM | Year 6 Bikeability (Level 1) | | |

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| Monday 7th June INSET Day | School closed to children | | |
| Tuesday 8th June INSET Day | School closed to children | | |
| Wednesday 9th June | | | |
| Thursday 10th June | | | |
| Friday 11th June | Kent Challenger Games | | |

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| Monday 14th June | Year 6 Bikeability (Level 2) | | |
| Tuesday 15th June | Year 6 Bikeability (Level 2) | | |
| Wednesday 16th June | Year 6 Bikeability (Level 2) | | |
| Thursday 17th June | Year 6 Bikeability (Level 2) | | |
| Friday 18th June | Year 6 Bikeability (Level 2) | | |