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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are rapidly approaching the end of the summer term and I hope that your children enjoyed their day yesterday with their new class teacher and teaching assistants. I know that the staff were looking forward to meeting the children and had a positive day.

Yesterday, I met with the parents of our new Year R children and talked about the school and the importance of partnership between home and school and, as we continue to work together to provide the best possible education for all our pupils, I wanted to share some important information with you regarding changes to Special Educational Needs (SEN) funding that will affect our school.

Like many schools across the country, we have been informed of reductions in SEN funding allocations for the coming year. This is a national trend that we are seeing but Kent is particularly affected due to the high cost of SEND provision in the county.

As a larger school, we have been in a better position than many other schools who, over the past couple of years, have had to restructure and lose staff. Last year, we faced losing staff but my work with the local authority brought additional money into the school and we were able to keep staff on – however we are now facing the same challenges that other schools have been facing for the past couple of years.

### *Our Response*

I want to reassure every parent that our commitment to providing high-quality inclusive teaching for all children remains unwavering. Our school vision - *opportunities for everyone to flourish and grow within the love of God* - remains at the heart of everything we do. This vision guides our approach to supporting every child, including those with special educational needs, ensuring they develop their unique gifts and become the best version of themselves.

Despite these funding challenges, we will continue to:

- Maintain our graduated 'assess, plan, do, review' approach for all pupils with SEN
- Work closely with you as parents to understand your child's individual needs
- Ensure teachers feel empowered and supported to make informed decisions about next steps for your child's learning
- Provide targeted support where it is most needed
- Create opportunities for every child to flourish regardless of their starting point or additional needs

We are responding to these challenges in a number of ways:

We have safeguarded class teaching assistants in Years R to 3 and a year group teaching assistant in Years 4 to 6.



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



We have reviewed our current provision and ensured that we have targeted the TA support to where the greatest need is – focusing on our younger children and classes with greater levels of SEND. This does mean that some TAs will be supporting across more than one class.

We are continuing to invest in our staff's knowledge in SEN provision, ensuring that all teachers and teaching assistants have the knowledge and skills to support all learners.

### More Information

If you would like more information about the changes that KCC are making, they are hosting a webinar jointing with Kent PACT (Kent Parents and Carers Together) on a number of dates. <https://kentpactnew2022.co.uk/kcc-webinar/>

A copy of the leaflet (right) is attached alongside this newsletter.

### Our Commitment

While these funding changes present challenges, they will not diminish our commitment to your children's success. Together, as a community rooted in Christian values, we will continue to provide the caring, inclusive education your children deserve, ensuring every pupil has the opportunity to flourish.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

With warm regards

*James Tibbles*



## Coming Up

### Summer Fete – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 have come home – 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.

<b>12.30pm</b>	Dance Xtreme
<b>1.00pm</b>	Year 6
<b>1.15pm</b>	Year 5
<b>1.30pm</b>	Year 4
<b>1.45pm</b>	Year 3
<b>2.00pm</b>	Choir
<b>2.30pm</b>	Year 2
<b>2.45pm</b>	Year 1
<b>3.00pm</b>	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.



## News & Blogs

### [Creative Folkestone workshop, triennial and exhibition](#)

The Folkestone Triennial is an arts festival held every three years in Folkestone and is taking place this summer/ autumn from Saturday 19th July - Sunday 19th October 2025. We are part of it this year!

Yes! We are exhibiting our work at the Folkestone Triennial! A group of pupils from Years 3, 4 and 5 were invited to take part in an art workshop about Folkestone's geology, its past, present and future; the artwork was made using layers of drawing and a variety of art media.

Please do visit the exhibition if you can and take time to visit the Triennial over the summer. There is a great bus route from Canterbury (via South Canterbury and Bridge) to Folkestone (number 16).



## Graphics workshop - Year one!

A massive thank you to Kasana (Felix's dad) for coming into school last week and running a Graphics Workshop for our Year one students. Kasana is a Graphic Designer and works on campaigns and projects by well-known brands.

He began the morning by explaining to the children what a Graphic Designer is and how you may become one. Yes, you can make a career from The Arts, and here at Bridge we aim to highlight this and nurture our children's passions and talents!



## 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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|--|---|
| ☆ <b>Joshua B (Elm)</b> for fantastic work and a great effort during his transition day to year one. <i>Mr Redpath</i>   | ☆ <b>Leo W (Hazel)</b> for showing initiative and independently challenging himself more within her learning. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i>                                       |
| ☆ <b>Anica Y (Ash)</b> for her fantastic reading and confidence with year one digraphs. <i>Miss Ellison</i>  | ☆ <b>Lily W (Birch)</b> for her excellent efforts with her learning all round this year. Keep working hard! Well done. <i>Mr Perfect</i>                                  |
| ☆ <b>Maizie H (Rowan)</b> for always having such a positive attitude to her learning and helping the teachers to tidy up all year! Thank you Maizie! <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ <b>Njasha M (Holly)</b> for being an all-round superstar and helping in the classroom without needing to be asked. <i>Mr Ablett</i>                                     |
| ☆ <b>Teoman R (Willow)</b> for conquering his fears and being so very brave when feeding all the animals at the farm. <i>Mrs Cork and Mrs M Smith</i>                    | ☆ <b>Noah T (Maple)</b> for being a shining example of our school values throughout the year and sharing his amazing science knowledge with us! <i>Miss Allison</i>       |
| ☆ <b>Felix A (Pine)</b> for sharing your enthusiasm and learning in our science topic. <i>Mrs Tomsett &amp; Mrs Perfect</i>  | ☆ <b>Kaitlyn F-M (Poplar)</b> for being respectful and asking thoughtful questions during our church trip to learn about Holy communion! <i>Mrs Saint &amp; Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ <b>Polly B-C (Oak)</b> for being a true role model to Oak class and always taking pride in the work that she produces! <i>Miss J Smith</i>                             | ☆ <b>Callum B-J (Sycamore)</b> for always trying his hardest to help his classmates with their parts in the play. <i>Mr Wren</i>  |
| ☆ <b>Leo M (Beech)</b> for his fantastic Teacher Pleaser design. <i>Mrs Dennett</i>  | ☆ <b>Oliver P (Sycamore)</b> for delivering his lines expertly during our practices for the Year 6 play. <i>Mr Wren</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Esme W (Chestnut)</b> for being a consistent hard worker and always doing her best in everything. <i>Mrs Amelia</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 Mr Taylor this afternoon are:

Polly (Oak)	Elena (Rowan)	Rupert (Poplar)
Leeroy (Sycamore)	Oscar (Birch)	Adar (Rowan)

## Upcoming Dates

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

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

<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>		
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>		2pm: Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (parents invited)

## Dates for your Diary (2024-25)

<b>Term 6 (Summer)</b>	
<b>Bridge Village Fete</b>	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> July, 12pm to 4pm
<b>End-of-Year Church Services</b>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July (morning)
<b>Year 6 Production (Red Cast)</b>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
<b>Year 6 Production (Green Cast)</b>	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
<b>Year 6 Leaver's Assembly</b>	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2pm