



Dates for the diary

9th February	INSET day – school closed
12 th February	Half term week
19 th February	Term 4 starts
22 nd March	Parent Rep meeting
26 th March	Year 5 led church service (2pm – Y5 parents welcome to attend)
28 th March	Easter Egg hunt and end of term
29 th March	Easter holidays start
15 th April	Children return to school
22 nd April	Year 6 residential week
13 th May	SATs week
18 th June	Sports Day

Newsletter – Thursday 8th February

Dear parents and carers,

Can you believe it – another holiday!

Not long ago, while having lunch with some children in the dining hall, I noticed a child was eating marmite sandwiches. I mentioned that I had seen him eating marmite sandwiches earlier in the week and asked whether he always ate them. He replied that he likes marmite, but sometimes likes to “switch things up”. When I asked him for more details he nodded enthusiastically and said: “oh yes, sometimes I have Vegemite.”

A ridiculous (or “insane” in YouTube speak) amount of what we do is through ingrained habit rather than rational decision making. You name it – the food we eat, the way we spend our spare time, our world views and what we choose to watch/read. Life is too short to live every day on repeat. Change is a good thing – let's all try as many new things this as possible and make 2024 a true “Vegemite Year” for us all.

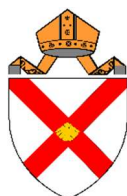
To kick things off we are “switching things up” for this newsletter, but like the Marmite/Vegemite change we are doing it in a way that does not risk havoc with the natural order of the universe, so for starters we are sending this newsletter on a Thursday. Hold onto your hats!

Staffing news

We are very sad to be saying “goodbye” to Fiona Daniel who has been working in Badger Class. She has been a fabulous team member and will be missed by us all. We wish her well for the future.

Forest school news

Many thanks to Becky and Becca from the Kent High Weald Partnership, their band of helpers, and our volunteer parents for coming out last Friday to help with the next round of tree planting. It was a beautiful day for it, and the children involved were enthusiastic in their digging, spurred on by High Weald's Connor and Kenny "the



Machine". Together, we planted 90 trees, including Scot's pines, Elders, Cherries, Rowans, Maples, and are looking forward to planting out Small-leaved Limes and Pear trees later in the springtime. In years to come, if we successfully look after these, we should have lots of lovely spring and autumn colour and considerably more shade in the summer!



Toothache Day

This Friday is Toothache Day to promote oral hygiene – please follow the link for more information. As you may have heard, tooth decay is the most common cause for hospital admissions among children over five.

[Toothache Day 2024 - Awareness Days Events Calendar 2024](#)

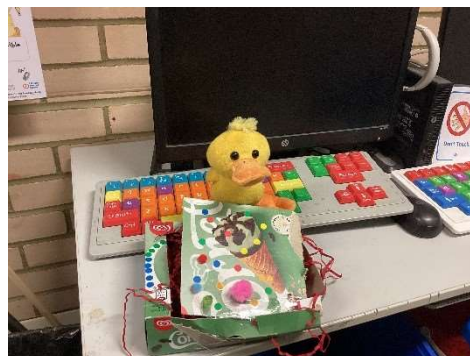
Safer internet day (SID)

This week we joined with 170 other countries to think about how to stay safe online and celebrate all the wonderful things we can do with technology.

Both Key stages have had a special SID assembly and the start of the week and all classes have taken part in different activities too. Some highlights:

In Reception, they have a mascot called Digi Duck. They read one of his stories, Digi Duck and the magic castle and cooperated to decorate a nest for him.





While, in Swift Class they made Safer Internet fortune tellers, which we used to ask each other questions about keeping safe online. We also created emojis to match how we would feel in different scenarios.

This year's theme is all about inspiring change, making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.

Please see the link for more information - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

There is a helpful video and advice, with top tips for parents and carers - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Thank you,
Miss Smith, Mrs Holland and Mr Stevens
The Computing Team

Parent Rep meeting

If available, could parent reps come to school for a second meeting on Friday 22nd March after drop off?

KS2 Accelerated Reader Challenges - 08.02.24

I am really pleased to share this week's winners:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Mayenna in Kestrel Class 454,305 words	Kestrel Class 1,953,048 words	Alice in Nightingale Class 9 quizzes	Badger Class 67 quizzes

This half term holiday, please encourage your child to turn the pages of their imagination and lose themselves in a good book or two.

World Book Day 2024

World Book Day is **Thursday 7th March 2024** and we are really looking forward to celebrating it in school. More information to follow next term.

Mrs Simpson



Girls' football stars of the week

We have had some photos sent in of the stars of week for the last eight weeks for the girls' football club.



Have a lovely half term break – remember, no school tomorrow. Or next week. But more school after that.

Promise.

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

