

Headteacher: James Tibbles

Tel: 01227 830276

Email: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk

Web: www.bridge.kent.sch.uk

Bridge & Patribourne CEP School
Conyngham Lane
Bridge, Canterbury
Kent
CT4 5JX



Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Fire Response Update

I'd like to start by expressing my gratitude to all the parents who have offered their support and kind words over the past week. We have had offers of donations of both items and time to support the reinstatement of the Year R classrooms but thankfully the insurance company is being very understanding. I'm very pleased to let you all know that the works are proceeding on track and, barring any last-minute snafus, we should be able to start re-establishing the classrooms next Friday ready for the Monday morning!

HM Queen Elizabeth II

It is with great sadness that we heard the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday. I have asked staff to acknowledge this with the children and give them the opportunity to discuss this should they wish. I myself have been in London today for Ofsted and took the opportunity to visit Buckingham Palace to pay my respects on behalf of the staff and children of Bridge School - it was a very sombre, respectful atmosphere.



I have been in contact with Revd. Estella and we have agreed that it would be right and appropriate to take the children to church on Tuesday afternoon for a special service to celebrate and give thanks for her life of service. Given that this will be only the second day for the Year R children, they will remain at school.

There will be other arrangements in the coming days and weeks and, as soon as I know the implications for schools, I will be in touch with parents.



Kent Test

On Thursday, some of the Year 6 children took their Kent Test ahead of selecting secondary schools and I want to wish them all the best. Results will be shared with parents on Tuesday 18th October. A full list of dates can be found on our website: [Applying for Secondary School](#)

Wilder Kent Awards

Earlier this year, Mrs Pearman entered the school into the Wilder Kent Awards highlighting the work that the school is doing in the areas of protecting wildlife, sustainability and carbon reduction and engagement with nature. Just before the summer holiday, we were delighted to receive a **Wilder Kent Award Commendation**.



Specific strengths were that we had planted a great number of native trees over the past year and that we were using the planters to grow our own vegetables. They also loved the fact that we are developing a Forest School provision for all children across the school.

Our Forest School was identified as a particular strength in our pupil survey and we're looking forward to more children having experience of this over the course of the year.

Meet the Staff Sessions

Over the next couple of weeks, there will be an opportunity to meet your children's teachers and teaching assistants and hear from them about the coming year. This is also an opportunity to ask questions that you may have. These will be held face-to-face but the PowerPoint slides will be published on the year group pages of the school website.

- Year R: Friday 23rd, 2.45pm
- Year 1: Thursday 15th, 2.45pm
- Year 2: Monday 19th, 2.45pm
- Year 3: Monday 26th, 2.45pm
- Year 4: Wednesday 14th, 2.45pm
- Year 5: Tuesday 13th, 2.45pm
- Year 6: Wednesday 21st, 2.45pm

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Routine

Next week our Year R children will be starting school full-time. In the mornings, if you are dropping off a Year R child, please could we ask that you arrive at school no earlier than 8.50am if at all possible. By this time, most of the children and parents have come through and this will mean an easier and less stressful time for us all.

In the afternoon, parents of Year R children may collect their children from 3.10pm in order to avoid the rush of other parents. However, the other classes will not be releasing their children until 3.15pm so please do not enter the school premises unless you are collecting a sole Year R child – you will not be able to collect children from other year groups.

We have also sent home a document to clarify collection arrangements. It would be really helpful especially for the younger year groups to know who will be collecting your child in a typical week. Obviously there will occasionally be changes (please let us know via the office) but it gives us an idea and parents who wish their child to make their own way home should also indicate this on the form provided.

Message from Joyce

"I am really missing the children and their enthusiastic waves. I am sending my apologies to all the lovely children who made me wonderful cards to get better, I am still not well to wave to you all as I am still in hospital. You are helping me get better with your cards and messages. I wish you all a good new term and great fun. I hope to get back to my flat and be able to wave to you all. All my thanks to the Headteacher, teachers, staff and all the children.

Lots of love and God Bless, Joyce "

Childhood Flu Vaccination Programme

Earlier this week, you should have received information about this year's childhood vaccination programme and their upcoming visit to the school on Monday 17th October.

Parents are asked to decline or consent to the vaccination by Friday 7th October.



PTA Annual General Meeting

On Tuesday 20th September, at 2pm, we are inviting all parents to join us for the PTA's Annual General Meeting which will be held in the school hall. This is an opportunity to hear from the current officers of the PTA, meet class reps and there are also opportunities to elect the officers for the coming year.

The PTA does a lot for the school over the year and, in order to ensure that this is sustainable, we need support from all parents. Thank you.

With best wishes,

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

James Tibbles

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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| ☆ Harriet D (1CJ) for showing resilience in her first week in Year 1. <i>Mrs Jones</i> | ☆ Arya T (4ST) for working hard in her maths lessons. <i>Mrs Saint</i> |
| ☆ Ethan M (1LA) for trying really hard this week with his formation of numbers in maths. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Holly B (4ST) for having a great first week in 4ST. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> |
| ☆ Ada H (2GD) for the compassion she has shown to her friends all week helping them when they have been unsure. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Amelia B (5HA) for settling into our school so well. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Jack W (2SA) for a great prediction and drawing of his character in English! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Olivia Loughlin (5JS) for showing compassion towards a younger pupil on her first day in Year 3. <i>Mr Tibbles</i> |
| ☆ Lennon R (3JA) for a fantastic first full week at Bridge and for showing great resilience. <i>Mr Ablett</i> | ☆ Seb C (5JS) for a fantastic start to year 5 and showing an enthusiastic approach to his learning. <i>Miss J Smith</i> |
| ☆ Njasha M (3LC) for having an incredible attitude towards her learning and finishing her work to a very high standard. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> | ☆ Jack S (6JP) for his excellent demonstrations and enthusiasm in our Hockey lesson this week. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Charlie C (4AH) for starting the year with a great attitude towards his learning and an eagerness to learn. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> | ☆ Benji C (6JW) for his perseverance and resilience in his first week in Year 6. <i>Mr Wren</i> |



**Little Lambs
Toddler Group
Every Thursday
9am-11am (during
term time) at Bridge
sports pavilion.
Suggested donation
£1.50 per child.**

For more information call Estella on 01227 206272



Upcoming Dates

All dates and events can be found on our school calendar.

[CALENDAR >](#)

Monday 12th Sept	<i>Year R children full-time</i>	
Tuesday 13th Sept	Church Services (Year 1 to 6 pupils)	2.45pm: Meet the Staff (Year 5)
Wednesday 14th Sept		2.45pm: Meet the Staff (Year 4)
Thursday 15th Sept		2.45pm: Meet the Staff (Year 1)
Friday 16th Sept		

Monday 19th Sept		2.45pm: Meet the Staff (Year 2)
Tuesday 20th Sept		2pm: PTA Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 21st Sept	Year 5 Residential (Wednesday to Friday)	2.45pm: Meet the Staff (Year 6)
Thursday 22nd Sept		2.30pm: Year R Welcome Service at Church
Friday 23rd Sept		2.45pm: Meet the Staff (Year R)

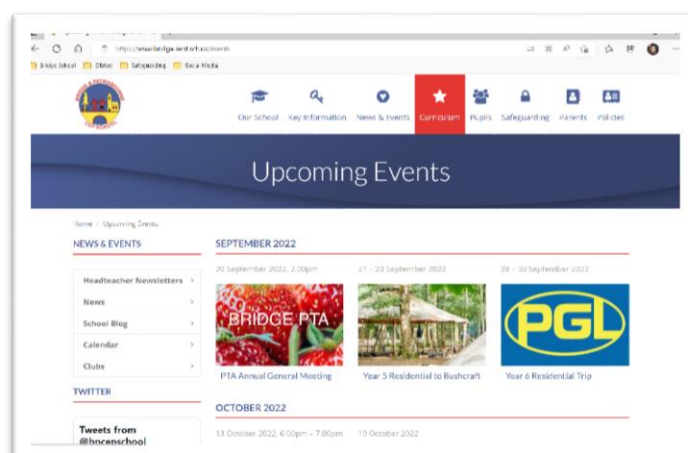
Monday 26th Sept		2.45pm: Meet the Staff (Year 3)
Tuesday 27th Sept		
Wednesday 28th Sept	Year 6 Residential (Wednesday to Friday)	
Thursday 29th Sept		
Friday 30th Sept		

Events for Parents

I know that parents appreciate a great deal of notice for significant events in the school calendar and therefore we have created an [events](#) page on our school website which has important dates for the whole school year.

We will do our very best to ensure that the dates published on the website are adhered to but there may be circumstances outside our control which means that there are changes.

If there are dates of other events you would like to know then please ask and we will publish these as well.



Update from Rev'd Estella



We first launched Messy Church in Bridge School in January 2019 and had a very successful first year until the Pandemic brought everything to a close. Messy Church has been back sporadically over the last year or so but has faced ongoing challenges with all the further disruption of Covid. Our first Messy Church of this Academic Year also had to be postponed so the school hall can be kept set up as the Year 6 Classrooms.

This has given us a moment to pause for thought and we have taken the decision to postpone Messy Church until after Christmas and to spend this time recruiting some new volunteers so that we can **relaunch** Messy Church at Bridge School on **Saturday 14th January** with a full strength team and plan for the whole year!

This is where you come in—if you would like to **be part of the new Messy Church team** we would love to hear from you. Anyone can help, we need welcomers, kitchen helpers, craft coordinators and craft table supervisors. We would also welcome anyone who wanted to learn more about being part of the planning team, and leading the worship or songs. If you would like to help us to relaunch our wonderful Messy Church we are having an **open meeting on Saturday 8th October at 4pm** in the School Hall or you can email Rev'd Estella directly (estellalast@gmail.com) for further information.

In the meantime we will continue with our third Sunday Family Service at Bridge Church and of course all the special seasonal services we all enjoy!

