



# Cliffe Woods Primary School

6th May 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

## Charity

Next week (Monday 12th May) some of our lovely year 3 children will be selling cakes, brownies, sweets, loom bands, bracelets and comic for prices between 50p and £1 and they are raising money for Canine Concern. Canine Concern is a very small charity who provides us with the wonderful therapy dog, Barney, who many of our children (and staff) enjoy spending time with.



Just before the Easter break Alfie and his team in Year 4 worked really hard to raise money for Soft UK, which is a charity who provide support for families affected by Edwards Syndrome, a rare genetic condition. They raised a total of £200, £120 in school and then a further £80 over Easter when he ran a stall outside his house with his sister, Phoebe.

Last week Grace, Roux, Logan P, Ava and Lily-Rose sold a range of items in aid of a charity very close to many hearts, Cancer Research. They raised the total of £85.04.

We are as always very proud of our caring children and thank them for their hard work.



# Speaking Competition

We held the school final of the Trust Speaking Competition on Thursday, 1st May, where all 8 finalists presented to a panel of Governors and teachers. The competition was fierce, but the overall school winner was Monty in Year 5. The children were articulate, had researched their topics well and spoke with confidence and clarity. Monty will go on a special trip to visit the House of Commons in term 6 with school winners from other Trust schools, and will then be entered into the Trust final, which takes place in July. We wish him the very best for the final stage of the competition.



## Careers' Fayre

A gentle reminder that we are planning on holding another careers' fayre in June this year, provisionally on Tuesday, 17th from 1:30pm. Our focus is on STEM careers, and in the past some parents/carers have offered their time to share their roles with our Year 5 and 6 students. We would be extremely grateful if any of you are able to offer your time and expertise, and you are free to come in to school for a couple of hours on the 17th June. Please let us know, and we can share more details with how the afternoon runs.

## SEND

We continue to offer support for our families of children with SEND, and have attached a poster giving information and advice for families regarding SENDIASS. This is an organisation that can offer additional support on a range of topics for our families.



# Reading

Our book vending machine continues to be a crowd pleaser, and Ada in Year 5 is the latest student to win a book, as she impressed her teachers with her recent efforts in reading at home.



## Safeguarding

Now that the nice weather is finally here, can you please ensure that your child has a hat and a labelled water bottle in school. Please also ensure sunscreen is applied in the morning prior to coming to school.

Medway Council have shared some videos that may be of use to some of you, so please do access these if required.

### ***Supporting Resilience in Parents and Carers***

A recording from NELFT's Emotional Support Team - Useful strategies for parents and carers to support their own and their children's resilience

<https://youtu.be/nMQv4goOVGo>

### ***Bereavement Awareness for Parents and Care-givers***

A recording from CHUMS - Kent & Medway's Specialist Bereavement Service - How parents and care-givers can support their children who have been affected by bereavement.

<https://youtu.be/6TZHnFR1HzQ>

# Enrichment

## *Year 5 Pizza Express*

Elephant Class had a great time - handmade margarita pizzas all round and enjoyed by all. The children were very polite and well behaved - this was commented on by the Pizza Express staff too.

The children also enjoyed looking at some WW2 artefacts at the Guildhall Museum - in particular a WW2 bomb that was dropped on Rochester High St!

Lemur class are going this week and looking forward to a fun filled day!



## ***BAE Systems - Coding Opportunity***

Well done to Sophie and Matilda in Year 6 for winning the BAE Systems coding prize. They had an amazing experience in the flight simulators at BAE Systems.



## ***Child-Friendly Medway are hosting 9th City Hall: Brick Wrecks Sunken Ships in Lego Bricks!***

This event will be held on Thursday 22 May after school at the Chatham Historic Dockyard with FREE access to the LEGO® exhibition: 'Brickwrecks: Sunken Ships in LEGO® Bricks' as well as LEGO® themed games and activities

We will be joined by the Leader, Councillor Vince Maple and Richard Hicks, Chief Executive, of Medway Council for a special Q&A for children and young people. To hear from our youngest residents on what it's like growing up in Medway. To hear their ideas on how to make Medway even more child friendly!

This FREE event will include:

- FREE access to the LEGO® exhibition: 'Brickwrecks: Sunken Ships in LEGO® Bricks'
- A FREE buffet
- LEGO® themed games and activities for families
- And much more...

Doors open at 4:00pm, and the event taking place 4:30pm-7:30pm. This FREE ticketed event is recommended for children 5+.

If you are interested in this event, please email [childfriendly@medway.gov.uk](mailto:childfriendly@medway.gov.uk) to book your place now!

# Music

The whole school enjoyed the visit of James from Rock Steady Music on Friday, 25th April. He demonstrated some of the instruments played in a Rock Band and some of our lucky pupils got a chance to try out being in the band. If your child is interested in having lessons with Rock Steady Music in school on a Monday, you can sign them up here

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>



Other Music Instrument lessons available during school time are provided by:

- Music For School foundation (recorder, flute, clarinet, cornet, saxophone) [Music for Schools – Music for Schools Foundation](#)
- Piano Fun Club (piano lessons) <https://www.pianofunclub.co.uk/>
- Guitar and Keyboard lessons with Phil Bembridge. Call 07730512138 after 5pm. or email anytime [philuk4@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:philuk4@yahoo.co.uk)

## ***Central Theatre Concert***

We have been offered the opportunity for 30 children to attend a free concert at Chatham Central Theatre on 2nd July, am. Whilst the concert is free, we have checked transportation costs and transport would be £11.50 per head. If your child is interested in this event, and you are able to transport your child (of course, with parents permission, car share is also an option), could you please let us know and we will allocate tickets on a first come, first served basis. School staff will be at the concert to supervise the children. Please note this is only open to Key Stage Two children. Further details will be sent to those who are able to attend.



## School Street

I have been in touch with Medway council to try to establish what the current situation is with the planned School Street scheme outside our school. I have been advised that the consultation period has closed, and that the council is currently reviewing all submissions. Outcomes from the consultation will be presented to a delegated authority in the coming weeks, who will review and make a decision about which sites will be implemented.

We hope to have an update for you soon as to next steps, however if the school street is approved, the Local Authority will progress towards implementation.

# Environment

## ***PTA Sustainable Uniform Shop***

If you are looking to purchase any uniform from the PTA Sustainable Uniform Shop, please contact Cheryl in the Coffee Box either before or after school any time and she will be happy to help.

## ***Packed Lunch Waste***

Following on from new government guidelines, we are required to ensure that all food waste goes into the appropriate bins. In order to ensure this waste is kept separate from packaging etc, all children who bring a packed lunch into school will be required to take their packaging and food waste home with them in their lunchboxes.

## ***Art***

A reminder that we would really appreciate any old adult shirts that children can wear over their uniform when doing art lessons. This will help us to help you keep the children's uniforms pristine!



## Finally

We are all looking forward to the final few months of the academic year, and for me that is with mixed emotions as my time at Cliffe Woods is drawing to a close. I hope to have the opportunity to enjoy this time with our wonderful children and their families and to make some more memories.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Mrs K Connolly in black ink.

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.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
<b>Wednesday 7th May</b>	<b>Lemur Class trip to Pizza Express</b> <b>Yr 6 Residential Meeting - 6.00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 8th May</b>	<b>Yr 5 VE Day</b> <b>Hedgehog Class Assembly - 2.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 9th May</b>	<b>Yr 2 trip to Wildwood</b>
<b>Wednesday 14th May</b>	<b>HGS presentaion to Yr 5 parents - 5.00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 15th May</b>	<b>Yr R trip to Rare Breeds Centre</b>
<b>Friday 16th May</b>	<b>PTA Rainbow Run</b>
<b>Thursday 22nd May</b>	<b>Year 5 Performance - 2.00pm &amp; 6.00pm</b>
<b>Friday 23rd May</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
<b>Monday 2nd June</b>	<b>Term 6 starts</b>
<b>Thursday 5th June</b>	<b>PTA Meeting - 7.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 6th June</b>	<b>PTA Fathers' Day Wrap (TBC)</b>
<b>Thursday 12th June</b>	<b>Puggles Class Assembly - 2.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 16th June</b>	<b>Yr 1 trip to Tyland Barn</b>
<b>Tuesday 17th June</b>	<b>Fathers' Day Breakfast</b>
<b>Thursday 19th June</b>	<b>PTA Circus</b>

### **Have Your Say Meetings:**

**Monday 23rd June at 2.30pm**



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams  
Medway Emotional Support Teams

# Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

## Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears

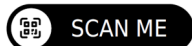
*Monday 7th July 2025 10:30—12:30pm*

\*Workshop timings change from term to term

Are your child's worries and fears starting to impact their day to day life? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to support your children so they can manage their concerns and enjoy themselves more?

You are invited to a workshop which focusses on understanding what anxiety is, the symptoms you may notice in your child and some techniques to help manage this anxiety.

If you would like to join, please scan the QR code or ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:



[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 345 630 674 335 2 Passcode: Nr9of3Zq

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You can create an account for free. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school. Currently, this workshop is only available to parents/carers of children attending an EWT/EST school. Please speak to your child's school or check our website for our list of schools. If you require materials in another language or have any other access needs then please email:

[EWTandESTenquiries@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:EWTandESTenquiries@nelft.nhs.uk)

We look forward to meeting you.





Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams  
Medway Emotional Support Teams

# Online Parent Workshops

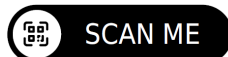
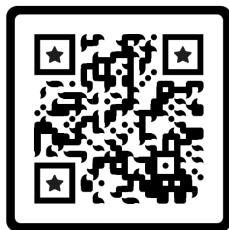
Aimed at parents of children about to start primary school

## Supporting Your Child with Starting Primary School

*Friday 16th May 2025 10:30—12:30pm*

Is your child about to start **primary school**? Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **support your child with this step in their lives**?

You are invited to a **workshop which thinks about how to prepare and support your child with this**. We will consider **challenges and concerns** and discuss **techniques that you can use at home** to help them feel ready for starting primary school.



If you would like to join, please scan the QR code or ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:

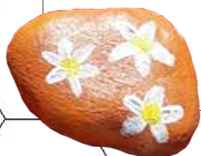
[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 317 960 912 696 8 Passcode: PL2YM3Rm

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We look forward to meeting you.



[www.nelft.nhs.uk](http://www.nelft.nhs.uk)



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams  
Medway Emotional Support Teams

# Online Parent Workshops

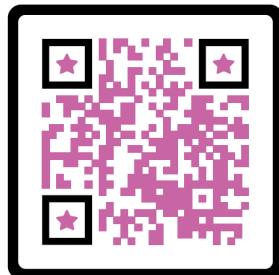
Aimed at parents of children in year 5 and 6

## Helping Your Child Move to Secondary School

*Tuesday 20th May 2025 17:30—19:30pm*

Is your child moving to **secondary school**? Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **support your child with this step in their lives**?

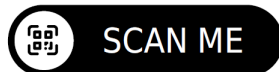
You are invited to a **workshop which thinks about how to prepare and support your child with this move**. We will consider **challenges and concerns** and discuss **techniques that you can use at home** to help them feel ready for the move ahead.



If you would like to join, please scan the QR code or **ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams**:

[Join the meeting now](#)

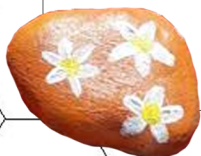
Meeting ID: 312 186 132 291 8 Passcode: Pw3VG6jq



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**We look forward to meeting you.**



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Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams  
Medway Emotional Support Teams

# Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

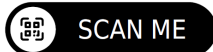
## Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

*Tuesday 10th June 2025 18:00—20:00pm*

\*Workshop  
timings  
change from  
term to term

Are you currently experiencing **difficulties with your child at home?** Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **enjoy your time more with your child?**

You are invited to a **workshop about understanding and communicating with your child.** It will help you consider **factors which influence behaviour.** We also discuss **techniques that you can use at home** for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage.



If you would like to join, please scan the QR code or ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 316 720 178 775 3 Passcode: 2aK9pd28

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**We look forward to meeting you.**



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# Save the Date

## Drop-in Dates for 2025

Gillingham Children's & Family Hub  
Woodlands Road, ME7 2BX 10am-12pm  
8th April-27th May-15th Jul-12th Aug  
9th Sept-21st Oct-11th Nov-9th Dec

SEN and Disability  
Information, Advice  
and Support

Medway  
**sendias**

★ Sendias will be joining us on 15th July ★

Strood Children's & Family Hub, Clifton  
Close, Rochester, ME2 2HG 10am-12pm

SEN and Disability  
Information, Advice  
and Support

Medway  
**sendias**

26th June – 10th July

★ Sendias will be joining us on 26th June ★

Wayfield Family Centre 146 Wayfield Rd,  
Chatham ME5 0HH 10am-12pm

22nd April – 3rd Jun

**Cancelled**

For more information, get  
in touch



01634 913219



medwaysmallsteps@family-action.org.uk

Family Action is a Charity in England & Wales No. 264713

[www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk)