



Friday 20th May 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 had a lovely week in school, marked by two main events: our cultural & diversity day and the visit by Fantastic Fred. Both brought opportunities for the children to engage in learning beyond the classroom while they considered the key messages that each event portrayed. Pictures, as usual, are shared on our Facebook page which give a flavour of the wonderful atmosphere experienced across the school.

The warm weather has finally joined us and will hopefully be here to stay! On sunny days, it is important that the children are protected as they will be outdoors for part of the day. Please apply sun cream before your child comes to school and, if they are particularly sensitive to the sun or it is a PE day, allow them to bring in additional cream so that they can top up. Hats are recommended but do please ensure that they are named. We will, as always, encourage all the children to drink regularly throughout the day.

Next week is Parents Evenings for children in Years 3, 4 & 5. If you have not yet signed up, please do so via the link sent to you. The consultations will take place in our main hall with the opportunity to look at some of your child's work along with a conversation with the class teacher. The focus of the meetings will be to discuss your child's progress including the targets that they are currently working on as we head towards the end of the school year.

Next year, Mr Chris Thomas, Deputy Head of Teaching & Learning, will be taking a one-year seconded placement at a primary school in Canterbury. In his absence Mr Ashley Thomas will lead on Teaching & Learning continuing in the role that he has undertaken this year. Mr Thomas will be greatly missed by the staff and children in the school but we all wish him well as he takes on this great opportunity.

Today, we said goodbye to one of our TAs, Mrs Wellard. We thank her for her commitment to the school and wish her the very best for the future.

PTA QUIZ NIGHT

Tomorrow evening is our PTA Quiz night. We hope that all those attending have a very enjoyable evening and thank you in advance for supporting the school. My thanks, as always, to those that volunteer and give of their time so generously to support the school through organising and delivering these fund-raising events.

ATTENDANCE

Our current attendance to date is 93.77%. Attendance last week was 95.19%.

Well done to the following classes who all achieved 97+%: 5EW, 5BP, 6CS, 6LS and 6SE.

46 pupils remain in the 100% club.
115 children currently hold 98%+ attendance.

We have noted a marked improvement in children arriving to school on time in Year3 3 and 6 – thank you for your support with this.

Improvement is still required for children in Years 4 & 5 who arrive after the gate has closed. Arrival on time allows for a settled and productive start to the school day.

HOUSE POINTS

Well done to our Green House for collecting 236 House Points and gaining first place this week!

Blue House - 232
Yellow House – 206
Red House – 187

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TEACHING & LEARNING

World Day for Cultural Diversity

The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed our celebration of World Cultures on Wednesday. It was lovely to walk through the school and hear children singing in different languages, learning native dances, trying traditional foods and doing artwork. Thank you for supporting the children with their wonderful outfits too.

Please look out for photos which will be added to Facebook and our school website next week.

Year 5 Taster Morning – Barton Court

Attached to this newsletter is information relating to a taster morning at Barton Court Grammar School for children currently in Year 5 who may wish to consider attending this school from September 2023. The event takes place on Saturday 25th June and registration is required.

Year 5 CAT Results and Kent Test Applications

Year 5 children received their CAT scores this week along with a link to a video presentation explaining the Kent Test application process. If you wish to discuss your child's CAT score, please do so at parents evening next week (years 3-5 only). The video presentation may be accessed here:

<https://vimeo.com/710348176/595f1a5f30>

INCLUSION TEAM NEWS

Teaching children about emotions

I've recently found that discussions with parents are about supporting their child in managing emotions. The key notes that I provide are that the more we model behaviours to children, the more they'll be able to emulate and manage their own.

Saying aloud how you're feeling using an 'I message' is one such example: "I feel sad, I need a hug" and seeking that comfort from the appropriate person. Or, when emotions are high with anger or frustration present, stating: "I'm feeling frustrated, I need to have some time and space to myself" and modelling finding that place.

Reflecting aloud how acting this way has helped you is important too. Eg: "Now I've had some time to calm down, I'm feeling better".

By modelling we are teaching children in real world situations. We are sharing that it's normal to feel a range of emotions and that there are strategies that work to help. Naming an emotion can be difficult so introduce new words when situations arise. Relating new concepts and vocabulary to visual cues can add to the success. The attached Emotions Map is used in school to support children in recognising and naming the emotions they feel. Developing strategies to cope can take time. The strategies need to be practised when calm and identified as ones your child would like to try when their emotions are running high. Keep a copy of the attached A-Z

Coping Skills poster to model when you need to access a tool to help you calm.

SEN Surgery

SEN Surgery will continue to take place on a Wednesday afternoon, next term. Please call Sammy Black, Tracey Hewitt or Rowena Evett-Collins and book an appointment to discuss concerns you have about your child, their learning and any referrals new or ongoing.

Safety in the community

On Monday PCSO Victoria Lee will be coming into school to speak to Y5 and Y6 pupils about safety in the community. There will be discussions around anti-social behaviour and keeping safe when out and about in town, the park and the beach. Please do speak to your children following the discussion afternoon.

The Fantastic FRED Experience

The children enjoyed the Fantastic FRED Experience on Tuesday. In a fun and engaging way, they were taught how to take care of their mental health:

F - Food
R - Rest
E - Exercise
D - Devices

The Fantastic FRED Experience have produced a video so we can share the important messages of FRED with you too. It is a summary of what the children have learnt and helps to communicate the messages in an interesting way so that your children's learning can carry on at home too. You can watch the video here: www.thefantasticfredexperience.com/for-parents-guardians

#WAKEUPWEDNESDAY

Top 10 online safety tips for parents with under 5's

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is essential that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers going online. National Online Safety have compiled the top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey. In the guide attached to the newsletter, you'll find tips such as managing screen time, block in-app purchases and using devices together.

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Healthy School



INCLUSION BEAR

Nominations:

Mia in 6BR nominated Miss Black for her kindness. She said "You are an inspiration to me".

Demi nominated Mrs Wright for being so helpful and making her smile. Demi said that Mrs Wright is so nice and she is lucky to have her as a teacher.

Layla in 6CS nominated Miss O'Donnell because she is always selfless. Layla said that when she is having a bad day, Miss O'Donnell is always there to cheer her up.

Awarded to:

Mylo 6SE and Miley 6LS

As school reps last week, they showed two new pupils and their parents around the school. The parents emailed to say that "Mylo and Miley made us feel so welcome yesterday during our visit." They went on to say that they showed empathy and kindness to the children knowing that they will be moving to a new school.

ROCKING READERS

Our Rocking Readers are 3AR this week. They were the class with the highest average quiz score (92%) and have consistently been reading for the school expectation of 15+ minutes a day; this week their average was 17 minutes – well done to all the children in this class!

4IK received a special mention from Miss Wilkinson for their average time spent reading of 32 minutes! This is a fantastic achievement!

SPORTS AWARD

Cooper Smith was the deserving recipient of the Art award this week. Mr Hobbs recognised his resilience and perseverance in sport including his participation in the OAA event at Herne Bay High School this week. Well done Cooper!

HALF TERM MULTI-SPORTS CLUB

Inclusive Sports will be offering a Multi-Sports Club for children this half term. Please see the attached flyer for details which includes a link to book places.

STAR OF THE WEEK

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

3AR	Cohen Leggatt
3BW	Kais
3CC	Lucas Kimberley
3WH	Logan Beard
4HO	Ayden Norman
4IK	Tilly Moore
4MC	Elsie Mandeville
4WK	Amelie Martindale
5BP	Beau Newman
5EW	Nesia Asenoh
5JN	Benjamin Araujo
5KD	Mason Fleet
6CS	Samuel Fitchett
6BR	Malachy Blamire
6LS	Aiden Voysey
6SE	Rebecca Atkinson

I wish you all a happy and restful weekend.

With my best wishes,



Melody Kingman
Headteacher

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