



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 24th March 2023



Year 5 and 6 swimmers at the KSSA Swimming Primary Championships.

Issue 25 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

1st September 2023

Key Dates

Monday 27th March

Parent Consultations

Tuesday 28th March

KS2 Easter Service (St. Peter's Church)

Wednesday 29th March

Parent Consultations

Thursday 30th March

Y3 Community Afternoon

Friday 31st March

Last day of Term 4

PSA 'Break The Rules' Day

Monday 17th April

First day of Term 5

Dear Parent/Carer,

I must begin this newsletter by mentioning the untimely death of the Head Teacher, Ruth Perry. I am sure that many of you are aware of the fact she took her own life apparently as a result of an Ofsted inspection that downgraded the school she led from outstanding to inadequate. Whatever the findings of the inspectorate, I am sure we can all agree that what happened to Mrs Perry is tragic and shouldn't have happened. For many years, schools that were graded as outstanding were subsequently exempt from further inspection. This exemption was removed in 2020 and all outstanding schools are once again routinely inspected at least every five years. I believe Mrs Perry's school was last inspected in 2009, so it had been over thirteen years since it had been inspected which, in my view, cannot have been right. Only this week, Ofsted has visited Riverhead Infant School in Sevenoaks (an outstanding school at last inspection) which was last inspected in 2009. Ightham would expect its next inspection by 2025.

Chestnut, Willow and Elm children had a fantastic experience watching a production of 'The Jungle Book' on Monday morning. The feedback I had from the children was very positive and it was lovely to be able to organise this for the children.

Thank you to everyone who donated to Red Nose Day - £ 91.45 was collected for Comic Relief.

On Saturday, our footballers took part in a competition at Knole Academy. Well done to all the children that took part; they played well and showed great team spirit.

Head Teacher: Mr D Sherhod, BSc(Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DD
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Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 98.85%

Pine – 98.87%

Chestnut – 97.18%

Willow – 96.29%

Elm – 95.48%

Beech – 97.91%

Oak – 97.05%

Lateness

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

Acorn – 0

Pine – 0

Chestnut – 0

Willow – 0

Elm – 1

Beech - 0

Oak - 0



Very well done to all the swimmers that took part in the KSSA Swimming Primary Championships on Saturday afternoon. Our team performed exceptionally well against strong opposition. Again, well done to all those that took part. A very big thank you to Mrs Parkinson for overseeing the football in the morning and the swimming in the afternoon.

Pine Class visited The Amelia in Tunbridge Wells on Monday morning. I understand from Miss Allen that it was a superb trip and everyone really enjoyed it! On Thursday, Beech Class visited Hertmonceux. This also proved to be a valuable visit for the class and was enjoyed by all.

A Drama Showcase was held in the hall after school on Monday. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but Mrs Ball tells me the showcase was fantastic! Well done to all those children that took part, and thank you to Ms. Glassock for organising it.

The KS1 choir also held a mini concert for parents on Monday; everyone was impressed with their harmonies and confidence! Many thanks to Miss Allen for organising it and even producing personalised tee-shirts for the children.

You will have received separate details earlier in the week about our Easter Service at St. Peter’s Church on Tuesday afternoon. This is the first time all of Key Stage 2 will have visited the church together since before the pandemic.

Many of you may be unaware that, after eight years, Reverend Tim will be retiring in the summer. Reverend Tim has been a real friend to the school over that time and we are all going to miss him greatly when he retires. We are planning on marking his retirement as a school and details will follow in due course.

Parent consultations will take place next Monday and Wednesday with Zoom details to be sent on Monday 27th. Please could you add your child’s full name when entering the waiting room so the teachers know who is online.

Willow Class will be hosting their Community Afternoon on Thursday next week at St. Peter’s Church Hall. We are proud to host these afternoons and my thanks goes to Ms. Glassock for organising them.

After School – Recreation Ground

Concerns have been raised with me this week regarding football matches being played on the recreation ground after school. I do ask that parents are mindful that lots of people are using the recreation ground after school, including toddlers who may be fearful (and, indeed, potentially in danger) from a football being kicked about. Please do ensure your child is considerate towards others also using the ground at this time.

Drop-off in the morning

If your child is in Years R-5 inclusive, the School expects that an adult brings them right up to the school gate in the morning.

A reminder that drop-off at both gates is between 8.35am and 8.45am. This allows time for your child to be in the classroom ready to start their school day at 8.50am.

Mr Sherhod
Head Teacher

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Absence Form

New government guidance to schools further tightens up expectations around attendance. 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>

Gold Cup and Head Teacher Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to: Poppy P in Year 3

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Year R – Alba and Archie

Year 1 – Max, Albert and Louie P

Year 2 – Teddy and Marlowe

Year 3 – Rupert, Willow and Jeannie

Year 4 – Isabelle, Albie W and Molly

Year 5 – Florence and Ruby Th

Year 6 – Yana and Evie M

Well done to all!

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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