



# Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 16th December 2022

Issue 14 2022-2023



## Term Dates

- Term 1 – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October
- Term 2 – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December
- Term 3 – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Term 4 - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Term 5 – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May
- Term 6 – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

## Key Dates

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

First day of Term 4

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January

New Entrants' Meeting for Sept  
(9.30am – Hall)

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Y6 Assessment Meeting for  
Parents (3.30pm - classroom)

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Y2 Assessment Meeting for  
Parents (3.30pm – classroom)  
Alvin Shaw (Magistrate) in to  
work with Y6 (pm)

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Young Voices trip to the O2

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Football Tournament at Kemsing

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Safer Internet Day

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, may I extend a big 'thank you' to you all for working with us and helping us throughout the week as we've had to send various 'urgent' messages in terms of our plans, be it arrangements for drop-off, Breakfast Club, or our various performances that were scheduled to take place, as a result of the icy conditions. My thanks particularly go to: Mr Gatenby-Potter and Mr Williams for answering our plea for help to put down salt in the recreation ground car park; and Mr Salt for helping us with a malfunctioning heating system and a leaking tap.

We enjoyed our Christmas lunch on Wednesday and I can personally confirm the food was lovely! On the same day, we also had our PSA Christmas Jumper day to really get us all in the mood for Christmas.

Well done to all the children that took part in the KS1 Christmas performance on Tuesday. They all did extremely well, particularly considering they'd had no chance to practise since Friday. Both performances were wonderful, and my thanks go to all the staff that put in so much hard work to ensure it was a success.

Sadly, we were unable to go ahead with our Christmas Services at St. Peter's Church for Key Stage 2 due to concerns about getting the children to the church safely. However, I am pleased that these still went ahead in our School Hall. My thanks go to Ms Glassock for her work on the scripts and for preparing the children so diligently.

Given the week we've had in school, the PSA 'Meet Santa' event already seems like a long time ago, even though it was only last Friday. My thanks go to the PSA for all their hard work to make the event a resounding success. I know they were very cold by the end of the afternoon and, once again, it demonstrates how much effort goes into making the school what it is by so many people. Do please support the PSA when they take Santa around the village and surrounding areas on **Saturday** evening. We are aware there is another Santa 'doing the



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



## Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 93%

Pine – 93.33%

Chestnut – 93.33%

Willow – 92%

Elm – 95.3%

Beech – 86.67%

Oak – 88.28%

## Lateness

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

Acorn – 2

Pine – 0

Chestnut – 0

Willow – 0

Elm – 2

Beech - 0

Oak - 0



rounds’ on Friday (tonight) – please be aware this is **not** the school PSA!

## Staffing

Mrs Dix has now gone on maternity leave and we, of course, wish her well. I shall keep you updated when we hear any news in school! I am delighted to say that Mrs Black will be stepping in as the maternity cover teacher and she will teach Year 5 and 6 in place of Mrs Dix. Children in Year 5 will already know Mrs Black well from teaching them towards the end of year 4. We also welcome Mrs Weller onto our teaching team from the start of Term 3. She will be teaching Pine Class on a Thursday and Friday. My thanks go to Mrs Pollen for all her hard work as a class teacher over many years at Ightham, although I am pleased she will be staying with us in another capacity.

## Absence Form

New government guidance to schools further tightens up expectations around attendance. From the beginning of Term 3, you will be required to complete an eform if your child will be absent for any reason other than illness. All requests for a 'Leave of Absence' from school that involves missing part, or all, of the school day, must be authorised in advance by the Head Teacher. You are requested to give a minimum of two weeks' notice wherever possible. Leave of absence includes, but is not limited to: medical/dental appointments, holidays, requests to leave school early. We encourage medical/dental appointments to be booked out of school hours wherever possible. Leave in term time will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Please note that it is for schools to determine whether or not a leave of absence is authorised and the Head Teacher's decision is final. A link to the form is below, and is also available under 'Posts' on the school website Home Page:

<https://forms.office.com/r/02EDAVF6Wq>

## Children Starting School in September 2023

If you have a child starting school in September 2023, please do ensure that you apply for a school place even if you have a child currently attending Ightham. The deadline for applications this year is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January and you can apply for a place via [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola)

## Merry Christmas from Malawi

Our friends in Malawi wish you all a Merry Christmas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUbQdGzFNDU>

## Volunteers in School

Are you keen to regularly volunteer in school? If so, Miss Avery will be holding a meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 9am in the School Library for new volunteers. If you have previously volunteered in school, pre-covid, and would like to do so again, a meeting will be held for you on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 9am. Please note that we always place volunteers in classes that don't include their own children.

If you are interested please sign up via the e-form: <https://forms.office.com/e/fw2qUqXmGB>

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



## Ightham Primary School Newsletter

May I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to the school staff for all their hard work throughout the year on behalf of the children and their families.

Finally, I wish you and your family a very happy and restful Christmas. A reminder that Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January is an INSET Day so the first day of Term 3 for the children is **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**.

Mr Sherhod  
Head Teacher

### Ightham Values

Caring  
Respect  
Responsibility  
Tolerance  
Aspiration  
Honesty

### Pupil Achievements



Congratulations to Isobelle, Year 1, performing last Saturday in the leading role as Mary Poppins with the Born To Perform Stage School.

### Ightham PSA

Thank you all for your generous donations towards and for attending the Christmas Grotto last Friday. I think you will agree that it was a great success! Many congratulations to the winners of the raffle;

1st prize Greenwood yr 2

2nd prize Clarke y6

3rd prize Blightman yr 6

4th prize Biffin yr3

Time for a rest now, have a great Christmas.

Team PSA

### 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.

## Gold Cup and Head Teacher Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to: Elliot in Year 6

The Courtesy Cup was awarded to: Max in Year 3

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Year R – Chloe and Luke

Year 1 – Whole Class

Year 2 – Whole Class

Year 3 – Tripp, Matilda and Kaiden

Year 4 – Callum and Eleri

Year 5 – Florence and Dua

Year 6 – Mansun, Gracie and Zach G

Congratulations to all!



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

