

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



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NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Whole School Update

Despite the rather wet weather earlier in the term, we have still managed to enjoy some valuable time outdoors. More recently, with brighter days and drier ground, there are lovely signs that spring is on its way. The school grounds are looking wonderful – much of the grass has been cut and our vegetable patch is beginning to take shape. A big thank you to Clockhouse Farm for their generous donation of strawberry plants, which Mr Digby has already planted. Children in Potter, Nightingale and Churchill Classes have also thoroughly enjoyed their Forest School sessions in Windmill Woods – with the mud slide proving, perhaps unsurprisingly, to be a firm favourite!



One of the highlights of the term has been our fantastic Book Week, planned to coincide with World Book Day. The week was filled with a range of exciting activities, including a book fair, story tents, shared reading across the school and, of course, a wonderful day of dressing up as favourite characters. Our thanks go to Mrs Saunders for organising such an enjoyable week, and to all parents for your support in helping us raise funds for new books at the fair.

In recent weeks, our Year 6 pupils have returned from a memorable three-day residential visit to Bowles Outdoor Centre. Potter Class have also had a delightful experience hatching and caring for chicks in their classroom. I was fortunate to join Holmes Class on their visit to Chambers Fruit Farm, where the children took on the role of taste testers for strawberries, raspberries and blueberries! They also toured the factory to see how fruit is sorted and packaged, and learned about modern, environmentally friendly farming methods, including the use of bees and tiny spiders instead of chemicals. We rounded off the term with a beautiful Easter service, thoughtfully organised by Holmes Class.



Finally, I was so lucky to be invited to the Tenterden Dance Studio's annual show. It was an absolute treat to watch so many of our school children take part in such a professional concert!

Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for some exciting events next term. Please do save the dates: our school fête will take place on Saturday 16th May and our annual Sports Day will be held on Friday 22nd May. Many classes are also planning educational trips, so there is plenty to look forward to.



Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday. We hope you have the chance to enjoy some sunshine, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy and exciting term.

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Potter Class

What a brilliant term it has been in Potter Class. We have packed so much into these past weeks that even our coat pegs are tired.

We began the term with great excitement as we took part in our very first Book Week. The children arrived dressed as their favourite characters and the classroom looked like every story book ever written had exploded in the best possible way. We enjoyed a whole week of book themed fun but the highlight had to be our magical visits to the story tents with our buddies. There is something very special about sharing a story under twinkly lights and we made memories that will stay with us for a long time.



No sooner had we closed the last page of Book Week than our Living Eggs programme arrived. The children watched with awe as nine fluffy chicks hatched right before their eyes. We learned all about the life cycle of a chick and the children showed such care and gentleness when holding and looking after them. The chicks may have only been with us for a short time but they certainly became part of the Potter Class family. Some of us were even tempted to smuggle one home in a pocket but thankfully they all left with the correct number of feathers.

As if the chicks had not already filled our hearts to the brim, we were then treated to a wonderful visit from Coralie's mum who helped us create beautiful flower arrangements for Mother's Day. The children loved choosing their flowers and arranging them with great care. The classroom smelled like a florist's shop and looked like one too. We were very proud of the children's creations and even more proud that not a single flower was eaten, waved like a wand or used as a sword!



We were also incredibly lucky this term to learn about Ramadan

and Eid. Two wonderful

mums from our school community visited us to share more about the Muslim faith. They brought stories, artefacts and, most importantly, some delicious food for us to try. The children listened beautifully and asked thoughtful questions. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate and learn about the traditions of others.



enthusiasm for learning has been a joy to see. Whether they have been writing, counting, building, painting or negotiating who gets the red spade next, they have shown great determination and pride in all they do.

We are so proud of everything Potter Class has achieved this term. If Term 4 is anything to go by, Term 5 had better get ready.

Nightingale Class



We have been busy in Nightingale Class, consolidating our learning about London. The whole class have been exploring, using maps to navigate their way across the city and using famous landmarks as their guide. In recent weeks, we compared London to the capital city of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. It was fascinating to see how the children could immediately compare the similarities and differences



between the two cities.

This topic has gone out with a 'bang', or least a puff of smoke as we very excitedly set fire to our model houses and recreated a mini Great Fire of London! To further our celebration, we had the chance to celebrate the children's learning through our wonderful class assembly! They were just fantastic; I am so proud of their performance!



We have been busy in other areas of the curriculum, too! Our science has been learning about seasonal change – and what a wonderful opportunity this spring has given us! We have witnessed the weather change from wet, grey rainy days to glorious sunshine. The children have loved spotting signs of spring!

In maths, we have been busy consolidating our numbers from 20-50 and the children can confidently identify the 'tens and ones' in two-digit numbers. I am excited to start our next chapter of numbers to 100 in Term 5.



In RE, we have learnt about the Jewish festival of Purim and celebrated the bravery of Queen Esther! We have been learning about keeping fit and healthy in our PSHE lessons, and the class loved making their London Taxis in our DT lessons! We have some very creative characters amongst us!

We hope you have a super Easter Holiday and cannot wait to see you all in Term 5!

Mrs Player and Mrs Manser



Darwin Class

Darwin Class have packed an incredible amount into this term and we are very proud of everything the children have achieved.



We have continued exploring our Coastline topic, beginning with our new class text, “The Lighthouse Keeper’s Lunch”. The children thoroughly enjoyed sequencing the story and were enthusiastic about learning a wide range of new vocabulary from the book. They applied their knowledge of the story brilliantly through their writing of a diary in the voice of Mr Grinling. Their writing showed excellent recall of the story and great attention to detail—it was a real pleasure to read.

In science, we have been learning about seasonal changes in plants. The children particularly enjoyed exploring the school grounds to observe first-hand which plants grow in spring and learning about meat eating plants!

Building on this learning in art, we sketched, sculpted and painted flower heads. The finished sculptures look fantastic and we look forward to sending these homes for you to enjoy.

Our Coastline topic concluded with a memorable visit from an RNLI volunteer, who delivered an engaging and important talk about water safety. The session involved us taking part in a role-play rescue scenario using dress-up equipment. The children were highly engaged, asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated excellent listening skills throughout.



We also enjoyed a wonderful Hanukkah celebration, kindly organised by Mrs Cackett. It was a fun-filled occasion with music, laughter and, of course, delicious food.

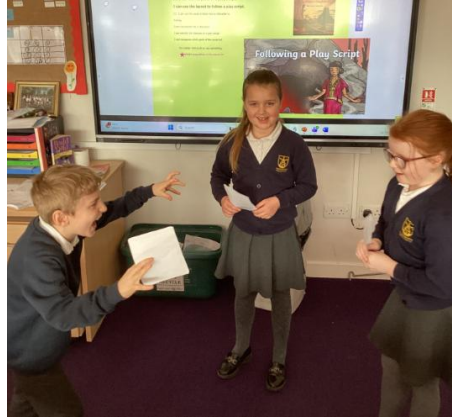
Looking ahead, we are very excited about our upcoming trip to Great Dixter next term, where we will continue to develop our understanding of plants.

We were also delighted to welcome back Mrs Haynes from her maternity leave. The children were very pleased to have her teaching with us at the end of term and we look forward to seeing more of her in Term 5 and 6.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for another busy term.



Pankhurst Class



We've packed so much into this term that I thought it would be lovely to share some of the highlights from the children's perspectives:

Jonah and Wilf:

"It took a lot of time and effort to make our own compass. It didn't work at first, but we kept trying and eventually it did! We made a needle magnetic by scraping it on a magnet, so it became magnetised. The needle then points north, towards the Earth's magnetic North."

Alex and Phoebe:

"In maths, we used a fraction wall to help us work out equivalent fractions."

Sophie, Bella and Wilf:

"We made our own playscripts based on a part of the book we've been reading, "The Firework-Maker's Daughter". It was so much fun acting them out and being the scary pirates and the Fire-Fiend!"

I also wanted to celebrate the successes of Book Week in Pankhurst Class. The children were fantastic when reading to the younger pupils in the reading tents they built themselves. Every child showed such high levels of engagement and enjoyment. We then read a "Secret Seven" adventure story which inspired us to write our own 'mini books'. We even followed a tutorial to draw our own characters, based on the illustrations by Tony Ross.

It really has been another super term for Pankhurst Class. Have a restful and happy Easter break!



Shakespeare Class



Hello from Shakespeare Class!

We have had another great term of working really hard. For the first three weeks, we continued with our English book, 'King of the Cloud Forest', and wrote diary entries as the character, Ashley. We then moved on to writing a newspaper article about a bottle-nosed whale that was stranded in the River Thames in 2006. This tied in with our topic of 'Mountains and Rivers', in which we have been learning about the rivers in the UK and worldwide.

We made our own 3-D models of mountains and rivers, labelling all of the main features, and did a fantastic job of adding amazing detail!

In maths, we have been becoming masters of everything to do with fractions – you name it, we can do it!

We also enjoyed moving on to our new topic of decimals.



Along with all the other classes, we really enjoyed Book Week, where we used 'Alice in Wonderland' as a focus and wrote our own Wonderland adventure, imagining ourselves as Alice on an adventure in our own Wonderlands!

In DT, we have learnt all about the work of William Morris and created our own prints based on his designs. We loved taking inspiration from the plants in the school gardens.

For science, we have been looking at classification and learnt lots about sub-categories of invertebrates and plants.

In PE, we have continued with gymnastics and developed our sequencing skills to include balancing and rolling. We have great control in tennis and we are developing a good relay volley.

Shakespeare Class would like to wish you all a Happy Easter!



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Holmes Class

What a busy Term 4 Holmes Class have had! Although I have been away from the classroom recovering for the past few weeks, it has been wonderful to hear all the brilliant work Holmes Class have continued to produce and I am so grateful to Miss Brinsley and the team for supporting the children so well.

This term, we have continued our 'Sow, Grow and Farm' topic and have developed our knowledge of farming around the world. The class have carried out case studies, looking into citrus fruit growing in California and coffee growing in Peru, before exploring food miles and the impact of importing food.



Linked to our main topic, we had an exciting trip to Chambers Fruit Farm at the beginning of the term. At the farm, we visited the main pack house, learnt how fruit arrives on trucks ready to be quality-checked, practised the sugar tests, walked through the cold chamber, saw the machines sealing the punnets and labelled and weighed our own punnets of strawberries and raspberries. In the field, we looked at the expanse of plants, learnt about the polytunnels, observed the bees, discussed the bugs that eat the plants, planted our very own strawberry plants to bring home and examined the types of tractors and machinery used. In the fruitery, we looked at the optical graders and saw the blueberries moving down the line, as well as the automatic case-packer robot. We then visited the boardroom and were taste testers for different varieties of raspberries, strawberries, blueberries and blackberries. This was a class favourite! It was a fabulous school trip and Chambers were so generous with their time and produce.

During their most recent art lessons, the class have been exploring natural and land art. This week, Holmes Class went to Windmill Woods to explore the natural materials at Forest School, with the task of creating their own 3D piece of art, before having a class scavenger hunt!

On Tuesday morning, Year 5 had the privilege of leading the school Easter service, where they retold the Easter story. The children spoke and sung fantastically and made everyone very proud, I am sorry to have missed it.

I wish everyone a very Happy Easter and hope you all have a wonderful holiday; I cannot wait to be back with Holmes Class after the break!



Churchill Class

Churchill Class have had a truly memorable Term 4 and our residential to Bowles Rocks was undoubtedly a highlight. I am so incredibly proud of every single one of our Churchill Year 6 pupils. From the kindness and support they showed one another to the enthusiasm with which they approached every activity, they were a credit to the school. Whether it was skiing,



rock climbing, archery, orienteering, pool kayaking or raft building, the children threw themselves into each experience with determination and a real sense of fun, often stepping outside their comfort zones and rising to the challenge. A very special thank you to Mr Digby for his



hard work and support throughout.

Back in school, Year 6 approached their end-of-term assessments and practice SATs papers with maturity and determination. While we always remind the children that they are far more than a score, I have been blown away by their positive attitude and commitment to doing their very best.



In Geography, we have thoroughly enjoyed our “Frozen Kingdom” topic. We were especially amazed by the outstanding model created at home by Dino. His detailed representation of Antarctica, complete with Shackleton’s “Endurance” trapped in the pack ice is truly sensational.

Churchill Class



Forest School has also been a real highlight this term. As a special Year 6 treat, we have loved heading down together as a whole class.

During Book Week, Churchill Class once again

proved what fantastic buddies they are by creating superb story tents. Their creativity and collaboration shone through, and it was wonderful to see them taking such pride in supporting younger children.



One of the most amusing days this term had to be when the class was treated to “two Mrs Channons for the day”. Mrs Channon was an excellent sport, embracing the fun as I spent the day dressed as her and attempting to impersonate her. It certainly brought plenty of laughter. On a more serious note, having worked alongside Mrs Channon for 13 years, I would like to recognise her unwavering dedication to promoting a love of reading across the school. She truly is a reading champion!

As we come to the end of Term 4, we would like to wish all of Year 6 a happy and restful Easter holiday. We look forward to welcoming them back for a busy and exciting final two terms, filled with SATs, transition activities and plenty of opportunities to celebrate our wonderful Class of 2026.



World Book Day and Book Week



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

VIP Bounce



Harry caught his PB fish, a 31lb 12oz common carp and Jake won man of the match at his football game.



Saul passed his level 2 LAMDA exam with a merit!



Euan passed his Grade 2 flute exam.



Daisy danced at the O2 on Sunday as part of a Young Performers National showcase with her dance school, Splitsz. They danced an ABBA medley and a Suessical the Musical piece. She also achieved her level 6 in Acro.

James attended two rugby tournaments this term at Edenbridge and Gravesend, racking up an impressive six tries across them both. Poppy passed her ballet grading with a 'highly commended' award!



Eleanor, Otilie and Rosie made some beautiful hairbands during sewing club this term.



Jonah won player of the match at Cranbrook Football Club.



Congratulations to Eleanor, Bea, Margot, Basti, Max, Daisy, Robert, Coralie and Matilda on their performances at the Tenterden Dance Studio annual show.



Sowsan has moved to stage 2 and Aisha has moved to stage 6 in swimming now!

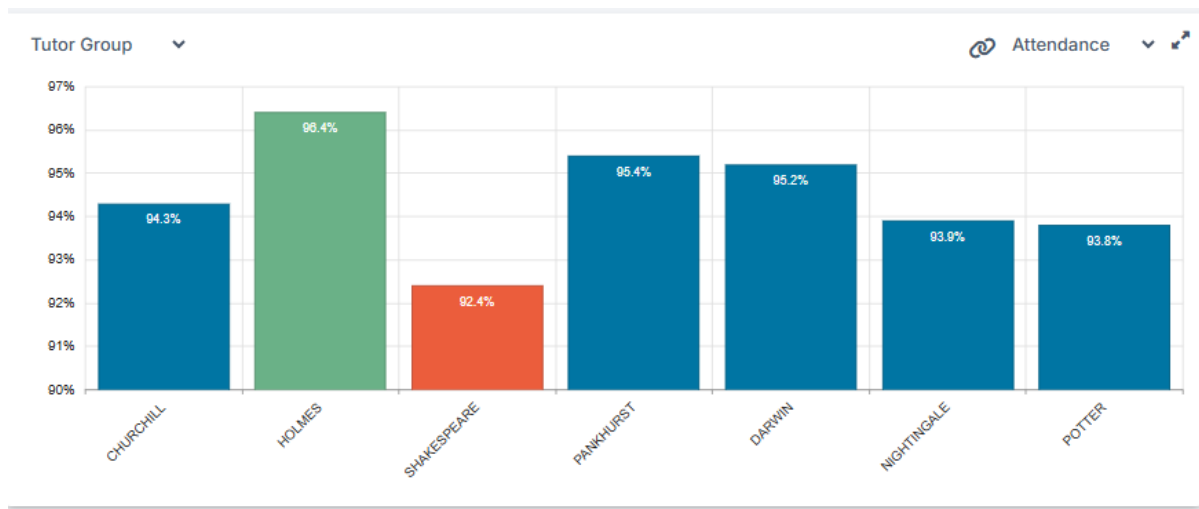
Margot after her ballet performance.

Attendance

Attendance Update

Attendance this term has remained steady at 94.6%. The number of pupils classed as persistently absent (below 90%) is unchanged from last term, at 31 children.

As we move into the warmer months, we are hopeful that a reduction in seasonal illness will support improved attendance and help more children to benefit fully from their learning in school.



Holmes Class continue to lead the way with their fantastic attendance this year—very well done to everyone involved!

Congratulations also to our lucky winners, Ralph and Phoebe, whose raffle tickets were drawn today. Each has received a £50 Amazon voucher in recognition of their excellent attendance across Terms 3 and 4.



There will be another opportunity to win vouchers in Terms 5 and 6, so do keep aiming high. In addition, all Gold Star winners will be invited to a celebratory bounce—something to look forward to! Children can earn raffle tickets not only through strong attendance, but also by receiving a Gold Star for acts of kindness in school or for notable achievements beyond the classroom. This might include passing an exam, earning a certificate, or showing kindness at home.

Please take a look at our VIP Bounce page in this newsletter for further ideas and inspiration.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 20 th Apr | Term 5 Begins Shakespeare River Walk |
| 22 nd April | Darwin Trip to Great Dixter |
| 28 th April | Hearing Tests - Year R |
| 4 th May | Bank Holiday |
| 6 th May | Pankhurst Class to Living Land |
| 11 th - 14 th May | SATs Week |
| 18 th May | Shakespeare Bedgebury Trip |
| 22 nd May | Sports Day End of Term |
| 1 st Jun | Term 6 Begins |
| 8 th Jun | Nightingale Trip to London Transport Museum |
| 12 th June | Kwik Cricket Tournament |
| 19 th Jun | Welly Walk |
| 3 rd Jul | Shakespeare Egyptian Morning |
| 9 th July | Year 6 Performance to parents 5.30 p.m. |
| 10 th Jul | Leavers' service |
| 13 th Jul | Year R Eye Tests |
| 14 th Jul | Year 6 Dinner |
| 17 th Jul | Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9.30 a.m. |
| End of Term | |



'We play loads of fun games, do activities and challenges and sometimes get badges'

Matilda




Rainbows
Hawkhurst

**Girls play, learn and
have tons of fun**

for ages 4 to 7

At Rainbows, we welcome all girls to play,
learn and have fun in a creative,
safe space for all abilities.



Registered charity number: excepted from registration.

Join a local Rainbows group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

SANDHURST'S GOT



What can **YOU** do?

Can you sing, dance, tell jokes or
something else?

Or can you make or paint?

We would love to see what Sandhurst
children can do.

Friday April 24th in

the Mission Church 6pm

and Saturday 25th April

in St Nicholas Church 11am – 4pm

Ask in school for entry forms.