



**HERNE BAY JUNIOR SCHOOL IS A SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT
FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.
APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS SHOULD BE UPHELD AT ALL
TIMES.**

For safeguarding, the school office will be closed from 8.35am-8.50am and 3.15pm-3.25pm daily. This is to allow the children to enter and exit the site safely. Please call or use the intercom during these times for assistance.

Friday 9th February 2024

TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

TERM 4 BEGINS - MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

19th February – Picasso and Da Vinci classes swimming
21st February – **Kestrels** non-uniform day (Term 3 house point winners)

This week, we have participated in two significant national events: Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day. All classes have engaged with activities to emphasise the importance of these topics and had the opportunity to discuss key issues with their class adults and peers.

It is widely known that the more we revisit information, the more likely children will remember the key messages. I hope that your child has shared some of their learning with you so that conversations can continue at home.

Thank you to those who have completed the online survey in regard to our outward communication systems. If you have not yet had the chance to do so, please click the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/NjVFTQCTYw>

If you are not already following us on social media, please search:

@hernebayjuniors (Instagram)

Herne Bay Junior School (Facebook)

Pictures and videos are updated to these platforms on a daily basis. Our Instagram stories are where you can find reminders of events or activities that are taking place that day including the lunch menu.

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week is 93.12 %.
Overall attendance this year to date 93.12%.

Well done to Picasso class who achieved 97+% attendance this week.

58 children remain in the 100 club with 100% attendance.
107 pupils currently have attendance of 98% or above.

136 late codes have been recorded this week:

Year 3 - 19

Year 4 - 38

Year 5 - 37

Year 6 - 42

All children must arrive at school **by 8:45am** each day to avoid being coded as 'late'. A late arrival results in a disrupted start to the day. Learning begins at 8:45am: a child arriving late will find it difficult to join in a lesson that has already started.

Early Morning Sports Club is **free of charge** and open for all children to attend. It starts promptly at **8:20am** each day. Please consider this if your child is held up by you dropping siblings to other schools.

HOUSE POINTS

Kestrels are the winners this week with 302 house points – well done!

Hawks – 261 house points

Eagles – 248 house points

Falcons – 248 house points

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TERMLY HOUSE POINTS

Since September, the children have accumulated 16,708 house points!

The total for term 3 is 5372.

The winning house this term is... **Kestrels** with 1443 house points. This house will be able to come to school wearing non-school uniform on Wednesday 21st February.

2nd **Eagles** 1341

3rd **Falcons** 1340

4th **Hawks** 1248

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

School budgets have been affected in recent years by a reduction in funding and an increase in costs. This means we are not able to allocate hardship funding within our budget to support families in paying for activities such as swimming. In extreme circumstances where we agree to support, money is diverted from other allocated funds so meaning a reduction of resources within that area.

Therefore, although we are permitted to request a voluntary contribution for additional activities, I would ask that you contribute the full amount if you are in a position to do so. This will allow us to ensure that families in financial deprivation are supported to ensure that their child is not disadvantaged.

TEACHING & LEARNING NEWS

Earlier in this term, Year 4 carried out a second round of the Official Unofficial Multiplication Tables Check (OUMTC) on Times Tables Rock Stars. This is in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) that Year 4 children will be completing at the end of the year as a statutory requirement from the Department of Education (DfE). It is an online assessment in which children are asked 25 multiplication questions and have 6 seconds to answer each question. Last year, the national average score was 20/25 with 25/25 being the most frequently recorded score. Year 4 are working hard on their times tables and the table below shows the progress they are making. However, there is still work to do.

Average score out of 25	Dali	Da Vinci	Kahlo	Picasso
Autumn	12	10	8	9
Spring	16	13	13	15

We want as many children as possible to know their times tables. It makes such a difference to the rest of their mathematics learning as they move up through the school and in to secondary school. In last year's Maths SATs Arithmetic paper, 78% of the marks available involved knowledge of the times tables. Across all three Maths papers, 66% of the marks required the use of

times tables knowledge. The Maths curriculum after Year 4 focusses more heavily on multiplicative relationships and reasoning and many of the new concepts they explore rely on knowledge of the times tables: fractions, percentages, ratio, area, volume. We ask that parents continue to support their children practising their times tables regularly; little but often is the key. Taking a few minutes each day to practise via the TTRS website/app has been shown to improve a child's tables knowledge. Practise makes permanent - a child who can automatically recall their tables facts puts less demand on their working memory, allowing them to tackle more complex problems with increased confidence and accuracy. Supporting your children to learn their times tables is an impactful investment in their learning that will continually pay dividends throughout the remainder of their time in primary and secondary school. Practising times tables does not/should not stop after Year 4 nor does it only begin in Year 4. Years 3, 5 and 6 also need to continue to practise their times tables on a daily basis. If you know your child struggles with their tables knowledge and require ideas/strategies/games to support them to develop this crucial knowledge, please do come and speak to your child's class teacher. Equally, if your child is confident and you'd like ideas to stretch and challenge them further, come and discuss how with your child's class teacher. Children learn their sounds so they can read fluently and automatically, freeing up cognitive energy to understand what they have read. Children learn their times tables so they can calculate fluently and automatically, freeing up cognitive energy to understand the important concepts in Maths.

Year 4 Parents

On Thursday 29th February at 2:45pm, Year 4 parents are invited to attend an information session about the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) that the children will be completing in June. This will be led by Mrs Pardoe and members of the Year 4 teaching team.

SEN NEWS

This week, I'm providing the link to the SEN Magazine with articles on Selective Mutism and School Avoidance to note. Although the press shared disappointing news from politicians and their opinions on how best to support children with SEND this week, the article on working abroad supporting children with SEND highlights how advanced the UK is compared to other countries regarding our provision.

[SEN128 Jan/Feb 2024 \(senmagazine.co.uk\)](https://www.senmagazine.co.uk/SEN128-Jan/Feb-2024)

Children with severe nut allergy



A reminder to parents of children having packed lunches that due to some pupils having an allergy to nuts, we are a nut free zone in school.

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Healthy School



Please ensure your child does not bring nut based products or any food item that **may contain nuts** into school.
Thank you for your support.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children's Mental Health Week

We have enjoyed celebrating Children's Mental Health Week this week. Using the theme 'My Voice Matters', each year group discussed different ways that children and young people can express themselves. To hear more about the week, please read our featured news which can be located on the school website: [Our School - Herne Bay Junior School \(hernebay-jun.kent.sch.uk\)](http://Our School - Herne Bay Junior School (hernebay-jun.kent.sch.uk))

#WAKEUPWEDNESDAY

10 Conversation Starters for Parents about Mental Health

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, the guide attached to this newsletter is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins. In the guide, you'll find tips such as talking about mental health naturally, being open and honest and asking twice.

INCLUSION BEAR

Awarded:

Miss Leeks nominated Poppy, in Banneker class. Miss Leeks said that Poppy and another member of the class received headteacher stickers for their maths work last week. When the other person lost their one, Poppy said, without hesitation "It's fine, don't worry, you can have mine." It was such a kind, selfless thing to do and made such a difference to the other persons day. Poppy is a great member Banneker class, and we are all so happy to have her back as part of the team.

Nominated:

Lexi, in Anning class, nominated Mrs Boardman for making her laugh.

Fleur nominated Jamie, in Shakespeare class. Fleur said he makes her smile every day.

Kahlo class nominated Mrs Pardoe for being amazing. They said, "Mrs Pardoe is helpful, kind and helps us when we are sad, angry, or stressed. She is wonderful and we are so happy that she is our teacher."

Blossom, Rose and Isla nominated Mrs Pym-Gale for always helping them in class and if they are sad. They said she is so nice.

Josie, in Hawking class, nominated Miss Humphries for making learning fun. Josie said, "She is the best!"

Isaac nominated James, in Shakespeare class, for playing with him and always being a great friend.

ROCKING READERS

This week the Rocking Reader trophy was awarded to Year 6. The children were recognised for their consistent engagement in reading leading to averages of 86% in their AR quizzes and 32 minutes spent reading.

READING RECOGNITION

Today, individual children were recognised by their teachers for improvement or engagement in their reading this term. They were:

Year 3: Evangeline Medhurst, Hamza Mutlu, Altay Nedzhatinov

Year 4: Alfie Elvidge, Zaahid Barakat, Aubrey Jones, Abigail Wilders

Year 5: Imogen Mortlock-Allan, Jessica Pavey, Laila Gilbert, Maggiesue Dempsey

Year 6: Lacie-Rae Birkett, Max Reilly, Riley Burns, Isla Humphreys-Scarmen

100% Quiz winners are:

Lyam Holland-Barratt, Parker Macdonald, Shruti Chinnien & Zishan Lin

READING ACCOMPLISHMENT

As you know, the school expectation is for children to read for 15minutes a day. Through AR, teachers are able to track children's engagement and through a complex algorithm, we are able to gain an approximation of the number of words individual children are reading.

Today, in assembly, Miss Wilkinson announced the names of children who have read an astonishing number of words since September. Take a look at the following, impressive, achievements:

200,000 – 300,000 words

Artie Lane, Kardelen Coker, Pariya Hothi, India Geeves, Tilly Rolfe & Lucas Streatfield.

300,000 – 400,000 words

George Whesatley, Alex Stumpf, Ellis Crowley, Jake Dobson, Tilly Moore, Alasdair Thompson & Isla Humphreys-Scarmen

400,000 – 500,000 words

Abrielle Bernard

500,000

Deborah Gomez (joined HBJS in Term 2 – making this even more impressive!)

500,000+

Felicity Thornhill – 587,695

Jessica Pavey – 745,795

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William Leeks – 664,692

1,000,000+

Erica Prevett – 1,062,808

TT ROCKSTARS

We finish the term with 19 Rock Heroes in school!

The top 5 performers are:

1st - Joseph Papademetrie

2nd - Emma Cooper

3rd - Tilly Buss

4th - Lennon Whightman

5th – Jessica Chen

The TTRS trophy was awarded to Evie Turner who has logged on to TTRS and practiced her times tables 33 out of 35 days in the last 5 weeks. Well done Evie!

SPORTS NEWS

Our Girls Football team played away against Herne this week. Despite a loss of 1-0, Mr Hobbs praised the team for their resilience and team spirit. Mille Robinson was named as 'player of the match' for her superb effort throughout the game. Well done girls!

On Wednesday a number of children travelled to Herne Bay High School to take part in the district Cross Country competition. Up to 16 schools took part within each group and.... Herne Bay Junior School came away winning GOLD overall!

There was much to celebrate within all of the groups with Gold, Silver or Bronze wins in all of the age categories.

Well done to Keeva 'Kevin' Chidgey – who came 2nd out of 60 girls within her group – she will be one top watch in the future!

Henry Rennells came away with GOLD in the Y5/6 boys group shaking off an equally impressive opponent all the way to the finish line – fabulous!!

SPORTS AWARD

Henry Rennells was awarded the Sports Trophy for his captivating win at Cross Country. We are all very proud of you, Henry!

MR FOREMAN'S ECO CORNER

World's first year-long breach of key 1.5C warming limit

It was a sad day in the Eco Corner office when I read the above. But what does it mean?

Back in 2015, world leaders promised to try to limit the long-term temperature rise of the planet to 1.5C, which is seen as crucial number to help avoid the most damaging and irreversible impacts on our planet.



This first year-long breach doesn't break that Paris agreement, but it does bring the world a lot closer to doing so. You may be thinking, well it hasn't really affected us in Herne Bay, and maybe not directly, although I have noticed that our summers do seem to be getting a

lot hotter. But globally, last year we were hearing far more about floods, droughts, heatwaves and wildfires; and this is just with only a 1.5C increase. Imagine a 2C increase. Just that extra half a degree - the difference between 1.5C and 2C of global warming - greatly increases the risks of passing so-called tipping points.

These are thresholds within the climate system which, if crossed, could lead to rapid and potentially irreversible changes.



For example, if the

Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets passed a tipping point, their potential collapse could cause catastrophic rises to global sea-levels.

A landmark UN report in 2018 said that the risks from climate change - such as intense heatwaves, rising sea-levels and loss of wildlife - were much higher at 2C of warming than at 1.5C.

At the current rate of emissions, the Paris goal of limiting warming to 1.5C as a long-term average, rather than a single year, could be crossed within the next decade.

All this does sound very cataclysmic, and a bit 'end of the world is nigh', but unfortunately, we are now really beginning to see the real effects of global warming and we can't turn a blind eye to it anymore.

Thankfully, we can still make a difference to the world's warming trajectory. Most encouragingly of all, it's still thought that the world will more or less stop warming once net zero carbon emissions are reached, although reducing emissions by half this decade is seen as crucial to achieve this.

We can still control how much warming the world experiences, based on our choices as a society, and as a planet. It's down to us to make those green, sustainable changes for the better.

HERNE BAY LIBRARY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

Attached to the newsletter are flyers giving detail of activities taking place at Herne Bay Library next week. Do take a look; these are free for your children to attend!

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KENT COLLEGE SUPERCAMPS 2024

Attached to the newsletter is a flyer giving information about holiday camps taking place in 2024 run by Kent College.

STAR OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following children for being identified by their class teachers as this week's Stars of the Week. Certificates will be emailed to parents/carers.

Parks	Whole class
Shakespeare	Whole class
Tolkien	Whole class

Da Vinci	Hayden James-Adams
Dali	Elsie Kehoe
Kahlo	Fred Byron-Love
Picasso	Lara Wright

Anning	Mashita Kilic
Curie	Amanda Ukwuaku
Hawking	Daniella Gilbert
Jemison	David Petrai

Banneker	Evan Law
Johnson	Henry Rennells
Nightingale	Lexi Reeves
Turing	Sabanna Burford

TA RECOGNITION AWARD

Each week, our TAs recognise those children who consistently shine as positive role models to others during break and lunch times. Certificates will be emailed to parents/carers.

This week's awards go to:

Year 3	Ruby-Rose Brown
Year 4	Lois Crowther
Year 5	Kais Anezi
Year 6	Ollie Foster

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful half term break.

With my best wishes,



Melody Kingman
Headteacher

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