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Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! If any of us were in any doubt then we only had to attend the performances held by Years R, 1 and 2 this week. The children sang, danced and spoke exceptionally well and it was a real privilege to be able to see these take place. Thank you all for bearing with us with the limited seating and other restrictions, we are fortunate indeed that we have a large enough hall to allow a socially-distanced audience.

I'd also like to express my thanks to Rev. Estella and the church wardens for welcoming us at St Peter's Church this week for our Year 2 nativities and Christingle Services.

I was also pleased to accompany the choir on some visits yesterday where they sang carols at Bridge Haven, Mansfield Court and Saxon Lodge. There was a real community spirit about this and it's something that I am very keen that we maintain.

In lieu of the Community Tea Party, the children have also produced and recorded a Christmas Concert for our parents to watch - [Christmas Concert 2021](#).

Year 5 have also done a great job of this by making Christmas cards for members of the community and they have been walking around the village today delivering these.

[Kitchen Thanks](#)

Well done and thank you to Dan, Helen, Sam and Sandra in the school kitchen for providing Christmas dinners this week. They work incredibly hard all year round and all the children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunch.

[Mr Moon](#)

You will know that it is Mr Moon's last school day today (although he'll still be doing a couple of days next week!) and whilst we did have the opportunity to say a short farewell to him this morning, it seems only fitting that he has a proper send-off and we will be inviting him back in January for a farewell celebration with the children. In the meantime, please join me in wishing him all the best in his new role.

[News from Rev. Estella](#)

Family Service / Nativity from Scratch 4-5pm Wednesday 22nd December

This will not be a service in church but Banks the donkey will be outside St Peter's Bridge to welcome any children who would like to come and meet him. Children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite nativity character and visit our Crib display.

Christingle Service Christmas Eve 4.30pm School Playground

Please note the change of time and venue for our Christingle Service this year. We will gather for our Christmas Eve Christingle at 4.30pm on the School Playground. If you are able to please make your own Christingle to bring with you,



we will have some to give out but have no way to judge how many we need. The service will be the usual mix of Carols and Christingles to really set Christmas off for everyone!

COVID Update

As I write this, I am currently aware of 22 cases of COVID across the school. Whilst this is an increase on this time last year, it is worth remembering that this is still relatively low in comparison to other schools I have links with. Of course, the stakes are somewhat higher at this time of year given the potential impact of self-isolation on Christmas Day so I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to those parents who have taken extra precautions over the past week to do their best to limit any potential spread.

It seems timely to reflect upon what the 'rules' are and what this actually means for us as a community, especially as there has been a very high profile national conversation about 'rules being broken'. It has been my experience that rules can often be circumvented if the will is there; there is frequently a justification why a specific action does or does not break a specific rule. What has impressed me throughout the past (almost) two years is that, in the vast majority of my conversations with parents, staff and governors, they have given a great deal of thought to the intent behind the rules and focused more on the '*spirit*' rather than the '*letter*' of the rule (obviously these are not mutually exclusive).

More than anything else, it is this focus that highlights to me the morality of our behaviours as well as the regard and consideration that we show for the other members of our community – thank you and long may it continue.

Reporting COVID over Christmas

As we enter the Christmas break, I would urge everyone to remain vigilant and take care over the holidays.

If you do have any positive cases over the holiday then please do contact me (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 Thursday 23rd December 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 Tuesday 4th January and I will be checking my emails again from Saturday 1st January.

A Final Thanks

As we reach the end of what has been another 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.

Have a wonderful Christmas and we'll see you all back on Tuesday 4th January.

With best wishes,



James Tibbles

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 3rd January	
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	
Tuesday 4th January	
Wednesday 5th January	
Thursday 6th January	
Friday 7th January	

Monday 10th January	
Tuesday 11th January	
Wednesday 12th January	Year 6 Trip to Matilda
Thursday 13th January	Young Voices
Friday 14th January	

Monday 17th January	
Tuesday 18th January	
Wednesday 19th January	
Thursday 20th January	
Friday 21st January	

Monday 24th January	
Tuesday 25th January	
Wednesday 26th January	
Thursday 27th January	9.30am PTA Meeting
Friday 28th January	

News and Blogs

Highlights from the School Life section on the website.

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)



Sportshall Athletics - Year 4

On 24th November, a team of 20 children from Year 4 took part in the annual Sportshall Athletics competition. This is a very exciting and energetic event and the children were fantastic! They all tried their hardest and came second out of 8 schools. [Read more...](#)



Speed Stacking

On 30th November, Teams from Year 2, 4 & 6 took part in a Speed Stacking competition held at Canterbury Primary School. All the children had been practising and were rewarded with a gold for Year 2 and Year 4 and a bronze for Year 6. The children were extremely supportive of each other and were a credit to Bridge School. [Read more...](#)



Year 5 DT

In Year 5, we have created our own Luna Rovers in response to our science learning this term on Earth and Space. We began by reflecting back on what we learnt about the different planets and their features. From this, we explored what our Luna Rover would need in order to investigate these planets further. We then went on to design our own thinking carefully about the features our individual Luna would have and the material that these could be made from. [Read more...](#)



Year 5 Camp Fire

Today, Year 5 enjoyed some time around our Forest School camp fire area. The children were first taught by Mrs Pearman how to safely light a fire and were given the opportunity to use the fire lighters to see if they could create some sparks. Once the fire had got going, the children were able to make a s'more by toasting their marshmallow over the fire. [Read more...](#)



Twickenham Excitement

A few weeks ago, some children from Year 4 were lucky enough to go to Twickenham to play in a junior rugby tournament prior to an international match between the Barbarians and South Africa. Oliver (4ST) wrote: "When we got on the bus, I was really tired because we had to wake up at 6am to go to Twickenham. It took us 3 hours, but it was worth it because we, somehow, astonishingly came 1st out of 10 teams and we won all of our matches. [Read more...](#)



DT - Year 1 Christmas cards

In DT this term, Year 1 have been working towards making moving Christmas cards for their families. They have explored tools, materials and techniques; carefully designed the front of their cards and have practised making mechanisms. Pupils made their cards this week using paper collage and will evaluate them before the end of term. [Read more...](#)



DT - Year 3 Egyptian necklaces

Year 3 have completed their stylish Egyptian themed necklaces. They have explored textiles techniques; made very impressive pieces of weaving; designed their necklaces using inspiration from their topic of Ancient Egypt; skilfully made and assembled their necklaces and then evaluated their finished products. [Read more...](#)



DT - Chairs

Year 6 have finished making their chairs! They look amazing and hopefully their target customers will find them appeal too.

Throughout the term, pupils have been exploring materials, techniques and structures; they have made initial designs inspired by influential designers; made prototypes and adjusted their designs as appropriate; they have skilfully made their chairs using a variety of materials and techniques and have chosen beautiful fabric designs to make padded coverings and cushions. [Read more...](#)

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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| <p>☆ Eva S (1CS) for being a good friend and for her excellent attitude to all of her learning. <i>Mrs Cork</i></p> <p>☆ Millie B (1LA) for her enthusiasm when signing and reading in our class assembly this week. <i>Miss Andrews</i></p> <p>☆ Albie B (2FP) for being an excellent last-minute stand-in for one of the Wise Men in our Nativity. Great acting Albie! <i>Mrs Franks</i></p> <p>☆ Benny Y (2GD) his enthusiastic, cheerful singing during every song in our nativity which encouraged others to join in. <i>Mrs Dennett</i></p> <p>☆ Sophie L (3JA) for always striving to achieve her best and be excellent in everything she does! <i>Mr Ablett</i></p> <p>☆ Erin B (3SA) for always setting a great example to others and excellence in all her work. <i>Mrs Amelia</i></p> | <p>☆ Lily S (4JH) for always doing the right thing and being a good role model. <i>Mrs Pearson</i></p> <p>☆ Jess B (4ST) for being a kind and generous member of our class. Always setting a good example of learning skills to all. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i></p> <p>☆ Alex L (5HA) for trying very hard in English and producing a very persuasive letter. <i>Miss Allison</i></p> <p>☆ Ava S (5JS) for writing an excellent persuasive letter and for always being such a kind and caring member of our class. <i>Miss J Smith</i></p> <p>☆ Jack G (6NA) for some excellent fraction problem solving work this week. <i>Mr Taylor</i></p> <p>☆ Christina C (6JP) for her superb work with fractions during Maths this week and for being a really helpful member of the class. <i>Mrs Brooks</i></p> |
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Buster Book Club

This week, as part of our Buster Book Club, we are celebrating not just the total number of minutes read but also the number of children who have read in each class.

Well done to 5HA!

Autumn Reading Challenge

In addition to Buster, the children across the school have also been totalling their minutes over the term and I'm very pleased to say that 4ST were the winners with 780 minutes in total – only 9 minutes ahead of the runners up! They have won £50 which they can spend on books for their class library.

Well done 4ST.

