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Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been a busy week in school this week. Today we have been lucky enough to have Tom Delahunt, our resident poet, come in and work with each class. Tom introduced us to a new project and book which focusses on the transformation of a butterfly. The overarching question which the book asks is 'Does the caterpillar know that one day he will be a butterfly?'. Tom linked this question to the children's perceptions of who they are, how to accept themselves and embracing change in the future.



As a school over the rest of the school year, we will monitor the transformation of butterflies taking place, with butterfly farms set up across the school for the children to observe. We look forward to Tom coming back later in the school year and see where this exciting project will take us!

Children's Mental Health Week



This week has also been Children's Mental Health Week, with some of our classes creating a range of work thinking about their own mental health and how they can see the positives in themselves. As an example, Year 2 completed a range of activities where they thought about their senses, and how these provide happiness in different ways, as well as some mindful colouring. They also thought about how important the positive words to their peers are and the impact of saying unkind things can have.

In addition, YoungMinds and M&S are working together to support young people's mental health. They're calling on young people across the UK to get drawing and take part in M&S x YoungMinds Young Designer Competition – to design a new hoodie or sweatshirt – for the chance to have their design sold in M&S stores and online across the UK to support YoungMinds' work.

The new hoodie and sweater will go on sale to celebrate this year's Hello Yellow, when schools and communities come together on World Mental Health Day, to show young people they're not alone with their mental health. You can find out more information on how to enter on the M&S website [here](#).

Million Word Readers

I am delighted to say that we have our first group of children of the academic year who have read over one million words! Congratulations to the following children, especially Millie who has already read almost 2 ½ million words!

**1,000,000
WORDS!!**



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



Millie B, Patrick P, Alex H, Heidi N, Niklas W, Sophie L and Bruno S.

These children all received a £10 book voucher and a million-word reader gold star in collective worship this morning.

Troll Competition – from Mrs Smith

It all started when a group of Trolls invaded the library.....

A massive thank you to all the children who entered our Troll Competition and to those who supported children at home. Mrs Tomsett and I are absolutely delighted with the all wonderful, creative entries. We have been overwhelmed with the children's enthusiasm, effort and the quality of work including: drawings, sculptures, architectural models, costumes, stories and even a play!

It was really hard to choose winners – there was a lot of fantastic work - but Mrs T and I managed it with a little help from Mrs Long and Mrs Cork – thank you.

All of the children who entered should have collected a certificate on Friday.

Winners are:

Year R – Theresa-Marie B (Ash class)

KS1 – Amelia M (Willow class)

KS2 – Ava W (Hazel class)



Well done to everyone who entered! Look out for the next competition. Parents – if you have any ideas or would like to sponsor a future prize then please contact Mrs Smith or Mrs Tomsett.

Chinese New Year Celebration

Vinelysia in Year 4, and students from Chinese Learning Paradise, performed their Chinese New Year dance titled 'Fishes Playfully Swimming Among Lotus Leaves' on Wednesday 22nd January in the Gulbenkian theatre at the University of Kent. They proved to be a big hit in the event as an opening dance. The Mayor of Canterbury, Jean Butcher, gave these children special praise individually and presented them with certificates of appreciation. They are also going to perform in the biggest Chinese New Year event in East Kent on Sunday 9th February, where their dance will be the finale to the programme – good luck Vinelysia and well done!



RSPCA - Fundraising

Talya in Year 6, is hoping to raise some money for the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals) next week. She will be making and selling some book marks on Wednesday after school, to all parents and children. They will be available at a bargain price of only 20p, with all money going directly to the charity. As she said to the children in worship today, every little helps and could help an animal in need. She will also be selling them in the school office for the remainder of next week, if you don't catch her on the playground on Wednesday.



A Final Plea from Mrs Pearman

Mrs Pearman is still on the hunt for some old shelves for the polytunnel. The shelves could be wooden, metal or plastic. If you have any shelves sitting around then I know she would appreciate them – please email Mrs Pearman via the school office.



Improving Playtimes

We know that the children have an amazing experience at Bridge School but we're also aware that where there are issues, they tend to come from the more unstructured times of the time, specifically break and lunchtime. These times can be challenging for a variety of reasons and since September, we have been looking into ways of making playtimes better for our children.

To help us, we have brought in the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Primary Programme to assist in improve opportunities for play, make sure our outdoor environment provides the best range of experiences for the children and help our staff feel even more confident in helping all children have a great playtime every day. This means that soon our playtimes will be getting even more fun and we hope every child will love them.

First though, before we begin the programme, we need to know what you think about playtimes now. **We would be so grateful if you could complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQ2BCZV> by 10th February please.**

This data will help us know where we are now, and plan for and measure the changes across the school over the next couple of years.

In the coming 18 months, you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Find out more about Outdoor People, the non-profit that runs the OPAL programme across East London and East Kent, from their website: <https://outdoorpeople.org.uk/>

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Michael Taylor

Celebration

Star Pupils

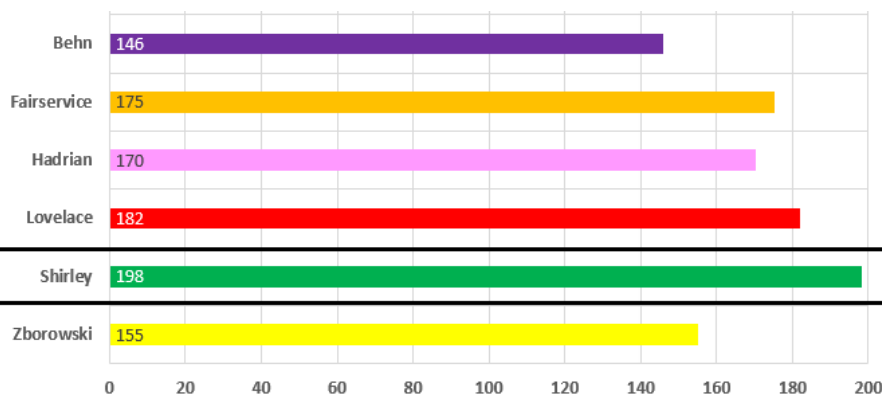
Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

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| ☆ Jason L (Elm) for fantastic work in Maths working out his number bonds to 10. <i>Mr Redpath</i> | ☆ Aarha H (Beech) for always taking great care and pride in every piece of work she produces. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> |
| ☆ Arthur (Ash) for trying so hard with his writing. <i>Miss Ellison</i> | ☆ Ruben T (Hazel) For showing an incredible level of independence and enthusiasm towards his Biography writing. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Cohen R (Willow) for working hard to make an excellent picture in our art lesson! <i>Mrs Cork & Miss M Smith</i> | ☆ Gabriel M (Birch) for his excellent coordination during the 'magic diamond' drill during tag rugby. Well done! <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Annabel S (Rowan) for her fantastic attitude towards her learning. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Teoman A (Holly) for taking great care in the presentation of his work this week, particularly in Maths! <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Callia J (Pine) for her ideas and creativity in her writing and for increased resilience in the classroom. <i>Mrs Tomsett & Mrs Perfect</i> | ☆ Finley K (Maple) sharing his creative writing from home and generally being an all-round friend and member of Maple. 😊 <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Izzy S (Oak) for her increased enthusiasm towards reading and her continued positive attitude towards her learning. <i>Miss J Smith</i> | ☆ Samuel T (Sycamore) for pushing himself out of his comfort zone in order to improve. <i>Mr Wren</i> |
| ☆ Albie B (Chestnut) for his fantastic progress in reading. Keep up the great work! Well done!. <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Mollie R (Poplar) for working so hard in maths and developing her independence – well done! <i>Mrs Saint & Mrs Allen</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 Shirley house who, this week, earned the greatest number of house points this week extending their lead at the top!



Each week, we select six random children to come and enjoy a hot chocolate with either myself or Mr Taylor. This week's lucky six are:

- Maddie (Pine) – Zborowski
- Max (Pine) - Zborowski
- Camilla (Hazel) - Lovelace
- Luke (Maple) - Behn
- Rory (Birch) - Zborowski
- Angus (Chestnut) - Lovelace

Upcoming Dates

Monday 10th February		
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day	Year 3/4 Football
Wednesday 12th February		
Thursday 13th February		
Friday 14th February		

Half Term Holiday

Monday 24th February		
Tuesday 25th February	Hazel Class – Creative Folkestone Trip	
Wednesday 26th February		
Thursday 27th February		
Friday 28th February		

Monday 3rd March	Rapid Fire Cricket Competition	
Tuesday 4th March	Cross Country Competition	
Wednesday 5th March		
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day	
Friday 7th March		

Dates for your Diary (2024-25)

Term 4 (Spring)	
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March
World Down Syndrome Day (charity fundraiser)	Friday 21 st March
PTFA Quiz Night	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 23 rd 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 12 th July, 12pm to 4pm
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