



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 7th June 2024

Issue 31 2023-2024



Term Dates

Term 1 – Monday 4th September to Thursday 19th October
 Term 2 – Monday 30th October to Friday 15th December
 Term 3 – Wednesday 3rd January to Friday 9th February
 Term 4 – Monday 19th February to Thursday 28th March
 Term 5 – Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May
 Term 6 – Wednesday 5th June to Tuesday 23rd July

Staff Development Days

Monday 2nd September 2024
 Tuesday 3rd September 2024
 Monday 4th November 2024

Key Dates

Monday 10th June

Y6 Safety in Action

Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th June

Y1 Phonics Screening

Monday 17th June

New Entrants' Meeting

Wednesday 19th June

Choir to St. Peter's and Ightham Mote

Friday 21st June

Sports Day

Monday 24th June

Y6 Residential Trip

New Entrants' Meeting

Tuesday 25th June

Y4 visit to Ightham Mote

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable half term holiday. I would like to congratulate Lizzie in Year 6 for performing in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells last week. I attended one of the matinee performances with my family and we all concluded it was a fantastic production. Well done, Lizzie!

Very well done to all the children that took part in the Tonbridge Swimming Gala on Wednesday evening. Our team finished in a highly creditable fourth place. I would like to thank Miss Avery and Mrs Parkinson for supporting the team. I know this was much appreciated by the children and parents. Indeed, one parent wrote the following day to say: "I just wanted to let you know how wonderfully supportive Mrs Parkinson and Miss Avery are and what a credit they are to Ightham School." Mrs Parkinson tells me she got home at 10.10pm so it really was a long day for her and all involved!

A reminder that we have the PSA Film Night this evening. Thank you to the PSA for arranging this.

Onto next week, and on Monday morning our Year 6 children will be taking part in 'Safety in Action'. We have taken part in this initiative for a number of years, run by Project Salus, and I am sure the children will gain a lot from taking part.

Good luck to our children in Pine Class who will be completing their Phonics Screening Checks next week, and also our children in Elm Class who will be completing the Multiplication Check.



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



Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Acorn – 96.25%
Pine – 93.75%
Chestnut – 92.92%
Willow – 99.16%
Elm – 93.31%
Beech – 92.89%
Oak – 94.56%

Lateness

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

Acorn – 0
Pine – 0
Chestnut – 3
Willow – 2
Elm – 0
Beech – 0
Oak – 1



Just a quick update on our proposed academisation with The Pioneer Academy... With the General Election being called, the country is in a state of purdah. My understanding is this means that some Government business ceases and only recommences when Parliament is reformed. As a result, the DfE will not move forward on our proposed academisation until after the General Election. I will keep you up to date on this as I learn more.

As I was writing this week’s newsletter, I received an email reminding me that I need to shortly update my mental health first aid qualification. Contained within the email were some startling statistics which I would like to share with you: “The 2023 Teacher wellbeing index shows that wellbeing in the sector is poor and continues to decline. Senior leaders remain at particular risk and there has also been a significant decline in the overall wellbeing of classroom teachers. 78% of all education staff are stressed, rising to 89% of senior leaders; 36% of schoolteachers reported experiencing burn out; 51% of staff experience insomnia or difficulty sleeping. The reason I decided to share this with you is that I believe we have a fantastic team at Ightham who work so hard for our children and families. We don’t always get everything right, and we know that, but everyone works so hard to do so. I would like to personally thank our team for everything they do and continue to do. The example I gave at the beginning of this newsletter about the Swimming Gala is just one example of how our team at Ightham go ‘over and above’ what they have to do.

Six of our children took part in a Debating Masterclass at Sevenoaks School on Thursday afternoon. Very well done to the following children: Arty, Molly & Georgina in Year 5 and Reuben, Clara & Jasmine in Year 6. They will be taking part in a competition back at Sevenoaks School on 20th June and I shall let you know how they get on!

Governors’ 200 Club Draw

The winners of the May 2024 draw are:

1st - Julia Weller (this is getting ridiculous now) - £9.50
2nd - Demelza Carroll - £5.70
3rd - Caron Pullinger - £3.80

Year 5 Parents – Kent (PESE) Test

Parents of children in Year 5 have previously received information about the Kent (PESE) Test. If your child is currently in Year 5, and you intend to apply to a Kent Grammar school, register online at: www.kent.gov.uk/kenttest

Registration opens on 3 June 2024 and closes at midnight on 1 July 2024

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents and not the school to register your child for the Kent Test. If you do not register your child to take the test within the given window, your child will not be allowed to sit the test.

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: Oliver in Year 5

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Year R – The whole of Acorn Class
Year 1 – Miles and Torben
Year 2 – Brooke and Joelle
Year 3 – Harrison, Sofia and Rufus
Year 4 – Pearl and Luna
Year 5 – Zac, Joshua C and Archie
Year 6 – Eddie and Ruby Th

Congratulations to all!



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