

With **kindness** in our hearts,
we find **enjoyment** in our learning and
seek **challenge** in all that we do.



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NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Whole School Update



After the bright but frosty days of the Christmas holidays, January has certainly felt like a long, dark, wet and chilly month. I think we are all ready for a well-earned rest over the half-term break and, if we are lucky, perhaps even a glimpse of sunshine.

One of the highlights of this term, as always, was our visit to the O2 Arena in London for the Young Voices Choir. This year, we were delighted to take forty children from Years 3 to 6. The day was packed with excitement, from travelling by train and Tube to enjoying a delicious meal at Frankie and Benny's. All of the children were a real credit to the school, demonstrating exemplary behaviour throughout the trip. The evening performance was as spectacular as ever. My sincere thanks go to Miss Brinsley, Mrs Crossley, Mrs Baxter, Mrs Player and Mrs Griggs for their hard work accompanying me and making this such a memorable experience for our pupils.

Number Day was another highlight of the term. It was a joy to see the wonderfully creative hat designs, and thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of staff, the day was full of fun and learning for everyone. We were also delighted that we raised over £xxx for the NSPCC. To round off the term, Internet Safety Week was a great success, and Shakespeare Class impressed us all with their excellent assembly on mountains.

Today, we held a special assembly to wish Mrs Lawrence well as she begins her cancer treatment and her journey towards recovery. We will keep in close touch and send her our very best wishes, love and support.



It has been a busy and, at times, emotional term for us all, but the smiles, resilience and achievements of the children have made every moment worthwhile. As always, there is never a dull day in school. Next term, we have Book Week, World Book Day and the Y6 residential to look forward to. We will be back to school, ready for the new term on Monday 23rd February.

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Potter Class

What a fantastic term it has been in Potter Class! We have been busy stepping back in time as part of our learning about 'Long Ago' and the children have loved discovering what life was like for children in the past. A real highlight was our visit from



Cranbrook Museum, when we explored fascinating old toy artefacts. The children were captivated as they examined toys from long ago and even recreated scenes from historical paintings showing children at play – proving that fun never goes out of fashion!

Our weekly Forest School sessions with Ms Abel in Windmill Woods have continued to be a firm favourite (rain, mud and all!). The children have embraced the great outdoors with enthusiasm – splashing through puddles, squelching through mud and exploring nature with huge smiles on their faces. It's safe to say that muddy trousers = happy children!

In the classroom, the children have worked exceptionally hard in phonics and maths, and we are so proud of the wonderful progress they have made. Their confidence has grown enormously and they are becoming more independent, resilient learners every day.



We have also enjoyed another brilliant term with our Year 6 buddies. The friendships and bonds between the children continue to blossom, with lots of kindness, laughter and teamwork on display. It's been heart-warming to see these special relationships develop.

The children also had an amazing time celebrating NSPCC Number Day, taking part in a range of fun and engaging maths activities. From number games in the classroom to exciting maths challenges in the woods with their Year 6 buddies, learning was happening everywhere (even among the trees!).



We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term; their hard work, enthusiasm and curiosity have truly shone. We can't wait to see what they achieve next and are so excited for the adventures and learning the next term will bring!

Nightingale Class

We have had a fabulous start to 2026 in Nightingale Class. The children have excelled in their geographical knowledge of London and can confidently talk about some of the most famous landmarks. We have learnt direction language and can direct our friends around a map of London.

In science, the children have loved learning about human senses. We have had fun exploring different smells, sounds and, of course, taste! Not all of the things they tasted or smelt were that pleasant – they were all edible though!

In our maths, as well as the fantastic Number Day, we have been introduced to place value in numbers up to 20. We have learnt the true value of the tens and ones in teen numbers, and we have used that knowledge for our addition and subtraction; for example, we now know that $3 + 4 = 7$ and therefore $13 + 4 = 17$.

In PSHE, we have really enjoyed talking about our dreams and goals. We have been discussing our own personal goals and thinking about how we can achieve those goals. The children have been very reflective and created a lovely atmosphere for discussion.

Or course we have had a wonderful time in Windmill Woods and I have loved the reports of the goings on. Lots of children have challenged themselves to try new things. They have really jumped in and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones – it has been amazing to hear how they have thrived in all areas of their forest school sessions.

We have seen some fabulous progress in reading and phonics. Thank you for continuing to support children are home with their daily reading.

We hope you have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Mrs Player and Mrs Manser



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

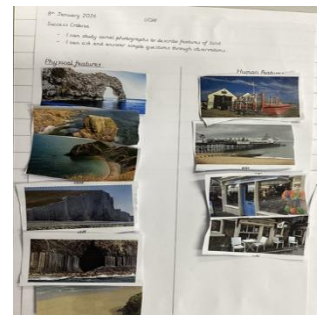
Darwin Class

The Spring Term has been filled with curiosity, creativity and a fantastic effort from everyone in Darwin Class.

Our focus on the coastline captured the children's imagination from the very beginning. They became true experts on the coastal town of Whitby in North Yorkshire, using their knowledge to write informative and engaging leaflets for tourists wishing to visit. Their writing showed off their knowledge as well as the skills we've been practising in our English lessons.

Understanding how coastlines change over time led to interesting discussions about erosion and the powerful forces of nature. The children were particularly interested in learning about the RNLI lifeboat crews and the important work they do to keep people safe at sea.

Creativity shone during in our Design and Technology project, where the children designed and built their very own beach huts. They approached this challenge with enthusiasm, care and imagination, producing some fantastic finished pieces.



Our coastal-themed class text, “Katie Morag and the New Pier”, was thoroughly enjoyed and inspired rich discussion and thoughtful responses.

Alongside this, our science learning explored the uses of materials, how materials can be recycled, and the impact of waste ending up in landfill. The children showed maturity when discussing the importance of recycling and the role we can all play in protecting our environment.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue exploring the coastline next term and to begin our new science topic on plants.

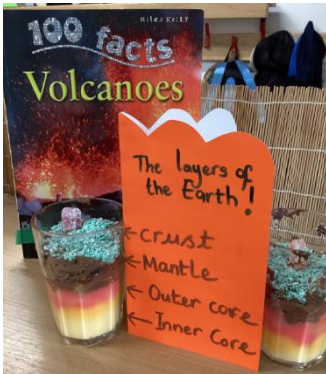
We look forward to seeing more of the same next term!

Pankhurst Class

Our *Rocks, Relics and Rumbles* topic this term began with investigating different types of rocks and exploring the layers of the Earth. We even found a creative way to represent these layers by building them in a glass!



Despite the many rain showers, we managed to squeeze in an outdoor lesson to explore the types of soil found in our school environment. This involved rolling and squashing subsoil to determine whether it was silt, sand or clay based.



Using digital microscopes, we took a close look at fossils and ammonites. Our study of ammonites linked beautifully with Art, when we learned about the Fibonacci sequence and how spirals are used as inspiration in creative work. The children designed their own spiral motifs, transferred them onto tiles and created printed designs.

Our class text this term is “The Firework-Maker’s Daughter”, which has inspired a wide range of writing. The children have written diary entries from the perspectives of characters, produced character descriptions and created persuasive adverts.

This is just a snapshot of what we have been enjoying in Pankhurst during a rather damp term!

Enjoy your break 😊



Shakespeare Class



It has been a wonderful term in Shakespeare Class, and we have achieved so much! The children have worked fantastically in their maths and have been learning all about factor pairs and multiplying 2- and 3-digit numbers. All the children have been really enjoying our class text, "King of the Cloud Mountains", which we have used to write a setting description and fact files. We also debated whether Yetis exist (we think they do!) to help us write a persuasive text. In our geography lessons, we have learnt all about mountains: what a mountain is, its different parts and how contour maps help us. We even made a 3D model to show the contours of mountains. Our science has been about states of matter. We learnt how matter in solids, liquids and gases moves, and we conducted scientific experiments on the time it takes for ice to melt, recording the temperatures at different times. We have been studying different techniques in our art lessons and really enjoyed using them to produce drawings of landscapes. In PE, we have been practising our gymnastics skills and working in pairs to help each other to balance. We learned to jump using the equipment and developed our hockey skills. By far the best thing about this term has been our class assembly, and I hope that you all enjoyed it! Happy half term everyone!



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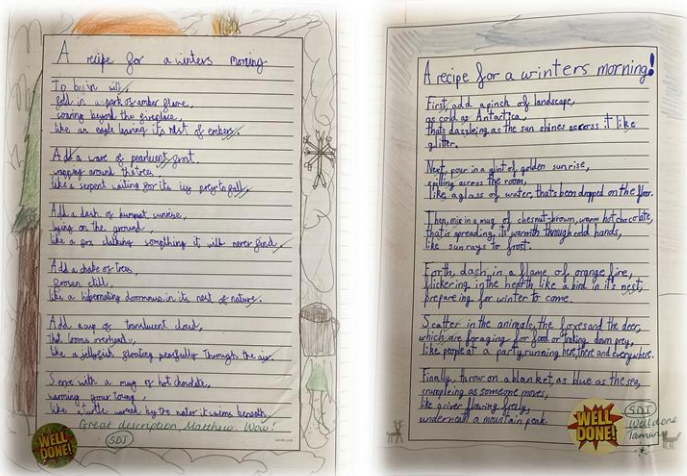
Holmes Class

Wow, what a start to 2026 Holmes Class has had! We have had a busy term and have been incredibly engaged in our new topic of 'Sow, Grow and Farm'. During our geography lessons, we have been learning about the different types of farming within the UK. The children explored how the topography and climate affects farming, before taking on the role of a farmer in our English lessons, where we have debated, hot-seated and written dramatic diary entries exploring potential problems. To support our learning, we had a visit from a local farmer who talked to us about his farm and farming experience, answered our questions and even let us explore the inside of a tractor! Andy explained how he looks after his animals, enjoys watching the crops grow, turns decaying natural waste into electricity and what he does when the animals escape – we heard all about a very cheeky cow! All in all, we had a brilliant afternoon.



Furthermore, in our English lessons, the children have written beautiful descriptive poems in the style of recipes, to set the scene of a winter's morning. Miss Brinsley and I were blown away with the children's creations!

In RE lessons, we have been learning about the Hindu festival of Holi. In each lesson we have focused on a different colour and story, as well as the meaning behind it. In one lesson, we focused on the colour yellow, representing happiness, and in another, green, which represents nature and how Hindus believe we should look after all living things.



Our last update is, of course, art related; Holmes Class children have once again excelled themselves within our art lessons where they have explored line drawing, still life, photography and drawing with ink.



Well done to all of Holmes Class for a fabulous start to the year – we hope you all have a lovely half term.

Churchill Class



Churchill Class has been as busy as ever this term! Many of the children have been out and about on the playground and local roads, taking part in Bikeability. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and road awareness grow, and we are so proud of the way they represented our school in the community.

Every other Friday, we have continued our much-loved visits to the Mobile Library. We

thoroughly enjoy changing and choosing our books each fortnight and, of course, we love our little stroll through the village too.



As SATs approach, Churchill Class has been working incredibly hard — especially in maths. This term, the children have mastered algebra and ratio, and have confidently revised long multiplication and division. In English, our “Winter’s Morning” writing was simply stunning.

Churchill Class were tasked with writing the first chapter of a story, and they truly left us all wanting more! Each piece ended on a cliffhanger, and we are very much hoping the authors decide to continue their tales...



Art has taken us on a journey to learn about Inuit culture. We used soap to create our own Inuit-style carvings and explored printing techniques to produce Inuit animals in this traditional style.

As always, we love spending time with our buddies every Friday, and we particularly enjoyed accompanying them to the woods for Number Day.

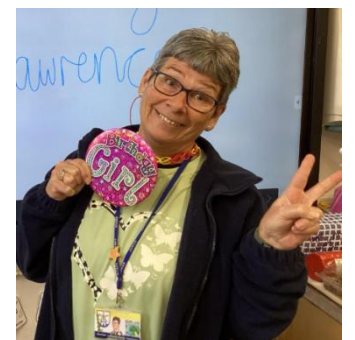


Churchill Class are especially proud of Joel and Will, who set up and ran a Scooter Club during Golden Time for the younger children in the school. What fantastic initiative and teamwork — well done, boys!

Science has been great fun this term as we investigated electrical circuits. A big thank you to Mr Digby, who helped us measure the voltage of a range of electrical products.



We have also absolutely loved our Forest School sessions this term. From cooking over the fire and using the tools, to building, exploring and — of course — enthusiastically sliding down the mud slide, every session has been filled with adventure, teamwork and plenty of muddy smiles! Looking ahead, Churchill Class are very excited about next term’s residential visit. This year we are heading to a brand-new location — Bowles Rock! We cannot wait for the adventure and look forward to sharing photos with you all.



Finally, along with the rest of the school, it goes without saying that we want to wish our lovely Mrs Lawrence well. She is such a pivotal part of the Churchill team and we will miss her greatly. We are sending her and her family all our love and very best wishes.

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Number Day Celebrations



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

World Book Day and Book Week

We are excited to announce our annual Book Week. This year, the theme is “Champions” – a celebration of inspiring stories, reading for pleasure and shared enjoyment of books.

We will launch Book Week with a whole-school assembly on Monday 2nd March, sharing story snippets featuring memorable *champions*. Throughout the week, children will enjoy:

- Teacher story time
- Storytelling tents
- A spontaneous DEAR time (*Drop Everything And Read*)
- The return of our Golden Tickets to spend at the Book Fair
- A whole-school dress-up day



Parents and guardians are warmly invited into school for class story times at the end of the day.

We would be grateful for any pre-loved Book Day costumes or accessories. Donations can be dropped at the school office by Friday 13th February.

- Each donation earns a raffle ticket to win a book
- Costumes will later be sold for a small donation
- All money raised will be used to buy books for the school

Parents and guardians are welcome to join their child for story time at 15:00. Class teachers will confirm details via ClassDojo.

Wed 25 Feb – Churchill	Mon 2 Mar – Potter
Thu 26 Feb – Holmes	Tue 3 Mar – Nightingale
Fri 27 Feb – Darwin	Wed 4 Mar – Pankhurst
	Thu 5 Mar – Shakespeare

Book Fair (School Hall 15:20–16:00)

- Monday 2nd March (*open until after clubs*)
- Wednesday 4th March
- Thursday 5th March

Each child will receive a £1 book token. All purchases help us earn commission to buy new books for our library.

Story Tents

On Tuesday 4th March, Pankhurst, Shakespeare, Holmes and Churchill Classes will create story tents for Potter, Nightingale and Darwin Classes to listen to stories in. On Tuesday 3rd March, please could Pankhurst, Shakespeare, Holmes and Churchill children bring in blankets, sheets, pegs and books. Potter, Nightingale and Darwin children should bring in a teddy to take to their story tent time.

Dress-Up Day – Friday 6th March

Children and staff are invited to dress as any book character. A book prize will be awarded in each class for creative costumes.

Young Voices at the London O2



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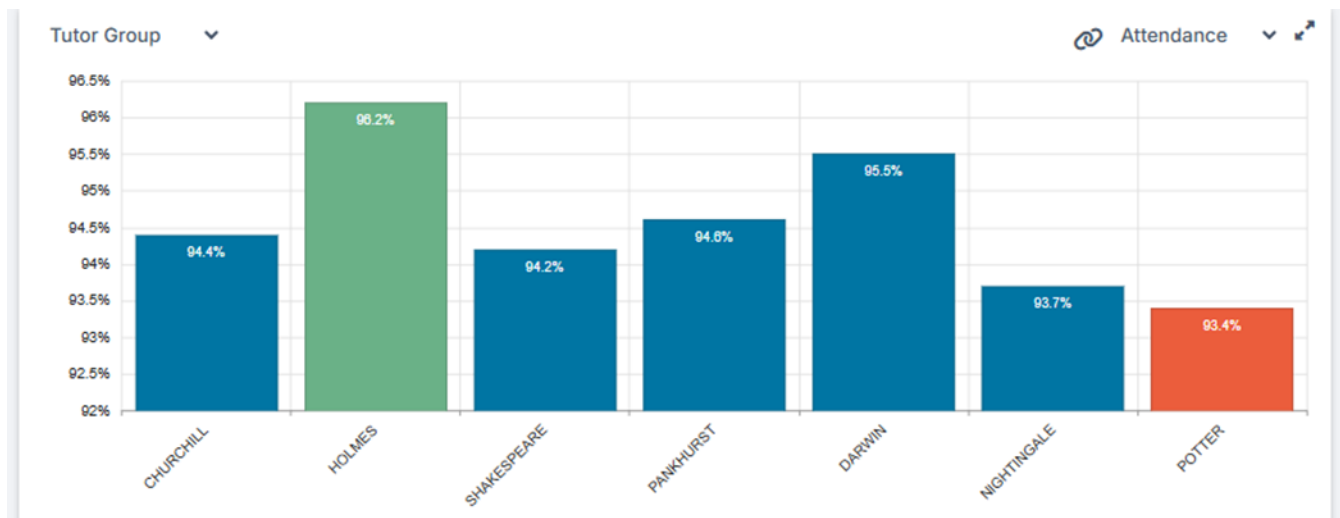
Attendance

Attendance so far this year now stands at 94.6%. We really need to see this improving. Our persistent absentees (under 90%) have unfortunately remained the same as last term, at 31 children.

Encouraging news is that the 31 children under 90% are improving on the whole, so hopefully those children will soon be over 90% again.

There will be a bounce again after the February holiday, for the children who have only missed one day of school this term.

Holmes class are currently the leaders in attendance as you can see from the following chart, closely followed by Darwin class.





Tunbridge Wells Family Hubs Timetable

23 February - 2 April 2026

Our Family Hubs:

Sherwood 03000 418059 Friars Way Tunbridge Wells TN2 3UA TWFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk	Tunbridge Wells 03000 418059 39A Grove Hill Tunbridge Wells TN1 1SD TWFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk	Cranbrook Library and Family Hub 03000 418059 Carriers Road Cranbrook TN17 3JT TWFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk
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All of our groups and services are free to attend.

Monday	Cranbrook Baby, Family & You 10:00am-12:00pm 4 week course	Tunbridge Wells Baby Group 10:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in	Cranbrook Time to Shine Seniors school year 7 upwards 4:00pm-5:30pm weekly	Invite Only
	Tuesday	Tunbridge Wells Young Parents Stay & Play 11:00am-1:00pm weekly drop-in	Sherwood The Communication Tree 11:30am-12:30pm 4 week course	Tunbridge Wells Baby Massage 2:00pm-3:00pm 5 week course
Wednesday	Sherwood Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in	Woodlands Health Centre, Paddock Wood Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in	Sherwood Little Talkers 1:00pm-2:00pm 6 week course	Cranbrook Stay & Play with Little Bookworms 1:00pm-2:00pm weekly drop-in
	Thursday	Sherwood Baby Massage 9:30am-10:30am 5 week course	Cranbrook Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in	Sherwood Baby Group 10:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in
Friday	Cranbrook Baby Group 9:15am-10:15am weekly drop-in	Sherwood Stay & Play with Little Bookworms 9:30am-11:00am weekly drop-in	St Gregory's Catholic School Compass ages 12+ weekly	
	Monthly	Olive Academy Tunbridge Wells Speak Out ages 11-19 last Wednesday of each month	Sherwood Talking Walk-in 9:30am-11:30am 3rd Monday of each month	Drop-In Session

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

www.kent.gov.uk/familiahub Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Diary Dates

TERM 1 (AUTUMN)	
Monday 1st September	Staff training day - School Closed
Tuesday 2 nd September	Staff training day – School Closed
Wednesday 3 rd September	Term 1 Starts
Friday 17 th October	Term 1 Finishes
Monday 20 th – Friday 24 th October	Half Term Holiday
TERM 2 (AUTUMN)	
Monday 27 th October	Term 2 Starts
Thursday 18 th December	Term 2 Finishes
Friday 19 th December	Staff training day – School Closed
Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January	Christmas Holiday
TERM 3 (SPRING)	
Monday 5 th January 2026	Term 3 Starts
Friday 13 th February	Term 3 Finishes
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th February	Half Term Holiday
TERM 4 (SPRING)	
Monday 23 rd February	Term 4 Starts
Thursday 2 nd April	Term 4 Finishes
Friday 3 rd April - Friday 17 th April	Easter holidays
TERM 5 (SUMMER)	
Monday 20 th April	Term 5 Starts
Monday 4 th May	May Day - School Closed
Friday 22 nd May	Term 5 Finishes
Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May	Half term holiday
TERM 6 (SUMMER)	
Monday 1 st June	Term 6 Starts
Friday 17 th July	Term 6 Finishes
Monday 20 th July	Staff training day - School Closed
Tuesday 21 st July	Staff training day – School Closed

School term dates and holidays are set mostly in line with Kent County Council, however, please bear in mind that the school sets staff training days independently and these may be subject to change.

Term 4 Dates

16 th to 20 th Feb	Half Term Week
23 rd Feb	Term 4 Begins
2 nd to 6 th Mar	Book Week
18 th – 20 th Mar	Year 6 Residential Trip to Bowles
23 rd Mar	Class Photos Rock Steady Concert p.m.
26 th Mar	Holmes class to Easter Rewind
31 st Mar	Easter Service
3 rd Apr	Easter Holiday
20 th Apr	Term 5 Begins
6 th May	Pankhurst class to Living Land
11 th – 14 th May	SATs Week
22 nd May	Sports Day End of Term
1 st Jun	Term 6 Begins
19 th Jun	Welly Walk
17 th Jul	End of Term



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Kent fostering Kent County Council

Starts
24th Feb

TUESDAYS

3.30PM & 4.45PM

BENENDEN VILLAGE HALL

HUBBUB



RISING
STARS



JUNIOR CHOIR

A sing-your-heart-out
choir for ages 8+.

SING LOUD, SHINE BRIGHT!



BOOK A
FREE
TASTER!



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February family fun at Hands of Hope



A HALF TERM MORNING OF WOODCRAFT,
YOGA AND SEED PLANTING FOR CHILDREN

FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 12.15PM

HANDS OF HOPE
MOOR HILL, HAWKHURST

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S FREE PLACE
WWW.HOHCHARITY.CO.UK



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