

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 10th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start this week's newsletter with a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Bridge Fireworks event last Saturday: the organisers, the staff and parents who came along to help set up on the Saturday morning (fuelled by expertly cooked bacon rolls if I do say so myself!) and those who came along on the Sunday to help clear up – the least glamorous of tasks but equally important.

Of course, the event would not be what it was without the spectators and whilst the weather did its best to deter, we had approximately 1200 people on the rec enjoying a stand-out display.

We are still awaiting final confirmation but we have raised almost £3000 for the school PTA which will go direct to the children – on their behalf, thank you.

Act of Remembrance

Today, in school, the children took part in the annual Act of Remembrance and we asked the children to reflect upon how and why we remember. Although Armistice Day is observed across the Commonwealth, we highlighted to the children that there are people across the world, from all cultures and countries, and we should also remember their sacrifice.

In times of war and emergency, there are always people trying to help and protect others.

Remembrance is a time when we remember and give thanks for the people who help and protect others now, and who have done so in the past. We remember those who have been hurt or killed as a result.

Remembrance is hope for a peaceful future.

Miss J Smith

Today Miss Smith begins her maternity leave and I've no doubt that she and her family can't wait to meet the latest arrival. Please join me in extending our very best wishes and hopes.

Ofsted Report

Alongside this newsletter, I am pleased to include our most recent Ofsted report. The report itself is incredibly short and does not reflect the depth of the feedback that was given to senior leaders and governors at the end of the inspection.

I would like to highlight a couple of points that were made at the feedback that did not make the 'final cut' of the inspection report, limited by word count as it is.

Whilst Early Years does not get much mention in the final report, there was a lot of time spent here over the course of the inspection – the inspector commented upon the well-considered and ambitious provision for the children, the secure modelling of language and the planned independence of the children.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



I'd also like to highlight the comments made about SEN provision. The inspector highlighted the clear systematic leadership of SEN and he said that the SEN practice he saw was very good. He commented on the staff's professional development and how the school was proud of its work on neurodiversity. My greatest moment of pride was when he said that *'there were children whose needs were so well met, you would not know that they have additional educational needs'* – this is inclusion at it's very best.

I was also proud that the inspector recognised the work that the school does for children's personal development from our consideration of diversity, our support for children's mental health but primarily for our community engagement within Bridge and it's 'older' residents.

Rightly, the inspector also identified the excellent behaviour and attitudes of the children across the school and said that there was a 'happiness factor' about the school. Pupils said that bullying was not a problem, it was rare and when it did happen, it was dealt with. He commented on the positive relationships with parents and the benefits of this.

As with all Ofsted reports, there are a couple of areas for improvement identified and, pleasingly, these are issues that we are already working on.

All in all it was a positive experience and I would like to express my gratitude once again to the support parents showed during the inspection as well as to the whole community for their support day-in and day-out.

Children in Need

Next Friday, it is Children in Need and we will be raising money for this charity. The theme is Be SPOTacular and we'll be inviting children (and adults!) to come into school wearing spots in return for a donation to Children in Need. Over the course of the day, they will also be learning about the amazing work that Children in Need do, the projects it funds and the children it helps.



Christmas Events

It's getting towards that time of the year! We have a great number of events planned to celebrate the Christmas season. Our programme remains much the same as it has done in previous years (if it ain't broke!)

Salvation Army Concert

Every year we host the Salvation Army band who come and perform for our community whilst raising money for their charitable work. Some of our children will also be invited to perform alongside the band. This is a great community event and a perfect way to start to get into the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Jumper Day

Each year, we raise money for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day but we are very aware of people's finances and the environmental impact of people purchasing items of clothing that may not be frequently worn. In the week before Christmas Jumper Day, i.e. w/c 28th Nov, we will be collecting donations of Christmas jumpers that no longer fit your children. These will then be 'sold' after school on Friday 2nd December ensuring that these items of clothing are re-used and monies raised for charity.

Wednesday 29th Nov	Advent Services at Church	Thursday 7th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day Senior Citizen's Tea Party
Thursday 30th Nov	Salvation Army Concert (eve)	Tuesday 12th Dec	Year R Nativity (pm) Gulbenkian Carol Concert (eve)
Tuesday 5th Dec	Year 2 Nativity (pm)	Wednesday 13th Dec	Year R Nativity (am)
Wednesday 6th Dec	Year 2 Nativity (am)	Thursday 14th Dec	Christingle Services Carols in the Village (pm)

Cystic Fibrosis

You will know that over the past two years, we have been raising money and awareness for cystic fibrosis during their annual Wear Yellow Day.

We will soon be welcoming Lucy to Bridge School and although she is not yet a pupil, the family are very much a part of our community – the family already have a child at the school; Lucy's aunt works at the school and her grandmother was a well-loved and respected teacher here.

Please read the article ([Cystic fibrosis: Mother 'petrified' over daughter's drug access - BBC News](#))

We are asking for your help.

I will hand over the Sarah (Mum) who can make her plea so much more eloquently than I:

I need your help! It's a call to arms!

On Friday, NICE (the body that evaluates drug treatments for the NHS) made the recommendation that a group of miracle, life extending, life enhancing drugs for CF people aren't cost effective for the NHS. They are recommending they no longer be given to CFers.

These drugs (Kaftrio is one) are as close to a cure as we can get. They have given the CF community hope and the prospect of a future. In summary Kaftrio (the real wonder drug):

- *Reduce the production on mucus*
- *Makes the mucus less sticky and thick so people are getting less infections*
- *Increases lung function exponentially*

At the moment we are in the final stages of a consultation process.

Please, could I ask you all to follow the link, open an account with NICE and leave a comment. We have also been recommended that we need to make 'as much noise as possible' and to contact our local MP so they can put pressure on the government. All this needs to be done before 24th NOVEMBER.

Please help, Lucy's future health and life expectancy depend on these drugs. She was on the verge of receiving them ...

Here's the consultation: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ta11187/consultation/html-content-5>

Sarah is also asking for people to write to their MP (including your postal address so they know you are in their constituency) and there is a letter available to help if people don't want to write their own.

Link to template MP letter: [Letter to your MP](#)

Mother 'petrified' over cystic fibrosis drug access



FAMILY HANDOUT

Sarah says she is "heartbroken" for her daughter who may not be able to access a life-extending drug

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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| ☆ Thomas W (Willow) for a thoughtful and carefully drawn picture in RE. Excellent work Tom! <i>Miss M Smith and Mrs Cork</i> | ☆ Njasha M (Birch) for amazing perseverance and effort in clearing the raised beds in forest school. <i>Mrs Pearman</i> |
| ☆ Felix A (Rowan) for his great work in Maths this week – solving addition word problems. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Aidan A (Birch) for his excellent efforts and continually improving attitude towards his learning and daily school life. Well done! <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Leo M (Oak) for writing a fantastic firework poem with adjectives, verbs and onomatopoeia! Well done! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Rupert P (Holly) for excellent scientific questions during Space Day! Keep up the focus Rupert. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Charlie L (Pine) for brilliant solo singing in singing worship and extending his maths learning. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> | ☆ Rene M (Maple) for contributing in all lessons and reflecting all of our school values; creativity, resilience and excellence. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Isabella F (Beech) for her enthusiasm in all of the workshops during our trip. She answered questions in detail and thought of great questions to ask the people running the workshops. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Iris G (Poplar) for displaying excellent thought and empathy during our trip to Canterbury Cathedral. <i>Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Senna W (Chestnut) for demonstrating a lot of knowledge on our Ancient Egypt trip this week. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> | ☆ Iris G (Poplar) for compassion and kindness shown to a child who had injured her shoulder. She helped and encouraged her with reading too. <i>Mrs Starling</i> |
| ☆ Raef W (Chestnut) for fantastic weaving and working so hard in DT. <i>Mrs C Smith</i> | ☆ Pihu D (Sycamore) for doing an amazing job reading in Canterbury Cathedral. <i>Mrs Langsdon</i> |
| ☆ Noah T (Hazel) for creating a very detailed and spectacular map of his civilisation “Noahlandia”. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> | ☆ Will C (Sycamore) for doing an amazing job reading in Canterbury Cathedral. <i>Mrs Langsdon</i> |

BLOG

8 November 2023



Year 5 Space Day

This week, Jackson from As Creatives delivered a Space themed workshop

8 November 2023



Year 5 Segregation Lesson

Today we began our learning around

8 November 2023



Rubber Chicken Darts - Year 5

Year 5 have been given the challenge

Upcoming Dates

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

[CALENDAR >](#)

Monday 13th November		
Tuesday 14th November		Basketball Competition (Year 5 and 6)
Wednesday 15th November		
Thursday 16th November		Football Match v Wincheap
Friday 17th November	Children in Need	

Monday 20th November	School Photos	Beech Class trip to Folkestone Book Festival
Tuesday 21st November	Infant Agility event (Year 1 and 2)	
Wednesday 22nd November	Year 6 Walking Trip	Pine Class trip to Folkestone Book Festival
Thursday 23rd November	Maple Class trip to Folkestone Book Festival	Year 6 Battle of the Bands
Friday 24th November		

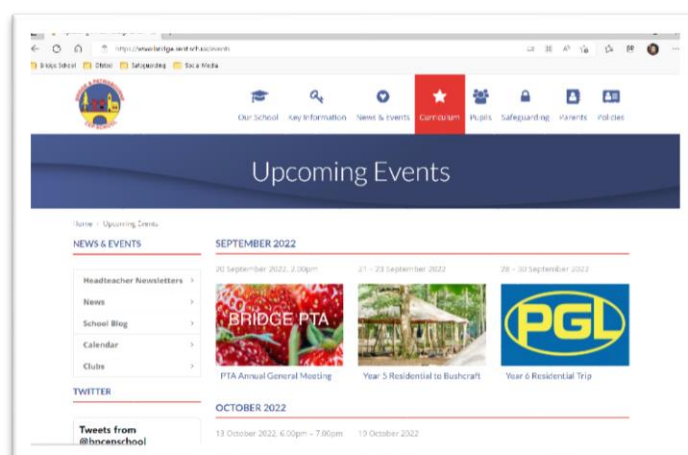
Monday 27th November		
Tuesday 28th November	Speed Stacking (Year 2, 4 and 6)	
Wednesday 29th November	Advent Services <i>attending in houses</i>	
Thursday 30th November	Dodgeball competition	
Friday 1st December		

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.



You are invited to

FAMILY STARGAZING EVENING

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER
THE GREAT HALL, KENT COLLEGE,
CANTERBURY

Refreshments from 6:30pm
Finishing at 8:30pm

WRAP UP WARM
AND BRING A TORCH

VR tour of the
Solar System

Space

TELESCOPES

activities

TO BOOK, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW

[Link](#)

