



## Newsletter – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear parents,

As some of you will know we are having ongoing issues with our heating. Our boiler in the main (old) junior building has broken down; there is only one replacement part on this planet, and that has been traced to somewhere in rural Germany.

Meanwhile, the high-tech air-sourced heating system in the new junior building seemingly became self-aware at 22:58 GMT on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Rather than use its newly acquired self-awareness to begin a global nuclear war on humanity (as in *The Terminator*), it has taken the less confrontational decision to switch itself off every night at 11:55pm.

We are therefore waiting for replacement parts for both buildings, but in the meantime are making do with electric heaters in the old building and resetting the system every day in the new building.

Thank you to all the many people who have offered heaters of one sort or another to the school. We do have enough thank you, and they are doing a good job of keeping the classrooms warm. We have been fortunate that overnight temperatures have stayed above freezing for the last week and are forecast to remain that way next week. However, I would like to especially thank Stuart Fleming, our site manager, for arriving extra early each day to get everything switched on, reset and warmed up ready for the children.

I will let you know when the heating is fixed, but in the meantime if your child is in Key Stage 2 it would be a good idea to provide your child with an extra layer (just in case) and consider going retro by dressing your child in a vest under their shirt.

### **New COVID rules for school drop off/pick up**

We are no longer asking parents to wear masks when bringing children to school with immediate effect, although you are of course welcome to. However, if you need to enter the school buildings (including reception), we would be grateful if you would continue to wear a face covering.

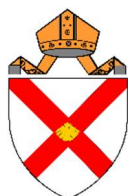
### **Vacancy for a TA role**

We have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant at the school. The job is advertised on the Kent Teach website, so please take a look if you are interested. The vacancy closes on Monday, so you will need to hurry.

### **Cycle training for adults**

You may have seen our Year 6 children doing their Bikeability over the last few weeks. KCC also organise cycle training for adults to help you to feel more confident with riding with your children. They also do courses for those interested in getting into cycling. Please see the links in the email for more information. We also have some flyers in the foyer.

While you may not realise that our smooth tarmac roads were first built for bicycles, you cannot help but have noticed that cars have completely taken them over. Let's all reclaim our roads for those using active transport.



### PTA Second hand uniform sale

The PTA will be holding a uniform sale in the school car park on 7<sup>th</sup> February from 8:45am until 10am.

They have asked me to pass on that they need donations, especially jumpers and cardigans, which can be put in the box in the office foyer. They do not need any grey items or summer dresses at the moment.

### Change to price of school meals

After half term the price of school meals for children in the juniors will rise by 10p to £2.40.

### Forest School

This week, Forest School have enjoyed taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, which is open to everyone to join in with over the weekend. We saw some very friendly robins, dunnocks and crows, as well as more timid wrens, blue tits, great tits, coal tits, jays, magpies, blackbirds and we heard our elusive firecrests. If you would like to be part of this, visit the RSPB website on the following link, <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

### Reception

Last week Reception discovered a crash site on our playground. We spent time thinking about what it was, where it had come from and the different materials we could see.

This week we listened to the story of Q Pootle 5 and then received a letter from Z Pootle 6. He was looking for Q Pootle and was worried that his space ship might have crashed as his rocket boosters were not working. Reception have been on a mission to help find Q Pootle 5. They have been looking for clues in our classroom, playground and in the woods, but they didn't find him. So they became very busy making pictures and writing lost posters to try and find Q Pootle. We are still looking...have you seen him anywhere?



### Are you, or is someone you know, interested in training to be a teacher?

Whether it be at this current time of the pandemic or in more 'normal' times we know that the quality of teaching in our school makes the biggest difference to the quality of education that we can provide. That is why we, as a school, spend important time training our teachers as well as helping to train the next generation of teachers coming into the profession.

We work in partnership with Teach Kent & Sussex, an Ofsted 'outstanding' provider of teacher training. They are always keen to hear from prospective teachers and provide support through the application process.



If you would like to find out more about the opportunity to teach you can attend one of their virtual 'Get into teaching' information events over the next few months. More details are in the flyer attached to this email.

### Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges – 28.01.22

"A book is a device to ignite the imagination." (Alan Bennett)

It is always such a pleasure to see children enjoying their own reading time and getting absorbed in a good book, as well as being captivated by a book being read aloud to them. This week, there has clearly been a lot of reading going on! Many congratulations to this week's winners:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Tessa in Nightingale Class <b>1,232,196 words</b>	Divit in Dormouse Class <b>47 quizzes</b>	Kestrel Class <b>4,064,052 words</b>

We also have two more Millionaire readers this week - George in Vole Class (1,128,093 words) and Shreyas in Stoat Class (1,051,127 words). A very special well done to them both as well.

Ms Simpson

### Key dates for this term

11 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of this half term
21 <sup>st</sup> February	INSET day – school closed to children
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	First day back for the children
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of Spring term

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt  
Headteacher

