



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

24th April 2026

This Week

What a lovely start to the term! Thank you to the parents and staff who gave up time during the Easter break to prepare our allotment for the growing season. It was hard work (several of us ached the next day!), but the space looks fantastic and is already ready for our vegetable beds. Your support helps our children learn outdoors and connect with nature — we're very grateful, especially to Mrs Black for her enthusiasm and organising the event.

This week, some Year 5 children took part in a creative writing event run by the Sevenoaks Partnership with local author Louise Austin. The workshop explored the key stages of the writing process — planning, drafting, revising, editing and sharing — and showed how authors use those stages to build character and plot. The children produced some impressive work and were excellent ambassadors for Ightham Primary.

We urgently need a new Chair for the PSA. Our current Chair, Joanna Crisp, has given four years of dedicated service and it's now time for someone new to take the reins. If a replacement cannot be found the PSA charity may have to fold — and that would put at risk many of the extra clubs, trips and resources the PSA helps fund. Please consider whether you could take on this important volunteer role. Joanna is happy to talk through what's involved and answer any questions. If you can help (or would like an informal chat), please contact Joanna.

Good luck to our marathon runners this weekend — we're very proud of you.

Please remember to sponsor our runners if you can; sponsorship supports school activities and resources for the children. Best wishes, Ms Earl

Acorn Class

We have had a great start to the summer term! We came to school on Monday to find a mysterious, colourful egg in our classroom! The children were very excited and after lots of discussion, decided that it must be a dragon egg! We have spent the week writing letters to Ms Earl, asking her to check if anything had been spotted around the school! This then led to lots of dragon related challenges being completed, including building our own dragon using our large blocks, taking part in dragon school and even building a castle for the dragon to live in using sand! In maths the children have shown fantastic resilience when building numbers from 10-20, using both Numicon and ten frames and counters to show the tens and ones needed for each number.





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Pine Class

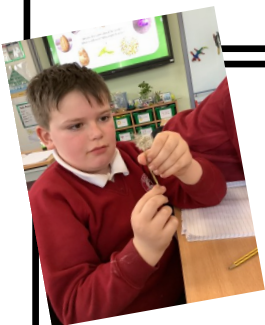
Pine Class have had a fantastic first week back, making the most of the lovely weather by taking our learning outdoors whenever possible. In CUSP reading, we finished the much-loved *Chocolate Cake* by Michael Rosen, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. In English, we explored our poetry unit on pattern and rhyme, learning about performance poetry, syllables and rhyming strings, and even challenged ourselves to write our own short poems. In maths, we have been focusing on mass and volume, using balancing scales to measure different objects and investigating capacity using a range of containers, describing them as full, half empty or nearly empty. In science, we have begun our new topic on plants, planting cress which we are excitedly observing and recording as it grows.

Chestnut Class

The children have returned happy and well-rested from their Easter break. This week we starting reading a biography about David Attenborough in reading which dovetails perfectly with our writing. A non-chronological report about plants is currently being planned. Please do try to watch *The Secret Garden* (BBC) with David Attenborough as when we watched a tiny part the children really enjoyed it. Plants was the theme of the week with an exciting trip out to Ightham Mote to support with the planting. This will help the children for when they have the opportunity to plant seeds into our newly refurbished allotments (thank you Mrs. Black and helpers!). Finally we moved away from plants to being our history topic, the seaside 100 years ago. The children enjoyed starting to learn some of the similarities and differences between then and now!

Willow Class

Year 3 have had exciting and engaging start to the term. Developing last term's learning, we have been adding and subtracting fractions in Maths. In English, we are embedding our skills in third person and past tense descriptive writing, preparing to write about predators and their prey. We had an 'explosive' start to our topic 'Plants', in Science, investigating seeds and how they are dispersed in different ways. The children began exploring who the Tudors were and when they lived, in History, enjoying looking at a relatively recent period of the past. Whilst in RE we discovered what was created on each day in the story of The Creation.





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Elm Class

We have started our new book - 'The boy at the back of the Class' and we are already loving it! It has led to lots of discussion about refugees and why people might be forced to leave their homes and flee to another country. We have also been reading narrative poetry, and compared two cautionary tales by Hilaire Belloc. We have enjoyed the humour in these poems as well as the plot, characters and language. DT has been exciting this week as we have been finishing our torch designs. The children wrote their own design criteria before planning exactly how they will achieve them. We will be making our torches next lesson. In science, we explored electrical conductors and insulators and had a practical session adding a range of materials into our circuits to see which allowed electricity to flow through them. We have used this knowledge to help us plan how to make the switch for our torch. Finally, in Maths we have continued our learning on decimals.

Beech Class

Beech class has returned from the Easter holidays full of enthusiasm for the term ahead! The children have warmly welcomed Miss Glassock as our new class TA and have really enjoyed listening to her read our new book 'Secrets of a Sun King' at the end of the school day. In maths, we have been learning about perimeter and area, and in writing, we are continuing to write a synopsis of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This week's cricket lesson with Mr Marshall was a highlight of the week, especially in the glorious sunshine!

Oak Class

Oak Class has had a busy and enjoyable week of learning. In English, the children explored the structure of non-chronological reports, thinking carefully about how to organise their paragraphs. They also revised important grammar skills, including the passive voice, conjunctions, and using colons to introduce additional information. In maths, we refreshed our understanding of statistics and fractions. During reading lessons, pupils practised answering inference questions with clear and well-structured responses. In PSHE, we explored the key question "What is identity?", and we rounded off the week with a much-enjoyed swimming session and a geography lesson too.



PSA

Hope you had a great Easter holiday.

Please help me support our marathon runners this weekend, they have trained really hard and we're all very grateful and wish them the best of luck. Their fundraising pages have been sent via the reps.

Upcoming events

- 1st May - Sponsored Read winning class announced
 - 1st May - Sunflower growing competition starts
 - 15th May - Break the Rules day with a twist!
 - 19th May - PSA meeting - George & Dragon 7.30pm
 - 3rd June - Bags2school
 - 12th June - Home clothes day for bottle donations
 - 26th June - Home clothes day for bottle donations
 - 3rd July or 17th July - Cake sale at sports day - donations welcome
 - 11th July - Ightham Summer Fair - please email the chair if you can help run a stall on the day
- Could you give up a couple of hours, once a month to come to PSA meetings? If you would like to come to a meeting then please email chair@ighthampsa.com or just turn up!

Team PSA

Governor 200 Club

The winners of the April draw are:

- 1st - Ann O'Sullivan
- 2nd - Jeff Reading
- 3rd - Lisa Pearson

Awards and Certificates

The **Gold Cup** was awarded to:

Catherine in Year 3

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Acorn Class— Archie and Marley

Pine Class— Adrianna and Max

Chestnut Class—Sophia and Rory

Willow Class— Freddie P and Margot

Elm Class— Mimi and Millie-Lou

Beech Class— Kit and Olly

Oak Class— Lily and Tilly

Maple Ready Award was presented to
Year 1

School Ambassadors for the Summer term are Willow and Philip.

Congratulations to all!

House Points

The House Points accumulated this term:

Mote	Chartwell	Knole	Oldbury
4	2	3	1

The winners this week were Mote

Well done!



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

24th April 2026

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

30th April Open Books

4th May Bank Holiday

5th May Year 4 Community afternoon

7th May Year 2 Ightham Mote Partnership gardening afternoon

11th—14th May KS2 SATs

18th—22nd May Science Week

19th May Year 6 trip to The Science Museum

20th May Year R trip to The Rare Breeds Centre

22nd May Year 5 trip to Herstmonceux

22nd May Last day of term

1st June Inset Day

2nd June Year 6 Ightham Mote Partnership gardening afternoon

3rd June Year 6 Safety in Action

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
99.31%	97.24%	98.15%	96.33%	98.67%	94.64%	100%	97.76%	94.9%

Number of lates	Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole
	4	1	0	1	0	0	2	8

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/>