



# Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd February 2023



The "live link" with Thugulu.

Issue 19 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

## Staff Development Days

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

## Key Dates

### Tuesday 7th February

Safer Internet Day

### Wednesday 8th February

Cornet Concert (2.50pm, Hall)

### Thursday 9th February

Y4 Community Afternoon

### Friday 10th February

Acer Meeting (8.35am-10am, Oldbury Annexe)  
Last day of Term 3

### Monday 20th February

First day of Term 4

### Tuesday 28th February

Y5 Viking Day

### Wednesday 1st March

Music Hub Concert – Sevenoaks School

Dear Parent/Carer,

We were delighted to welcome Chris Knott from Starfish Malawi into school on Wednesday. Chris is an immensely knowledgeable man whose voluntary work is an inspiration to all of us. During his visit, he set up a 'live link' with our link school, Thugulu, which the children in Years 3 and 4 took part in. The internet connection in Malawi was unfortunately quite weak, but there was a short period of communication between us and our link school 5,000 miles away. Chris will be returning in March for a second attempt. He also spent time with the children in Years 2, 5 and 6, as well as speaking to staff about Starfish Malawi. We were all enthused and are hoping to organise a collection of unwanted shoes to send to the children in Malawi quite soon! I shall keep you updated on this.

Our football team took part in a league match on Tuesday after school. They won both their games: 7-2 against Shoreham Primary and 4-1 against Seal St Lawrence. They are also taking part in a football competition at Kemsing Primary School this afternoon. I shall report on how they got on in the newsletter next week. My thanks go to Mrs Parkinson for organising and managing our participation.

Very well done to our Water Polo team that won the Sevenoaks Competition on Wednesday afternoon! We are all very impressed with the lovely shield that you won for the school. Thank you to Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Standen for accompanying and supporting the team.

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## Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 98.89%

Pine – 98.89%

Chestnut – 95.45%

Willow – 99.44%

Elm – 96.39%

Beech – 97.5%

Oak – 95.98%

## Lateness

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

Acorn – 0

Pine – 0

Chestnut – 1

Willow – 1

Elm – 0

Beech - 0

Oak - 1



Today (Friday) our children in Years 5 and 6 have been taking part in maths challenges thanks to a visit by Wise Up Maths. Thank you to Mrs Johnson for organising this.

Next week is the final week of Term 3. On Tuesday, we shall be taking part in Safer Internet Day which is a national initiative. There is a Cornet Concert taking place in the School Hall on Wednesday afternoon, and our next Acer Meeting will be taking place in the Annexe between 8.35am and 10am on Friday. This is our support network for parents of children with SEND – do pop in for a coffee and informal chat if you are able to do so.

## Ightham Parish Magazine

You can read the latest Ightham Parish Magazine by following the link below:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/thbfa/gbat/#p=1>

## Class Drop-ins

A reminder that class drop-in days are as follows:

Year R - Monday

Year 1 - Tuesday

Year 2 - Thursday

Year 3 - Friday

Year 4 - Monday

Year 5 - Thursday

Year 6 - Tuesday

I am sure that you are aware that many schools were affected by the national teacher strike by the NEU on Wednesday. Please be aware that further NEU strike dates have been announced for: 2nd March, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> March. I shall, of course, keep you updated on any potential impact at Ightham.

## 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**



Hope you have all had a great week. Remember we have a home clothes day next Friday 'Wear what you Love', please bring a bottle (for the Tombola in May) and leave it at the white PSA bucket in the car park. Have a great weekend.

**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.



The Sevenoaks Water Polo Champions.  
Back row (L to R): Dexter, Freddie, Arthur  
Front Row (L to R): Lily Rae, Flavia, Heidi



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