



Newsletter – 27th May 2022

Dear parents,

We have reached the end of term 5 – just one more term to go. I hope that you have a lovely half term week and enjoy the celebrations.

It was cheering to see the weather doing a patriotic turn on Wednesday by marring the Jubilee celebrations with traditional British picnic wind and showers. We know that many of you may not have been able to take this opportunity to look at your child's learning on Wednesday so we have scheduled another sharing learning session on the 29th June after drop off. We have also scheduled parent consultations in July – all dates are below.

Staffing changes

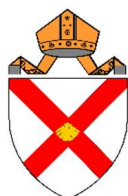
We will be sorry to say “goodbye” to two teachers at the end of this year. Michael Hodges has been appointed as a Deputy Headteacher at another school; we are incredibly pleased for him and know he will do an amazing job. Sarah Herman is also leaving us to follow a different career path entirely. Both teachers have given many years of excellent service to our school and we will miss them enormously.

Sarah Vorster has been working as a TA in Year 4 and is moving on to pick up her previous career as a physiotherapist. She has been a valued member of the team and we are sorry to lose her.

We are pleased to welcome two new teachers to the team: Martin Fern, who some of you may know as a parent in the school. Jude Ledger, who has been working in a few classes this year, will also be working as a class teacher from September. We are very lucky to have them on the team.

Butterfly update

Across the school we have been once again watching as our caterpillars have eaten lots of food, grown from tiny dots to large caterpillars and then transformed into chrysalis. This week there has been lots of excitement as the Painted Lady butterflies have emerged. They have been released across our school site - check your gardens to see if any visit you in the next few days.



Early Years

Reception have really enjoyed learning about bugs this term, finding out new facts and learning new. They also really enjoyed celebrating the Jubilee by sharing their learning with parents followed by lots of cake!

The children have also enjoyed waiting patiently for the tadpoles to turn into frogs, observing changes to the caterpillars as they turn into chrysalis and to see the arrival of some baby chicks.



Harp lessons

Would your child like to learn the harp? Lessons start at £13.75/month and you don't have to have a harp at home. Please email our harp teacher Nickki if you are interested: plinkplonkharp@hotmail.co.uk

Please note that lessons do come with strings attached. That joke never gets old (for me anyway).

Healthy snacks

Children are allowed to bring in a healthy snack to eat at break time, and by "healthy", we mean fruit. Cereal bars are packed with sugar and are not a healthy snack, however posh the packaging might be. Ultra-refined fruit strings or similar are also unhealthy – they have had all the sugar concentrated and the good stuff removed. If you wish to send your child to school with a snack, please stick to fruit – raisins are acceptable. Please note: anything containing nuts should not be brought on to the school site due to allergies.

Forest School

Forest School enjoyed welcoming the children and parents who visited our sites on the Jubilee afternoon. The children proudly showed everyone around, demonstrated the swings and challenged the adults to scramble through the undergrowth.

Top marks to those parents who managed to squeeze through and to the children who taught them the Forest School rules as they went round, especially leading their parents out to the fire circle when the whistle blew!

Hopefully, we'll have another chance to have an open-site in the future.

Mrs Hadley

Sports Update

Cricket

On Wednesday, we took two Year 5/6 teams to Tunbridge Wells CC to compete in the annual cricket tournament. The B team finished 3rd in their group - beating Langton, but unfortunately losing to Claremont A and St Matthew's and therefore not making it through to the quarter finals. They then played some friendlies in the afternoon, beating SKPS, Broadwater Down and Bishops Down.



The A team finished 2nd in their group, beating Southborough, Broadwater Down and St Peter's, but losing to a strong St Mark's team. In their quarter final, the team narrowly missed out to Bidborough, losing by 8 runs and therefore finishing 5th overall. They then played friendlies against Claremont B and Bishops Down, winning both. A great day's cricket all-in-all, despite the miserable weather!



Football

Last Monday, our A team went to Tunbridge Wells Football Club to play their finals day, following from their tournament victory a few weeks ago. The boys beat Claremont 1-0 in the first game, defeated Hildenborough 2-0 in the second and Slade 1-0 in the third. This put us top of the group and into a final against Claremont. In an extremely tight game, a long throw caused mayhem in the Claremont area, and Daniel's flicked header was deemed over the line by the officials. The team defended resolutely to the end, leaving us 1-0 victors at the end - champions of Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge! A huge congratulations to the team for all their hard work this year.



Mr Hodges

KS2 Accelerated Reader 27.05.22

We are so proud of all the children for their continued engagement in, and enjoyment of, their reading activities. A huge well done to our three millionaire readers – Divit (Dormouse Class), Lily (Kestrel Class) and Anna (Nightingale Class).

Many congratulations to our winners of the Accelerated Reader Challenges this week:

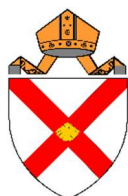
Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Word Count
Divit in Dormouse Class 1,361,464 words	Aria in Chaffinch Class 85 quizzes	Kestrel Class 6,134,791 words

Is your child stuck for ideas about which book to read next? These websites will help you choose books for your children.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

<https://peters.co.uk/100-books-for-every-year-group-primary>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/>



Exciting news! All children in primary schools will shortly receive a commemorative copy of their own book 'Queen Elizabeth: A Platinum Jubilee Celebration'

Happy reading everyone!

Ms Simpson

Year 5 secondary transition

We are returning to our usual routine for supporting parents in making their decisions about secondary schools. On 8th June at 6pm I will give a talk in the hall for those who would like to find out more about their choices and the process. The following week on Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th June, the year 5 teachers will be available for parent consultations to give you as much information about how your child is getting on as they can, to help you make a decision; they will also share the results of the CAT tests the children have been sitting this week.

For parents considering grammar schools, the option to register children for the Kent Tests (via the KCC website) opens from the beginning of June and closes at the beginning of July. I will give more information on this on the 8th June for those unfamiliar with the process.

Nourish Food bank

There is now a collection station by the school office for those wishing to make a donation. All donations will be very gratefully accepted.

Key dates for this term

6 th June	INSET day
7 th June	First day of term 6
8 th June	Secondary transition information evening for Year 5 parents
14 th & 16 th June	Year 5 parent consultations (to discuss secondary options)
21 st June	KS1 & KS2 singing festivals
21 st June	New reception parents welcome evening
29 th June	Sharing learning (8:45 to 9:30am) - come and see your child's learning!
4 th July	Year 6 residential
7 th July	Discos years R to 5
12 th & 14 th July	Parent consultations (except Y5)
13 th July	Sports Day whole school (provisional)
16 th July	PTA summer fair
18 th July (w/c)	Year 3 trips to Carroty Woods this week
18 th July	Year 6 productions (afternoon and evening)
18 th July (date change)	Infant church service (afternoon) & Year 6 evening production
20 th July	Junior church service (afternoon) – Year 6 leavers'
21 st July	Last day of term 6
2 nd September	First day of new school year

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt

Headteacher

