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Friday 25th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start this week's newsletter with a bit of a plea. Whilst we have had a few cases of COVID in the pupils this week, we have been very drastically hit with staff absences this week with 10/11 members of staff off with COVID.

Where this has particularly hit us hard is in the Bridge Bees After-School Club and we are extremely short-staffed to the point that, if one more person is absent with COVID, we may have to shut it down. If your child is booked in for the next week and you are able to make other arrangements it would be very much appreciated and, of course, we would move any credit forwards to next term. I fully appreciate that for many of you, this is not an option but any support would be very gratefully received.

School Traffic & Parking

Last week, whilst I was off with COVID, there was a meeting between the school and representatives from the Parish and City councils to discuss parking and traffic in the village. I know that this is a contentious issue and every school has issues around traffic but the most important thing is making sure that the children can be safe when coming to school.

I am very keen to re-establish the Walking Bus that ran from the doctor's surgery prior to COVID and I am also hoping that we can get a Walking Bus from Bridge Downs again (I'm told that this ran many years ago). If any parents would be willing to support with this, then please get in contact with me either via email or school office.

There are many reasons to reduce the number of cars on the road but with the ever-increasing cost of fuel, this seems to me another reason to ditch the car if at all possible. You can follow our progress on the [Travelling to School](#) section of our school website.

Can I also ask parents not to park in the allocated spaces for Blue Badge holders. We do have staff, children and parents who need these spaces.

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

Thank you everyone who continues to support the [DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal](#), the total from last week's Blue and Yellow Day is almost £500 – thank you! You may be interested to know that there is a Community Tea Part next weekend (details below). Physical contributions will continue to be delivered to the [Kent Help For Ukraine](#) campaign I wrote about recently.

Attendance

With the easing of national restrictions, the DfE has written to all schools to ask them to write plans to improve attendance in school. Over the course of the past two years, the normal procedures for absence have been suspended but it has been made clear to all schools that these are to be reinstated.



Over the past few weeks, I have written to all parents where attendance is currently below 90% and this is something that we will continue to monitor going forward. I realise that 90% may seem quite high as a percentage but this actually equates to missing a day of school every two weeks, or four weeks of school across a school year. If you scale this up, it is actually two-thirds of a year across their primary-aged schooling.

There will always be times where children are unwell and this is unavoidable but we all need to make every effort to ensure children are in school and on time.

Please be assured that any COVID-related absence is not included as this was a legal requirement, i.e. you can still have had a week off for COVID and have 100% attendance.

Time to Reflect

This week, in the our collective worship we've been continuing to learn about the Kingdom of God with a focus on the choices that we make. We discussed with the children about how we know whether or not choices are 'good' or 'bad' and ended the week celebrating the good choices that we've made.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Tibbles
Headteacher

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 28th March		3pm: Football Match Bridge 2 vs. Canterbury
Tuesday 29th March		4pm: Governors Meeting 7pm: PTA Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday 30th March	Art Trip to Folkestone Creative Quarter	Quicksticks Hockey (Yr 3/4 am; Yr 5/6 pm)
Thursday 31st March	Inclusive Sports Day @ Canterbury Academy	
Friday 1st April	LAST DAY OF TERM	

Easter Holiday

Monday 18th April	EASTER MONDAY (School closed)
Tuesday 19th April	
Wednesday 20th April	
Thursday 21st April	4pm: Governors Meeting
Friday 22nd April	

Monday 25th April	
Tuesday 26th April	
Wednesday 27th April	
Thursday 28th April	
Friday 29th April	Break the Rules Day

Monday 2nd May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY (School closed)
Tuesday 3rd May	
Wednesday 4th May	
Thursday 5th May	Young Voices
Friday 6th May	

Celebration

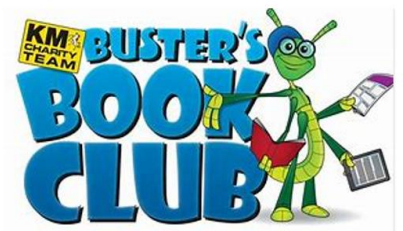
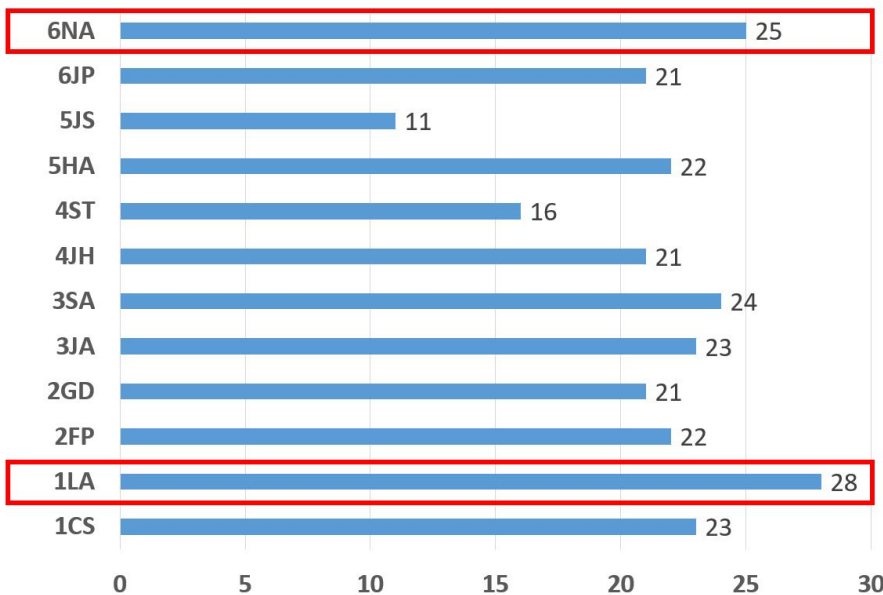
Star Pupils

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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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Chris K (1CS) for showing a great attitude in class and persevering with his sewing. <i>Mrs Cork</i> ☆ Ava W (1LA) for her detailed recount of our trip to Dover museum. <i>Miss Andrews</i> ☆ Finn F (2FP) for excellent describing words and phrases in his writing about Captain Hook. <i>Mrs Franks</i> ☆ Alf H (2GD) for his fantastic listening, questions and responses during our trip to Canterbury Cathedral. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> ☆ Eleanor A (3JA) for her excellent effort in Maths and for challenging herself with her writing this week. <i>Mr Ablett</i> ☆ Henry P (3SA) for showing resilience in his writing recently and making a huge improvement. <i>Mrs Amelia</i> ☆ William C (4JH) for producing an excellent newspaper report and working extremely hard. <i>Mr Harris</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Neil K (4ST) for writing an engaging and interesting report on the Tongan volcanic eruption. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> ☆ Tom P (4ST) for a beautifully presented and well written news report and for making an effort with all of his learning. <i>Mrs Saint</i> ☆ Bella M (5HA) for always being focused, giving 100% in everything she does (even if it is a challenge) and for her continual positive attitude. <i>Mrs Langsdon</i> ☆ Holly R (5JS) for showing a good understanding when adding fractions with different denominators and always being willing to support her friends. <i>Miss J Smith</i> ☆ Sophia W (6NA) for trying her hardest to use and apply her maths skills. <i>Mr Taylor</i> ☆ Hazel H (6JP) for demonstrating resilience and maturity when working collaboratively on her Science and DT project this week. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
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Buster Book Club

Well done to **1LA** (KS1) and **6NA** (KS2) who have won this week's Buster Book Club competition.





Mothering Sunday Services

Sunday 27th March

Services during which we celebrate motherhood in all its forms. With gifts of posies and time to pray and light candles for our loved ones. Everyone is welcome!

9.30am St Mary's Nackington Morning Prayer

10am St Peter's Bokesbourne 'Songs of Praise' Service

10am St Peter's Bridge All Age Communion
with Rev'd Estella Last

3-5pm St Mary's Lower Hardres will be open and
welcoming families with tea and cake!



Community Tea Party



Sunday 3rd April 2.30 - 4.30
Bridge Village Hall

An opportunity to discuss how our community can get involved with supporting Ukrainian people here.

Tea, cakes and sunflower planting to raise funds for the people of Ukraine.

Donations of cakes gratefully received.

Email estellalast@gmail.com for more information