



12th March 2021 Newsletter

March	
Friday 19th	Comic Relief – children can wear own clothes and red nose items– we will not be collecting donations in school but please feel free to donate direct to Comic Relief
Tuesday 23rd	Parent Consultation Meetings - more information to follow via Parentmail next week
Wednesday 24th	Class Photographs – An information video will be sent to parents that has been produced by the company taking the photographs – Vancols via Parentmail
Thursday 25th	Parent Consultation Meetings - more information to follow
April	
Thursday 1st	Last Day of Term 4
Monday 19th	Children Return to School

	<i>Weekly school attendance</i>	<i>Days missed across the school this week</i>	<i>Best class attendance for the week</i>	<i>Overall attendance for the year</i>
	97.24%	32	Starfish Ladybirds 100%	96.63%

Altogether, we learn, love, respects and most importantly have FUN!

It's been so great to have the children back this week. They have settled well and it's great to see them with their friends again. We are sure you will have very tired children this week. Thank you for your support in following guidance to keep us all safe.

Thank you to the Friends and to you!

You may have noticed some new resources around the school, which include new benches in year 1 and 2 outside areas and on the playground and a new decking area in EYFS for the children to use, as well as many other learning resources for each year group. These were funded by the Friends, from all of your generous donations during

the past year. The Friends committee members have worked so hard to host events and have still prioritised fund raising despite the pandemic and school closures.

A huge thank you to you all, the children definitely benefit from every penny donated.

	 Reading Champion	 Star of the week	 Active Award	 Star Table	 Walk on Wednesday Feet on Friday
Mrs Kent will hold a virtual celebration assembly for the awards in this newsletter and stickers/badges and star table event will be given out and take place on a Monday					
	Ava	Sinead - for trying so hard with her English story sequel	Olivia Leo	Harry	Rocky
	Archie	Jack - for putting 100% effort into everything and always being eager to learn.	Theo Issy	Anire	Jessie P
	Ethan	Jacob - for making an amazing effort in English.	Olly Davids	Eleanor	Sammy
	Tiffany	Leighton – for showing enthusiasm for all areas of his learning this week.	Teddy Olivia	Connor	Amelia
	Jacob	Josiah_–for excellent contribution to PSHE. Knowing lots about recycling and the environment.	Briony Grace	Laila	Pola
	Freddie	Cody- for settling into school so well and being really kind to his new friends.	Reece Danielle	Lydia	Ernie

	Naya	Jake- for impressing me with his handwriting and for using this good fine motor control to write his name so beautifully.	Charlie L Ayla	Dylan	Quinn
	Omoefe	Teddy- for his amazing cursive handwriting and settling back into school.	George L Riley	Omoefe	Max
	Yameena	Clara- for joining in all activities with great enthusiasm.	Ronnie F Freja	Brooke	Chayce

Bonus Coin Winner of the Week – Starfish

What we have been learning.....

EYFS



This week in EYFS we have had lots of fun! We started the week by getting to know each other again and finding out about their learning journeys whilst at home! We were all so impressed with how well the children have come back into school and hopefully they have all left with the same smiling faces and are tired out when they get home! We have all been a little secretive too this week but so that I don't spoil the surprise I will just let you know that it has something to do with a special day on Sunday!

As you all saw the children were super excited on Wednesday for their first PE lesson and thank you for remembering to send them in in their PE clothes! I hope the wait was worth it! Whilst we were in the hall, we learnt how to keep ourselves safe during PE and how exercise effects our bodies. As well as all that we had fun jumping, hopping and travelling in a variety of ways around the hall floor!

We have also had fun in Maths this week where we created our own part-part-wholes for a variety of different number stories. We were all super impressed with how the children remembered where each of the numbers should go and the importance of the whole number!

Just a little reminder that reading books now go home on a Wednesday and need to be returned by the Monday. This then gives you a chance to go through them at the weekend too!

Thank you for all your continued support.

Year 1



Welcome back Year 1. It is so good to see most of your smiling faces through the door this week and hear the children playing and laughing together as they should be. Whilst we are settling in slowly, giving the children a chance to adjust again we have also kept busy diving into our topic of "Circle of Life". In English we have been acting as animals and then labelling and writing some descriptions of them. We also enjoyed some Geography this week where we looked at the physical features of the opening of the film "The Lion King". We then compared physical

geographical features to human ones and recorded our ideas in our topic books. For Maths this week we have been recapping numbers to 20, thinking about ordering them and finding one more and one less. We have also loved getting outside for some fun PE games this week which has helped us get back into the swing of working together as a team. Next week in English we are going to be looking at rhyming with one of our favourite stories "Oi Frog!" If you want to get ahead of the game have a practise with some rhyming this weekend.

Year 2



Year 2 have had an amazing week catching up with our friends and sharing news. We haven't been able to stop smiling! In English, we have carried on with our magical theme. We read the story "Room on the Broom" by Julia Donaldson and as a special treat even watched it! From this, we planned our own sequels to the story. We thought about the opening, which we took from the ending of the original story, build up, problem, resolution and ending. We are so proud of all of our amazing

ideas!

In Maths, we carried on with the learning that we began during lockdown on multiplication. We recognised and made equal groups and used the part-part-whole model to represent our groups. We also added groups and thought carefully about what the multiplication symbol means. We look forward to learning more next week!

We had such fun in Science where we learnt that animals need food, water, oxygen and shelter to survive- just like humans. In groups, we created mock YouTube videos where we explained to our viewer how to take care of our chosen pet. We also learnt about the lifecycles of frogs and butterflies, read The Very Hungry Caterpillar and used drama to act out the stages of these lifecycles. We certainly need a rest after our busy week! Have a lovely weekend Year 2.

Covid-19 – Stay at Home – Protect the NHS – Save Lives



In accordance with the government guidelines, we would ask that parents are vigilant/alert. For all children who are attending school if they or anyone in their households develops any of the following symptoms they should not come into school and should inform the school of this. Thank you again for your continued co-operation.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptoms are the recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or a member of their household has any of the 3 symptoms listed above could you please visit [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.nhs.uk/119) to book a test or call 119, letting the school know this on the 1st day of absence. Could you please ensure that once the test results are known the school is informed both via telephone and email before they return to school.

If you are self-isolating, please can we politely remind you that you should not be leaving your home which includes driving your child to school even if you come and remain in a car. If your child does not need to isolate, they can still come to school but would need to be brought in by somebody else. To ensure that we all follow Government guidance and prevent the spread of the virus, please abide by the guidelines given. If you need any support or guidance, please contact the school office.

Book Week Quiz Winner

Well done to all the children who took part in the book week quiz, a winner has been chosen for each class that entered. **Ramsey from Ladybirds, Dominique from Bees, Luana from Turtles, Laila from Starfish, Stanley from Dolphins, Lenny from Polar Bears, Emma Little Penguins, Olly Snow Leopards.** The winners will be announced in the Awards Assembly on Monday and the Amazon prize will also be sent home with the winners on Monday.



Class Photographs



Vancols photography will be in school on Wednesday 24th March to take class photographs. The company have produced a video to reassure parents/carers of their covid-19 protocol and this will be sent out via parentmail. If you would not like your child's photograph to be taken please ensure you inform the school office.

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing for Households and Bubbles of School Pupils Home Testing Kits

Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus (COVID-19) do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, we all need to play our part to help protect each other. This method of testing has been offered to staff in school and testing is currently taking place. Parents and other adults in households and bubbles with children at school or colleges can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. There are different ways for a household to collect their tests, which are fast, easy and completely free. Unfortunately the school are not able to provide families with the kits but they can be accessed as detailed below:

- Through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- By collecting a home test kit from a local test site
- By ordering a home test kit on line – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes listed above

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

For your ease, the test centres where kits can be collected are as follows:

Location	Site Name
Swale	Bridge Road Car Park
Tonbridge & Malling	Ditton Youth Centre Car Park, Kiln Barn Road, Aylesford
Folkestone	The Stadium Car Park, Church Road, Folkestone
Dartford	Car Park at Acacia Hall
Maidstone	Shepway Green Youth Centre Car Park, Cumberland Ave
Margate	Dreamland Car Park (LTS & RTS)
Gravesham	Lord Street Car Park, Gravesend
Canterbury	Car Park Gate 6, North Holmes Road
Canterbury	University of Kent - Rutherford Car Park
Medway	Jellicoe Building Car Park
Medway	Christ Church, Luton Road

Parent Consultation Meetings

Virtual parent consultation meetings will be held on Tuesday 23rd March and Thursday 25th March and will follow a similar format to the virtual meetings that took place in November. Further information regarding this will be send out via ParentMail.

Smoking on school grounds



Please be aware that the school operates a smoke free environment. There should be no smoking by any adults in any part of the school site, including the playground. The use of electronic cigarettes is also not permitted. Please ensure that you adhered to this policy and help us to provide a safe environment, free from second hand smoke. Please also be aware of smoking in cars outside of school or whilst waiting to come into school to give added protection to children and other adults.

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE.....

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What parents & carers need to know about...

AMAZON ALEXA

Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.

Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it's never possible to find every problem.

Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.

Safety Tips

Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction 'Alexa, delete everything I said.' Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 28 minutes. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.

Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example 'Alexa, buy some toilet paper.' To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

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Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.



Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to:

kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk

EDUCATION RESTART