



### **This Week**

Another busy and brilliant week at Ightham! Thank you to everyone who has supported our events and helped children to live our values of respect, responsibility and caring.

Today the children were going to join a planned video link with our friends in Thugulu, Malawi. They experienced Wi-Fi problems which made a live connection difficult, but the children worked really well together to prepare thoughtful questions about our joint growing project; those questions have been sent to Thugulu. The children also recorded answers to questions about the crops we are growing and shared our national anthem and an assembly song to send to them. We're looking forward to receiving Thugulu's replies and will share them with you as soon as they arrive.

A huge well done to the Year 5 boys who are part of Borough Green Junior FC and played in the Maidstone Invicta Primary League Challenge Vase final last Sunday. They showed great teamwork, resilience and determination in their win — well done Malachy, Elvis, Olly, Rufus and Freddie.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Easter sponsor events. The children who took part were:

Year R — Oscar, Henry and Theo

Year 1 — Ethan, Toby, Kiki and Jasper

Year 2 — Grace, Joseph, Maddie, Reuben and Xander

Year 3 — Hannah, Miles and Alba

Year 4 — Millie, Albert, Max T and Marcus

Year 5 — Joshua, Grace and Gabriel

Special praise to Toby, Jasper, Joseph, Millie and Albert who each raised over £100.

Together we raised £1,415.50 for the school — thank you to the PSA and to every family who supported this.

We will be celebrating Science Week from Monday 18 May with a nature, wildlife and outdoors theme. Activities across the week will include outdoor learning sessions, practical workshops and trips for Reception, Year 5 and Year 6. Children will investigate the natural world, explore habitats and take part in hands on scientific projects designed to spark curiosity.



### **This week continued**

Please look out for a detailed Science Week letter which will confirm:

- the specific activities and timings for each year group,
- details of after school family activities such as seed bomb making (we will confirm exact dates and times in the letter).

### **Special event: Bat Walk — Friday 22 May 2026**

We are pleased to host a Bat Walk with the British Bat Society on the evening of Friday 22 May. The walk will take place around sunset and promises to be a fantastic family learning experience. Please keep the date free; full event details and sign up information will be included in the Science Week letter.

Greenacres, our local garden centre, hosted an event for Friends of Ightham School yesterday. It was great to see members of the local community joining together in such a lovely venue. We were treated to some of their hanging basket tips — thank you, Greenacres and to FOIS for organising events to promote the charity and support the school.

Thank you again for your continued support — your involvement makes these learning experiences possible and helps every child feel safe, happy and inspired to learn.

Best wishes, Ms Earl

### **Acorn Class**

This week our focus book has been *The Gruffalo*, which the children have really enjoyed! We have developed our finger strength through making our own Gruffalo using play dough and have used water colours to create backgrounds for our own Gruffalo scenes. The children have written fantastic descriptions of the Gruffalo and have impressed us with their choice of adjective! In maths we have learnt to take away through telling first, then, now stories. It was great to see so many children challenging themselves to write number sentences to match their taking away! We had a fantastic afternoon at Ightham Mote for our gardening afternoon! We planted a range of plants including courgettes, peas and sweetcorn and even helped to weed parts of the garden!



### **Pine Class**

Pine Class have had another busy week of learning! The children enjoyed learning about Christopher Columbus and his famous voyages. During Computing lessons, they continued developing their coding skills and following instructions carefully. English lessons focused on instruction writing, while Maths included counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, alongside recognising equal and unequal groups. The class also explored wild and garden plants in Science and enjoyed identifying different types. In Design Technology, the children have been learning about wheels and axles as they prepare to make their own vehicles. Well done Pine Class for all of your hard work this week!

### **Chestnut Class**

Today the children celebrated David Attenborough's 100 birthday, which was a lovely ending to them reading all about him. The non-chronological reports were completed and the children showed great maturity when checking the ingredients for success and making improvements. The classroom is now covered with emerging fairground wheels and germinating sunflowers – so much creativity in Year 2! We started talking this week about the importance of money and where it comes from – and how could they earn money in the future?! In music structure has been explored reading for playing percussion instruments next week.

### **Willow Class**

Year 3 have had a busy and exciting week of learning across the curriculum. In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of money, identifying different denominations and practicing how to add and subtract amounts. In English, they have drafted exciting descriptive narratives about prey animals evading their predators, using carefully selected verbs, adverbs and adjectives and some brilliant similes. In Science, we explored how water moves through plants and are patiently observing celery absorbing food colouring, for some (hopefully!) fascinating changes over time. During PSHE, pupils learned about local democracy and shared thoughtful ideas about what Tonbridge and Malling council should prioritise in its budgets! Whilst in RE we looked into why the world is believed to be 'good', due to the interdependencies found within it.



### Elm Class

This week, we have completed our critical analysis of a 'Cautionary tale for children', so the children should all now know the consequences of poor behavior (ie getting eaten by a lion!) In Maths, we have been rounding and ordering decimals. Forest school was fun, as some of us used clay to create imprints of leaves that were lying on the forest floor. In PE, the children practised their shot put and javelin in preparation for sports day. We have started learning about teeth in Science and have explored the reasons why our teeth are shaped differently. The Community afternoon was a great success too. Thank you to all our helpers and guests for everything you did to make the afternoon such a happy occasion.



### Beech Class

This week saw the end of our Science topic 'Earth and Space'. For our final lesson, we looked at how shadows change in length and direction throughout the day, with the help of some torches, our rulers and some toy farmyard animals! Next week, we will move on to 'Living things and their habitats' and begin with looking at the parts of a plant. In RE, we thought about how Genesis 1 would look as an image; the children created beautiful images of the earth and it's landscape, adorned with key phrases from the creation story.

### Oak Class

This week in Maths, Oak Class have been developing their understanding of metric measures, using activities to calculate and convert accurately. In RE, pupils explored who is invited to God's Kingdom, sharing thoughtful ideas and reflections. Our Geography learning focused on how latitude affects climate and the distribution of biomes across the world. In PSHE, children discussed effort versus talent, recognising the importance of perseverance, resilience and a growth mindset.



### PSA

Every Friday at drop off, we will start collecting donations towards our summer Fair stalls. We will be collecting any clean and good conditioned soft toys, In date bottles of alcohol, Unopened and unused gifts. If you have Access to any larger prizes that we could use on our raffle, those would be greatly appreciated too.

#### Upcoming events

- 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.

We are urgently looking for a new PSA Chair in order to provide good continuity for the PSA.

If you would like to come to a meeting and see if it floats your boat then please email [chair@ightham psa.com](mailto:chair@ightham psa.com) or just turn up!

Team PSA

### Awards and Certificates

The **Gold Cup** was awarded to:

Millie in Year 5

**Head Teacher certificates** were awarded to:

Acorn Class— Freddie and Esra

Pine Class— Tilly and Gracie

Chestnut Class— Carina and Elijah

Willow Class— Catherine and Maddox

Elm Class— Brooke and Penelope

Beech Class— Joshua and Robyn

Oak Class— Coralie and Enzo

**Maple Ready Award** was presented to  
Year 2

Congratulations to all!

### House Points

The House Points accumulated this term:

The winners this week were Mote

Mote	Chartwell	Knole	Oldbury
11	5	10	4

Well done!



# Ightham Primary School Newsletter

8th May 2026

## School Calendar

### 2025-2026

**Term 5:** 20th April – 22nd May

**Term 6:** 1st June – 21st July

**Inset Day:**

1st June 2026

### 2026-2027

**Term 1:** 1st September-19th October

**Term 2:** 2nd November—18th December

**Term 3:** 4th January— 12th February

**Term 4:** 22nd February—25th March

**Term 5:** 12th April—28th May

**Term 6:** 7th June—23rd July

## Upcoming dates

**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** Evening Bat Walk

**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

**4th June** Year 2 class trip

**5th June** Class photos

**9th June** Year 2 Community Afternoon

**10th June** Year 6 Police Workshop

**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
97.7%	98.28%	97.33%	98%	97%	98.21%	99.26%	98%	94.9%

Number of lates	Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole
	2	3	1	0	2	0	2	10

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/>