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Wednesday 20th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's a shortened version of the newsletter this week to go along with the shortened week itself and what a week it has been! You will be aware that we have had a sudden increase in COVID cases in our families and this appears to have been primarily driven by secondary-aged-pupils, which is in line with what is being seen across the country.

If numbers do continue to rise nationally and locally (which is quite likely) then we may need to reintroduce some of the protective measures that were put into place previously. No one wants to see the return of 'bubbles' or remote learning but, if we get a significant number of cases in a particular year group then this may well have to happen.

These past few days have been a stark reminder of the risk that COVID still poses. The impact of the positive diagnoses has disrupted school, which has obviously been an inconvenience but more seriously, we still have vulnerable children and adults in our community and we need to do everything we reasonably can to protect them.

Whilst I am writing this, I have a member of my family who is unwell with COVID despite being double-jabbed and I had a conversation with a friend of mine earlier in the week who was ill with it a few weeks ago and described it as '*going through chemotherapy all over again*'. I am grateful that most of the cases I am aware of in school are mild but this highlights to me that we must remain vigilant and not allow ourselves to be complacent, especially as we approach the winter months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their ongoing support. Whilst we have had a few cases this week, until now, Bridge School has been relatively untouched by COVID and I hope that we can continue in this vein next term.

Harvest Festival

I spent the morning down at St. Peter's Church with Rev. Estella, Mrs Perfect and Mr Miles and was witness to three very impressive Harvest Worships. This year the children have been learning about and considering Climate Change and Climate Injustice and they had written some very thoughtful reflections and prayers. They also had considered how best to support our environment and the small actions that we can take as individuals such as turning off lights in rooms that are not being used; considering what produce and foods we buy or making sure that car engines are turned off when we are parked.

As we were unable to invite parents, I did take some video clips of the children who read along with a few short snippets of the children singing. My plan is to post these on our school Vimeo account and send parents the relevant links. **You will not be able to see these videos without the relevant links** so anyone searching for these videos on our website or Vimeo account will not find them there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in supporting the Foodbank and we will be delivering your donations tomorrow.



Walk with Amal

If you are free on Thursday then there is a special event taking place in the Buttermarket in Canterbury at 12pm as the city welcomes Amal, a young refugee girl who has walked the 8000km all the way from the Turkey-Syrian border. Friends of mine were with their children welcoming Amal to Folkestone and Dover today and said what a great atmosphere it was. It's well worth making the time for: <https://www.walkwithamal.org>

Canterbury Mosque Appeal

Whilst on the subject of refugees, I wanted to say how blown away I was by the support and donations that we have received in support of the Afghan refugees that our local mosque is supporting. Thank you all so much – it will all be very gratefully received.

Year 6 Kent Test Results

On Thursday parents of Year 6 children who took the Kent Test will be receiving their results. Although it's an INSET day on the Friday, I will be making myself available to meet with parents via Zoom on Friday should any parents wish to discuss next steps. Due to the staff training that is taking place on Friday, I am meeting parents in between 11am and 1pm and therefore I only have a limited number of appointment slots.

These are appointments specifically for parents who would like to discuss next steps following the publication of the Kent Test results. Appointments can be booked on ParentMail from 4pm on Thursday.

Invitation from Rev. Estella

The Church will be open and offering hot chocolate for any families out and about on the evening of 31st October. Do pop in to see us, to warm up and say hello.

Also, a reminder about the Church Christmas Card – designs should be handed into the school office by Friday 5th November.



School Dinners

When the children return to school after half-term, we will be on our Week 3 School Menu. A copy of the menu can be found on our [School Meals](#) page

Staffing News

Today, we said a very sad and fond farewell to Mrs Hughes who is leaving Bridge School to take up a position at Simon Langton Girls School. Whilst I've only known Mrs Hughes for a few years, she has a long history with the school and has shown a great deal of commitment to Bridge over the years. Working as a TA across Key Stage 2, Mrs Hughes has skill in foreign languages and taught several classes their French over the years. We all wish her the very best.

We will be welcoming a new member of staff, Alex Hellyer, who is joining us from Challock School in Ashford in a few weeks' time. Having met Mrs Hellyer at interview and spoken to the headteacher of Challock School, I am very excited about her joining us and have no doubt that she will be an excellent addition to the Bridge team.

Have a good half-term break and we will see you and the children back on Monday 1st November.

With best wishes,

James Tibbles

Upcoming Events

All dates and events can be found on our 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 1st November			
Tuesday 2nd November			
Wednesday 3rd November	Year 5 Journey into Space Day		
Thursday 4th November			
Friday 5th November			

Monday 8th November			
Tuesday 9th November			
Wednesday 10th November			
Thursday 11th November	Book Fair in	11am: Remembrance Service	
Friday 12th November	Book Fair in	PTA Quiz Night (evening)	4pm: Messy Church on Saturday

Monday 15th November	Book Fair in	NSPCC Stay Safe Assembly	
Tuesday 16th November	Book Fair in	Basketball Competition	
Wednesday 17th November	3SA Trip to Maidstone Museum		
Thursday 18th November	3JA Trip to Maidstone Museum		
Friday 19th November	Children in Need		

Monday 22nd November			
Tuesday 23rd November			
Wednesday 24th November	Flu Vaccines	Sportshall Athletics Competition (Year 3 & 4)	
Thursday 25th November			
Friday 26th November	Year 4 Mayan Workshop		