

Executive Headteacher: James Tibbles
Head of School: Michael Taylor

Tel: 01227 830276
Email: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.bridge.kent.sch.uk

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



Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This week has seen a slight pause in all Christmas related activities in the school, although it has been lovely hearing festive music and the Nativity practises coming from the hall. On Monday, I took Birch class to an art workshop in Folkestone, with the children having a great couple of hours making models and doing some large format art work. Thank you to Mrs Smith for arranging the event and writing up another fantastic blog about it. Read all about it [here](#).



In other exciting news, I am thrilled to announce that Bertie, one of our year 1 pupils, has won the parish Christmas card competition. Her design really stood out for its creative and colourful portrayal of the Christmas story.

These cards are given to all the children of the school as well as members of the local Parish.

Well done again Bertie!

500 Word Story Winners

Miss Andrews, Mr Perfect and myself have had the pleasure of reading over fifty 500-word stories over the last few weeks. There was a brilliant range of ideas and creativity with the stories really highlighting how imaginative the children are.

We have managed to whittle the stories down to five Year 1 to 3 winners, and ten Year 4 -6 winners. These stories will be published and turned into their own book, with each child and class receiving their own copy. In addition to their own books, each child also earned 5 house points for their houses.



Well done to all the pupils who took part this year!

Our Winners

Sadie G
Oliver T
Emersyn S
Zac C
Orla D

Ines R
Rene M
Holly B
Ziva U
Lily W

Noah M
Talya Y
Spiros V
Njasha M
Patrick P



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



Senior Citizens Tea Party

This Thursday, is our Senior Citizens Tea Party in the school hall - an afternoon of music, tea and biscuits. We still have spaces for senior citizens to attend the event, one that is always a highlight of our build up to Christmas. If you know of someone in the local community (family member, neighbour etc.) who would be interested in attending then please get them to contact Morny in the office who is compiling our guest list. Doors will open at 1.15 for a 1.30 start.

Christmas Jumpers



To help the tea party truly come to life we coordinate the afternoon with national Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 12th December. Donations for wearing them on the day will go to Save the Children and we will have buckets on the playground and pots in the classrooms.



Year 2 Nativity

The Year 2 children will be giving two performances which will take place in the church on Tuesday 10th Dec (2pm) and Wednesday 11th Dec (9.30am) – given that space in the church is limited please can I ask parents to limit themselves to two spaces per family per day.

Generosity

In the front foyer we still have three boxes for the following donations underneath our Christmas tree, any donation - big or small - is very much appreciated.

Chocolate Oranges

We are still collecting chocolate oranges to give a much-deserved thank you to staff from Pilgrims Hospice, East Kent Hospitals, and South East Coast Ambulance.



New Toys

Every child deserves a special gift during the festive season, and your donations will help make this possible. Additionally, we will be collecting new toys for the Salvation Army present drive. There are currently over 400 children that the Salvation Army have identified as in need of a toy this Christmas. If you have any new toys that you would like to contribute, please bring them to the school office.

Canterbury Food Bank

Finally, continue our tradition of collecting for the [Canterbury Food Bank](#) as they continue their tradition of the Reverse Advent Calendar. As we all come together to celebrate with our loved ones, let us not forget those who may be struggling to put food on the table. Any non-perishable food items that you can spare will be greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference to those in need.

All the best,

Michael Taylor
Head of School



**Artsmark
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Celebration

Star Pupils

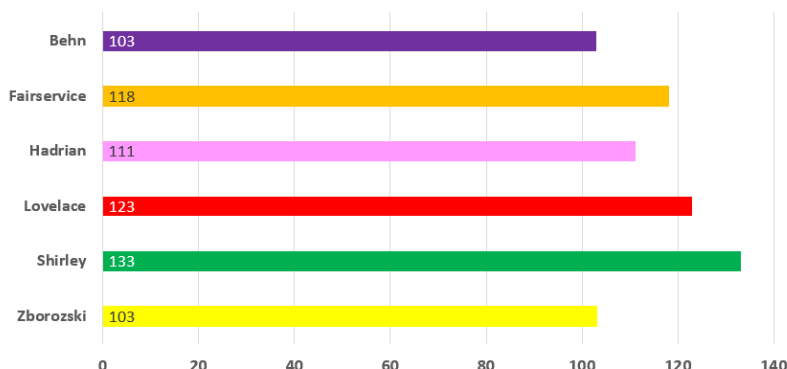
Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

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|---|---|
| ☆ Zara S (Elm) for being such an excellent role model in all areas of her learning. A superstar! <i>Mr Redpath</i> | ☆ Cohen F-M (Hazel) for continuously having a positive attitude towards all areas of his learning. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Teddy C (Ash) for being a helpful and always persevering! <i>Miss Ellison</i> | ☆ Ernest R (Birch) for his excellent execution of a 'chip' shot in tri-golf this week. Well done! <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Felix S (Willow) for demonstrating perseverance and skill when using a palm drill in forest school! <i>Mrs Cork & Miss M Smith</i> | ☆ Avid T (Birch) for showing compassion when coming to my rescue in the dinner hall yesterday, after my tumble! <i>Mrs McInnes</i> |
| ☆ Chloe B (Rowan) for her fantastic story all about a superhero. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Benny Y (Holly) for confidently leading the prayer on the candle of Hope in the Church. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Max H (Pine) for really working hard at his self-control and good behaviour. FAB-U-LOUS MAX! <i>Mrs Perfect & Mrs Tomsett</i> | ☆ Dylan L (Maple) for an amazing effort in your handwriting – now I can read your fantastic ideas. Well done and keep it up. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Polly B-C (Oak) for a great piece of writing linked to 'The Great Fire of London' Well done! <i>Miss J Smith</i> | ☆ Niamh R (Poplar) having the confidence to answer maths questions in class. <i>Mrs Saint & Miss Allen</i> |
| ☆ Carson C (Chestnut) for his enthusiasm and answering some tricky questions in Science! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | |
| ☆ Logan D (Beech) for his creative story based on going inside a pyramid. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | |

House Points Competition

Children across the school have been working hard and the numbers of house points are starting to ramp up. The results were shared with the children at celebration worship today.

Well done to Shirley house who, thanks to their 500 word story winners, earned the greatest number of house points shooting themselves into first place.



It was lovely to play host to the following 6 children for a quick cup of hot chocolate this afternoon. Arthur O-C name was pulled out the hat first but he is not in school so will be joining us next week.

- Henry P (Holly) - Hadrian
- Thea (Beech) – Zborowski
- Ethan (Chestnut) - Lovelace
- Sophia (Rowan) - Hadrian
- Mona H (Poplar) - Hadrian
- Evelyn (Oak) - Hadrian

Christmas Events

Year R Nativity

I hope that our Year R families are looking forward to the Year R's performance in just over a weeks' time on Tuesday 17th December (2.15pm) and Wednesday 18th December (9.30am) – doors will open 15 minutes before each performance.

This will be a seated performance and you have been able to book up to two spaces for each performance from Monday 18th November. Please note that, in the interests of fairness, seating will be randomly allocated.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner sign up continues. Just a reminder that one of the 'quirks' of the system means that we've had to list it under 'trips' but, if you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner on the last day of term, please order this by Thursday 12th December. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers to celebrate the occasion

Christmas 'Party' Day

An extra date for your diary, and another opportunity to roll out the Christmas jumper. On Thursday 19th December the children will be having their class Christmas Party day. This is a lovely day, with Year 5 and Year 6 children hosting activities for the rest of the school and individual classes having their own class parties.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 9th Dec		
Tuesday 10th Dec	Year 2 Nativity 2pm at the Church	
Wednesday 11th Dec	Year 2 Nativity 9.30 am at the Church	
Thursday 12th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day	Senior Citizen's Tea Party 13.30 – 15.15
Friday 13th Dec	PTA Christmas craft morning	

Monday 16th Dec			
Tuesday 17th Dec	School Christingle Service in school (just pupils)	Reception Nativity 2.15pm School Hall	Ski Trip Pre-Meeting 4.30pm Year 6 classroom
Wednesday 18th Dec	Reception Nativity 9.30am School Hall		
Thursday 19th Dec	Christmas Party Day – Wear Christmas Jumpers		
Friday 20th Dec	Christmas Lunch – Wear Christmas Jumpers		

Monday 6th Jan			
Tuesday 7th Jan			
Wednesday 8th Jan			
Thursday 9th Jan			
Friday 10th Jan			

Dates for your Diary (2024-25)

Term 2 (Autumn)	
Bridge Fireworks	Saturday 9 th November
Christmas Events	
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)
Carols in the Village	Thursday 18 th December
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	Friday 21 st March
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 23 rd 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