



### Dates for the diary

17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 start bikeability
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Second hand uniform sale 8:45 to 9:15am
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 6 residential week
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 5 led church service 2pm – Year 5 parents welcome to attend
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of term
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter holidays begin
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	First day of term (Tuesday)
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term week
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	INSET day
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	First day of term 6
1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET day
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	First day of the school year for children in years 1 to 6.

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

If you were wondering whether half term weeks might not conducive to world diplomatic equilibrium, please be reassured that our newsletters are “world event free” – let us continue to take some comfort from shrinking our horizons for a few minutes with a focus on school news, while the rest of the planet does its own thing.

Your children looked fabulous this morning, no matter whether they dressed up or not; the staff also pulled out all the stops. For my part, this is the one day of the year I look forward to when I can wear Sarah’s clothes without the “we need to talk” comment.

### Meet the governors

Nina, one of governors, has prepared a document about our school’s governors with pen pictures and photos. If you would like to take a look, please follow this link to the appropriate page of the school website: [St James School](#).

### Term dates for next year

We always stick to the KCC term dates – here is a link: [Term dates - Kent County Council](#)

In addition, maintained schools have to allocate 5 additional days training days where the school is closed to children, and these are decided upon and added to the diary by May each year. However, for those booking summer breaks, I have decided that we are again only having one INSET Day at the start of the school year, so children return to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



## World book day

Thank you so much to Mrs Simpson who organised everything this year, including leading two lovely assemblies where the whole school retold "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". Here are a few images from today's celebration of books and reading to give you a flavour of what the children have been getting up to.



Dormouse Class



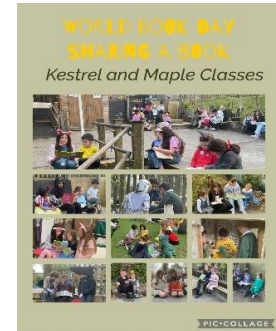
Squirrel Class using their wonderful homemade props to solve problems in Maths today!



Hedgehog Class



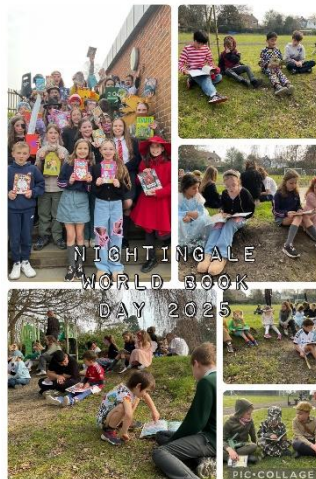
Dormouse and Hedgehog sharing books



Kestrel and Maple classes sharing books



Osprey Class



Nightingale Class



A couple of old witches in heated discussion, with younger characters looking on.



### **Attendance and lateness**

We shared our Attendance Policy at the start of the year which included some changes based on Government guidelines that have been set out for all schools. In summary, these changes were about issuing Penalty Notices (fines). As a school, we should issue a Penalty Notice for any term time holiday or if a child reaches the DfE's 10 in 10 threshold, which means that they have had at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. During this transition period, we have been flexible in our application of the policy however from now onwards, we will need to take action if your child's absence meets these criteria. Please see our Attendance Policy on our school website if you would like more information.

### **Communications via Insight**

This year we will be sending your child's annual school report via email rather than as a paper report. A link to download your child's report will be emailed using Insight Tracking from the email address [system@insighttracking.com](mailto:system@insighttracking.com). For security, you will need your child's date of birth to access the report. We will also be using Insight for communications about attendance. If you receive an email from this email address with a link to follow, it is not a scam.

Miss Hayward

### **Forest School**

After a wet and windy start to the year, it finally feels as though we, and the ground, are starting to recover in this week of gorgeous sunshine. Butterflies and bees are making appearances, the spring flowers are blooming and we FINALLY had time and weather to replace our storm-shredded parachute cover on the Junior site. Well done to all the groups that braved the last couple of months of challenging conditions! You're SO resilient!

On the Infant site, we have had to replace the roof of the Outdoor classroom, so Mr Fleming has spent these sunny days beginning the job, which will make sure this great asset continues for many more years.

The winds also took their toll on one of our oldest pines. After nearly 100 years of growth, it was left at a dangerous angle and was taken down by our excellent tree surgeon during the half term. They left us with lots of great logs and benches to use over the whole school site.

Finally, we have had to say goodbye to one of our Forest staff, Miss Katie Smith, as she heads off to become a full time Primary teacher. We will miss her terribly and we know that the class she'll teach are incredibly blessed in having her as their new teacher. We wish her the very best for her future!







Mrs Hadley

### **Recorder Festival**

On Monday, the Year 3 recorder club went to TWGGS alongside other primary schools in Tunbridge Wells, to play with the TWGGS orchestra. They played a range of songs that we have been practising as well as singing some songs and learning about the instruments in the orchestra. The children played really well and had a lovely time.

Mrs Piper

### **Our Ash cross in the entrance hall**

Peter Rosling has made a beautiful Ash cross for the school which can be seen in the foyer. He came into our celebration collective worship on Friday so that we could thank him for all his hard work. The cross took him 2 months to make!





Mrs Jones

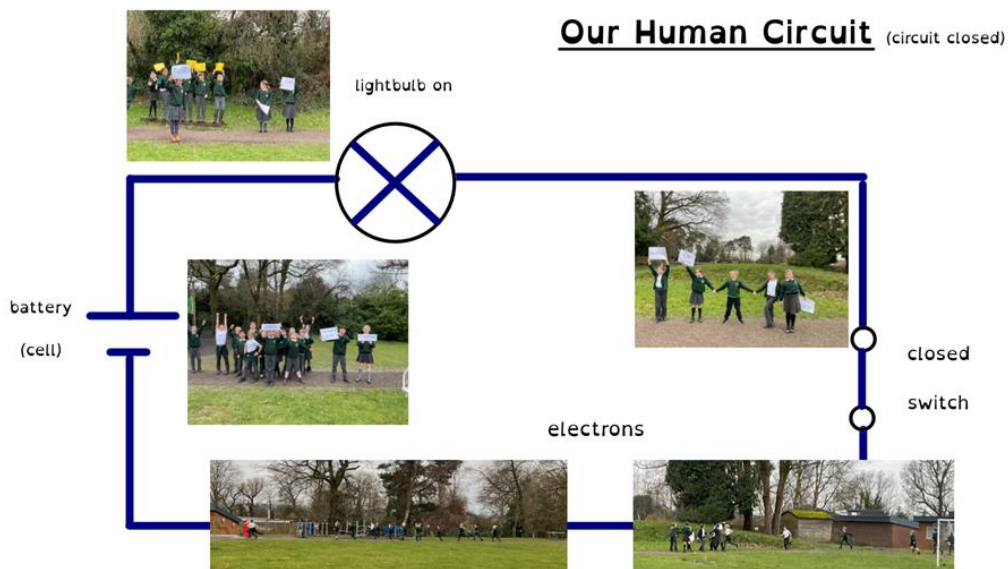
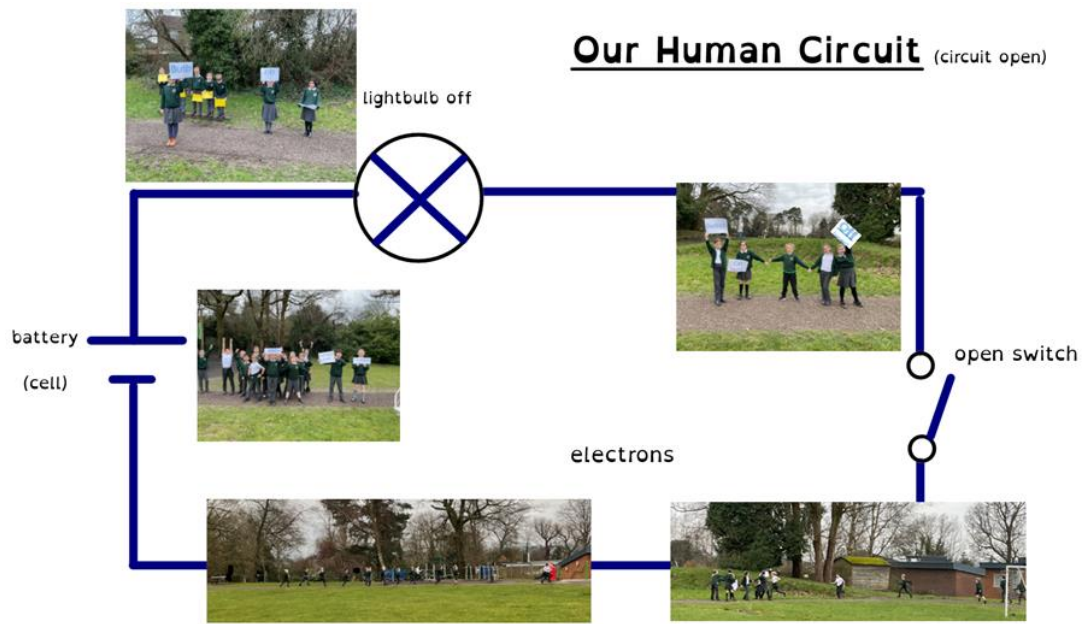
#### **Year 4 electricity**

As part of our science unit on 'Electricity', the children had a fantastic time consolidating their learning by creating a human circuit on the running track. They acted as electrons and other components in a simple series circuit, moving around the circuit to understand how electricity flows. This hands-on activity helped them visualise key concepts such as current and the role of different components in a circuit.

It was a fun and engaging way to bring their learning to life!

Mr Pritchard





### Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

It gives me such pleasure each week to see every child's achievements with reading and we had many significant successes last term. Here are the overall winners for Term 3:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
<b>Naomi</b> in Dormouse Class <b>2,511,028</b> words	<b>Osprey</b> Class <b>9,359,697</b> words	<b>Naomi</b> in Dormouse Class <b>98</b> quizzes	<b>Dormouse</b> Class <b>475</b> quizzes



Ten of the twelve classes in Key Stage 2 read more than TWO MILLION words during Term 3. WOW!

In addition to Naomi, five more children read more than one million words each last term. Here are the Word Millionaires for Term 3:

Pupil	Class	Word Count
<b>Naomi</b>	<b>Dormouse</b>	<b>2,511,028</b>
Isabelle W	Osprey	1,783,460
Dylan	Stoat	1,552,658
Matteo	Dormouse	1,298,180
Erin	Osprey	1,281,042
Aaron	Vole	1,191,743

We also had many reading accomplishments during our first week back at school this term. Here are the winners for the week ending 28<sup>th</sup> February:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Isabelle W</b> in Osprey Class <b>573,677</b> words	<b>Osprey</b> Class <b>2,120,101</b> words	<b>Florie</b> in Dormouse Class <b>15</b> quizzes	<b>Badger</b> Class <b>66</b> quizzes

Finally, here are the overall winners for the week ending 7<sup>th</sup> March:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Naomi</b> in Dormouse Class <b>392,557</b> words	<b>Osprey</b> Class <b>1,287,063</b> words	<b>Ayush</b> in Nightingale Class <b>25</b> quizzes	<b>Badger</b> Class <b>84</b> quizzes

Well done, everyone!  
Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,  
John Tutt

