Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 23rd October 2026

Message from the Headteacher

We have had a wonderful term at school with many successes over the last term. The children's focus and attention never fails to impress us. As I have toured families for school places, I have noticed wonderful learning environments and learning behaviours.

Attendance
We currently have an attendance rate of 96.9% across the whole school, which is a positive trend after term 1 compared to the national average of 95.9%. Each class attendance percentage is shared below.

Hedgehogs 98.9%
Rabbits 96.6%
Otters 96.0%
Badgers 96.8%
Woodpeckers 96.9%
Owls 95.7%

New Intake Open Evening
We had a wonderful evening welcoming prospective parents on Thursday. We were pleased to share the vision for the school and celebrate all the amazing things that happen at St. Margaret's At Cliffe Primary. Special thanks to the house captains who represented the school very well, specifically Grace and Cassie for being brave enough to share their speech about the school to parents. We are still welcoming parents for individual school tours. Please let friends and family know and thank you for the positive recommendations parents are giving about the school.

Soft toys and Squish'ems
It has been noticeable that lots of children are bringing in soft toys and squeezy toys from home. There are some children who benefit from fidget toys and soft toys to support their anxiety or various neuro diverse needs but this has been agreed with school and is not standard practice. Please support us in ensuring your child does not bring these items in from home.

PTFA cake sale
Thank you for our cake donations and to parents/carers for bringing money in to buy them. The PTFA raised an incredible £169.55 from this initiative. A huge thank you to the PTFA who are always on the lookout for volunteers. Next term we know they will need your support in their Christmas fundraising events.

KCC winter gritter competition
Well done to the Thea and Ashleigh, two sisters at St. Margaret's for winning the KCC 'Name the gritter' competition. 'Taylor Drift' and 'Alvin and the Gritmunks' had us howling with laughter in school and it was a great way to celebrate achievements outside of school in assembly today.

PE Kit reminder
As the seasons change, the weather has predictably got colder. We believe that children being allowed to wear their PE kits into school on PE days has helped both parents, children and staff. However, please be reminded that PE jumpers, which are navy must be worn without large logos.

Public Art Project - well done children
Our children have been taking part in a wonderful creative art project over the last two weeks, called "Every Wave, A Voice". The project's aim is to engage children in positive discussions about caring for our seas and rivers, and to encourage action to end sea pollution.



Along with children at Sandown School in Deal, and Little Artlings art club in Dover, the children were invited to answer "what do you like to see in the sea" and "what do you not like to see in the sea".. in art form! Their individual contributions have now been brought together into a collective art piece proudly on display at Deal Library.

The art will be on display throughout half term and then will move to Deal Museum and to St Margaret's at Cliffe Library in November.

We encourage families to pop along, see the children's fantastic contributions and celebrate their efforts.

Our thanks to the incredible staff team for their hard work and dedication this term. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half term.

Neil Brinicombe – Headteacher

Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 23rd October 2026

Celebration Assembly

Due to Woodpeckers Family Learning Workshop taking place on Friday, 6th November we will not be holding a Celebration Assembly.

Star Awards



w/e 23rd October

Hedgehogs – Arthur
Rabbits – Arthur
Otters – Alfie
Squirrels – Gabriel
Badgers - Vaashaki
Woodpeckers – Maisey
Owls – Nichola

Whole School Attendance

19/10/26 - 23/10/26

94.5%



Our focus school value for term 2 is:



New Lunch Menu

Whole School Meals have issued their new menu starting when the children return to school following the half term break. A copy of this has been emailed out with this newsletter to parent/carers. We return to school on Week 1 of the new menu.



New Lunch Menu: Week 1

w/c Monday, 2nd November 2026

£2.75 per day

Primary School Menu - Whole School Meals

to pay for your meals online, please go to:

www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk/pay

The Week Ahead

Week commencing 2nd November 2026

Monday, 2nd November

- **Staff Training Day –** children are not required in school
- **Secondary School Application deadline for Year 6**

Tuesday, 3rd November

- **Start of Term 2 –** children to return to school
- **9am Phonics & Reading Meeting for parent/carers of Hedgehogs Class**

Friday, 6th November

- **Woodpeckers Class Family Learning Workshop –** 9am in the school hall
- **No Celebration Assembly**
- **Primary School Applications open today**
- **Years 5 & 6 Cross Country Event –** selected pupils

Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 23rd October 2026

Reception Class 2027

We are already starting to think about our next new Reception Class. Do you have a child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023? If so, they will be eligible to start school in September 2027.

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.

Please see our poster below advertising an Open Evening we will be holding for prospective parents.



Start of Term 2

Children return to school

on

Tuesday, 3rd November 2026



Secondary School Application Form (SCAF)

If your child is in Year 6, please remember to submit your child's Secondary School Application Form (SCAF) by

Monday, 2nd November 2026

Poppy Appeal 2026

Poppies and other fundraising merchandise from The Royal British Legion will be on sale from **Tuesday, 3rd November 2026.** If children would like to bring in some money these items will be sold during the school day. A separate letter with pricing details has been sent via parentmail.



Reminder – Nasal Flu Vaccinations Consent Form

This is a reminder to parent/carers to submit a consent or decline for the FLU vaccination via the Immunisation Service's website

https://www.kentimmunisations.co.uk/

Please submit your preference by 4pm on **9/11/2026**

Unique code/URN: KT118495

Thank you to those parent/carers who have already submitted their response for the Flu Immunisation Programme.

Email: stmacptfa@gmail.com

PTFA

Participate Together, raise Funds and Add value

Charity Reg No: 1167822

PTFA NEWS

Cake Sale Success!



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 23rd October 2026

Community Noticeboard



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER HALF TERM

🎃**Monday pony morning 9am - 1pm £40**

Wednesday pony morning 9am -1 pm £40

Thursday Halloween beginners pony ride 10am - 11am £20

🎃**Friday Showjumping competition 12pm onwards**

Lessons and hacks available 7 days a week
Please book using the online system
Any questions please email owlstables@aol.com







Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 23rd October 2026

Community Noticeboard









Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 23rd October 2026

Community Noticeboard

OCTOBER 2026 AT THE RESERVE



BATS

The reserve's Scots pine cones have gone batty! After pollination by wind, the female flowers on a Scots pine turn green and develop into cones. Foraged from the woodland floor, we will transform these giant cones into bats with fuzzy ears and fangy smiles, ready for this season's celebrations. Find out about the Scots pine, and bats. Play the 'Bat and Moth' game.

SPOONS AND SHROOMS

Make these friendly spoon mushrooms that will cheer up any room. Last year the Kent Field Club ran a fungi survey on the reserve and found a range of fungi, including Meadow coral and the delightfully named, Mousepee pinkgill. Using a sheet to guide you, see how many species of fungi you can see.

STORY TIME

Free, drop-in, nature story time, read by a reserve volunteer.
Times and dates TBC.

WANDS, WEBS, AND WINDFALL

Forage for fallen leaves to create spider webs and magical wands. Use apples from the reserve to make colourful prints. Take on the 'Autumn Nature Challenge'. How many seasonal treasures can you spot?

OCTOBER	11AM	1PM
Tues 27th:	Bats	Shrooms
Thurs 29th:	Shrooms	Wands
Fri 30th:	Wands	Bats

Monkton Nature Reserve
Conservation and Education

HOW TO BOOK
www.monkton-reserve.org/events/
Visit our museum, café, gift, and book shops.

MORE INFO:
education@monkton-reserve.org

PRICE PER CHILD
Members: £3
Non-Members: £5
(incl. entrance to the reserve)

WHERE
Monkton Nature Reserve
Canterbury Road
Ramsgate CT12 4LH

WWW.MONKTON-RESERVE.ORG
THANET COUNTRYSIDE TRUST
(CHARITY NO: 1211099)

Enjoy Kent **MORE** with What's On in Kent and Quiz Trails

What's on in Kent ... Making it super easy to find events going on in Kent!

Download our app or visit our website
www.whatsoninkent.com

James told us ... *"Great app, easy to use and found some nice events to attend. Would definitely recommend."*

Easy to enter our Free Prize Draw ... You've got to be in it to win it!





Quiz Trails ... Making History an Adventure!

Have a look at our website!
www.quiztrail.co.uk

Kim told us ... *"We had a great time as a family doing both an adult and junior quiz - we even had people coming up to us asking where we got them from, and despite living in the area all my life, I still learned things I never knew. I would definitely recommend the Quiz Trails to others and would use them whenever visiting other locations."*

Quiz Trails ...
A healthy walk ... educational ... low-cost ... out in the fresh air ... discovering fascinating history ... for all ages ... and lots of fun!

Quiz Trails are an 'Approved Activity' for the Children's University™!

children's UNIVERSITY

Quiz Trails are low-cost entertainment for ALL ages. Only £5.99 for the whole family to enjoy an adventure together. Mums, Dads, Grandma's, Granddad's, Aunties, Uncles and all care-givers can all share one copy.