



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 25th March 2022

Issue 25 2021-2022

Term Dates

Term 2 - 1st November 2021 to 17th December 2021

Term 3 - 4th January 2022 to 11th February 2022

Term 4 - 21st February 2022 to 1st April 2022

Term 5 - 19th April 2022 to 27th May 2022

Term 6 - 6th June 2022 to 21st July 2022

Staff Development Days

1st September 2021

1st October 2021

17th December 2021

27th May 2022

6th June 2022



Key Dates

Monday 28th March

Parent Consultations

Wednesday 30th March

Parent Consultations

PSA Easter Fayre (from 2.30pm)

Thursday 31st March

Easter Service at St. Peter's Church

(Y4, 5 and 6) – children only

Friday 1st April

PSA 'Break the Rules' Day

Last day of Term 4

Tuesday 19th April

First day of Term 5

Friday 22nd April

PSA St. George's Non-uniform day

W/B Monday 9th May

Key Stage 2 SATs Week

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have been managing to enjoy the warmer, sunnier weather this week. It has definitely felt like Spring has finally arrived in school!

A Drama Showcase was held in the School Hall on Monday afternoon. Very well done to all those children that took part, and thank you to Ms Glassock for arranging it.

We were delighted to welcome Chris Knott from Starfish Malawi into school on Wednesday morning. He led lessons for our Year 3 and Year 4 children which were fascinating. He is due to travel to Malawi shortly for what will be his thirtieth trip. We are very proud of our link with Starfish Malawi, which is now in its thirteenth year, and very much look forward to doing more work with them over the coming months and years.

Our football team took part in a competition at Knole Academy on Saturday morning. We were unlucky to be drawn with some much bigger primary schools but, despite this, our team played extremely well and were highly competitive. Very well done to all the children that took part. Thank you to Mrs Parkinson who gave up her Saturday morning to look after the team.

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Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 92.2%

Pine – 89.7%

Chestnut – 96.9%

Willow – 85.9%

Elm – 92.3%

Beech – 94.4%

Oak – 87.8%

Lateness

The number of “lates” recorded this week were as follows:

Acorn – 2

Pine – 0

Chestnut – 0

Willow – 2

Elm – 3

Beech - 0

Oak - 0



On Wednesday, we took part in a water polo competition at Sevenoaks School. I spoke to the event organiser yesterday who told me how well the Ightham children had performed. The Year 6 team took bronze and the Year 5s took silver in their year groups. They all showed great sportsmanship and determination. Thank you to Mrs Standen and Mrs Parkinson for arranging our participation in this and for supporting the teams.

Last week, we raised £91.36 for Comic Relief. Thank you for your support.

I received an update from the Kent Association of Headteachers earlier in the week regarding the Ukraine Appeal. Nine HGVs have been sent so far and a tenth was being loaded when I received the update on Tuesday. This is an amazing effort by schools across Kent.

Please may I again remind all parents to park with consideration for the benefit of our whole school community. Parking on the school driveway is by permission only and we ask that Oldbury Lane is not blocked by parked cars.

Attendance

Recently, I have received an increasing number of requests for absence due to family holidays. The latest Government guidance to schools states:

“Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school. The government expects Schools to promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence. The government also expects parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.”

Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance being below 90%. As of March 8th, **thirty-four children** who attend Ightham had an attendance below 90%. In some cases, we do understand that this is entirely justifiable for reasons such as serious illness or through repeated covid infections requiring isolation. However, I do request your support in ensuring your child attends school when they are well enough to do so and government guidelines allow. The school will follow up when there are concerns around your child’s attendance.

A reminder that next Friday is the last day of Term 4 and there no activity clubs eg gymnastics, science club on next week.

Mr D Sherhod
Head Teacher

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Gold Cup and Head Teacher Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to: Archie in Year 3

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Year R – Amelia and Olivia

Year 1 – Milo and Elvis

Year 2 – Matilda, Jeannie and Arthur

Year 3 – Harry and Izzy

Year 4 – Lily-Rae and Evan

Year 5 – Ava and Gracie

Year 6 – Max T, Lewis and Monica

Congratulations to all!

Pupil Achievements

Well done to Tripp in Year 2 who received his 20m swimming badge this week.

Ightham Values

Caring

Respect

Responsibility

Tolerance

Aspiration

Honesty

Ightham Vision

Pupils should leave Ightham School with their understanding deepened, their minds enriched, and their hearts inspired, so that they love learning and embrace the challenges of the future.



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