



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 12th January 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Brrr!!

There has certainly been a drop in the temperature this week and the children had a great time playing in the very brief snow flurry which we had on Monday. Gloves, hats and scarves certainly help to keep the children warm at this time of year.

Class 2 trip

Class 2 braved the cold weather and visited Dover on Wednesday. Miss Fordham reports 'The children had an exciting time whilst travelling on the public bus to Dover. On arrival in Dover we walked through the High Street and counted all the different shops and types of traffic. We then spent a short while in the warmth of the museum where we looked at models of Dover in the past. For the afternoon, we headed to St Mary's CEP school where we ate lunch and the children drew detailed pictures of what they had seen in Dover. The children enjoyed their day and are looking forward to carrying out some more fieldwork around the village next week'.

Class 4 Family Assembly

This morning was our Year 4 Family assembly which focused on the life and works of the renowned Dutch artist, Vincent van Gogh.

The assembly began with a celebration of the class' achievements in a range of activities before a 'This is Your Life' introduction to Vincent Van Gogh's life, exploring key milestones from his early years to his artistic journey. The students highlighted Van Gogh's passion for art, the incredible impact he had on the world of painting and other artists who influenced his work. The assembly showcased some of Van Gogh's most famous masterpieces, such as "Starry Night" and the "Sunflowers." The children discussed the unique techniques and colours that characterise Van Gogh's style.

Well done, Year 4 children and staff for all your hard work and dedication in preparing this assembly. Your enthusiasm for learning about Vincent van Gogh was evident, and we hope that this experience has sparked a lasting appreciation for his work.



Indoor PE Footwear

We've had a few queries recently so just to confirm, bare feet or plimsolls should be worn for indoors PE when gymnastics or dance are being taught. Trainers are not suitable for gym or dance as these are not capable of transmitting feel for the movement and the surface the children are working on. If a child has a medical reason i.e. a verruca and does not have plimsolls they should miss PE. For indoor PE lessons other than gym or dance, trainers or plimsolls can be worn, these should be clean so as not to cause hazards from slipping on wet or dry mud falling from them. Class Newsletters and Curriculum Overviews (on the school website) detail when dance and gymnastics are being taught. Thank you for your support with this matter and please don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries.

Village Car Park

We received notification this week from the Parish Council that Dover District Council are proposing to introduce fees to park in the village car park. This matter is being considered by DDC on Monday 15th January. If you would like to give your response to the proposal please follow the link <https://www.stmargaretspc.co.uk/reach-road-car-park/>

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Hopefully you will have seen information sent out earlier this week about our parent/carers questionnaire. The deadline for completion is 15th January 2024.

Reception Class 2024

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020? If so they will be eligible to start school in September 2024. We invite families to book an appointment to come and have a look around our school at a time to suit. Please spread the word to anyone you know with a child of the right age. The deadline for application for a place is **15th January 2024**.

Happy weekend everyone.

Helen Comfort – Executive Headteacher





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Message from Class 5

Class 5 are all excited to begin the new topics for 2024. We have begun this term studying William Blake's famous poem "The Tyger" which was written over 200 years ago in 1794. We have already discovered how the poet compared the beauty of the majestic tiger against the fierce side of its character as it stalks its prey deep in the dark jungle. We have composed our own individual poems in the style of Blake's 'The Tyger'. We are having great fun sketching tiger features, which we will use to help us breathe life into our watercolour portraits. We are planning to create collages inspired by this amazing poem.

Our class story this term is 'Malamander'. The main character is a twelve-year-old boy named Herbert Lemon who lives and works in the Grand Nautilus Hotel. The hotel has many hidden mysteries in the strange and frequently foggy seaside town of Eerie-on-Sea. As the hotel's 'lost and founder', Herbie is tasked with cataloguing lost things and trying to find their owners. The story opens dramatically when Herbie stumbles across a strange girl desperately hiding from the rather scary; Boat Hook man! The adventure will provide us with inspirational descriptions to help us create our own dramatic, exciting stories.

In science, we have begun experiments comparing friction and gravity. We are constructing paper autogyros and testing their aerodynamics. In gymnastics, we are learning and perfecting different styles of rolls and balances. This is developing our core body strengths. Together these form an exciting learning journey for the new year ahead.

Mr Oliver

Reception Class 2024

Applications are now open for Reception Class September 2024. If you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 you can apply online for a place through the Kent County Council website:-

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places

Applications close on **15th January 2024**.

Whole School Attendance

08/01/24 - 12/01/24

97.1%

05/09/23 – date

95.8%

Census Day Thursday 18th January

We are asking all children in Classes R, 1 and 2 to register for a hot school meal on **Thursday, 18th January** as it is the school census day. We will only receive money to pay for your child's hot dinners, at any point during the year, if they eat a school meal on the census day. If you think your child may not eat well enough on census day you can of course send in a packed lunch too.

The Week Ahead!

Week commencing 15th January 2024

Monday, 15th January

- Class 2 Forest School sessions all week
- Deadline to apply for Reception Class places September 2024
- Class 2 trip – see separate letter for details
- Deadline to respond to parent/carers questionnaire

Tuesday, 16th January

- Class 6 Swimming - please remember swimming kit/towel, etc.

Wednesday, 17th January

- Class 1 trip – see separate letter for details
- Class 5 trip – see separate letter for details

Thursday, 18th January

- School Census Day – Children in Classes R, 1 & 2 please register for a cooked school dinner

Star Awards

w/e 12th January 2024



- Class R – Julius
- Class 1 – Arte
- Class 2 – Luna
- Class 3 – Georgina
- Class 4 – All of Class 4
- Class 5 – Darcy
- Class 6 – James & Mae

Lunch Menu: Week 3

w/c Monday, 15th January 2024

£2.45 per day

[October-23.pdf](https://www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk/October-23.pdf)
(wholeschoolmeals.co.uk)

To pay for your meals online, please go to:

<https://www.parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/wsm>

