Creativity, Excellence, Resilience

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Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'd like to start the newsletter this week with some welcome news – arriving a little earlier than planned, Mr Wren's daughter was born on Wednesday and I'm very pleased to report that Mum, baby and Dad are all doing well. We now await with bated breath the arrival of Mr Taylor's bundle of joy who, by contrast, has decided that 'fashionably late' is the order of the day!

COVID Update

You will have seen that, from yesterday, face masks are no longer statuatory in classrooms in secondary schools although I am aware that at least one local secondary school is still requesting that masks are still worn for the time being. Whilst some will be pleased with the end of the Plan B restrictions, I would still recommend caution. Cases may be dropping nationally but there is one age group in which they are rising – 6 to 11 year olds!

As I write this, we have about 5% of our children self-isolating with COVID. This is much lower than other local schools but we are now starting to see reinfections occuring and I speak from personal experience here as my daughter tested positive again last night having have COVID just seven weeks ago. This means that we cannot assume that just because someone has had COVID, they won't get it again.

Staff in school will continue to wear face coverings outside of the classsroom and we ask that visitors and volunteers do the same.

Please continue to refer to the **COVID-19 Protocols** section of our school website which now also includes a summary of the government guidance.

School Bus

I wrote last week that we had a small group of parents investigating the possibility of establishing a private bus service from South Canterbury and they had set up a Survey Monkey form. Unfortunately, technical issues mean that this hasn't gone to plan and they have now set up a Google Form. Please could parents complete the linked form below even if you have already completed the Survey Monkey form. https://forms.gle/g1f2Sjhx3ptGQAp29

Snacks

Just a quick reminder that snacks that are brought into school for children at break time or significantly fruit-based, i.e. not fruit cake! It is important that we teach the children good habits in regards to their healthy eating.

Holiday Club

Some of your children may remember Elliot Bensted who did some work at the school before Christmas as a Sports Coach supporting in PE lessons. From this February half-term, Elliot run be running our holiday club as a Buzzers Multi-Activity Camp. Parents will still be able to pay via card or tax-free childcare but bookings will go through this company. Leaflets will be coming home early next week along with booking details.



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Jill Thomas

Some of you may remember Jill Thomas who was a governor at Bridge School for many years before her death in December 2020. In memory of Jill, and with the support of her family, it has been decided that we will be establishing an award in her honour – the Jill Thomas Award for Service.

Jill was a proud proponent and an excellent role model of service in the community and I remember her being particularly pleased when we adopted 'service' as one of our Christian values.

This award will be another method by which we can thank and recognise members of our community for what they do for our children. Anyone can be a recipient: a child, a parent, a volunteer, a member of staff or a governor.

You can nominate someone for an award using the linked form and a panel will look at all nominations to determine who should be the recipient. The link to the form is here: <u>https://forms.office.com/r/vGsDBk4VQb</u>

Please consider the following questions:

- Why do you think this person should receive an award?
- What contribution has this person made within the community and/or school?

The nomination form will be open for the next three weeks and the panel will meet to discuss all nominations in the last week of term. This is not a popularity contest, all nominations will be shared and discussed and we look forward to presenting the inaugural award in three weeks' time.

Thank you and have a good weekend.

With best wishes,

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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 24 th January		
Tuesday 25 th January		
Wednesday 26 th January		
Thursday 27 th January	9.30am PTA Meeting	
Friday 28 th January		
Mandau 24st January		
Monday 31 st January		
Tuesday 1 st February	Infant Agility Competition	
Wednesday 2 nd February		
Thursday 3 rd February		
Friday 4 th February		
Monday 7 th February		
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day	
Wednesday 9 th February	Schools Health Team in school	
Thursday 10 th February		
Friday 11th February LAST DAY OF TERM		
Mandau 21st Fahrmann		
Monday 21 st February		
Tuesday 22 nd February		Year 4 Roman Drama Workshop
Wednesday 23 rd February		
Thursday 24 th February		
Friday 25 th February		

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CALENDAR >

Celebration

Star Pupils

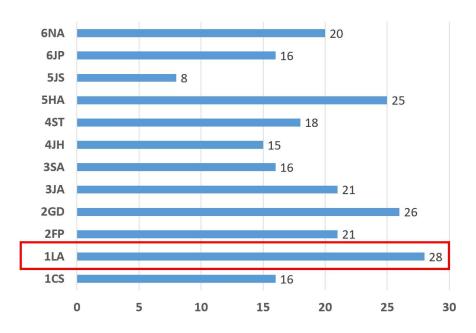
Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

- ☆ William T (1CS) for participating in class discussion
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 and asking interesting questions. Mrs Cork
- Ella F (1LA) for her fantastic questioning when learning about minibeasts this week. *Miss Andrews*
- Scar D (2FP) is an excellent attitude towards his learning all week. *Mrs Franks*
- Lyla T (2GD) for having confidence in her own abilities in all areas of learning and for always giving something a go. *Mrs Dennett*
- Hugo P (3JA) for settling into his new seat in the classroom and being really focused on his learning this week! Mr Ablett
- Simone S (3SA) for a fantastic character description full of exciting vocabulary. *Mrs Amelia*
- Mollie R (3SA) for showing resilience in her writing and producing excellent similes in her character description. *Mrs Hellyar*

- Ubran M (4JH) for working tremendously hard in English and producing an outstanding piece of writing. *Mr Harris*
- Elsa H (4ST) for trusting in her learning and always doing her best work. *Mrs Tomsett*
- Sophia S (5HA) for overcoming her fears in basketball and having a huge impact in the game this week. *Miss Allison*
- Poppy W (5JS) for becoming more and more confident during Basketball and for fully engaging during class discussion giving some very detailed and clear explanations linked to our English text. *Miss J Smith*
- Elsie C (6NA) for becoming more confident and determined when working with all forms of fractions. *Mrs Sopp*
- Zach Y (6JP) for being an excellent team player and demonstrating brilliant sportsmanship during the Year 6 Dodgeball tournament. A great ambassador for the school.. *Mr Perfect*

Buster Book Club

Well done to 1LA who have won this week's Buster Book Club competition.





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News and Blogs

Highlights from the School Life section on the website.

READ ALL BLOGS >



Year 1 observational drawing - insects

The Year 1 topic this term is 'mini beasts' and within their science lessons they are learning about the anatomy of insects. Within their art, pupils have been studying and drawing my collection of insects set in resin - these are fascinating objects. Read more...



Year 1 Forest School

Year 1 had fantastic Forest School sessions this week. It was all about Mini Beasts and habitats. We collected materials to build a bug hotel- maybe we will call it 'Bug-ingham Palace'! The children even made a bug playground. We sang our insect song to help them remember the features of an insect as well as going on a Bug Hunt (not a bear hunt today). They pretended to be ants and worked in a colony to collect items for their nest. <u>Read more...</u>



Junior Agility Championship

We're always keen to hear about our children's extra-curricular activities outside of school: On the 15th and 16th January I went to the Open Junior Agility Championship with my two and half year old dog called Tilly. This was our first big event and I was very excited to be competing. I was also lucky that my trainer Dan had come to help me for the weekend. I was entered into four classes. Agility, jumping and two steeplechase. Read more...



Forest School Year R

This week was all about birds. We read the book 'Owl Babies' and the children could act out the story with the puppets. In pairs, the children made bird feeders out of apples, pumpkin and sunflower seeds and they hung them up in the Forest School area in order to help the birds through the winter months. Some of the children did bird spotting with a tick sheet. <u>Read more...</u>