



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023



Enjoying Young Voices at the O2

Issue 18 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

Wednesday 1st February

Chris Knott (Starfish Malawi) into school

Friday 3rd February

Football Tournament at Kemsing

Tuesday 7th February

Safer Internet Day

Thursday 9th February

Y4 Community Afternoon

Friday 10th February

Last day of Term 3

Monday 20th February

First day of Term 4

Wednesday 1st March

Music Hub Concert – Sevenoaks School

Dear Parent/Carer,

Sixteen children attended Young Voices at the O2 in Greenwich last Thursday afternoon and evening. Young Voices is the biggest children’s choir in the world, made up of around 8,500 children, with parents making up the audience. The children had an amazing time. One parent wrote to me afterwards to say: “Ms Glassock and Mrs Warnes did an amazing job today and the children had such a fantastic experience! It was all so well organised and the children (and the adults!) looked like they were having so much fun. I know that so much effort goes into making these things happen, it is very much appreciated.” I would like to add my thanks to Ms Glassock and Mrs Warnes for accompanying the children on an experience I am sure they will remember for many years to come.

Thank you to all those parents that took the time to complete our annual survey recently. We received a good number of responses and your feedback is very much appreciated. We are always striving to do the best that we can for the children and families at Ightham, and your feedback helps us understand what is working well and what, perhaps, we need to further develop.

I was delighted to note that 100% of respondees either agreed or strongly agreed with the statements: ‘My child is happy at school’ and ‘My child feels safe at school’. Whilst 82% of respondees said that the school does let parents know how your child is doing, 15% said they did not feel this was the case. It may be useful to remind parents that we do hold weekly



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Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 95.28%

Pine – 98.33%

Chestnut – 95.28%

Willow – 96.11%

Elm – 94.17%

Beech – 95.0%

Oak – 92.82%

Lateness

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

Acorn – 0

Pine – 1

Chestnut – 3

Willow – 1

Elm – 3

Beech - 3

Oak - 0



drop-in sessions after school in all classes, and this is an opportunity for you to look at books and talk to the class teacher. Teachers have recently noted that very few parents have recently been taking advantage of these drop-in opportunities. I was thrilled to note that 97.7% of respondees would recommend Ightham to another parent. I am currently working my way through the list of constructive comments that were made as part of the survey.

You will undoubtedly hear much more about the national teacher strike by the NEU that is due to take place on Wednesday next week in the coming days. As I said in my newsletter last week, I do expect the school to be fully open for all children on Wednesday 1st February and nothing has changed in the last week. I must add the caveat that this could change between now and 1st February but, at present, I am reasonably confident this will not be the case. If there are any changes, I shall of course let you know as soon as possible. Children are expected to attend school on this day, and absence will be treated in the usual manner. Any absence citing the strike, when the class is in school, will be treated as unauthorised.

I wrote to all parents on Thursday morning regarding what was, frankly, chaos at drop-off that morning in Oldbury Lane. I do very much hope that, moving forwards, all parents will work with the school for the benefit of the whole community and comply with what I believe is an extremely reasonable request from the Governing Body. This will continue to be monitored and we shall be communicating with any parents that continue to disregard our drop-off arrangements. *May I take this opportunity to thank the overwhelming majority of parents who do follow our arrangements every single day. To you, I am sorry I had to clog up your inbox on Thursday morning with my drop-off message, and please know that your compliance with our drop-off arrangements is very much appreciated.*

We very much look forward to welcoming Chris Knott from Starfish Malawi into school on Wednesday next week. We are hopeful that a live link will be set up with our link school, Thugulu, and a small number of our KS2 children will be able to converse directly with the children at Thugulu. This has not been attempted before by Starfish Malawi and we are keeping our fingers crossed the link works!

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>

Mr Sherhod
Head Teacher



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Ightham PSA



This week we have been collecting again in the car park. New but unwanted gifts for a Tombola and new or second-hand toys (in good condition) for the school playground. There is a specific list of toys on WhatsApp for you to take a look at. We will extend the collection to next week too. You can also drop any items into the school office if you can't find us. Many thanks for your generosity, Team PSA.

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.

Gold Cup and Head Teacher Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to: Rufus in Year 2

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Year R – Freddie and Skye
Year 1 – Gracie and Amelia
Year 2 – Theo A and Malachy
Year 3 – Tilly and Florence
Year 4 – Finley, Harry and Edward
Year 5 – Arthur and Max
Year 6 – Evie, Lennie and Ava

Well done to all!



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