

Headteacher: James Tibbles

Tel: 01227 830276

Email: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk

Web: www.bridge.kent.sch.uk

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



Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all had a fantastic half-term break and enjoyed some well-deserved rest and relaxation. It's great to have everyone back at school, ready for the exciting term ahead.

Firstly, I wanted to take a moment to introduce you to some new members of our school team. Please join me in welcoming Mr Welch and Mrs McCoy, who have joined us as Teaching Assistants. They have already settled in wonderfully and are doing a fantastic job supporting our students in their learning journeys.

We also have the pleasure of welcoming Mr Connolly, our new music teacher. He brings a wealth of experience and a passion for music that I'm sure will inspire our budding musicians. We can't wait to see what wonderful melodies and harmonies our students will create under his guidance.

Pine Class News

I am sorry to report that Mrs Usher has made the decision to step back from her class teaching role and therefore will not be teaching Pine Class on Monday and Tuesdays after Easter. I am very pleased and reassured that she will remain with us in her SEN role as she has an incredible wealth of experience in supporting children with additional educational needs.

We are fortunate that we have managed to secure the services of Mrs Lead on Mondays and Tuesdays for the summer term. Mrs Lead has been working as a supply teacher at the school for a couple of years now and has taught the year 2 children on a number of occasions whilst they were in Year 1 and Year R. She will be coming in to meet the children before the Easter holiday ready for her start in April. Mrs Tomsett will remain teaching Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Attendance

No-one can deny that the greatest impact on pupil achievement in school is attendance – after all, if they aren't in school, they can't learn!

Following a whole-school attendance review this week, I will be writing to the parents of all children whose attendance is below 90%. These letters will be coming out in the next few days.

0 days of school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

National Offer Day for Secondary Schools

Next Friday, parents of Year 6 children will find out which secondary school their child has been allocated for September. If, after receiving your email, you wish to discuss anything then please do contact me directly via email.



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



Hot Chocolate with the Head

This week, we're trialling something new where we take all of the house points that children have earnt and randomly select six names to come and enjoy 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' on a Friday afternoon. This is an opportunity to get to know the children a little better and hear about their week in school.

We will, of course, cater for any dietary requirements so can parents please ensure that these are up-to-date on Arbor.

With best wishes,

James Tibbles

James Tibbles

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.



Year 5 Forest School Term 3 2024

This term we talked about what



Year 1 Forest School Term 3 2024

Willow and Rowan class were very



Year R Forest School Term 3 2024

Welcome to Forest School Year R!

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)

World Book Day

We are very excited to share our plans for World Book Day 2024 on Thursday 7th March with you.

As I wrote in the newsletter before the half-term break, children are invited to come into school dressed as a character from a book. As before,

The theme this year is **Reading for Pleasure** and that is what we intend to spend the day doing! As usual, we invite the children and staff to come in **dressed up as a character** of a favourite book. We don't want this to be additional pressure for parents (after it, it's supposed to be fun!) and I would recommend [75 Easy World Book Day Costume Ideas UK 2024](#) for tips for a cheap/easy book day costume.

We are very fortunate to have two local authors, whom are close to our school community, coming into school for the morning and donating their time to spend time with our children.

Anne Booth is a former parent of our school and opened the school library for us in 2020. She has written many books and has always donated a signed copy to school. She is a widely published professional author for children and adults with many different publishers, including Puffin and Penguin, whose books have been translated into many different languages and nominated for many awards. During the morning, Anne will be spending time with Years 3 and 4 and sharing her book **Too Much** with the children. She will then share her book **The Girl with a White Dog** with years 5 and 6. This book was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and nominated for the Carnegie, amongst other awards.



Tom Delahunt spent last year's W.B.D with us and since has shared his time and experiences of neurodiversity in a number of ways across the school. The children do enjoy spending time in his company being themselves. During the first part morning, he will be sharing his book **The Wandering Lamb** with EYFS and Year One and then after play will share his time with the year two children reading and, if time permits, creating some poetry doodles.

If you would like **to pre-order** any of the books being shared by Anne or Tom please **follow this link** [Bridge & Patricxbourne CEP School World Book Day with Anne Booth & Tom Delahunt](#).

If you would like, the books can be delivered to school in time for your child to get them signed on the day the cut-off date for this is Friday 1st of March (please follow the instructions on the link). If you would prefer, you can collect from the university book shop, buy at your leisure and your child can bring the book to school on the day to be signed.

During the afternoon, we are holding **'Reading Cafes'** in our school houses. The children will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the opportunity to chat about and read books with their friends. We will all gather for an end of day celebration in the hall.

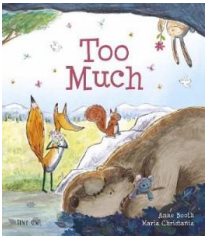
After school, we are holding a charity book sale with **Pilgrims Hospice Bookshop**. We support this charity a few times a year and is another community link which we hold dear to our school. They have kindly agreed to offer **'A Book for One Pound'** sale. The children can donate one pound to the charity and choose any book from a wide selection to take home with them.



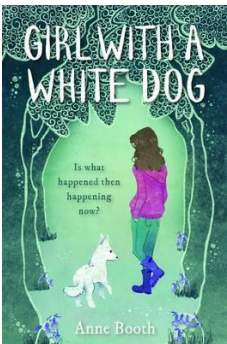
Thank you all as always for your support, it sounds like a great day to encourage and allow your children to Read for Pleasure – what could be better?



From The Times Higher Education Award winner for Most Innovative Teacher of the Year 2019, this delightful children's story illustrated by Caleb Simmons follows a lamb who is wonderfully different. Curiosity leads him wandering from the flock on a search for acceptance. But when a shepherd rescues him by showing him unconditional love, he is set free to be happily different and ready to dream.



Spring has sprung, and little Rabbit is excited to play with his friend Bear! There's just one problem: Bear doesn't want to come out of hibernation. There's too much of everything outside! With the help of friends Rabbit, Squirrel and Fox, Bear becomes excited to enter the outside world once again! Everything is more bearable with good friends who let us take our time.



Jessie is excited when her gran gets a white Alsatian puppy, but with Snowy's arrival a mystery starts to unfold. As Jessie learns about Nazi Germany at school, past and present begin to slot together and she uncovers something long-buried, troubling and somehow linked to another girl and another white dog... Anne's book deals with some complex themes of modern-day racism, as well as the historical atrocities of the Holocaust, but through the eyes of its young characters. It shows an important, and delicately handled example of not letting the mistakes of the past happen again, and in doing so, the story promotes the importance of diversity in our modern world. A vitally important read, and one that will stay with you, Girl With A White Dog is a triumph of diversity and should be in schools everywhere.



World Book Day Menu

Thursday 7th March



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Fantastic Mr Fox's Favourite Chicken Casserole

or

Esio Trot's Pesto and Bean Pasta

or

Grandpa Joe's Jackets with Tuna

and

Snozzcumber Salad

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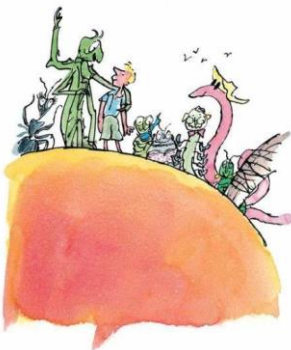
Desserts



Charlie's Chocolate Sponge Cake with Chocolate Waterfall Icing

or

James's Giant Fruit Platter



Please order meals as normal via Arbor

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.

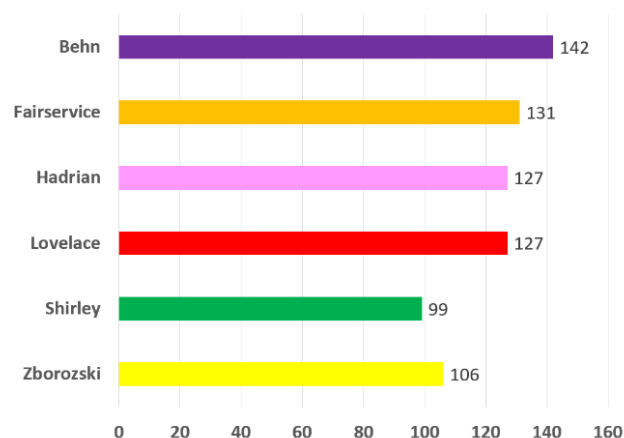
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|--|---|
| ☆ India (Ash) for being a fantastic team member and setting a great tidying up example. <i>Miss Goddard</i> | ☆ Hunter H (Chestnut) for a brilliant start to the term and using metres, centimetres and millimetres carefully in maths. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> |
| ☆ Grace (Ash) for always trying her hardest and being an excellent role model. <i>Miss Goddard</i> | ☆ Elodie C (Hazel) for consistently deepening the moment in English to create some beautiful writing this week. <i>Mrs Bradley</i> |
| ☆ Bailey E (Elm) for fantastic and independent sentence writing. <i>Mr Redpath</i> | ☆ Otis J (Birch) for his mature approach when selecting challenges in Maths this week, which has helped him to make more progress in his learning about fractions. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Hallie D (Elm) for fantastic sharing and turn-taking at Forest School. <i>Mr Redpath</i> | ☆ Amaya D (Holly) for excellent enthusiasm towards our new English unit on Beowulf. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Jesse C (Willow) for being an excellent role model for listening and learning. <i>Mrs Cork & Mrs M Smith</i> | ☆ Daisy R (Maple) for having a fantastic attitude to all her learning and always role modelling the school values. <i>Mr Taylor</i> |
| ☆ Milya U (Rowan) for her fantastic work on fact families in maths this week. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Tippi H (Poplar) for recognising when to ask for help and improving in confidence with Maths. <i>Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Rory (Oak) for really trying hard to improve his writing and producing great sentences with interesting vocabulary. <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Ira W (Sycamore) for using terrific characterisations in his narrative writing. <i>Mr Wren</i> |
| ☆ Ferne D (Pine) for sharing all your ideas in lesson, in particular when describing Tinkerbelle's house. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> | |
| ☆ Michael P (Beech) for displaying our Christian value of service within the classroom. He is always ready to help others when needed. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | |

House Points

Whenever children earn a house point, their name goes into a draw and, each week, six names are drawn and they will be invited to 'Hot Chocolate with Head'.

This week, I was pleased to welcome Max (Zborowski); Maddison (Zborowski), Betsy (Fairservice); Harry (Fairservice); Safia (Hadrian) and Kayden (Behn).

All children are eligible when they earn house points and there'll be another draw next week.



Upcoming Dates

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

CALENDAR >

Monday 26th February		Football Match vs. Canterbury Primary	
Tuesday 27th February	Chestnut (Y3) Rocks Day	Birch (Y4) Forest School trip	
Wednesday 28th February	Beech (Y3) Rocks Day	Holly (Y5) Parent Sharing Assembly	Hazel (Y4) Forest School trip
Thursday 29th February		Football Match vs. Chartham School	
Friday 1st March	PESE: National Offer Day	Rosie Duffield visiting Year 5	Football Match vs. Wincheap

Monday 4th March	Year 5 Forest School Trip		
Tuesday 5th March		Cross Country Competition	
Wednesday 6th March	Oak (Y2) trip to Deal Castle	Maple (Y5) Parent Sharing Assembly	
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day		
Friday 8th March	Pine (Y2) trip to Deal Castle		

Monday 11th March	<i>Science Week</i>	Rapid Fire Cricket (Year 2 and 4)	
Tuesday 12th March			
Wednesday 13th March	Rowan (Y1) Trip to Dover Museum		
Thursday 14th March		Year 3 Forest School Trip	
Friday 15th March		Year 3 Forest School Trip	PTFA Quiz Night

Monday 18th March	Hockey Competition at St Ed's		
Tuesday 19th March	Year 6 Viking Workshop		
Wednesday 20th March	Rowan (Y1) Parent Sharing Assembly		
Thursday 21st March	Willow (Y1) Parent Sharing Assembly		
Friday 22nd March	Willow (Y1) Trip to Dover Museum		