



# Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th July 2024



Year 3 with the Formula Ford Racing Car

Issue 37 2023-2024

## Term Dates for 2024-25

Term 1 – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
 Term 2 – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
 Term 3 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
 Term 4 – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
 Term 5 – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
 Term 6 – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

## Staff Development Days for 2024-25

Monday 2nd September 2024  
 Tuesday 3rd September 2024  
 Monday 4th November 2024  
 Friday 20th December 2024  
 Monday 2nd June 2025

## Key Dates

### Monday 22nd July

Y6 Games Afternoon (3.30-5pm)

### Tuesday 23rd July

Last day of term – children collected at 1.30pm

### Wednesday 4th September

Children return for the new academic year

### *Meet The Teacher*

3.30pm – in class

5.30pm - remote

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is the final school newsletter of the academic year and, indeed, the final one that I shall write to you for a while. Having written every single newsletter to parents over the last ten years, it seems rather strange to think that I shall not be doing so in September! I have tried to keep you up to date with everything going on in school through this communication and I hope you find it useful. My next newsletter to you will be in January and I look forward to writing to you again at that time.

This time of year is always a happy occasion but also tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to our wonderful children in Year 6 who will be leaving us on Tuesday. We have celebrated their time at Ightham, and all they have achieved, at our traditional Leavers' Assembly in school this afternoon. All of us at Ightham are incredibly proud of the young people they have become. You go with all our best wishes for your future happiness and success.

We are also saying goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this academic year. Both Mr Payne and Mrs Warnes are heading into a very well-earned retirement. They have both been incredibly loyal and conscientious members of our team who have been with us for many years. In addition to being a fantastic teacher, Mrs Warnes has been our enthusiastic Music Leader who has done so much to increase the profile of music within the school. After 39 years of teaching, she has fully earned the rest coming her way. We held a special assembly this morning to thank Mrs Warnes for all she has done for the children at Ightham during her seven years with us. She reduced many of the staff to tears with the lovely poem that she had written to share with the school!

Mr Payne joined Ightham almost ten years ago and has done wonders on a very limited budget to keep the school well maintained as it is today. Over the years, he has responded to numerous emergencies such as water leaks, false intruder alarms in the middle of the night and much more besides. He will be much missed.

Mrs Lappin is also leaving us this term having worked at Ightham for over five years. Mrs Lappin has shown a quiet dedication to her role as well as being one of our fabulous Forest School Leaders. We wish



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## Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 98.89%

Pine – 94.72%

Chestnut – 94.17%

Willow – 96.11%

Elm – 92.5%

Beech – 94.17%

Oak – 94.17%

## 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



her well for the future.

Miss Avery is leaving us after sixteen years of unstinting commitment and loyalty to our school. Words alone cannot convey the gratitude and respect I have for all her immense hard work over so many years. I, and the school, could not have asked any more of a Deputy Head Teacher and she leaves with all our thanks and best wishes for the future.

Mr White, our new Year 6 teacher, has been in school this week to formally meet the children and staff, and I hope he is very happy and flourishes at Ightham.

As you will know from the letter earlier in the week, I shall be taking a Sabbatical in the autumn term. I am very grateful to those of you that have taken the time to extend your best wishes. They have been much appreciated. Ten years is a long time to lead a school; I have witnessed many other Head Teacher colleagues come and go in other local schools. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to take a step back in order to focus on my family and myself before returning in the new year. Mrs Snow, the Acting Head of School, is looking forward to starting at Ightham in September. I am sure our wonderful school community will make her feel very welcome in her new role.

Our final Community Afternoon of the year took place on Thursday. My thanks go to Miss Glasscock for all the hard work she puts in to make these afternoons so successful throughout the year, and also St. Peter's Church for making us so welcome throughout the year.

On Wednesday, Year 3 had a special visit from the Formula Ford Team and got to sit in their racing car! Thank you to Mrs Brown for organizing it.

On Monday, we held our annual Malawi Day. Afterwards, Chris Knott (Starfish Malawi) wrote to us to say: "As always a joy to be at the school today. I can say without a shadow of doubt that you have the best Malawi day of any school I've ever been into and there are many I've participated in over the years. Thank you for your dedication, and I would like to think that this will grow as we connect boys and girls in both countries together." A reminder that you can still purchase the traditional tale books, written by the children, from Arbor.

Many of you will know that Reverend Tim is retiring from St. Peter's Church this summer. He has been a real friend to the school and, to mark his retirement, we held a special assembly for him on Tuesday afternoon.

If you have the opportunity, and you haven't done so recently, I would encourage all parents to book an eye test for your child over the summer. Eye tests for children are free on the NHS and undiagnosed eye issues can undoubtedly hinder a child's progress academically.

**A reminder that school will finish at 1.30pm on Tuesday next week.**

I wish you and your family a very happy and restful summer.

Mr D Sherhod  
Head Teacher

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## 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, Courtesy Cup and Head Teacher Certificates

**The Gold Cup was awarded to:** Reuben in Year 6

**The Courtesy Cup was awarded to:** Grace R in Year 3

**Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:**

Year R – Cece and Harry

Year 1 – Eliza and Miles

Year 2 – Aulban and Millie-Lou

Year 3 – Teddy and Gabriel

Year 4 – Harper, Arya and Kaiden

Year 5 – Ellie and Finley

Year 6 – George and Taylor

Congratulations to all!



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