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Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to Bridge School! I've really enjoyed seeing the school come back to life over the past few days. We've welcomed new staff and new children and everyone seems happy, looks smart and there is a positive and productive atmosphere around the school after the quiet of the summer break.

Margaret

I was very sad to hear over the holiday about the death of Margaret Clarke. 'Storytime Margaret' (as she was known by the children) was a regular visitor to Bridge School for over 20 years and, prior to Rev. Estella joining the parish, was the main link between the parish and the school.

Whilst we have seen less of her since COVID, she still maintained regular contact with the children through our Silver Readers scheme and enjoyed attending our musical events.

She was a positive, smiling person with an incredible outlook on everything. Our thoughts are with her family and her friends.



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 8.45am 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.

Please could I also remind parents that they should not drive down School Road without specific permission from the school. This is to ensure the safety of the children as they walk to and from school.

Snacks and Drinks

As we are a healthy school, could I please remind all parents that children's water bottles should only contain water. Ideally they should also be 'spill-proof' so that, if they are knocked over, they won't cause a mess.

Snacks that are brought in should also be fruit or vegetables – cereal bars, crisps, etc. should not come into school as a mid-morning snack.



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



Meet the Staff

As I wrote earlier this week, parents are invited to a Meet the Staff session with their child's class teachers. This is an opportunity to meet the staff, find out what the children will be learning and any other information about the upcoming year. Details are below and we hope that you will be able to join us. If you cannot, do not worry, we will upload the presentations onto the school website.

Tuesday 10th September, 2.45pm: Year 6

Tuesday 17th September, 2.45pm: Year 3

Wednesday 11th September, 2.45pm: Year 2

Wednesday 18th September, 2.45pm: Year 5

Thursday 12th September, 2.45pm: Year 4

Thursday 19th September, 2.45pm: Year 1

Kent Test

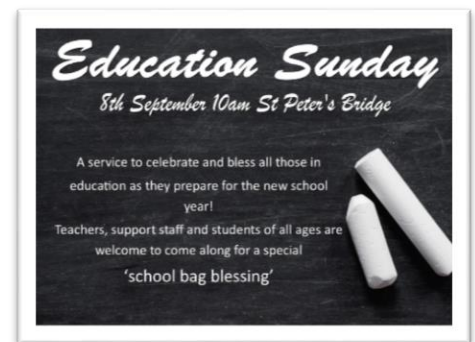
On Thursday, some of our Year 6 children will be taking the Kent Test. This can be a stressful time for children and, as always, I would urge parents to make the whole process as relaxing as possible for the children.

As we are using the hall for the administration of the test, it would be extremely help if parents of Key Stage 2 children could provide a packed lunch for their child if possible. This just means that there isn't so much of a rush for lunch. Please don't worry if you can't - but even if some parents can, it would help a little.

Education Sunday

Rev Estella has asked me to pass on an invitation to an Education Sunday service at St Peter's Church this Sunday.

All are very welcome and we are hoping that we will have some of our children singing, accompanied by Mr Luck (who used to work at the school and is still very much a part of our community). Details are below.



Year R Parents' Welcome Service

All parents of Year R children are welcome to join us at St. Peter's Church, Bridge for a very short service which will take place on Wednesday 27th

September at 2.30pm. This will be led by Rev. Estella and Rev. Miriam. We will walking the children back to school to collect bags and water bottles for home-time.

There will be a plea coming out for parent helpers to walk the children to the church and back.

Year R Phonics Workshop

One of the most important things that an education can provide is teaching children to read and we would like to invite all of our Year R parents to come to a short presentation with the Year R team, who will explain how we teach reading at Bridge School and how parents can support at home. There is no need to book – you can just turn up! The session starts at 2.15pm on Monday 25th September.

Parking

As we start the new school year, we kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring the safety and convenience of all students and families during drop-off and pick-up times. Here are a few important reminders:

- Please avoid blocking driveways, or double-parking. This helps keep traffic flowing smoothly and ensures emergency vehicles can access the area if needed.
- Watch out for children and other pedestrians when driving near the school. Drive slowly and be prepared to stop
- Arriving a few minutes early can help avoid the rush and reduce stress for everyone

Thank you for your attention to these important safety measures. Together, we can create a safe and efficient environment for our children.

Give it All You've Got

This song (which we sang this week) is one of Mr Taylor's favourite's and it's not hard to see why. It has been a classic at Bridge School for many years and brilliantly epitomises the values of creativity, excellence, and resilience.

The song's message of pushing boundaries and striving for greatness mirrors the essence of *creativity*, where innovation and imagination lead to new possibilities. It encourages us to pursue *excellence* by giving our best effort, reflecting a commitment to high standards and continuous improvement. Moreover, the song's emphasis on perseverance and overcoming challenges embodies *resilience*, reminding us that setbacks are opportunities to grow stronger and more determined.

Ultimately, the song underscores the importance of working together; this amplifies our strengths and enables us to reach new heights collectively.

Here's to the year ahead.

Best wishes



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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| ☆ Elliot L (Willow) for his wonderful writing in English. <i>Mrs Cork & Miss M Smith</i> | ☆ Moaz E (Hazel) for settling into Hazel class beautifully and showing great enthusiasm towards his learning. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Robyn F (Rowan) for her fantastic writing all about herself in English this week. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Freddie W (Birch) for having an excellent first few days in your new school and settling in very well. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Astrid F-W (Pine) for settling in so well into her new Year 2 class and doing her best work. <i>Mrs Perfect & Mrs Tomsett</i> | ☆ Leonard M-W (Holly) for an excellent start to Year 5 and for modelling high expectations to his peers. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Alex C (Oak) for a brilliant start to Year 2 and coming to school with a big smile. <i>Miss J Smith</i> | ☆ Harrison K (Maple) for showing independence in maths this week. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Amelie E (Chestnut) for her amazing writing. Keep up the great work! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Stanley V-L (Sycamore) for writing an excellent narrative on Harry Potter's early experiences. <i>Mr Wren</i> |
| ☆ Bess D (Beech) for settling well into Beech class and contributing well in our lessons. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Anna L (Poplar) for being a fantastic help with the garden at Forest School and doing a great job with selling the vegetables. <i>Miss Allen</i> |

*"We are the children of Bridge School
We take a pride in the things we do.
Learning together and having fun,
Who's for a good time, everyone!"*

*Give it all you've got, 'cause you've really
got a lot.
Give it heart, give it mind, give it soul,
don't stop!*

*Everybody is special, everybody has gifts,
So we're gonna work together and we're
gonna learn to give!"*

Upcoming Dates

Monday 9th Sept		
Tuesday 10th Sept		2.45pm Meet the Team (Year 6)
Wednesday 11th Sept		2.45pm Meet the Team (Year 2)
Thursday 12th Sept	Kent Test (Year 6)	2.45pm Meet the Team (Year 4)
Friday 13th Sept		

Monday 16nd Sept		
Tuesday 17rd Sept		2.45pm Meet the Team (Year 3)
Wednesday 18th Sept	<i>Year 6 Residential</i>	2.45pm Meet the Team (Year 5)
Thursday 19th Sept	<i>Year 6 Residential</i>	2.45pm Meet the Team (Year 1)
Friday 20th Sept	<i>Year 6 Residential</i>	

Monday 23rd Sept	Year 4 Creed Trip	
Tuesday 24th Sept	Year 4 Creed Trip	
Wednesday 25th Sept	Year R Welcome Service	
Thursday 26th Sept	Rugby Active in School (Year 3, 4 and 5)	Year 6 Forest School Trip
Friday 27th Sept		

Dates for your Diary (2024-25)

Term 1 (Autumn)	
Kent Test	Thursday 12 th September
Year 6 Residential	Wednesday 18 th September to Friday 20 th September
Year R Welcome Service	Wednesday 25 th September, 2.30pm
Anaphylaxis Awareness Week (charity fundraiser)	Monday 30 th September
PTFA AGM	Thursday 10 th October, 6pm
Harvest Services	Thursday 17 th October (morning)
Year 5 Residential	Monday 21 st October to Wednesday 23 rd October
Staff Training Day	Thursday 24 th October
Staff Training Day	Friday 25 th October
Term 2 (Autumn)	
Bridge Fireworks	Saturday 9 th November
Advent Services	Thursday 28 th November (morning)
Salvation Army Carol Concert	Thursday 28 th November, 7.30pm
Year 2 Nativity Performances	Tuesday 10 th December (afternoon)
	Wednesday 11 th December (morning)
Christmas Jumper Day (charity fundraiser)	Thursday 12 th December
Senior Citizen's Tea Party	Thursday 12 th December, 1.30pm
Year R Nativity Performances	Tuesday 17 th December (afternoon)
	Wednesday 17 th December (morning)
Christmas Dinner	Friday 20 th December
Term 3 (Spring)	
Ski Trip to Italy	Sunday 19 th January to Friday 24 th January
Young Voices	Thursday 23 rd January
Term 4 (Spring)	
PTFA Quiz Night	TBC
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March
World Down Syndrome Day (charity fundraiser)	Friday 21 st March
French Exchange (hosting)	Monday 31 st March to Friday 4 th April
Term 5 (Summer)	
Easter Services	Thursday 24 th April (morning)
Christian Aid Week (charity fundraiser)	Monday 12 th May
Year 6 SATS	Monday 12 th May to Thursday 15 th May
French Exchange (to Montpellier)	Monday 19 th May to Friday 24 th May
Dare to be Different	Friday 24 th May
Term 6 (Summer)	
Staff Training Day	Monday 2 nd June
Wear Yellow for Cystic Fibrosis (charity fundraiser)	Friday 20 th June
Sports Afternoon (Year R to 2)	Monday 23 rd June
Sports Afternoon (Year 3 to 6)	Thursday 26 th June
Moving Up Day	Thursday 3 rd July
Bridge Village Fete	Saturday 5 th /12 th July (TBC)
Year 6 Production	Tuesday 15 th July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Year 6 Production	Wednesday 16 th July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
End-of-Year Church Services	Thursday 17 th July (morning)
Year 6 Leaver's Assembly	Tuesday 22 nd July, 2pm