



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

9th January 2026

This week

It was lovely to welcome all the children back to school after the Christmas break. The school wishes all families a joyful and Happy New Year. We hope the children enjoyed the books kindly purchased by the staff as Christmas gifts to encourage a love of reading.

Here is a snapshot of the exciting learning happening across the school this week:

Reception children have begun their new Space topic with great enthusiasm. The week started with a visit from a Space Dome, where the children explored stars and planets. A curiosity box about space in the classroom has sparked their imaginations and inspired their writing.

Year 1 have had a busy and enjoyable week. They have started reading *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and are learning to write recounts in English. The children went on a winter walk, played parachute games, and drank hot chocolate, which they later wrote about in class. In maths, they have been exploring place value to 20 using various hands-on resources to represent tens and ones. In music, percussion instruments were used to create storm sounds, which inspired artwork.

Year 2 have had a fantastic first week back. Highlights include choosing their own table names, testing the stability of structures on the playground using themselves, and beginning to learn about the Scott Expedition to the South Pole. The children enjoyed a visit from a special guest with a space dome. In English, they have been immersing themselves in funny poems and writing their own verses. Maths lessons have focused on money, with children using real coins to support their learning.

In Science, Year 3 have started exploring forces. They conducted experiments investigating push forces on objects with different properties. In History, they located Ancient Greece on a timeline and map, preparing to learn about life there and its influence on modern times. In French, the children began learning the names of musical instruments and are looking forward to starting recorder lessons soon.

Year 4 worked with students from Sevenoaks School to discover where Roman roads were built in Britain. After plotting these routes, they discussed where to build a wall to protect the Romans from invasion. They considered how to make the walls strong and safe, created designs, and completed a quiz to test their knowledge.



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Year 5 have made a strong start in understanding fractions in maths. The children have also enjoyed writing vivid descriptions of a rainforest setting, inspired by last term's reading text, The Explorer.

Year 6 have begun their new history topic, Voices from the Homefront: WWII. The first lesson explored the reasons Britain and France declared war on Germany and the challenges faced by Neville Chamberlain. In RE, the class started exploring the question, Why do Hindus want to be good? They learned about the concept of Brahman and the Trimurti.

The school thanks all families for their continued support and looks forward to a term full of learning and growth.

Best wishes, Ms Earl

Lockdown

Last term I mentioned that we would be doing a lockdown practice. Due to other circumstances we did not go ahead with the practice however we will be practising our lockdown procedures next week. A school lockdown may be activated in response to an intruder, community disturbance or warnings received from the Local Authority. It is essential that all children are familiar with the routine in the unlikely event of an incident leading to a lockdown. As it is an unusual situation, your child may want to talk about the likelihood of a lockdown actually happening. We will explain the lockdown procedure to the children in an assembly next Tuesday and will of course provide reassurance and answer questions in school. Please contact us should you have any concerns regarding this.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Matilda in year 6 and Catherine in year 3 who are both appearing in the Pantomime Rapunzel at the EM Forster theatre in Tonbridge this weekend. We wish them lots of luck and look forward to hearing about it next week.

200 Club

The winners of December's draw are;
1st - Emma Tiraboschi, £18.00
2nd - Anna Sambuk, £10.20
3rd - Ann O'Sullivan, £7.20



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Awards and Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to:

Raphael in Year 4

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Acorn Class—Finn and Henry

Pine Class—Roux and Auburn

Chestnut Class—Jamie and Nia

Willow Class—Max and Chloe

Elm Class—Louie B and Louie P

Beech Class—Zac and Malachy

Oak Class—Edith and Flo

Maple Ready Award was presented to Elm Class.

School Ambassadors for the Spring term are Poppy P and Lily.

Congratulations to all!

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

Parking

Please park considerately particularly at the bottom of Oldbury Lane

House Points

The House Points accumulated this term:

Mote	Chartwell	Knole	Oldbury
2	4	3	1

The House Points have reset. The winning House this week was Chartwell. Chartwell enjoyed having own clothes today. I wonder which house will be the winner this term?



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PSA

Welcome back. We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

The PSA AGM will be held at 2pm in the school hall on 29th January 2026. All are welcome.

If you would like to put your name forward for a position on the PSA then please email chair@ighthamrsa.com

Next Bags2school—Feb 25th

Team PSA

Upcoming dates

13th January Year 6 Magistrates Talk

15th January Year 2 swimming starts

20th January Community afternoon hosted by Year 3

2nd - 6th February National Storytelling Week

10th February Safer Internet Day

13th February Last day of term

23rd February Term starts

25th February Year 4 Roman Day

26th February Year 3 swimming starts

26th February Year 4 Ightham Mote Partnership gardening afternoon

3rd March Year 5 Viking Day

6th March Ightham Book Day

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
100%	99.17%	100%	99.17%	96.25%	93.52%	96.67%	97.83%	95.3%

Number of lates	Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole School
	2	4	0	1	1	2	1	11

It is important that the children attend school every day. If you are 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/>