



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

13th March 2026

This Week

Another busy and exciting week here at Ightham! We are very proud to share that four of our Year 6 children represented the school at the recent Mayoral Debate held at the Council Offices. The children behaved impeccably and delivered their debates with great confidence and skill. They competed alongside several other primary schools, making it a wonderful opportunity to showcase their talents.



The debate topics and results were as follows:

Should we have Grammar Schools and the 11+ Test? Yes – 39 | No – 8 | Abstained – 2

Should parents be allowed to take their children on holiday during term time? Yes – 37 | No – 12

Should all primary school children wear school uniform? Yes – 27 | No – 17 | Abstained – 5

Some truly interesting outcomes that sparked thoughtful discussion!

Reminders:

Please take a moment to complete the Activities Outside of School survey if you haven't already. Your input helps us provide the best opportunities for our children.

Don't forget to visit our Book Swap Shed—a fantastic way to donate and exchange books within our school community.

Lastly, your feedback is invaluable to us. We encourage you to complete the Ofsted Parent View survey using this [link](#) to share your views and help us continue to improve.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Best wishes, Ms Earl

Acorn Class

This week we have begun learning about our next traditional tale, The Three Little Pigs. We have used story actions to retell the story and can now do this without any prompts! The children have enjoyed completing challenges during Challenge Time related to our story, including combining materials to collage the houses, making our own story maps of the story, using a big, wooden blocks to build the three pig's houses and playing 'what's the time Mr Wolf'. In maths we have continued to learn about the composition of the numbers up to 10 through looking for parts and saying the whole.

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Pine Class

Pine class has been jam packed this week as we had our very first community afternoon at St Peter's Church. We were so lucky to have so many people come along from grandparents, neighbours and friends. We enjoyed a good sing song and dance together with our guests, before playing games and sharing stories. We are so grateful to all those that came, for the parents that supported us walking down and especially Jake's mum for running the singing and dancing so wonderfully. A huge thank you! This week we have been learning all about numbers to 50 and have enjoyed building the numbers using various objects and recognising how many tens and ones we have in a number. We are especially enjoying learning all about Florence Nightingale ahead of our school trip to the Florence Nightingale museum next week. We cannot wait!



Chestnut Class

Wow how the ducklings have grown this week! They move to their new home tomorrow and we will really miss having them in the classroom. The children have gained so much from having the ducklings in the class. The children have developed their sketching skills, knowledge of weight and the life cycle of a duckling alongside learning to care for an animal. Thank you so much to the PSA for funding this fabulous experience. In Maths, we have been exploring length and height, learning about cm and m. In English, we have linked to Geography by exploring a text related to the continents. In Art, we have used our creative skills to make a surprise!



Willow Class

Year 3 have been writing first person narratives this week comparing London to Ightham, it has been lovely to read how much they appreciate their local area and all it has to offer. In Maths, we have moved on to mass and capacity, with some interesting conversations about why we typically, but wrongly, call mass weight in our everyday lives! In Geography, we followed the course of a river from its small source in the mountains to its wide estuary into the sea. In DT, we have started to design our bookmarks reading to begin sewing them next week and in music we recapped the notes we have already learnt on the recorder and added another note to our 'repertoire'. With an amazing swimming lesson included, where all the children worked really hard to improve their skills it has been a brilliant week of learning.





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Elm Class

Mornings in Elm class this week have been very quiet, as we have been carefully completing our Explanatory texts, presenting them ready for a book that we are hoping to publish for Year 2. The highlight of our week was our 'theft' of the ducklings. We borrowed them for an afternoon and had a lovely time cuddling them and watching them play. We had forgotten quite how much poo they produce!

In Science we made a lot of noise when we connected buzzers into our simple circuits. We also looked at images of circuits to decide which would work and which would not.

Cricket with Mr Marshall was another highlight. We managed to avoid the rain and had great fun competing with each other whilst practising our overarm throws.

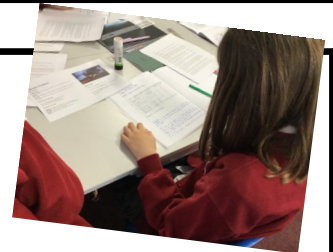
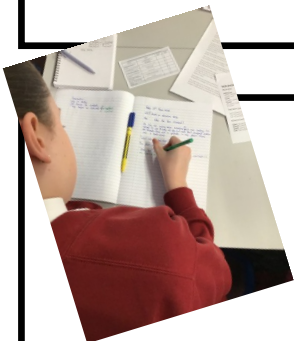
Beech Class

This week, Beech class has started its new CUSP reading text - 'I am not a label' by Cerrie Burnell, which is proving to promote lots of rich discussion. The children have begun their first unit on decimals in maths and are approaching this with confidence. South America is our Geography unit this term, and this week the children researched the different countries within this continent, and their capital cities. Biographies on Neil Armstrong were finished, and editing skills were put to the test! Art was a huge success this week, and we hope you enjoy receiving your child's 'creation'!

Oak Class

This week, Oak Class explored ratio and scale factors, looking closely at how ratios link to fractions. In English, we continued reading

Skellig and practised making deeper inferences. Furthermore, we planned and wrote our own adventure story based on a natural disaster. In RE, we learned how churches mark Good Friday and Easter Sunday. During Music, we listened to Benjamin Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra to understand how variation is used throughout the piece.





Awards and Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to:

Lily in Year 4

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Acorn Class—Rohan and George

Pine Class—Rufus and Isabella

Chestnut Class—Heidi and Reuben

Willow Class—Arlo and Ezra

Elm Class—Albert and Aulban

Beech Class—Ibby and Isla

Oak Class—Pearl and Edie

Maple Ready Award was presented to
Acorn Class.

Congratulations to all!

PSA

After School Today - Mother's Day Plant sale

27th March - Film night - please book your tickets

Easter holiday - Sponsored Read/Activity

TBC - Break the Rules day

TBC - School Disco

3rd June - Bags2school

11th July - Ightham Summer Fair

Could you give up a couple of hours, once a month to come to PSA meetings? We meet roughly 8 times a year to discuss fundraising ideas and spending.

If you would like to come to a meeting and see if it floats your boat then please email chair@ighthamrsa.com or just turn up!

Team PSA

Free School Meals

Looking ahead to September, please note there will be changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility. If you are on Universal Credit, you can apply for FSM through Kent County Council (KCC) using this link: [KCC Free School Meals](#). Alternatively, you can contact the school office, and we will be happy to assist with the application process.

House Points

The House Points accumulated this term:

Mote	Chartwell	Knole	Oldbury
8	11	7	4

The winners this week were Chartwell

Well done!



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School Calendar

Term 1: 1st September – 17th October

Term 2: 27th October - 19th December

Term 3: 5th January – 13th February

Term 4: 23rd February – 2nd April

Term 5: 20th April – 22nd May

Term 6: 1st June – 21st July

Inset Days:

1st September 2025

2nd September 2025

3rd November 2025

19th December 2025

1st June 2026

Upcoming dates

20th March Year 1 class trip to the Florence Nightingale Museum

23rd March Parent Consultations, 3:40—6:30

24th March Parent Consultations, 3:40—6:30

24th March Year R Hearing and Vision screening

25th March Year 5 Ightham Mote Partnership gardening afternoon

30th March Choir Spring Concert

2nd April KS2 Easter Service, 9:15am

2nd April Easter Egg hunt

2nd April Last day of term

20th April Start of term

23rd April Year 6 swimming starts

23rd April Year 2 Ightham Mote Partnership gardening afternoon

Attendance and Lateness We are expecting attendance of 96% or above. The attendance for this week is:

Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole School	National
96.1%	98.6%	100%	98.4%	95.4%	97.8%	97.7%	97.7%	95.3%

Number of lates	Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole
	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

It is important that the children attend school every day. If you unsure if your child is well enough to attend school, please look at the NHS guidance. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>