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Friday 27th June 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

I wanted to share some exciting news about our recent OPAL session and touch on something that's been on my mind lately - our children's mental and emotional wellbeing.

On Wednesday this week, we hosted the first of our OPAL parents sessions, and what a success it was! Approximately 60 parents attended to see OPAL in action, and I heard lots of positive comments throughout the afternoon. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, engaging with what we're doing and seeing first-hand how your children learn and play.

As part of the visit, parents learnt how play is so important to children's mental and emotional health, and this is something that we're all concerned about. Play isn't just fun - it's fundamental to how our pupils develop resilience, creativity, and those crucial social skills they'll carry with them throughout their lives.

Do look out for more opportunities to come and see OPAL in action in the future. I'm sure we'll be running more sessions soon.

Whilst on the subject of children's mental and emotional health, I do want to talk about something else that's been weighing on my mind - children's use of smart phones and access to the internet, specifically social media. More and more, I'm hearing about younger children with unsupervised access to such devices, and I would urge all parents to consider the role that technology is playing in their parenting.

Now, I'm sure we've all been guilty of relying on a screen at times - I know I have! But I am concerned about recent reports that highlight the amount of time our children (and I say this broadly) are spending on their screens. It's not about being anti-technology, but rather about finding that healthy balance we all need.

We do have some parent guides to technology and social media (including TikTok – yes I'm looking at you Year 6!) on our school website – please do take a look: <https://www.bridge.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/online-safety>

Coincidentally, this week, I was invited to a round table discussion with Rosie Duffield (amongst others) in September to discuss the impact of smart phones on young people's mental health and wellbeing. This topic is gaining traction, and I think it's an opportune time to review our own approach to such devices - both as a school and as families.

Kind regards

James Tibbles



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



Coming Up

Moving Up Day – Thursday 3rd July

Moving Up Day is our annual transition day where our Year 6 children will be at their new secondary schools and therefore we take the opportunity to have all the children spend the day with their new class teacher.

The arrangements for this day will be much the same as it has been for the previous few years; the children will come into school as normal and spend most of the day with their new teachers and teaching assistants before returning to their classrooms before the end of the day.

Summer Fete – Saturday 12th July

It's not long until our annual summer fete – an event that I've heard numerous people describe as '*the best summer fete we've ever attended*'. This doesn't happen without a great deal of work from parents, staff and other members of the community.

In order to ensure that this event is '*the best summer fete we've ever attended*', we rely on parental support. Please do consider offering just half-hour of your time on the day to support your class reps who are organising the stalls.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets came home last week – please sell as many as you can! Stubs and money should be returned to the school office in an envelope and more are available from the office! The more we sell, the more money we make for the school and the children.

Arena Performances

As last year, all children are invited to come to the arena and perform with their class – we'd love as many children as possible to showcase the excellent music and dance that takes place at Bridge School.

Timings are on the right, please note that this is the start time of the performance and pupils should be ready 10 minutes before – we will be using Mrs Harvey-Maw's classroom as a meeting point.

12.30pm	Dance Xtreme
1.00pm	Year 6
1.15pm	Year 5
1.30pm	Year 4
1.45pm	Year 3
2.00pm	Choir
2.30pm	Year 2
2.45pm	Year 1
3.00pm	Year R

Nerf Battles

Always a popular one with the children and I'm extremely appreciative that Primary Sports Giants have very kindly offered to run these again for us. Sessions are £5 for half-hour and can be pre-booked on Arbor in the 'shop'.

Booking is now open and will close at 11am on the day of the fete – although spaces can still be paid for on the day subject to availability.



Bring a Bottle Day

On Monday 30th June, we're asking for donations of bottles that can be used in the bottle tombola. These can be anything from wine, other alcoholic drinks, soft drinks (or anything that comes in a bottle) - please don't send anything in that is out of date. The main office is the collection point.

Notices

New Classes

Below you can find where staff will be teachign and working next year. If your child is in Year 1 or Year 4 then you will receive a separate email to let you know about these allocations.

Mrs C Smith, Mr Miles and Mrs Brooks will continue to teach Art and Music across the school. Mrs Pearman will continue Forest School and some of the Speech and Language work in Year R and 1. Mrs McLean will be working Monday to Thursday as our new Inclusion Lead!

I'm also pleased to let parents know that Faith Harvey will be starting her teacher training with us from September. She is an incredible asset to the school and I have no doubt that she will make an excellent teacher.

Finally, due to changes in the Local Authority (i.e. less money!), I will not be doing regular school improvement work next year so Mr Taylor and I will revert back to deputy headteacher and headteacher respectively.

New Class	Teacher	TA(s)	Previous Class
Ash	Kate Ellison	Lisa Pearman (Mon) Chloe David (Tues to Fri)	-
Elm	Graham Redpath Mary Smith (Thurs)	Megan Shirley	-
Willow	Karen Cork (Tues to Fri) Faith Harvey (Apprentice Teacher)	Phoebe Perrott	Ash
Rowan	Louise Andrews	Monica Munday Karen Scott	Elm
Pine	Jordan Ablett	Samantha Kay-Bradley	Mix
Oak	Jo Smith	Caz Langsdon	Mix
Beech	Gemma Dennett	Justine Hart Jody Upton (Thurs/Fri)	Pine
Chestnut	Sara Amelia	Nicole Moon TBC	Oak
Hazel	Julia Perfect (Mon) Alice Harvey-Maw (Tues to Fri)	Sarah Pinnington (Mon/Tues) Alison Saunders (Wed to Fri)	Beech
Birch	Amanda Saint (Mon to Wed) Sue Tomsett (Wed to Fri)	Debbie McCoy	Chestnut
Maple	Helen Allison	Sophie Loughlin	Mix
Holly	James Perfect	Rachel McInnes (Mon to Wed)	Mix
Poplar	Leo Chamberlain	Charlotte Radford	Holly
Sycamore	James Wren (Monday to Thursday) Michael Taylor (Friday)	Nik Corall Alex Brooks (Mon to Thurs)	Maple

Parent Survey

Each year, we ask parents to complete a short survey about their experiences of the school and we use these responses to shape our school development plan next year as well as recognise success from the past year. I would invite all parents to complete the linked survey and feedback on what they feel has worked well this year and any suggestions of how we could improve things for the children. Link: <https://forms.gle/1tEeVBHnNrjnnvuz6>

News & Blogs

Sports Day Results

I want say a huge well done to all the children who took part in our Sports Days. They have all shown such fantastic spirit, determination, and sportsmanship. It's been wonderful to see everyone giving their best effort and supporting each other along the way.

I also need to give a big thank you to all our staff who worked so hard to make these events possible. These events simply wouldn't happen without their commitment and enthusiasm.

Now for the exciting bit - our house results! Congratulations to Behn, Fairservice, and Hadrian houses who are our winners this year. What an achievement! You should all feel incredibly proud of yourselves. The trophies will be engraved and then displayed in our school reception area for everyone to see and admire.



Butterfly dress on display at CCCU

Year 4 Fashion and Textiles club are pleased to announce that their butterfly dress is finished and now displayed at Canterbury Christchurch Bookshop!

Our club is being led by one of our Year 6 Art Leaders, Tamsin; we have been designing a butterfly dress inspired by our 'whole school project' which is in collaboration with author Tom Delahunt (Christchurch University).

Dulcima, a local sustainable fashion designer and creator, also very kindly joined us to help with the skirt of our dress. A big thank again to Tamsin and Dulcima and also to Mrs Tomsett for all her support.

For more information about Tom Delahunt's project, please visit:

https://open.substack.com/pub/thomasdelahunt/p/the-wing-beat-begins-standing-on?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=41fro5

The dress will be displayed throughout the summer; please take the time to visit the dress at the CCCU bookshop on The Christchurch University campus. For now though, please check out the gallery on the [blog post](#).



Year 4 Athletics

On June the 17th, 11 people were chosen to go to Canterbury Academy for an exciting Athletics event.

We did lots of different sports like sprinting, throwing and jumping. We all liked the long jump in the sandpit.

We had a lot of fun and it was an amazing experience. We would like to thank Mrs Brooks and Mrs Corall for taking us.

Jack W, Taylor and Arbin



Year 2 Multi-Skills Competition

On Thursday 5 girls and 5 boys from year 2 went to Petham Primary School to take part in the Multi-skills competition against some other schools in Canterbury.

There were 8 different activities like assault course races, target practise and running challenges. We worked really hard as a team to try to score the highest points possible. Even though we were aiming for a high score we still remembered that the most important thing was to try our best and have fun. Our hard work paid off as we managed to finish with over 300 points.

We all sat down to find out who had won the competition. 3rd place St Stephens Infant School, 2nd place Blean Primary School and 1st Place Bridge School!!! We all felt very proud of our year 2 team and were very pleased to be awarded with a gold medal.

We would like to thank Mrs Langston for organising and to Mrs Brooks and Miss Harvey for coming with us.



Celebration

Star Pupils

In line with our Christian vision, every Friday we celebrate children who have made a positive difference either to themselves, their community or the wider world.



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| ☆ Ivy W (Elm) for a fantastic effort in her independent writing. <i>Mr Redpath</i> | ☆ Albie B (Chestnut) for independently writing his own version of The Sound Collector Poem! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> |
| ☆ Olly M (Ash) for being a lovely member of Ash class and always trying his best. <i>Miss Ellison</i> | ☆ Jaxon H (Hazel) for always contributing in lessons and continuously striving to do his best. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Noah D-S (Rowan) for showing a great understanding when recognizing the different coins in maths. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Umaiza K (Birch) for her excellent contributions during our flashbacks in Maths this year. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Josie W (Willow) for her enthusiasm and positive approach to her learning. <i>Mrs Cork and Mrs M Smith</i> | ☆ Arianna S (Holly) for excellently helping her Year 2 partner with the pupil survey this week. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Mollie M (Pine) for fantastic participation at the multi-skills games and for having a great week at school. <i>Mrs Tomsett & Mrs Perfect</i> | ☆ Harry B (Maple) for being reliable, helpful, thoughtful, a good friend to others and always giving 100% in all he does. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Frankie P-A (Oak) for thinking carefully about his dragon design and confidently sharing his ideas with the class! <i>Miss J Smith</i> | ☆ Maria S (Poplar) for preparing so well for her role as the Baroness in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang! <i>Mrs Saint & Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Thea P (Beech) for her enthusiastic efforts in Sports Afternoon both in running and cheering the rest of the house on. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Henry T (Sycamore) for supporting all members of Hadrian house during Sports Day. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> |



Each week, we select six random children to come and enjoy a hot chocolate. This week's lucky six had the pleasure of having hot chocolate with me this afternoon are:

Lukas (Ash)	Harriet (Willow)	Thea (Chestnut)
Millie (Willow)	Oliver (Beech)	Naksh (Chestnut)

Upcoming Dates

Monday 30th June	
Tuesday 1st July	Year 4/6 Rounders Competition
Wednesday 2nd July	Year 1 Frampton Farm Trip Year 4 Cricket Finals
Thursday 3rd July	Transition/Moving Up Day
Friday 4th July	

Monday 7th July	
Tuesday 8th July	Year 6 County Cricket Finals
Wednesday 9th July	Year 1 Frampton Farm Trip
Thursday 10th July	
Friday 11th July	Summer Fete on Saturday

Monday 14th July		
Tuesday 15th July	Church Services	1.30pm and 6.30pm: Year 6 Production – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (Red Cast)
Wednesday 16th July		1.30pm and 6.30pm: Year 6 Production – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (Green Cast)
Thursday 17th July		
Friday 18th July		

Dates for your Diary (2024-25)

Term 6 (Summer)	
Moving Up Day	Thursday 3 rd July
Bridge Village Fete	Saturday 12 th July, 12pm to 4pm
End-of-Year Church Services	Tuesday 15 th July (morning)
Year 6 Production (Red Cast)	Tuesday 15 th July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Year 6 Production (Green Cast)	Wednesday 16 th July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Year 6 Leaver's Assembly	Tuesday 22 nd July, 2pm