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Friday 12th July 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There is a great deal of information in this week's newsletter so you may want to grab a drink and a snack!

Firstly, we have a lot of sporting success to report with successes in cricket, netball and athletics. The children have written their sport reports which you can find further down. I'd like to express my gratitude to staff and parents who supported the teams.

On the subject of sports, we were very fortunate with the weather on Monday but less so today and so we have postponed our KS2 Spors Afternoon to next week and will be presenting the trophies in worship the following week.



Price Increases

Whilst undoubtedly unwelcome, we are having to increase the charges for school lunches, breakfast club and after-school club next year.

Over the past couple of years, we have done our very best to try and absorb increasing costs in staffing and food for school meals and Bridge Bees – however we are now at the point where we are having to increase prices as we are making a loss (particularly in our kitchen) and with school budgets being what they are, we cannot afford to do this.

- School lunches will increase to £2.85 a meal
- Breakfast Club will increase to £4.50 a session
- After-School Club will increase to £10 a session

The last thing we want to do is put any additional pressure on family finances at this time but we've held prices for as long as we responsibly could.



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



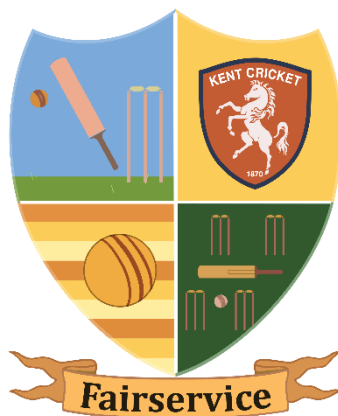
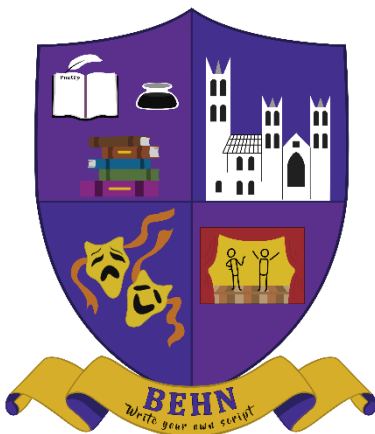
Booking Breakfast and After-School Club

With margins very tight, we need to have accurate numbers of children at both breakfast and after-school club and we do have a number of parents who are repeatedly not booking but still sending their children to these clubs; this has a direct impact on our ratios as this can mean that we need to find additional staff at short notice and we are reliant on the goodwill of our TAs for this.

From September, children who attend breakfast and after-school club who are not booked in will be charged an additional 50p per session to reflect the additional staffing and admin time needed to retrospectively process their attendance. We don't wish this to be a punitive measure but it is vital that we have accurate numbers.

House Crests

Earlier this year, we ran a competition for the children to design crests for their respective houses. Whilst we selected our winners quite a while ago, we have been waiting to receive the digitised versions and I personally think that they look great.



Lost Property

We have a great deal of lost property in the school and it is going to be our mission over the next week to return everything to its rightful owner. If there's anything that you know you are missing then please do feel free to check in the school office cupboard.

Library Books

If you have a school library book at home, please could we have this back ASAP. At the moment, we have a few hundred books out and we'd like to get these back and catalogued ready for September.

School Reports

We are just collating all the final documents to send with reports, attendance certificates, etc and these will be coming home on Tuesday next week.

Parent Survey

Each year we conduct a short parent survey and I invite you all to complete this again. The results from the survey will be shared with governors (along with all comments) and we will use these to determine our priorities for the coming year. The survey is open now and will close at the end of the month: <https://forms.gle/x3oL1LajndpH14wr6>

Finally, let's hope for a good result on Sunday!

Best wishes

James Tibbles

Blogs

The best way to keep up to date with what is happening at school is via the school [blog](#).



Sewing with Year R

Throughout term 6, Year R have been working on their sewing



Year 5 Mosque Trips

Over the last two weeks, each Year 5 class have visited Canterbury



Botanical Art and Science - Year 3

An art and science collaboration!

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☆ Lorin (Ash) for settling in so well to Ash class. <i>Miss Smith and Miss David</i> | ☆ William T (Beech) for being a kind and helpful friend at Forest School. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> |
| ☆ Maddison-Rose B (Willow) for excellent independent writing. <i>Mrs Cork</i> | ☆ Neivie B (Hazel) for challenging herself in maths this week. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Mila-Rose M (Rowan) for working hard this week learning to tell the time. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Pelham B (Birth) his excellent efforts with his writing this term. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Esme W (Pine) for careful work on Florence Nightingale and for always doing your best. <i>Mrs Tomsett and Mrs Hart</i> | ☆ Tadisa M (Holly) for excellent encouragement of the younger children at their Sports Day this week. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Annabelle (Oak) for a beautiful poem about having wings! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Jack L (Maple) for a fantastic piece of English writing, working effectively and independently. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Gabe M (Chestnut) for always demonstrating the school's Christian values and giving 100% in all lessons. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> | ☆ Ivy P (Sycamore) for overcoming her fears and singing an amazing solo in the play. <i>Mr Wren</i> |
| | ☆ Olivia L (Poplar) for excellent contributions to class discussions in all subjects. <i>Miss Allen</i> |

Arts Award Discover

Five of our children have been working hard at school and at home on a 'Protest Art' project making badges to sell to raise money for worthwhile environmental projects. They learnt how artists can use art to create positive change and have been awarded their Art Award Discover level from Trinity College. Congratulations to them Bruno S, Imogen M, May B, Tamsin K and Maria S.



Badges will be available to buy for £1 from the entrance hall in September.

Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher

It was double-trouble this week as the children from last week hadn't had their hot chocolate.



- Poppy S (Fairservice)
- Betsy S (Fairservice)
- Riddhima P (Fairservice)
- Charlie P (Lovelace)
- Alice H (Hadrian)
- Rory B-C (Zborowski)
- Angus S (Lovelace)
- Mollie R (Zborowski)
- Henry R (Fairservice)
- Hunter H (Behn)
- Chris K (Hadrian)
- Hope J (Hadrian)

Attendance – New Guidance

No one can argue that attendance at school is important and I am pleased that, on the whole, parents are very supportive of this – in fact our school is in the top 10% in the country for attendance and currently we are 7th out of all 431 schools in Kent.

I need to make parents aware about the upcoming changes to the regulations around school attendance. There is new guidance which becomes statutory on the 19th August and, whilst there is a great deal more emphasis on schools supporting parents, there are also increased punitive measures.

I have copied the text below from the statutory guidance.

“From Autumn Term 2024, only two penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a three-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate:






- The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.*
- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.*
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.”*

What this appears to mean in practice is that if that there is an annual holiday which takes place in term time, the first time there will be a Penalty Notice of £80 per child per parent; the second time the Penalty Notice would be £160 per child per parent and in the third year, the Local Authority would consider legal proceedings. I am still waiting on further guidance from the Local Authority but **I have been informed that this will apply retrospectively** and take account of holidays from the past two years.

Once I have the guidance from the Local Authority, I will share this with all parents and publish this on the school website but I wanted parents to be aware as I know many of you will be considering booking holidays next year over the summer.



There are 190 days in a school year, which leaves 175 days to spend on whatever you choose.

 190 DAYS 100% Very best chance of success	 183 DAYS 96% Off to a flying start
 179 DAYS 94% Less chance of success	 175 DAYS 92% Harder to make progress
 MORE THAN 19 DAYS' ABSENCE LESS THAN 90% Persistent absence, not good for your child	

Sporting Success

Year 4 Athletics

On Tuesday 25th June, a group of 15 children from Year 4 went on the athletics trip to Canterbury Academy. We all tried our best at the 4 events which were 50m sprints, long jump, vortex and 400m.

This is what we enjoyed:

I think I tried my best on the long jump but I really enjoyed the Vortex.

My favourite part was the standing long jump and I jumped 1.6m.

My favourite event was the 400m which was really tough in the heat but I enjoyed it all.

The 400m race was hard work but we all completed it with 100% effort and got some excellent times.

I really enjoyed the 50m sprints and I'm really happy that I got to go.

I wasn't sure if I wanted to do the relay but at the end, I was very pleased that I did and am proud of my achievements.

We finished the day with a relay and it was so much fun!

We all really enjoyed it and would like to say thank you to Mrs Pearson and Mrs Bradley for taking us and encouraging us to do our best. We would love the opportunity to do it all over again!

Netball League

Last Monday, some of the Bridge netball team played against St Peter's in a netball match. In the first quarter, four amazing goals were scored which then gave us an advantaged in the next quarter. The second quarter was a tight one where St Peter's scored three goals – 4-3 to Bridge! The third quarter was tough but we managed to score two goals and St Peter's scored one. We eventually conquered St Peter's 11-4.

This means that Bridge School ended second in the Canterbury league – well done to the squad.



Year 4 Cricket Finals

We went to the County Cricket Finals at Sidcup on 4th July. We had a quick warm-up (thank you Mr Horne) before all the teams gathered and the organisers explained the rules.

In the first match, there were some unlucky and unfortunate losses of wickets for our batters and, even though we tried our hardest with our bowling and fielding, it wasn't enough and we lost that game.

We were feeling positive for the next game and we battled and scored many runs (Kristupas and Alfie scoring loads). Neivie and Ellis put in a fantastic performance, with Ellis hitting the first six of the tournament, which helped us win the next game.

In the afternoon, we found out we had placed second in the group. We played 2 games and beat the team we lost to in the morning! In the end, we had a nice surprise for our final placing!

Time ran out so we couldn't play our last game so they used runs scored instead. We finished in second place because of our enormous run-rate. Thank you to Mrs Pearson. Who had a very busy day, the mums and dad who helped and supported the team and all the umpires.



Year 6 Mixed Cricket Finals

On Monday, a group of Year 6 children went to a cricket event. It was challenging but we tried our hardest and did very well. There were fourteen teams and four groups, we were in group 2. Our first game we played was against More Park – they played well but, thanks to a good team performance, we won our first game. Briary were our second opponents – we all played fantastically and won. Our final game of the group was against Headcorn. They were our most challenging match of the tournament so far but thanks to a brilliant catch from Ben and some amazing batting from Sam, we won the match and the group stage.

After lunch, we were put into different groups with Amherst, West Lodge and Woodlands. We went into our first match with confidence and, after a very tight match, we won with only a difference of 17 runs. In Mrs Pearson's words: We played like England at Lords!

The next match was against West Lodge, it was a tight match but again we came out on top. Our final game to win the whole competition was against Woodlands. They played well but it was Bridge who came out on top, winning by just 9 runs.



Year 6 Girls Cricket

Last Tuesday, the girls cricket team headed to Sidcup for the Dynamos Cricket tournament. On our first match against Wellsley Haddon Dean, we won by a lot of runs. As we won all of our group stage matches, we came top of our group and progress to the playoffs. We won all our games until we reached the finals against Lady Joanna, which we unfortunately lost by thirty-two runs.

Overall we came second in the county and came back to school with silver medals and a shield.

We had a very fun day and we would like to thank Mrs Pearson and Mr Wren for taking us.



Canterbury Sports Partnership Awards

Key Stage 1 Sports Personality

Jack T

Jack is extremely agile and talented at all sports. He will always try his absolute best and follows instructions well. He challenges himself and performed particularly well at the Infant Agility event, always with a smile on his face!

Key Stage 2 Sports Personality

Sam H

Sam excels at all sports and is very humble and unassuming. He is an outstanding gymnast and hockey player and helped the Year 6 team win the Canterbury & Herne Bay District tournament. Sam will always play in the interests of his team rather than for himself and is a great role model for his peers

Contribution to PE

Jessica B

Whilst being very talented at all sports, especially cricket, hockey and football, Jess is always the first person to offer help to the teacher in PE lessons and helps to gather the necessary equipment without the need for much instruction. She is kind to her peers and respects other members of a team. Jess is keen to try all different types of sports and is enthusiastic.

Sportsmanship Award

Lillian M

Lillian is a very amiable girl and absolutely loves sport. She is very talented at football and cricket and plays for the District/Kent in both. She can always see what is fair and just and will reassure others who may be upset when playing in a team game, or will happily cheer on others from the side-lines. She is honest and generous with her time and goes out of her way to help others.

Upcoming Dates

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

[CALENDAR >](#)

Monday 15th July		
Tuesday 16th July	Willow Class (Year 1) trip to Frampton Farm	
Wednesday 17th July	Rowan Class (Year 1) trip to Frampton Farm	Year 6 Production – The Wizard of Oz
Thursday 18th July		Year 6 Production – The Wizard of Oz
Friday 19th July	End of Year Services (<i>parents invited</i>)	

Monday 22nd July		
Tuesday 23rd July	2pm: Year 6 Leaver's Assembly (<i>parents invited</i>)	
Last Day		

Next Year

Monday 2nd Sept	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 3rd Sept	Staff Training Day
Wednesday 4th Sept	Year R half-days
Thursday 5th Sept	Year R half-days
Friday 6th Sept	Year R half-days

Dates for your Diary

Term 6 (Summer)	
KS2 Sports Afternoon	Friday 12 th July, 1pm
Year 6 Production	Wednesday 17 th July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Year 6 Production	Thursday 18 th July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
End-of-Year Church Services (parents welcome)	Friday 19 th July, 9.30am and 10.30am
Year 6 Leaver's Assembly (parents welcome)	Tuesday 23 rd July, 2pm



**The River
Stour
and its Wildlife
Children's Art
Competition**

Entries to be submitted by
9 September 2024

Three categories with many prizes:
4-7 yrs, 8-11 yrs, 12-15 yrs

Please deliver artworks to
Visitor information desk, The Beaney,
18 High Street, Canterbury
Visit

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/925819490017?aff=oddtcreator> for more information
and Terms and Conditions.