



Dear Parents and Carers,

Charity Events

The children came to school on Friday 1st March dressed in their pyjamas, slippers and dressing gowns in order to support the charity 'The Great Tommy Sleep Out'. This charity raises funds for homeless veterans on behalf of the RBLI (Royal British Legion Industries). The High Sheriff of Kent, Nadra Ahmed CBE, who sits on the board of RBLI, came to school to thank the children on behalf of the charity, and also to let the children know more about the charity and her role as high sheriff. She wore her ceremonial gowns, and the children asked some very interesting and sensible questions. The school raised a total of £312.22, so we would like to thank you for your support for this worthwhile charity.



We are very grateful to Zoe Henderson, who gave her time once again to lead a fun-filled danceathon session on Wednesday 21st February. Many of us shimmied and wiggled to raise much needed funds for the PTA, and burn some calories at the same time. We raised a total of £140, which will go towards improving our playgrounds for the children. If anyone is interested in adult classes, Zoe runs a weekly session at the Cliffe Woods Community Centre on a Monday at 6pm.

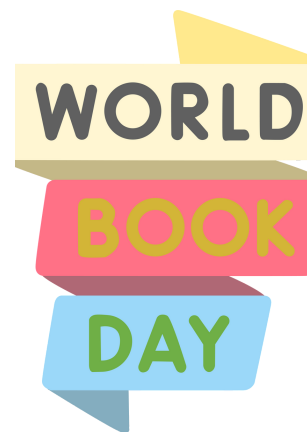


CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Next week, from Tuesday (5th March), several of our generous Year 4 students are selling cookies, cakes and small crafts to Key Stage 2 Children in order to raise money for Cancer Research UK – a charity which we as a school support wholeheartedly.

Reading Ambassadors/World Book Day

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. This year, our school reading ambassadors have decided we should do something different and so we are inviting pupils to come dressed as someone they have read about who inspires them in some way. This could include an author, a real-life hero or heroine or a character from a book



The children will be involved in lots of reading and book-based activities over the week, all with a focus on reading for pleasure. They will also be hunting for Wally from the Where's Wally books at playtime. Those who find him will receive a certificate.

We are hoping that author and poet Sam Gayton, whose books include The Last Zoo and World Weavers, will be visiting us on Wednesday to work with Key Stage 2.

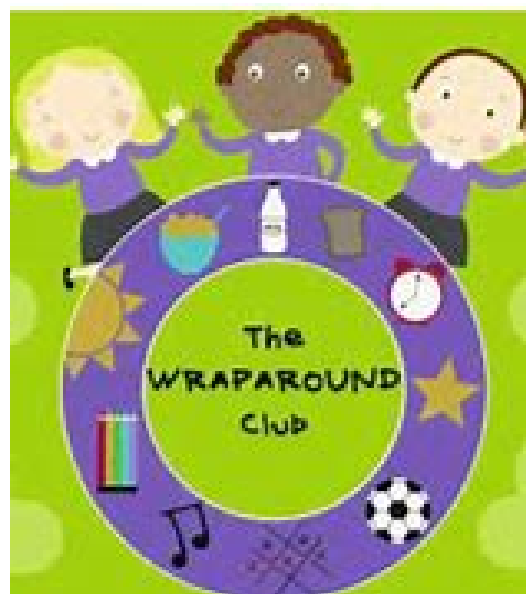


Wrap Around Care

Our wrap around care offer has become very popular and we have a large number of families who use the facility. We have had to increase the number of staff we employ in order to maintain an appropriate pupil to staff ratio, so unfortunately we have had to raise the cost for the 3:30pm to 4:30pm session by £1 to £4.50. This is the first increase for some while, and all the other prices remain the same.

It is also really important that you let the office know in advance if a different adult is collecting you child from After School Club. If you change your requirements for After School Club from a late collection to an early collection, can you also please let the office know in advance to prevent the waste of food.

Finally, when dropping your children off at Breakfast Club, can you please park in the outer car park, as the inner car park is reserved for staff.



Diversity

We have in the past invited members of our school community to come and speak to the children about their faith, and to share some of their practices and beliefs. We would like to ask again whether anyone is willing to do this in the future.

We are also keen to share with the children any extraordinary life-experiences that some of you may be willing to share, for example, if any of you have competed in international sporting events or worked abroad for an extended period of time, we would love to hear from you.

Mandarin Club completed 5 weeks of language learning fun including speaking, singing, reading and writing. A Lunar New Year party was held the last week to celebrate 2024 – Year of the Dragon. The children wore an article of red clothing – considered to be the luckiest of all colours. Traditional Chinese treats as well as hot, Jasmine tea and cold, mango bubble tea were enjoyed by all! Mrs Green and the Mandarin Club wish you a very happy new year! 新年快乐!



Playground Improvements

We are considering using some of the funds that have been raised towards improving the playgrounds for all the children to enjoy. We have playground zones for creative activities and quiet activities, and it would be lovely if we were able to offer the children a wide range of resources. If you have any fidget toys or drawing supplies that your children no longer use we would be extremely grateful to receive them in school to resource these areas.



Uniform Policy/Code of Conduct

Our children are all very good at following our policies and codes of conduct, and we would just like to remind everyone of a few key points we have had to remind them about recently:

- Any child with shoulder length or longer hair must wear it tied back;
- The only earrings permitted are small studs;
- Make-up must not be worn in school;
- Mobile phones are a privilege for Year 6 pupils only, and must be handed in to their teacher at the beginning of each day



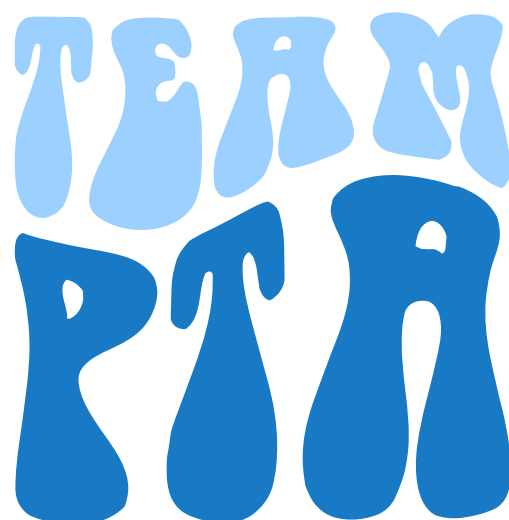
Woodland Adventure

The National Trust have provided an assortment of saplings for our woodland adventure area. We are looking forward to seeing them grow and the children will learn about taking care of saplings at the same time.



The PTA continue to work tirelessly to enhance the opportunities at the school. We are trialling for the first time an Easter Market, which will take place on the school grounds on Sunday 17th March from 10 am. Details have been sent out in the most recent PTA letter, but we would love as many of you to join us as possible – there is an Easter bonnet parade and prizes too!

The PTA are also planning the summer festival, which will take place on 29th June, and we are keen to encourage local musicians to participate – a great opportunity to showcase your talents!



Safeguarding - My Voice Matters

On Thursday 8th February, Mrs Tinkler and Miss Clear were excited to take 8 children to an event celebrating Children's Mental Health Awareness week. The event which took place at Corn Exchange in Rochester was organised by Medway Council for all local Primary and Secondary schools. It was an action-packed morning to empower Children and Young People's voices and highlight the importance of positive wellbeing. The children were also invited to create posters/artwork interpreting their understanding of what 'My Voice Matters' means to them.

The children were excellent ambassadors for the school, and we are very proud of their contribution to the event.



Dancing News

We are very proud of Frankie and Matilda in Year 5, who have been selected to represent England at the Dance World Cup 2024 in Prague. We are looking forward to hearing about their successes and hopefully seeing some videos of the performances.



Finally

Can I remind you that when you are collecting children from the Key Stage Two playground, to supervise your younger children, as in order to keep them safe, they must not use the equipment in the playground.

I know I have said this many times before, but we would really appreciate your co-operation in keeping the children safe by parking away from the school. The only people who should be parking in the top car park are those with blue badges, and there is no vehicular movement at all in the lower car park between 8:45am and 09:00am.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Connolly
Head of School

Dates for the Diary

Please take a careful look at the following dates, all of which can be found on the Events Calendar on the school website, and make a note of any that may affect your child.

Tuesday 5th March	PTA Meeting at 7.30pm at Cliffe Village Hall
Wednesday 6th March	PTA Mothers' Day Wrap
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
	Zebra Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Monday 11th March	Easter Puppet show for KS1
	Yr 4 Ukulele Ensemble
Wednesday 13th March	KS1 Choral Festival, The Central Theatre
Thursday 14th March	Mothers' Day Tea at 2.00pm
Friday 15th March	Mothers' Day Tea at 2.00pm
Sunday 17th March	PTA Craft Fair 10.00am – 2.00pm
Tuesday 19th March	Yr 4 Music Extravaganza at 2.00pm & 5.30pm
Wednesday 20th March	Yr 3 Music Extravaganza at 2.00pm & 5.30pm
Wednesday 27th March	PTA Break the Rules Day
	Last Day of Term – School closes at 2.00pm
Thursday 28th March	Staff Development Day (no children in school)

Have Your Say Meetings:

Friday 19th April at 9.00am

