

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 & Patricxbourne CEP School
Conyngham Lane
Bridge, Canterbury
Kent
CT4 5JX



Friday 18th July 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We've almost reached the end of another successful and enjoyable year at Bridge School and I've been very proud to see the children taking part and making the most of the opportunities that the school provides whether that has been through trips or the day-to-day experiences that the staff work so hard to provide.

This year has also seen the introduction of OPAL which has been so popular with the children (and staff) and will continue to develop and grow through the winter months and into next summer. I am keen that, when we are accredited for our OPAL provision, that we aim for the Platinum Award – after all, if we're going to do it – we want to be the best!

Our final week of term has been one of our busiest and our best with an incredibly successful Village Fete and six performances of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang to children, parents and special guests! My thanks to all those involved – both on stage and behind the scenes. I am also grateful to the staff who give so much of their own time in making this a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the course of the year. There have been challenges and the school continues to face these but what brings us all back to work every day is the children and our commitment to the school and the children so that they can become the best version of themselves.

On Tuesday we will be saying a reluctant farewell to Mrs Long, who joined the school in 1991, and is now heading towards a well-deserved retirement. Mrs Long's role includes supporting some of our most vulnerable children and also helping the teachers to support their learning in class. Her hard work, commitment and care will be sorely missed and I'm sure that you will join me in wishing her all the very best for her retirement.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

James Tibbles



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



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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| ☆ Rex K (Elm) for completing an extended piece of writing about a woodland scene independently. <i>Mr Redpath</i> | ☆ Camilla D (Hazel) for her care and attention to detail when painting her chrysalis. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Otis S (Ash) for having a fabulous year in Reception and achieving his goals. <i>Miss Ellison</i> | ☆ Charlie P (Birch) for his greatly improved behaviours for learning this year and managing his emotions with more maturity. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Bailey C (Rowan) for always having a fantastic attitude to his learning and trying his best! <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Niamh N (Holly) for her excellent effort in all areas of her learning this week, especially with decimals this week. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Ryan H (Willow) for his outstanding behaviour on the trip and for participating fully at every opportunity. <i>Mrs Cork and Mrs M Smith</i> | ☆ Lennon R (Holly) for his incredible effort towards all of his learning and positive attitude to life in general. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Eloise T (Pine) for being a brilliant nurse in our Florence Nightingale drama session. <i>Mrs Tomsett & Mrs Perfect</i> | ☆ Maple Class for being a joy to teach and spend the year with a very special bunch of children indeed. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Edie B (Oak) for being a perfect role model to her peers and always being there to support others (including staff!). <i>Miss J Smith</i> | ☆ Henry P (Poplar) for having such a friendly and helpful attitude all year long. You have been a pleasure to teach. <i>Mrs Saint & Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Kosmas G (Beech) for his creative and imaginative butterfly garden picture. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Year 6 for putting on an incredible show, performance after performance. We are so proud of you! <i>The entire Year 6 team</i> |
| ☆ Cassidy S (Chestnut) for her enthusiasm and creativity during our Butterfly Day. <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | |
| ☆ Belle L (Hazel) for her great participation during her trip to the Enchanted Garden. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</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 Tibbles this afternoon are:

Reggie (Birch)	Stanley (Sycamore)	Finn (Poplar)
Joshua (Elm)	Albie H (Chestnut)	Justin (Willow)

House Cup

Over the course of the year, the children have been earning house points which have been totalled weekly and shared in our Friday Celebration Worship. We have also allocated points to the houses where children have won inter-house competitions such as the 500 Words competition.

In our final celebration worship yesterday, I was pleased to announce that Hadrian are the winners of our new house cup – well done to all the children in Hadrian house for their commitment to our educational principles of excellent, creativity and resilience over the course of the year.



News

We were given the fantastic opportunity to take part in a research project run by the Science department of Simon Langton Girls' School, funded by the Royal Society.

Our research question was '*Does Biodiversity make you happy?*'. Ten children from Years 4, 5 and 6 were invited to attend a training session at Simon Langton and they learned how to take samples with sweep nets, through pond dipping and how to collect data of trees and flowers fairly. They learned how to use oximeters for measuring their pulse rates, how to allocate children randomly and how they could gather information about people's happiness feelings.

Back at school, these ten led the investigation with the Year 5 cohort, measuring their pulse rates, before and after walks in different areas (indoor; field; forest school area) and they helped to gather all of the necessary information. The children helped to analyse the data and input them on excel to create graphs.



Millie, Farren and Ziva felt very brave and chose to present the findings at the Langton research festival in front of many adults and (much older!) students. They did incredibly well and got the biggest applause of the evening. As the girls said, the happiness answers went up after each walk (biggest increase in the Forest School area), and the biggest drop of pulse rate was also after the walk in the Forest School area. We found many more species of flowers, insects and trees in the Forest School area and Millie summarised it well: '*The answer to our research question 'Does Biodiversity make you happy?' is yes, it does make you calm and happy*'.

Notices

Library Books

If you have any school library books at home, please could these be brought back ASAP so that we can do our annual stock-take?

Lost Property

This will be cleared over the summer holiday – if you're missing anything, please check with the office before it gets thrown, repurposed or recycled.

Dogs on the Green

It is not uncommon for me to receive emails about people walking their dogs on the Rec (which I generally ignore) but earlier this week, I did notice that there was a not insignificant amount of dog excrement on the Rec which, according to a Facebook post I saw, was left by a dog being walked by one of our parents.

I don't think I need to highlight the risks to the children if they happen to walk through this and I certainly don't need to tell any dog owners of their responsibilities. It may well be that this happened because someone forgot their poop bag – I struggle to believe that it was left because of a lack of care but please bear this in mind in the future.