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# NEWSLETTER

February 2022

## Whole School Update

Just as we thought we had escaped Covid this term...back it came! Hopefully, this time not so severe and the half term break should serve as a mini barrier to a full scale spread.

Despite this setback, we have moved on with our plans to return to a fully normal school again and will aim to continue with this after the holiday.

From Monday 21st, we would like all children to arrive in school between 8:45 and 8:55am (as in pre-pandemic); we will also dismiss all children at the end of the day at our usual time of 3:20pm. We will still use both the gate and the front door to enable a smoother arrival and departure time.

We will also return to our rolling programme of lunches and we will extend assemblies and play-times to enable more of our children to join in together. Likewise, we will welcome more visitors back into school and start to make plans for clubs to start once more.

We have been so pleased with all our children this term and they have made great progress in all areas of their learning. I have especially enjoyed watching their gymnastics skills develop. It has been impressive to see some of our youngest Potter Class children sounding out and writing their first words, some have even started reading books!

Over this term, we have started 'live' Friday Celebration Assemblies once again and it has been a lovely treat to hear all of the children singing again and congratulating each other on their achievements.

This term we welcomed Mr Barton to our team as our new Road Traffic Crossing Officer. We continued to have the pleasure of Miss Butcher, Miss Diamond and Mrs Glazier (trainee teachers from Canterbury University) helping to teach and we would like to wish them well as they return to university, ready for the start of their final teaching placement. Have a great half term everyone! Our new term starts on Monday 21st February.



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## Potter Class Update



What a fabulous term Potter Class have had! Our theme for this term is 'People who help us' and it has been wonderful watching the children immerse themselves into the topic. We kicked off the term by learning about the Police. We set up our very own HMS Potter Prison and explored the roles Police Officers have in our community. We loved using 1:1 correspondence to count prisoners into our prison and we even practised our letter formation by writing 'wanted' posters. Following on from this, we explored the roles of doctors, nurses, vets and firefighters. We loved our visit from Vernon, a real-life firefighter, who taught us all about fire safety, the roles of firefighters and who to call if we need help. Thank you, Vernon and the Kent Fire and Rescue Team!

Term 3 has been an exciting term to explore new skills. Mrs Norman bought us our own set of BeeBots which are programmable bugs that we can practise coding skills on. We explored position and direction as we programmed our BeeBots to move around our carpet spaces. In addition to the class BeeBots, we also began our woodwork sessions. This term we have been learning about the different tools in the class tool box. We have learnt the safety rules and have practised using the tools at our class workbench. Next term, with our newly acquired skills, we will begin to make things in our weekly woodwork sessions.



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## Nightingale Class Update



We have had such a fabulous term to kick start our 2022!

We have loved learning all about Florence Nightingale and all the brilliant work she did for the role of nurses, especially for women. I shared the wonderful role play video that is still on our Class Dojo of the children acting out her life. We have written letters to the Prime Minister from Florence, demanding that he send money and supplies to the hospital to make improvements for the soldiers.

In maths, we have been flying through addition and subtraction as well as learning the place value of 2-digit numbers up to 50.

In science, we have planted some bulbs and the children love watching them start to grow.

In RE, we have really enjoyed our topic of friendship. We learnt a few Bible stories about how Jesus had to show friendship even when it was most challenging. We have enjoyed linking this to our own lives.

I am most impressed with the reading achievement this term! The children should be so proud with this success and the amount of reading you are all supporting them to complete every week!

Have a super half term!



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## Darwin Class Update



Darwin Class have worked extremely hard this term. They have faced some tricky learning and have all been very resilient!



Darwin Class have enjoyed writing a range of Big Writes based on our story, "Florence Nightingale". They

have used a range of amazing techniques; full stops and capital letters are becoming fluent and being used naturally.

In maths, the children have explored the inverse of multiplying and can now divide really well! We have also learnt about shapes and the children have enjoyed all the practical learning.

Florence Nightingale has been a big 'hit' with Darwin Class. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about her life and comparing modern day to the Victorian days. Luckily, our Florence learning will continue into Term 4!

In art, the children have been working hard with Mrs Cackett, learning all about and designing/painting their very own Victorian houses!

It is also Forest School for Darwin this term and they have thoroughly enjoyed their first two weeks.

Keep up the hard work, Darwin Class!



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## Pankhurst Class Update



We are exceptionally proud of all the hard work in Pankhurst Class this term. There have been so many highlights that the children wanted to share:

"I liked looking at the rocks in Science with the magnifying glass." *Alexander*

"I want to go and find fossils on the beach, I was proud of my drawings of fossils." *Savannah.*

"We read 'Hetty Feather' in English. It was a great book about a little girl who was an orphan in Victorian times - she even escaped the home to go to the circus." *Ava.*

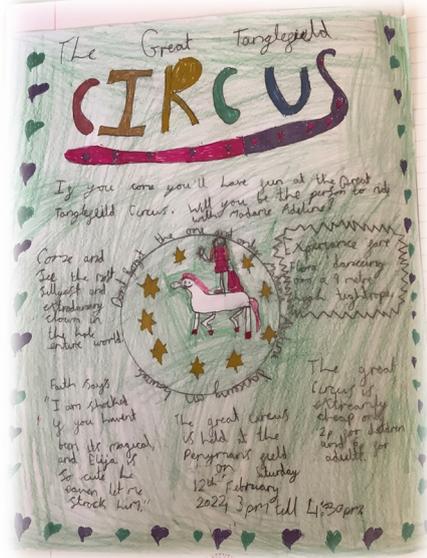
"I enjoyed making a poster for the circus in Hetty Feather persuading people to go to the circus." *Hollie.*

"Our Topic this term is Victorians. I could not believe some of the school rules they had, like standing up when an adult walks in the room. We made a list of their school rules." *Ashton.*

"I am proud of how I have improved my maths score in mental arithmetic every week." *Phoebe.*

"I think I have got more flexible in PE, doing lots of rolls and balances." *Erin.*

Have a wonderful half term break everyone!



## Shakespeare Class Update

Greetings from Shakespeare Class!

We've had a great term and been extremely busy in Year 5. It was our turn to attend Forest School at the start of the year and we had a fantastic time every week, making slides, cooking, playing games and getting extremely muddy! Mrs Bromfield and Miss Abel were so impressed with the perseverance some of the class had when attempting to build fires—they are quite the experts now!

Back in school, we have also been working hard! In maths, we have tackled some tricky topics like long multiplication and have now moved on to fractions. We are loving our class text in English; it is called 'Cogheart' and is an adventure set in Victorian England. We have used this for our weekly comprehensions and also our Big Writes. Our science topic this term is 'Rocks' and we have learnt all about different types of rocks and their formation. We are also enjoying learning about the Victorians in our topic lessons and have created some Victorian silhouette portraits.



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## Churchill Class Update

This term in Churchill Class, we have had many birthdays – ten in total. That’s a third of our class so we have enjoyed lots of cakes and sweets.



We have had great fun in our PE lessons, using all the large apparatus to test our strength, technique and skills. We have loved climbing and swinging on the ropes, and jumping off the small apparatus. We have also had fun playing a game called “the floor is lava” on the mats. In multi-skills, we do speed stacks, hurdles, hoops and balances.

In science, we have been learning about fossils, rocks and Mary Anning – and how she was a famous fossil hunter. The types of rocks we learnt about are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. We discovered that we have quite a number of budding palaeontologists in Churchill Class when Robbie, Barnaby, Rudi and Elliott shared their impressive fossil collections and

knowledge with us.

Our topic is the Victorians. We have been learning about all the dangerous jobs children had to do and we have found lots of information about how people lived by looking at a Victorian census.

In art, we have learnt about all the different pencils and how to use them for shading. We made the room dark and used torches to make silhouettes of our heads. Our partners then drew round the outlines to create Victorian silhouette portraits.



A man called Vernon from Kent Fire and Rescue came to talk to us about fire safety. He told us how to deal with a fire situation and said that you should check your smoke alarm once a week. You shouldn’t fall asleep with your iPhone under your pillow and you mustn’t overload plug sockets.

Last week, in English, we had an unexpected visitor ... Mrs Knowler’s new puppy, Buddy. We all got to stroke him or have a picture with him. He was fluffy, adorable and so cute!

Over the last few weeks, we have started to have assemblies again and the house captains and librarians finally got their badges. Our house captains are Maddy, Elliott, Lexi, Braydon, Bea, Kai, Amelia and Charlie. Our librarians are Amelia, Eeva, Lily, Maeve and Martha. The librarians have been very busy making sure that all the books have the right reading age stickers on them.

The most exciting thing that will happen is the residential trip to Bewl Water in March. We will get to go on a lake in a massive canoe!

As always with year 6, the SATs are fast approaching in May and the Churchill Team is very proud of the conscientious attitude and approach our year 6 pupils are already taking in preparing for them.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy half term!

Contributions from Rudi, Lily, Maddy, Charlie, Alice, Phoebe, Tilly, India, Bea and Braydon.



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## Our new House Captains



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## Book Fair Update

### Book Week: Monday 28th February – 4th March

Not only does this year mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, it also marks the 25th anniversary of World Book Day and it is the 25th anniversary of "Harry Potter". Therefore, the theme of our Book Week this year is "Celebrations".

In each class, children will study elements of books involving celebrations, the Queen, or even Harry Potter, and use these as a stimulus for drama, writing and creative activities.

On Monday, we will launch Book Week with an assembly when Mrs Saunders will share snippets of stories involving celebrations.

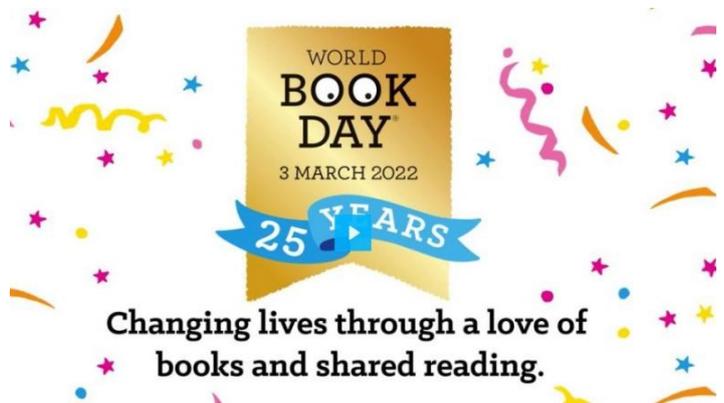
In addition, we have lots of other exciting events planned, including teacher story time. On Tuesday, we will see the anticipated return of storytelling tents. Please would Darwin, Shakespeare and Churchill Class children bring in cushions and blankets to make their tents for Nightingale and Potter classes. All children may, of course, bring in their favourite teddy to enjoy the tents too.

We will also have a travelling book fair in school. All parents are welcome to come along to the book fair on Monday 28th February, Wednesday 2nd March and Thursday 3rd March, after school in the hall. We will also be running the book fair for parents to visit after school drop off on Wednesday 2nd March between 9.00 and 9.30 am. Children will be able to use their £1 book token, also included with this letter, as part payment against a book of their choice.

*Every purchase made from the book fair will contribute towards commission for the school to buy new books for our library, so it really would be great if you could take part!*

We will end the week with a dress-up assembly. On Friday 4th March, pupils and staff will be encouraged to dress up as a character from a book about a celebration, Harry Potter or relating to the Queen. There will be book prize for a child in each class for creative dressing-up.

We hope that the children will have a wonderful time and look forward to welcoming you at the book fair.



## News from our PTFA

The PTFA has had a quiet term so far, but we are busy thinking about Mother's Day and Easter events which are on the horizon now.

We will have a meeting in the early part of Term 4 to start putting plans in place and anyone is welcome to join us, the more support and ideas the merrier.

We will Dojo out a date once it's confirmed.



## Our Librarians



We have finally been able to get our library up and running again after the impacts of Covid and lockdown rules.

Mrs Channon has appointed five librarians to work in teams across the week.

So far their jobs have included re-labelling and reorganising books as well as preparing tokens for the upcoming Book Fair.

## Rotary Club Christmas Writing Competition

We were delighted to find out that some of our children had won prizes in the Tenterden and District Rotary Club Christmas writing competition.

Congratulations to all three girls who each won a £10 book voucher.



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**Community News**

# RUGBY TAGGERS<sup>®</sup>

**Non-Contact Tag Rugby for Boys and Girls**

**Saturday Mornings at Marden Primary Academy**

Tiny Taggers 3-5 yrs 9-9:45am | Junior Taggers 6-10 yrs 10:15-11am

**LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 22:** Tag To Tackle 11-14 yrs 10:15-11am

**New Location Opening 17th March 2022**

**Thursday Mornings at Cranbrook Sports Club**

Tiny Taggers 2.5-5 yrs 9:45-10:30am | Pre Primary age Boys and Girls



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## Dates for your diary

### Diary Dates 2021-22

9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bowl Information session for parents in hall
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Rock Steady Concert 2.30 p.m.
23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	School Photographer – Class Groups
25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	PTFA Mother's Day Sale
28 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Year 6 Residential Trip to Bewl
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Easter Egg Tombola in exchange for chocolate
4 <sup>th</sup> Apr – 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Holiday
18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Children back to school
2 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Year 6 Safety In Action
20 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Bikeability Year 6
30 <sup>th</sup> May – 6 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Half Term Holiday
6 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET Day – children not in school
7 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Children back to school
16 <sup>th</sup> Jun	PTFA Father's Day Sale
17 <sup>th</sup> Jun	INSET Day – children not in school
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	PTFA Summer Fayre
20 <sup>th</sup> Jul	End of Term
21 <sup>st</sup> July	INSET Day – children not in school
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day

## Term Dates 2021-22

### Term 1

Starts	Thursday 2nd September 2021
<b>INSET</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021</b>
Ends	Friday 22nd October 2021
<b>Holiday</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Term 2

Starts	Monday 1st November 2021
Ends	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Holiday</b>	Monday 20th February 2022 – Monday 3rd January 2022

### Term 3

<b>INSET</b>	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>
Starts	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Ends	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Holiday</b>	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022– Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022

### Term 4

Starts	Monday 21st February 2022
Ends	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022
<b>Holiday</b>	Friday 4th April 2021– Monday 18th April 2022

### Term 5

Starts	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 2nd May 2022</b>
Ends	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
<b>Holiday</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Term 6

Starts	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
<b>INSET</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>
Ends	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

### **INSET DAYS**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

***KCC Schools Additional day off for Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022***