



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 11th November 2022

Issue 9 2022-2023



Term Dates

Term 1 – Monday 5th September to Friday 21st October

Term 2 – Monday 31st October to Friday 16th December

Term 3 – Wednesday 4th January to Friday 10th February

Term 4 - Monday 20th February to Friday 31st March

Term 5 – Monday 17th April to Friday 26th May

Term 6 – Wednesday 7th June to Friday 21st July

Staff Development Days

3rd January 2023

5th June 2023

6th June 2023

Key Dates

W/b Monday 14th November

Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 18th November

Children in Need

Monday 21st November

Y5/6 Hockey Tournament

Monday 28th November

Girls' Football Tournament

Monday 5th December

Drama Showcase (3.30pm, School Hall)

Tuesday 6th December

Acorn (Reception) Nativity – 9.15am in the School Hall

Wednesday 7th December

Acorn (Reception) Nativity – 9.15am in the School Hall

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another busy week in school. The PSA held its AGM on Tuesday afternoon. Jo Crisp has now formally taken over as Chair of the PSA and I know she would be delighted to hear from any parents that would like to be involved. Melissa Treacy stood down after three years as Chair although she will continue on the committee for the time being. Melissa did a fantastic job, in very trying circumstances thanks to covid, and my sincere thanks go to her.

The nurses came into school on Wednesday to administer 'flu vaccinations. Yesterday morning, we held the second of our New Entrants' presentations for September 2023.

I am sorry to confirm that Mrs Richardson will not be returning to Ightham Primary School. As many of you know, she has been battling long covid since an initial infection back in March 2020, and she remains unable to return to school. We all miss her very much and she was a key part of our team that secured an outstanding grading from Ofsted. On behalf of the Governors and everyone at the School, I would like to thank Mrs Richardson for her unstinting dedication to the children at Ightham over many years. I wish her well for the future.

We have recently appointed three new members of staff to our team – Mrs Gabriel, Mrs Moffat and Miss Fosten. All three have joined us as Teaching Assistants and I am delighted to welcome them to Ightham.



Head Teacher: Mr D Sherhod, BSc(Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DD
Tel: 01732 882405 www.ightham.kent.sch.uk



Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 99.17%

Pine – 90.83%

Chestnut – 96.39%

Willow – 93.61%

Elm – 97.78%

Beech – 96.11%

Oak – 94.54%

Lateness

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

Acorn – 1

Pine – 0

Chestnut – 1

Willow – 0

Elm – 1

Beech - 0

Oak - 2



Thanks to the Friends of Ightham School (FOIS), we have also appointed an Apprentice Site Manager who will be starting with us on Monday. This is a joint collaboration between us, Plaxtol and Penshurst Primary Schools. Mr Joly will be working at Ightham Monday-Wednesday all day. The Friends of Ightham School are funding this appointment and I am extremely grateful to them for their support in this. If you would like to find out more about FOIS, please do look at the following web page:

<https://ightham.kent.sch.uk/our-school/friends-of-ightham-school/>

There are also monthly updates on FOIS in the Parish Magazine. In addition to our Apprentice, FOIS fund our Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Adams. They have also recently donated in the region of £4,000 to replace the commercial dishwasher in the school kitchen which was over twenty years old and had failed once again. FOIS is very keen to raise funds in order to continue supporting initiatives such as the above. If you would like further information, please do get in touch. Meanwhile, please do sign up for Smile Amazon as all your purchases through this result in a 0.5% donation to FOIS. Information on how to do this has been on most of our recent newsletters which are all available on our school website.

<https://ightham.kent.sch.uk/newsletters/>

Parish Magazine

Click on the link below to read the latest edition of the Ightham Parish Magazine.

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/thbfa/inle/>

Absence Reporting

If your child will be absent due to illness, you are requested to **always phone** the School Office and leave a voice message rather than emailing. If you ring before 8.30am, the automated system will be in action whereby you will be able to leave a message on the answerphone.

You are also requested to **contact the school daily** – and not just on the first day – if your child will be absent due to illness that day. This is in line with current guidance to schools from the Government.

Attendance

For Term 1, 13.9% (29 children) of all our pupils were ‘persistently absent’; this means that their attendance was below 90% for the term. This is far too many. In most cases, this was due to holidays. You are strongly urged not to book holidays during term time. There is conclusive evidence that poor attendance (persistent absence) results in lower attainment. It is a legal requirement that parents send their children to school. I sincerely hope the percentage of persistently absent children significantly decreases in Term 2 and for the rest of this year.

Children in Need Day – Friday 18th November

In order to raise money for Children in Need, there will be an own clothes day on Friday 18th November. Children are requested to bring in a minimum £1 donation for this.

Ightham PSA

This week we held our AGM on Tuesday and monthly meeting on Wednesday. Behind the scenes we are frantically planning the upcoming Christmas events.

9th December - Santas grotto and Christmas fair

14th December - Christmas jumper day

17th December - Santa’s Sleigh

If you think you could help us set up for Santa’s Grotto (1.45-3pm) or help out at the Christmas fair on 9th December (3.30pm onwards) then please let one of the PSA committee know or email me Chair@ighthampsa.com

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Remembrance Service

There will be a Remembrance Service outside the War Memorial at 10.30am on Sunday where our head boy and girl, Leo and Ava, will be laying a wreath on behalf of the school.

Message from the DfE – Additional Bank Holiday

In light of the announcement of His Majesty's coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023, an additional bank holiday has been announced on Monday 8 May. Settings that are normally closed on a bank holiday should close on this day. This will include schools and colleges. The Standards and Testing Agency will update schools and stakeholders as to what this means for key stage 2 test week as soon as possible this month.

Mr Sherhod

Gold Cup and Head Teacher Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to: Jasper in Year 4

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Year R – Theo and Ezra

Year 1 – Max and Millie-Lou

Year 2 – Nevie and Ethan

Year 3 – Crystal, Darcy and Charlie

Year 4 – Molly and William

Year 5 – Lizzie and George

Year 6 – Esme, Morgan and Dexter

Well done to all!

Pupil Achievements

Well done to Grace in Year 2 who, despite the terrible weather last weekend, got her half marathon wrist band at the Junior Park run.

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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