



## Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Message from the Headteacher

#### Welcome Back – and Lots to Celebrate!

It's been fantastic to welcome everyone back for what's shaping up to be a really exciting term. The buzz around school has been great — the children have come back full of energy and have settled into their routines so well.

Next week, our Year 1 pupils will be doing their national phonics checks, and Year 4 will be taking on the multiplication tables check. We know they'll give it their best, just as they always do. These assessments are a normal part of the school year, and there's really nothing to worry about — the children are well-prepared and ready to show what they've learned.

Before I move on to celebrating some of our recent successes, I want to start with an apology. In my final newsletter last term, I completely forgot to mention the Rabbits' amazing trip to Wingham Wildlife Park — and they were quite right to point it out! It sounds like it was a brilliant day out. The children were full of curiosity, asked great questions, and learned so much about the animals. They also represented the school beautifully throughout the trip, really showing our values in action. Rabbits, I'm really sorry for missing you out last time — well done on such a great visit!

On the sports front, our tennis teams have been smashing it! Our boys' doubles team won the Canterbury competition on Thursday and are now through to the next round in Bromley — a brilliant result. Meanwhile, our girls gave it their all and finished third overall, which is something to be really proud of. A huge well done to all our tennis players for your hard work, teamwork and fantastic attitude.

And finally, we've been looking at pupils' work across the school, and it's been so lovely to see the progress everyone is making. Our new curriculum is really having a positive impact, and it's clear how much learning is going on in every classroom.

Thanks, as always, for your continued support. It's great to be back, and we're looking forward to a brilliant term ahead!

**Craig Ward – Headteacher**

### Homework

#### Updates to our homework approach

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent and pupil surveys and those that have continued sharing feedback with staff over the past term. We greatly value your feedback and have taken the time to reflect carefully on what you've told us about homework.

The results showed a broad split in parental opinion—around half of families wanted to see more homework, while the other half preferred less. Pupils themselves were overwhelmingly in favour of having homework (a genuine surprise to me!), and all groups—parents, pupils, and staff—agreed on one important thing: **homework should be useful.**

Based on the feedback, by parents and pupils, from our trial of a different approach last term it was clear that our revised grids were not working either. So, we've been back to the drawing board, including looking at what other schools offer and how the needs of our community can be met as effectively as possible.



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### What's Changing

In response to that feedback, we are making some further changes to our homework approach from this term:

- **Focused Subjects:** Homework will centre around **reading, maths, and spelling**, where structured practice makes the biggest impact. We will not have the grid of activities.
- **Clear Expectations.** Each week...

**YR** pupils each week will be asked to:

- work on the week's **phonics words**
- **read** daily.

**Y1** pupils will be asked to:

- work on the week's **phonics words**
- **read** daily
- try out a **maths** task on Purple Mash.

**Y2-Y6** pupils will be asked to:

- complete a **spelling task** and learn those spellings in preparation for a test at the end of the week, along with the online Spelling Shed app to support
- work on the **times tables** of the week on paper, along with the TT Rockstars app to support
- **read** daily.

We know how important it is for homework to support learning in a manageable and meaningful way, and these updates aim to strike the right balance and not encroach on family time and extra-curricular activities.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or further thoughts, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### 'Celebration Assembly'

We are pleased to invite parent/carers to attend our Celebration Assembly.

**Date:** Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
**Time:** 2:45pm  
**Where:** School Hall

We look forward to seeing you there.

### Sports Day



Date : **Wednesday, 11th June 2025**

Time : **1pm**

Where: **Sports Field**

All children will change into their PE kits and coloured House T-shirts for the afternoon. Please remember, at this time of year, sun hats, water bottles and sun screen are essential. We look forward to seeing all of the children in their coloured House team T-shirts and to welcoming you as supporters. Gates to the top field will open at 12:45pm, no need to report at the office.

### Whole School Attendance

02/06/25 - 06/06/25

**94.5%**

03/09/24 – 06/06/25

**96%**

Attendance

Our focus school value this term:  
**Respect & Tolerance**



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## PTFA Pre-Loved School Uniform

Do your children outgrow or lose their uniform faster than you can say 'school run'?

PTFA to the rescue!



You will be pleased to hear that the PTFA's Pre-Loved Uniform Shop is up and running. All items are in as new condition, and are FREE of charge (although we will of course accept your money if you'd like to offer a donation!). The uniforms are washed and ready for collection - it's like a hand-me-down, but fancier!

Please feel free to call us on 07904 123 554, or email us on [stmacptfa@gmail.com](mailto:stmacptfa@gmail.com) to arrange collection.

## Forest School Sessions

w/c Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Owls Class

Things to remember:

- Wellington boots/old trainers
- Water resistant/water proof
- Trousers/tights

## 'My Dad' 2025

Look out for 'My Dad' pictures completed by children in Hedgehogs and Rabbits Classes which will be published in the East Kent Mercury which goes on sale on Thursday, 12th June.

**EAST KENT  
MERCURY**

## Star Awards

w/e 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Hedgehogs – Ellis  
Squirrels – Arlo  
Woodpeckers – Ines & Millie**



**Rabbits – Stanley  
Badgers – Lenny  
Owls – Jack**

## Spelling Award

w/e 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Woodpeckers Class**



## Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthday in June.

Jasper	Woodpeckers
Adalyn	Hedgehogs
Charlie	Hedgehogs
Alfie	Hedgehogs
Isla-Rose	Owls
Alby-James	Squirrels
Ahmad	Woodpeckers
Genevieve	Squirrels
Thomas	Hedgehogs
Freddie	Owls
Thea	Rabbits
Jonathan	Badgers
Jett	Hedgehogs
Zoe	Squirrels
Leonard	Badgers
Maia	Rabbits
Rimas	Owls



## The Week Ahead

### Week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

#### Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June

- **Owls Class forest school sessions all week**
- **5:30pm to 6:30pm Parent/Carer Meeting** for new pupils starting September 2025

#### Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June

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

#### Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June

- **1pm Sports Day** on the school field
- **3:30pm to 4:30pm Induction session in Hedgehogs Class** for new pupils starting September 2025

#### Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June

- **Reserve Sports Day** if adverse weather causes cancellation on Wednesday.
- **3:30pm to 4:30pm Induction session in Hedgehogs Class** for new pupils starting September 2025

#### Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June

- **PTFA Mufti Day** – Non uniform day in exchange for a tombola prize
- **'Celebration Assembly'** parent/carers invited to attend. Please come to the school office at 2:45pm
- **3:15pm PTFA selling freeze pops in the gazebo after school**

## Lunch Menu: Week 1

w/c Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

£2.50 per day

[Menu-April-2025-1.pdf](#)

To pay for your meals online, please go to:

[parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/wsm/](http://parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/wsm/)



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### Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Non Uniform Day

Mufti Day, Non Uniform Day, Casual clothes Day- call it whatever you like but it's happening on Friday 13th June!

All we ask for in exchange is that the children (if possible) bring in a prize that can be used for the Tombola at the Summer Fair on 21st June. This could be anything from chocolates, a bottle of something tasty, toiletries, small toys, games or other suitable new items. All donations will go directly towards making the Fair fun and successful for everyone.

Thank you for your support,

The PTFA



CONTACT US: [STMACPTFA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STMACPTFA@GMAIL.COM)

JOIN US FOR OUR  
**Summer Fair**  
SATURDAY 21ST JUNE  
12-3PM

JOIN US!

You will be able to enjoy:

- Music by DJ Kentastic
- Games stalls
- BBQ
- Face painting by Bizzie Lizzie's
- External Stalls
- Ice cream van
- Great raffle prizes including vouchers and experiences
- FREE Pre loved uniform available

We are still looking for volunteers to help on the day  
We still have some spaces for stalls (£10 per stall)

**THE EVENT IS CASH ONLY- ALTHOUGH SOME EXTERNAL STALLS MAY ACCEPT CARD PAYMENTS**

Community Noticeboard

## DOVER FOODBANK MOST needed ITEMS

JUNE 2025

- CEREAL
- UHT MILK
- CUPPA SOUP
- TINNED FISH
- FRUIT JUICE (UHT)
- JAM AND SPREADS
- TINNED FRUIT
- CUSTARD
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- INSTANT MASH
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- SHAMPOO
- LAUNDRY PRODUCTS
- TIN OPENERS

PLEASE NOTE

*We have plenty  
of pasta & pulses*

INFO@DOVER.FOODBANK.ORG.UK  
UNIT 7, CHARLTON CENTRE, HIGH ST, DOVER  
CHARITY NO. 1212901

**THE HILL 112**  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
Charity No. 1181345

**RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM**  
Charity No. 1179982

NORMAL MUSEUM ENTRY FEE APPLIES

Cosplay Competitions  
All Ages

**COMICON**  
AT THE MUSEUM

**JUNE 14-15 2025**  
10AM - 4PM

ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL [INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK)

@RAF Manston History Museum  
WHAT THREE WORDS - REMARRIED.MORNINGSPAVE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WEATHER CONDITIONS, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS AND SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS AND/OR EXHIBITORS