



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 17th July 2026

Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another fantastic year, I find myself writing a newsletter I never quite imagined would come around so quickly – my final one as Headteacher of this wonderful school. It's been a year filled with joy, challenge, laughter, learning, and the kind of everyday magic that only happens in a primary school where children feel safe, loved, and inspired.

This week, we gather together to celebrate everything our pupils have achieved. From the smallest steps to the biggest leaps, every child has grown in confidence, character, and curiosity. They have been brilliant, and they have been themselves – which is all we ever ask.

To our lovely Owls: you are ready. You have shown resilience, kindness, humour, and heart. As you spread your wings and head off to your new secondary schools, know this – you will always be part of our story. You carry St Margaret's with you, and we could not be prouder of the young people you have become. Go forward boldly, be brilliant, and remember that change is just another adventure. Amazing, you are!

To our families, staff, governors, volunteers, and friends of the school: thank you. You have been the heartbeat of this community. Your support, your trust, your partnership, and your belief in what we do have made this school the special place it is. You've been awesome – truly – and I am grateful for every moment we've shared.

Although this is my final newsletter, it is not the end of the story. St Margaret's-at-Cliffe is in safe, steady, and inspiring hands. In September, Mr Brinicombe will take the helm, and I know he will lead with integrity, warmth, and ambition for every child. The future is bright, and everything will be great when school returns on 3rd September.

Thank you for letting me be part of your children's lives. Thank you for welcoming me into this community. Thank you for every smile at the gate, every conversation, every shared challenge, and every celebration. It has been the privilege of my career to serve as your Headteacher.

To paraphrase Doctor Who; "We're all stories in the end. Just make it a good one." This has been a very good one indeed.

Have a wonderful summer holiday. Rest, recharge, enjoy time with loved ones, and take care of yourselves.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes.

Craig Ward - Headteacher

PS Just for fun, I've peppered this last newsletter with many sci-fi inspired references – how many can you find (some are less obvious than others!)?

Star Awards

w/e 17th July 2026



Hedgehogs – All of Hedgehogs

Rabbits – All of Hedgehogs

Squirrels – Dylan

Badgers – Isla & Sofia

Woodpeckers – All of Woodpeckers

Owls – All of Owls

Whole School Attendance

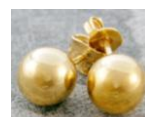
13/07/26 – 17/07/26

96.3%

01/09/25 - 17/07/26

96.3%

Remember – the beginning of the summer holiday is the time for children to have ears pierced if they so desire so that they will heal in time to be removed for school PE.





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Thank you!

A massive thank you to ElecLink (and, of course, Mr Cooper) for kindly donating six fantastic laptops. Your generosity will make a real difference for our children, and we're so grateful for your support of our school.



Before and After School Childcare Services

These will resume from Thursday, 3rd September.

Please ensure you book these using the Parentmail system. You will be able to book your child's place up to 12 weeks in advance, and pay for them at the time of booking.

Bookings are now open for the start of term 1.

Birthdays



Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthday in August.

Autumn	Badgers
Ruby	Owls
Immy	Rabbits
Adalyn	Hedgehogs
Alfred	Squirrels
Tommy	Woodpeckers
Dolcee	Badgers
Amelia	Hedgehogs
Wilfred	Badgers
Grayson	Badgers
Edward	Owls
Thomas	Squirrels
Madison	Woodpeckers
Holly	Owls
Leah	Owls
Rosalina	Hedgehogs
Dexter	Squirrels
Noah	Rabbits
Aubrey	Hedgehogs

Summer Reading Challenge

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is designed for children between the ages of 4 and 11. It is completely free! The aim of the Challenge is to encourage children to read any six books of their choice from their library during the summer holidays.

Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there is a certificate for everyone who completes the Challenge. The website also has lots of games and interactive sections that the children can enjoy.

We are hoping to have as many children as possible take part in the Challenge to give us a chance at retaining the trophy for the Dover and Deal district. We will be presenting medals and certificates in assembly in September.



Enjoy the summer holidays!



**Children return to school
on
Thursday, 3rd September 2026**

Term dates 2026/2027

TERM 1 2026	1 September 2026 - 23 October 2026
TERM 2 2026	2 November 2026 - 18 December 2026
TERM 3 2027	4 January 2027 – 12 February 2027
TERM 4 2027	22 February 2027 – 25 March 2027
TERM 5 2027	12 April 2027 - 28 May 2027
TERM 6 2027	7 June 2027 - 21 July 2027

Our five staff training days are currently scheduled to be:-

1st September 2026
2nd September 2026
2nd November 2026
4th January 2027
28th May 2027

PTFA NEWS

Thank You from the PTFA

A big thank you to everyone who supported our ice pop sales.

Thanks to your support, we raised **£63.56**, which will go towards supporting the children and school activities.

We really appreciate everyone who bought an ice pop and helped make the sales a success.

Many thanks to Mrs Kingston for arranging the ice pop sales again this year.

Thank you for your continued support!



Community Noticeboard

SPORT FRENZY

MULTI-SPORTS CLUBS

PLAY. LEARN. HAVE FUN.
TRY NEW SPORTS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

FOOTBALL BASKETBALL DODGEBALL TEAM GAMES & MORE!

A VARIETY OF SPORTS & GAMES EVERY DAY!

DATES:

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS
27 th JULY	28 th JULY
3 rd AUGUST	4 th AUGUST
10 th AUGUST	11 th AUGUST
17 th AUGUST	18 th AUGUST
24 th AUGUST	25 th AUGUST

10AM – 3PM

£20 PER DAY

sportfrenzydover@gmail.com OR BOOK THROUGH SOCIALS!

SPORT FRENZY & DEAL VICTORIA & BARNS CLOSE C.C.

CRICKET HOLIDAY CLUBS

DATES

WEDNESDAY 5 th AUGUST	10:00AM – 3:00PM
THURSDAY 6 th AUGUST	£20 PER DAY
WEDNESDAY 19 th AUGUST	AGES 5-13
THURSDAY 20 th AUGUST	

CRICKET SKILLS FUN GAMES MATCHES & COMPETITIONS ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

VENUE:
DEAL VICTORIA & BARNS CLOSE CRICKET CLUB
Court Road, Walmer, Kent, CT14 7RQ

BOOK THROUGH SOCIALS OR EMAIL! sportfrenzydover@gmail.com

CREATING MAGICAL MEMORIES

MEET & GREET

PLAYBASE DOVER

SOFTPLAY AND MUCH MORE

COME AND MEET THE TEAM

PARENTS, CARERS AND CHILDREN

SCHOOLS IN THE DOVER AREA

£5 FOR TWO HOURS

FREE JUICE

MUST BOOK

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST 2026 TO FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 2026

PLEASE CHECK THE TIMETABLE TO SEE WHAT DATE AND TIME YOUR SCHOOL IS IN!

EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE UPSTAIRS SEATING AREA

MEET NEW AND OLD FRIENDS BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTS

DOVER FOODBANK MOST needed ITEMS

JULY 2026

- ☒ CUPPA SOUPS
- ☒ UHT MILK
- ☒ FRUIT JUICE (UHT)
- ☒ INSTANT RICE
- ☒ TINNED SPAGHETTI
- ☒ JAM AND SPREADS
- ☒ INSTANT MASH
- ☒ TINNED SOUP
- ☒ TINNED VEGETABLES
- ☒ PASTA SAUCES
- ☒ TINNED BEANS
- ☒ PASTA N SAUCE
- ☒ NOODLES
- ☒ TOILET ROLLS

PLEASE NOTE
We have plenty of pasta & pulses

INFO@DOVER.FOODBANK.ORG.UK
UNIT 7, CHARLTON CENTRE, HIGH ST, DOVER
CHARITY NO. 1212001

Community Noticeboard



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

23RD - 30TH AUGUST 2026

CATEGORIES:
 8U / 9U / 10U / 11U* / 12U* / 14U* / 16U* / 18U* SINGLES (*Qualifying)
 14U / 18U BOYS / GIRLS / MIXED DOUBLES
 MEN'S / WOMEN'S / SINGLES / DOUBLES / MIXED DOUBLES
 35 & OVER MEN'S / WOMEN'S SINGLES

CLOSING DATE
 SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST - 10AM

Sponsored by **Keyrock** **Bromley** TENNIS CENTRE

Sing and Sign Southeast Kent

Helping babies communicate before speech

For babies from 6 months

BOOK A TASTER



FIND A CLASS

Wednesdays – 10:00–11:00
 Dymchurch Scout Hut, Dymchurch

Thursdays – 10:00–11:00
 St Radigunds Community Centre, Dover

Fridays – 10:00–11:00
 Grace Taylor Hall, Folkestone

Fun, interactive and relaxed baby classes teaching signing through music

sarahdouglas@singandsign.co.uk @singandsignsoutheastkent
 Sarah – 07845 652 022 @singandsignsoutheastkent



- ✓ Camping & Glamping
- ✓ Family Friendly
- ✓ Campfires Allowed
- ✓ Dogs Welcome

SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER! 🔥







Family fun, endless adventures & memories that last a lifetime!

Book now & enjoy our exclusive offer:

STAY A FREE NIGHT

Book 2 Nights Sunday - Thursday & get your 3rd NIGHT FREE!

USE CODE 812

Offer valid on 2026 bookings. Applicable on new bookings only.

0800 035 0002 enquiries@fallowfieldscamping.com @fallowfieldscampsite
 @fallowfields_camping Fallow Fields Camping www.fallowfieldscamping.com

Community Noticeboard

FREE WEEKLY SPORTS SESSIONS

**FOR YOUNGSTERS IN THE DEAL AREA
TRY SOMETHING NEW**

Free multi-sport sessions at
Victoria Park, Deal

July 2026:	9th and 23rd
August 2026:	6th and 27th
September 2026:	10th and 24th
October 2026:	8th and 22nd
February 2027:	11th and 25th
March 2027:	11th and 25th

No need to book – just turn up!

Scan the QR code for times and more details or visit:
www.dover.gov.uk/deal-sport-session







Skirmish At The Museum

11th - 12th July 2026

...breathing new life into history
10am to 4pm










Bar available
All proceeds to the museum and local Veteran's Association

Some re-enactors may fire blank guns and cannons, which can be loud!

Normal museum entry prices apply

If you have any questions, please contact us at:
info@rafmanston.co.uk
www.rafmanston.co.uk

What3Words: remarried.mornings.pave

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.

BOOK HERE






FF



summer

Football Fun camps

A truly unique inflatable Football experience

Book Now!

www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk

Community Noticeboard

READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 2026



Free Children's Activities at Dover Library

Rock and Roll Rules!

Monday 10 August, 10.30am to 12:30pm

Nature's Waves

Monday 17 August, 10.30am to 12:30pm

From Page to Stage

Monday 24 August, 10.30am to 12:30pm

Find Your Groove – Musical Formats

Saturday 29 August, 10.30am to 12:30pm

Silent Disco Circuit

Saturday 5 September, 1.30pm – 3pm

All events suitable for ages 4 – 11 years old.
Children must be always accompanied by a responsible adult.



Explore what's on at kent.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



National
Year of
Reading
2026



Kent Libraries



Kent
County
Council



Kent
County
Council

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READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 2026



Free Children's Activities at Dover Library

Find Your Beat – Meet and Greet

Saturday 4 July, 10.30am to 12:30pm

Rhythm and Sound

Saturday 11 July, 1.30pm – 3pm

Sing, Speak and Shine

Saturday 18 July, 10.30am to 12:30pm

Move to the World Beats!

Monday 27 July, 10.30am to 12:30pm

Super Soundtracks

Monday 3 August, 10.30am to 12:30pm

All events suitable for ages 4 – 11 years old.
Children must be always accompanied by a responsible adult.



Explore what's on at kent.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge



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READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 2026



Free Musical Workshops at Dover Library

With members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Have fun with music and words!

Saturday, 25 July:

10.30am - 11.30am for ages 4-6 years

Midday – 1pm for ages 7-9 years

2.30pm – 3.30pm for ages 10-11 years

To book a place please contact

doverlibrary@kent.gov.uk 03000 41 31 31

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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