



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**\*\*UPDATED\*\***

## COVID RELATED NEWS

### What to do if your child has symptoms of Covid-19

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- 1- have a high temperature.
- 2- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

They can come back to school when they feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can come to school.

We have a great sense of normality as we start to see a safe return to our children participating in events beyond the school gates.

This week, Mr Hobbs took a group of Year 3 & 4 children to Herne Bay High School to participate in an Outdoor Adventurous Activities event. Our choir will be performing at a charity event at Kent University tomorrow before attending the Young Voices concert at the 02 next Wednesday and our Year 3 children will be visiting the local library. Being able to offer our children these experiences to enrich their learning and personal development is vital to their education and it has been greatly missed over the last 2 years.

We are currently in the process of updating our Behaviour Policy to become a Relational & Behaviour policy. It is in the consultancy stage of development and parents will be included in this over the coming 2 terms. As part of this change we will be reintroducing a House Point system and, while we trial this with the children, we will also consider renaming the Houses. For very many years, the school system has used birds of prey to name the individual Houses; I am sure that there will be parents that remember attending the school and belonging to Hawks, Kestrels, Falcons or Eagles! For now, we are simply using the colours that relate to these Houses until the new names have been agreed.

Today in assembly, our first House Point winners were announced bringing great excitement to the school community. In Year 3 Yellow were first with 46 house points, in Year 4 Red with 150, in Year 5 Yellow with 53 and Year 6 Red with 95. The overall winning House this week were Red with a total of 328 – well done to all!

### ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week is 94.54%. Well done to 3BW and 5KD for achieving 98% and 6LS for 99%!

47 pupils remain in the 100 club and currently there are 120 children with 98%+ attendance.

### REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

It is always difficult when parents write to ask my permission for term-time holiday to be granted. School Governors are directed by guidelines delivered by the DfE that are written in to policy; this clearly states reasons when holidays can or cannot be granted. The Local Authority Attendance Service, who monitor attendance in schools, hold the school to account for this. Terms of the policy are used when decisions are made in response to requests and this is adhered to consistently. I understand that this can be frustrating but, in order to be fair, the same procedure is applied to all applications.

Herne Bay Infant School and Herne Bay Junior School are in the process of forming a joint policy. This means that there will be consistency in our responses to parental requests for permission to be granted for a term-time holiday; therefore, if you have children in both schools, the outcome decision will be the same.

With the cost of holidays during the school breaks being further impacted by cost of living rises, I personally understand and sympathise with families. However, as the Headteacher and representative of the Governing Board, I fully accept my responsibility to ensure that policy is fairly and consistently applied in all cases.

### PTA QUIZ NIGHT

Following the disappointment of cancelling their last quiz night due to Covid restrictions, the PTA have organised another event for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. This is always very popular so do see the poster attached to this newsletter for further details.

The PTA work hard to ensure that the events they plan are varied including discos for the children and those appropriate for the whole family to attend. Equally, they organise an adult-only event where those who attend can relax and enjoy themselves in a child-free environment. We are grateful for the effort that they go to in ensuring such variety.

*Compassion, Courage, Hope, Integrity, Justice, Respect, Responsibility, Wisdom*



## TEACHING & LEARNING

### Year 6 SATs Week – 9th May

Year 6 children will be sitting their SATs tests a week on Monday. The children have made such wonderful progress in their learning, in spite of the challenges faced over the last two years; we are incredibly proud of them all. During SATs week, children will be invited in early for a sausage sandwich and a chance to be with their friends before starting the tests. Look out next week for more information on timings and a link to a sign-up form for the sausages!

To support your child for the tests, please make sure they get good nights' sleep and come in promptly each day. The schedule of tests is shown in the following table:

Monday 9th	Grammar and spelling (GPS)
Tuesday 10th	Reading
Wednesday 11th	Maths arithmetic and Maths reasoning test 1
Thursday 12th	Maths reasoning test 2

### The Kent Test & Year 5 CAT Tests

In Kent a selective system is in place for secondary education whereby children may attend a Grammar school or a High School. The selection process is centred around a test at the beginning of Year 6 which is known by a number of names: the PESE test, the Kent Test or the 11+. These are all terms used to describe the same thing. The date for the Kent Test is yet to be confirmed, however is likely to be the first full week back in September.

The test is designed to identify whether a Grammar school or a High School would be more suitable for a pupil based upon their academic abilities. Other factors should of course be considered when choosing schools, such as pastoral care, locality and extra-curricular activities.

Children who sit the test and are deemed to be suitable for a Grammar school may select from both Grammar and High Schools on their secondary application forms, whereas children who are deemed to be suitable for a High School – or who did not sit the Kent Test – should only select from High Schools.

To support you in deciding whether you wish your child to take the Kent Test, Year 5 pupils will be sitting a CAT test the week beginning 9th May. The outcomes of this will provide an indication of how your child may go on to perform in the Kent Test. A letter will be sent home to all Year 5 parents once the tests have been completed and marked, containing your child's scores along with a link to a video presentation which explains the secondary transfer process in more detail.

Should you have any questions about the CAT tests, Kent Test or the secondary application process, please speak to Mr Thomas.

## INCLUSION TEAM NEWS

### EWT Workshop: Understanding Autism in Children

Has your child been diagnosed with Autism or are you waiting for an assessment? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to support your child? You are invited to a workshop about understanding symptoms of Autism. We also discuss helpful strategies that you can use at home to help support your child. If you would like to join the workshop on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 11am**, please click the link in the poster attached to this newsletter.

### Calling all Reading Volunteers!

We are looking to recruit volunteers who would happily give up some time to support with hearing children read. Ideally, volunteers would offer two afternoons per week that would allow frequent and consistent sessions for the children they work with. If you are interested, or want to know more, please call the school and ask to speak to Sammy Black.

### Place2Be

Supporting children during the exam period resources.

[www.place2be.org.uk/exams](http://www.place2be.org.uk/exams)

The mental health charity Place2Be have created a page of exam resources to support students, parents and schools. There is an information sheet attached to the newsletter for each of these groups, which also signpost to wider sources of support.

### Community Clothes Bank

Please see the attached flyer for details of a community clothes bank at the Umbrella Centre in Whitstable.

## INCLUSION BEAR

### Nominations -

Mr Hobbs nominated Morgan & Layla from 6CS. He said "On Monday, I was sat on the friendship bench on my own in the sunshine having lunch whilst everyone else was on the field. Both girls came out of the lunch hall to ask if I was ok, then sat with me for a while. It really made my day!"

Emmie in 4WK nominated Miss Wood. She said "I love Miss Wood because she is funny and always helps me in lessons. She is so polite and kind too."

Kitty, in 3AR, nominated Aubree because she is a kind and great friend to her every single day!

### Awarded to -

Charlie and Oliver in 3CC. Both boys nominated each other for being great friends. They both said that when they are upset or hurt, the other will look after them. Well done boys for being kind friends to each other 😊

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Healthy School



## #WAKEUPWEDNESDAY

### What parents need to know about group chats

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed. In the guide attached to the newsletter, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.

## ROCKING READERS

8 classes achieved an average of 90%+ in their quizzes this week – brilliant! The highest year group was Year 5 with 3 out of 4 classes scoring highly. Well done to 3AR, 3CC, 4IK, 5BP, 5EW, 5JN, 6LS and 6SE.

The Rocking Reader trophy went to 3CC who have scored 90%+ in 11 weeks out of the school year so far – a phenomenal effort!

## SPORTS AWARD

Mr Hobbs awarded Archie Walker in 6CS in recognition of his participation and effort in Sport. Well done, Archie!

## HERONS COMMUNITY EVENT

Hérons Leisure Centre are holding a community event this Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. This is a free event but booking is essential. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter.

Also attached are details of Junior Membership to Herons including 25% off for students that are aged 16+.

## STAR OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following children for being identified as this week's Stars of the Week.

3AR Kitty Hardley  
3BW Tifara Asensoh  
3CC Noah Hayes  
WH Finlay Thompson

4HO Lyla Armstrong  
4IK Jessica  
4MC Esme Russell  
4WK Lilly Peek

5BP Tyasha Sanneh  
5EW Amelia Hills  
5JN Ivy French  
5KD Emily Wilson

6CS Jared Smith  
6BR Lulah Quigley  
6LS Jessie Miller  
6SE Ashton Chapman

I hope that you all enjoy the extended weekend.  
With my best wishes,



Melody Kingman  
Headteacher

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