



Friday, 21 October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

And so ends Term 1! Goodness how this term has flown! We are all ready now for a break. I think that we started to feel it a little last week. This week has really raised our spirits with arts week and we look forward to sharing our work with you this afternoon. It has been lovely to see children unveil hidden talents! I am sure that you know what I mean having viewed their work this afternoon and heard our choir sing. The children have also enjoyed watching Jane work this week, producing our beautiful murals. I could never have imagined the end product and their beauty. They have far exceeded anything that I ever imagined. I hope that we can soon secure both funding from the PTFA and permission from Swale Council to proceed with the outdoor friendship wall. It has been great also to see you all at parents' evenings this week. We work very hard to keep you informed about your child's progress at all times, viewing education very much as a holistic experience. If you haven't been able to meet with your child's class teacher in a face to face meeting, you will still receive the termly reports and provision plans in the usual manner. I hope that you find these useful and informative on a termly basis. I wish you all a very happy autumn break and look forward to seeing everyone on 31st October. That promises to be a busy week with a Light Party and Founders Day with Fireworks, Food and Fun scheduled. Full details in this newsletter!



This week

Congratulations to members of our choir who performed so well at the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday evening. The children were a total credit to us. Mrs White and I are very proud of them all and thank families for your support.



Messy church was well supported with over 50 attendees. We enjoyed exploring together the theme of salt and light. The next Messy Church is scheduled for 3rd December. Save the date! Hope to see you there!



Our welly sheds have arrived! These were secured by an application to KCC for Travel Plan funding. It allows children to be able to walk to and fro school and change their footwear. In addition it means that footwear can be changed at play and lunchtime affording the children to access the field in all weathers. Likewise, we can still continue with our daily mile. We are excited to allow our children this opportunity and in due course, with appropriate funding, hope to develop our school field with sand and mud pits to delight our children at playtimes!

This week we celebrate the achievements of...

Emily and Michael



Oliver and Imogen



Georgia and Bethany



Jack C, Freddie, Jess M, Jess Mc, Bethany, Shernade, Jess B



Eggcellent Attendance: The Poku family

Attendance is a whole family commitment. So, we hope that you enjoy the eggs.

Happy birthday to: Ben and Sienna Lorelle



Outside school:

Ben S: Blue Peter badge for completing a recycling project.

Tree Team points:

SUMMARY AUTUMN 2016 (T1)

House	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Wk 7
BEECH	244	208	220	212	222	214	
CHESTNUT	256	220	250	224	219	253	
OAK	250	206	210	206	197	216	
SYCAMORE	240	218	236	218	241	253	

Highlighted = winning team of week

Cumulative Totals

House	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Wk 7
BEECH	244	452	672	884	1106	1320	
CHESTNUT	256	476	726	950	1169	1422	
OAK	250	456	666	872	1088	1304	
SYCAMORE	240	458	694	912	1153	1406	

Highlighted = overall totals, winning team



We are pleased to share with you that 40% of our Year 6 children have been assessed as suitable for grammar school education. We are proud of all of our children and see this time in Year 6 as finding and securing the very best setting for the next stage in their academic journey. This process is all about finding the right school for your child. Well done everyone on all your hard work. The rest of the year is now about preparing you to move on to the next stage in the strongest position that you can in every area of your learning. We look forward to preparing you for the next stage in your learning journey which begins of course with your happiness.

A holiday project...

Today the PTFA are sending home a project that your children can participate in preparing for Christmas. Please follow the instructions coming home to you today. Enjoy!

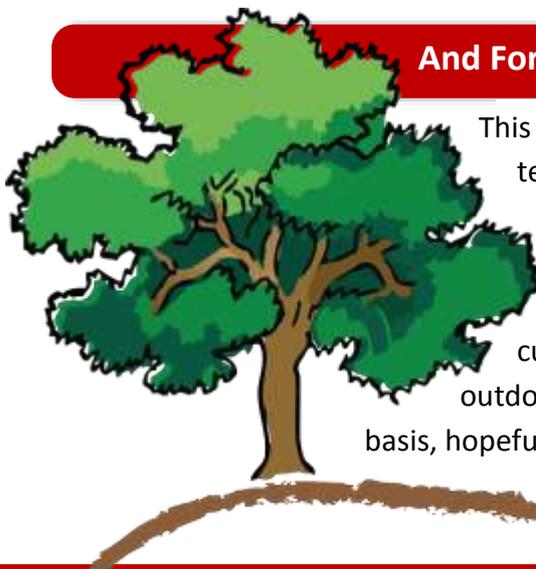


First week back...

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE - STAFFING STRUCTURE:

From Term 2, Blackbirds class will be taught by Mrs Byatt and Mrs Ridge in a job share arrangement, with a fulltime Teaching Assistant. Mrs Byatt will teach the class for the entire day on Monday and Tuesday. This will include a weekly forest session. Mrs Ridge will teach the class all day on Wednesdays as well as Thursday and Friday mornings. Mrs Ridge will continue to teach PE to Peacocks on Thursday and Eagles on Friday afternoons. On Thursday and Friday afternoons, Year 1 children will continue to enjoy child initiated learning in Robins Class and Year 2 children will be taught by Miss McCabe. This will facilitate the opportunity to advance their learning in a single cohort situation, preparing them in the long term for the Key Stage 2 curriculum. Miss McCabe will support me in my SENCO role, develop her leadership skills further and cover staff sickness. We firmly believe that this decision will profit all children in our school. It stabilises consistency for blackbirds in their everyday teaching and learning and older children too in terms of set days for PE. It also means that children with identified needs will be able to be better supported too by doubling capacity with Miss McCabe and myself. The arrangement also means that we are able to cover staff absence in house without needing to deploy supply agency support. You will know that we advertised and since have interviewed to secure additional staffing support in school. In Term 2, you will gradually see some new faces around school supporting our children to meet their needs. I will introduce them to you formally next term when appointments have been secured. We constantly review all that we do with the best interests of our children at the heart of every day practice.

And Forest School...



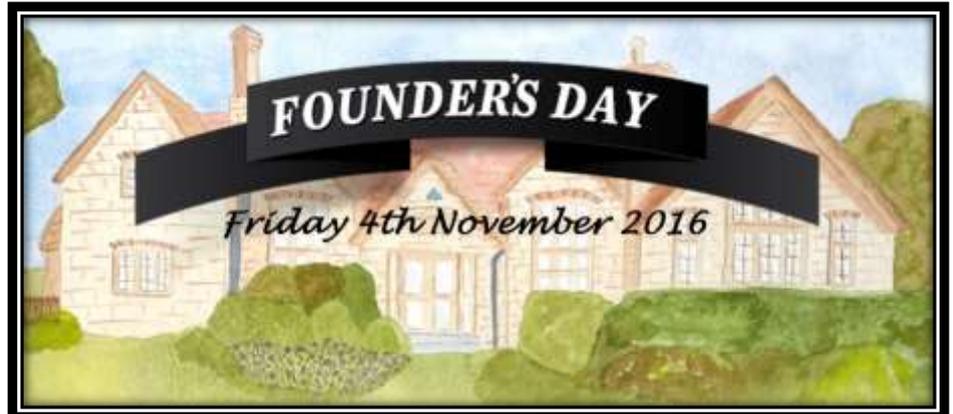
This will still continue. However, instead of having a set number of visits a term which have no set pattern or consistency, we plan to have a day in the last week of every term for each class to enjoy. The children will all enjoy a day with their class off site at Squirrel Wood. Their own class team will lead the session and the idea is that the entire curriculum for that day: English, maths and topic will be taught outdoors. This means that children can build up activities in on a termly basis, hopefully for the older children concluding in an overnight stay. We are excited about this new learning opportunity afforded to us.



Light Party: Monday 31st October 2016 We invite you to a Light Party on Hallowe'en, 31st October, from 6-7pm at Newington Church. All Primary aged children are invited and it is intended that the children from the Benefice: Hartlip, Stockbury, Newington, Bobbing, Lower Halstow and Upchurch, all meet together and share a happy time. The evening is focussed on providing a message of light and hope. Please do come along and support if you are able. It will provide a great focus and hopefully for parents a welcomed alternative to the pressures of being out at Trick and Treat events or Halloween Parties.

Founder's Day: Friday 4th November 2016

The arrangements for our Founder's Day have now been finalised. During the day, the children will learn all about our Founder Mary Gibbon and engage in age appropriate activities. At 2pm, you are welcome to join us in church when we will give thanks and pay tribute to our Founder. The children can leave with you at the earlier time of 3pm this day, or even



earlier if you are in church. Then at 4.30pm, you are welcomed back to school for a Family Founder's Day Celebration. This is a school event to enjoy together the uniqueness and specialness of our school. I am delighted to advise you that the PTFA have kindly agreed to fund the fireworks which I have always had a vision of putting on for the families of our school. This is therefore a no charge event. The fireworks will be overseen and displayed by the organisers of the Stockbury Firework event. Our event has been fully risk assessed and insured. The fireworks will be released at 5pm. The event will conclude at 6pm. There will be food available and of course lots of fun. Please do support this event. *Every tradition begins with an innovation.* Here's the innovation, please help us to make it a tradition. The continued delivery will depend on your support. I hope to see you all there!



Goodbye

Today we bid a sad farewell to Miss Field, the Peacocks' Mid-Day Meals Supervisor. She has worked with all our children in some capacity, either at lunchtime or supporting learning and PE activities. We are sorry to see her go and wish her every success in her future endeavours. With her brothers and sisters still at the school, we look forward to seeing her from time to time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. T. Jerome
Headteacher