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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## A New 'Witch's Tree'

I would like to start this week's newsletter with a huge thank you to Rachel Franks for her kind and thoughtful leaving present to the school. Rachel has provided us with a beautiful coastal redwood tree (the same species as our Witch's Tree), which now stands proudly in our school grounds.

Willow class, under the guidance of Mrs Pearman, worked tirelessly last week to dig the hole, plant the tree, and ensure it was well-watered. It is a wonderful addition to our school environment and will be enjoyed by generations of students to come.



## Census Day

This Thursday is our spring census day (we have three a year) and for this day we will be swapping our Thursday and Friday menus around, i.e. it is chick goujons or falafel wrap rather than cottage pie or pasta, which is now on Friday.

In the interests of transparency, the reason is fairly straightforward – the more children that have a school dinner on census day, the more funding the school gets; it's not a great deal more but every little bit helps!

I realise that I wouldn't normally be writing to parents to encourage their children to have chips for lunch (healthy schools and all that!) but if you would be willing you give school dinners a go on Thursday, then we'd appreciate this and will also lead to additional funding for the children at the end of the day!

If you have a child in Year R, 1 or 2 and will be having a packed lunch on Thursday, if you booked a school dinner as well (it won't cost you anything) then that also helps our school funding.

*None of our parents work for the DfE do they?*

## Staffing News

I also have some bittersweet news to share with you today. Next week, we will be saying goodbye to two of our dedicated teaching assistants, Mrs Holdaway and Miss Creaven. Both are valued members of our school community and they will be greatly missed. Their hard work and commitment to our students have made a significant impact, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

In addition to Mrs Holdaway and Miss Creaven, we will also be bidding farewell to our talented music teacher Mr Miles at half-term. Mr Miles has accepted a new opportunity and will be relocating to Scotland. We are sad to see him go, as his passion for music and his ability to inspire our students has been truly remarkable. I would like to express my own thanks to Mr Miles for his dedication and wish him every success in his new chapter.



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



## Clubs

From tomorrow at 9am, you will be able to sign your child up for a club on Arbor. Please could I ask that, in the first instance, parents only select one club per child (in order to give everyone a chance) and then we'll open up for any additional spaces.

The choir is an exception to this, so children can sign up for choir and still have another club should they wish.

## PTFA News

A reminder that the PTFA newsletter was sent out earlier today. Our Parent-Teacher-Friends Association plays a crucial role in supporting our school, both financially and through their involvement in various events and activities. Please take a moment to read the newsletter and consider how you can support their efforts. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference in enriching our children's educational experience.

## Reminders

### Parent Consultations

Speaking of communication between home and school, we will be holding consultations for you to meet with your child's class teacher in a few weeks' time. These consultations are an excellent opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and development with their class teacher. Booking for these consultations will open on Monday via Arbor, our online school management system. The times and dates are listed below and, as before, these will be held in school – Zoom consultations are an option should you wish.

Date	Year Groups	Times	Date	Year Groups	Times
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Year R	8.30am – 11.00am 2.00pm – 5.00pm	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 3	8.30am – 11.00am 2.00pm – 5.00pm
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Year 1	8.30am – 11.00am 2.00pm – 5.00pm	<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 4	8.30am – 11.00am 2.00pm – 5.00pm
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 2	8.30am – 11.00am 2.00pm – 5.00pm	<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	All classes	4.00pm – 7.00pm
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 6	8.30am – 11.00am 2.00pm – 5.00pm	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Year 5	8.30am – 11.00am 2.00pm – 5.00pm

## Messy Church

Just a reminder that tomorrow, we are hosting Messy Church at Bridge School. This wonderful event is a fantastic opportunity for families to come together, engage in creative activities, and explore the teachings of Christianity in a fun and interactive way.



Rev. Estella and her team of helpers will be running craft activities for children from 4pm and there will be a short service before a shared meal.

## Kent Teacher of the Year

It is that time of year again when parents have an opportunity to recognize the exceptional work of our staff and I have been sent the following to share:

*From the dedicated teachers who inspire and educate, to the support staff who keep everything running smoothly, we recognise the hard work and dedication of each and every person who contributes to our schools.*

*That's why we're excited to invite you to nominate someone for a Kent Teacher of the Year Award!*



*Whether it's a teacher who has gone above and beyond to support their students, a support worker who always has a smile on their face or a volunteer who has made a significant impact to their school community, we want to hear about them!*

*Nominations are open to parents, students, and peers, so if you know someone who deserves recognition, we encourage you to submit a nomination. With a wide range of award categories, including primary, secondary, early careers, non-teaching members of staff, and volunteers, there's an opportunity to recognise everyone who makes a difference in our schools.*

*Our winners will be announced at a special awards dinner, where we'll celebrate their contributions and the impact they've had on the lives of students and their school communities. It's a night not to be missed, filled with inspiration, recognition, and celebration!*

*So take a moment to think about the amazing people you know in the education system and submit a nomination today, and please share details of the awards amongst your contacts encouraging them to make nominations too. Let's celebrate all the people who make our schools great!*

*Visit the [Social Enterprise Kent website](#) for further information and to nominate.*

*Thank you and have a lovely weekend.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

James Tibbles  
Headteacher

## 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.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ☆ <b>Aaron (Ash)</b> for excellent effort when reading and writing in phonics this week. <i>Miss Goddard</i>                                 | ☆ <b>Lily H (Beech)</b> for the resilience she has shown in math this week. <i>Mrs Dennett</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Felix (Ash)</b> for always showing such enthusiasm in all areas of school life. <i>Miss Goddard</i>                                     | ☆ <b>Elara T-S (Chestnut)</b> for always working to the best of her ability and demonstrating the school's values. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> |
| ☆ <b>Sahina (Elm)</b> for working hard to spell words containing digraphs then write a sentence. <i>Mr Redpath</i>                           | ☆ <b>Harry B (Hazel)</b> for demonstrating careful and systematic working during our problem solving in Maths. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i>     |
| ☆ <b>Teddy B (Elm)</b> for working hard to spell words containing digraphs then write a sentences. <i>Mr Redpath</i>                         | ☆ <b>Harrison K (Birch)</b> for his excellent efforts in English this week working with more independence. <i>Mr Perfect</i>             |
| ☆ <b>Max H (Willow)</b> for listening carefully to match his movements to the music! <i>Mrs Cork</i>   | ☆ <b>Tadisa M (Holly)</b> for an excellent first week at Bridge and for being a great addition to Holly class. <i>Mr Ablett</i>          |
| ☆ <b>Iggy S (Rowan)</b> for confidently identifying tens and ones in numbers in maths this week. <i>Miss Andrews</i>                         | ☆ <b>Lawley C (Maple)</b> for being resilient and creative in both math and English this week. <i>Miss Allison</i>                       |
| ☆ <b>Sara (Oak)</b> for independently writing some great sentences in sentence stacking. <i>Mrs Amelia</i>                                   | ☆ <b>Leo (Maple)</b> for writing an excellent story which included a very suspenseful cliffhanger. <i>Mr Tibbles</i>                     |
| ☆ <b>Esther D (Pine)</b> for always being a good role model and trying her best. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i>  | ☆ <b>Thomas P (Poplar)</b> for excellent vocabulary choices within his biography of Floella Benjamin. <i>Mrs Allen</i>                   |
| ☆ <b>Angus S (Pine)</b> for showing great concentration in music and demonstrating an aptitude for drumming. <i>Mrs Usher &amp; Mr Miles</i> | ☆ <b>Henry-James G (Sycamore)</b> for having a positive approach in all areas of his learning. <i>Mr Wren</i>                            |

### News and Blogs

On our school website, we proudly share some of our children's learning on our school blog. Please feel free to click on any of the images below to be taken directly to that blog post.



#### Moon Buggies

Year 5 have completed their Moon Buggy toys for children aged 9-10



#### Egyptian necklaces - Year 3

The Year three topic this term was



#### DT- Year 6 chairs

Year 6 chairs are here! Order now!  
Throughout this project, Year 6 have:

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)

## Upcoming Dates

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

[CALENDAR >](#)

<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Dodgeball (select Year 5/6)
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	11am: Young Voices
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	

<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<i>Parental Consultations (all week)</i>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Creepy Claws in for Year 2
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year R (Ash) trip to Wildwood

<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<i>Parental Consultations (all week)</i>	Year R (Elm) trip to Wildwood
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>		
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>		
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>		2pm: PTA Meeting (Class Reps)

<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 5 Class Assembly	Team Building at St Anselm's (select Y3 and Y4)
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Safer Internet Day	Year 6 trip to Marlowe Theatre – Wizard of Oz
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Chinese New Year celebration (select Y5)	