



# HERNE BAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

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**HERNE BAY JUNIOR SCHOOL IS A SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS SHOULD BE UPHELD AT ALL TIMES.**

For safeguarding, the school office will be closed from 8.35am-8.50am and 3.15pm-3.25pm daily. This is to allow the children to enter and exit the site safely. Please call or use the intercom during these times for assistance.

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024*

## TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

### Next week:

**6<sup>th</sup> May – BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)**

7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 CATS tests (see information under Teaching & Learning news)

7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May - TTRS term 5 Inter-House competition contd.

8<sup>th</sup> May – Lancaster Presentation for Year 6 pupils

9<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 parents Bawdsey Manor residential meeting 5pm

10<sup>th</sup> May - Parks and Shakespeare classes swimming

13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATS week

13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May – Mental Health Awareness Week

15<sup>th</sup> May – Move with Mr Hobbs Day

17<sup>th</sup> May – Wear it Green Day – wear green to raise awareness of the Mental Health Foundation

17<sup>th</sup> May - Parks and Shakespeare classes swimming

20<sup>th</sup> May – Art Ambassadors art session

21<sup>st</sup> May – Year 5 Parents Kent Test Meeting – 5:30pm

24<sup>th</sup> May – **End of Term 5 (finish 3:15pm)**

## **TERM 6 BEGINS – MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE**

At HBJS, we know how fortunate we are to have extensive grounds for our children to enjoy. This week, following some very wet months, we were finally able to access to the field for play and recreation and the children have enjoyed this additional space.

In the past few years, staff in school have worked hard to develop our forest area which provides a habitat for wildlife as well as a home for our pigs, guinea pigs and tortoises. It is also an incredible space for our children to learn about the environment and to understand how plants, animals and other organisms create a unique eco-system of survival.

On Tuesday, Mr Hobbs and members of our support staff team, led a session in the forest with some children from Year 3 and Year 6. Following, I received an email from one of our TAs sharing her delight in the success of the session with our youngest and oldest children working happily together. This is such an important social skill to master as life often requires us to work alongside others with specific strengths to enable us to

be successful – and that is not always something that can be achieved simply by working with our friends.

As we move towards the transition period of the school year, it is important to support our children to recognise that success requires us to be open to working with others beyond our current friendship groups and that with new partnerships often new interests or opportunities are discovered!

## ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week is 92.7%.

Overall attendance this year to date is 92.9%.

Well done to Dali and Turing classes for achieving 97+% attendance this week.

38 children remain in the 100 club with 100% attendance. 102 pupils currently have attendance of 98% or above.

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101 late codes have been recorded this week:

Year 3 – 21

Year 4 – 26

Year 5 – 26

Year 6 – 28

All children must arrive at school **by 8:45am** each day to avoid being coded as 'late'. A late arrival results in a disrupted start to the day. Learning begins at 8:45am: a child arriving late will find it difficult to join in a lesson that has already started.

**Early Morning Sports Club** is **free of charge** and open for all children to attend. It starts promptly at **8:20am** each day. Please consider this if your child is held up by you dropping siblings to other schools.

## HOUSE POINTS

**Falcons** are the winners this week with 256 house points – well done!

**Eagles** - 250 house points

**Hawks** – 247 house points

**Kestrels** – 243 house points

## SAFEGUARDING

On Monday, in assembly, Mrs Evett-Collins delivered two very important messages of concern to the children.

We are aware of an increase in racial abuse towards others and use of racial language on the playground. The children understand that this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in school. Mrs Evett-Collins spoke about everybody having the right to feel safe and happy in our school reminding them of our ethos and belief that everyone is welcome here.

Many of our pupils are accessing TikTok, despite the age rating of 13. We are aware that a number of children have seen inappropriate material and are talking about and sharing this explicit content.

Many pupils will not understand the content but are repeating what they are seeing. We have asked the children if they see something they know is not appropriate to speak to their trusted adults at home and in school and not to share with peers.

Please support us by speaking to your children about what to do in these circumstances.

## TEACHING & LEARNING NEWS

### Jemison class assembly

In our Wednesday assembly this week, Jemison class spoke to the school about the life of Mae Jemison who in 1992 became the first African-American woman to travel into space. Mae was fascinated as a child by space and watching the Apollo airings on

TV but she was upset that there were no female astronauts. However, Jemison was inspired by African American actress Nichelle Nichols who played Lieutenant Uhura on the Star Trek television show. Many people dismissed her dream of becoming an astronaut but she worked hard and proved them wrong, inspiring a new generation of young girls. After leaving NASA, Dr. Jemison went on to teach at Dartmouth College, formed a company that researches advanced technologies, is an active public speaker, and continues to urge students to pursue their dreams and pursue maths and science. She stresses the importance of excelling in school. Photos from this week's assembly can be found on our social media pages.

### Kent Test and Secondary School admissions 2025

If you have a child in Year 5, it will soon be time to consider secondary school applications for September 2025. If you are considering applying for a Grammar school placement, then you will need to register your child for the Kent Test. Registration opens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 and closes at midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. The leaflet attached with this newsletter will give further details. Children in Year 5 will be undertaking their CAT tests next week which can be used to help inform your decision regarding registering your child for the Kent Test. Parents will receive the results of these tests on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. There will also be a meeting for Year 5 parents at the school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 5:30pm where we will go through the Kent test and secondary transfer process.

### Year 6 SATs

Starting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, all children in Year 6 across the UK will be completing their statutory national Key Stage 2 SAT assessments, including your child. The tests will run from Monday to Thursday, starting at 9:00am each morning. It is important that your child is in school on time and ready to do their best.

During this important week, Year 6 children will be invited in early each day for a sausage sandwich and a chance to be with their friends, relax and get settled before starting the tests. It is a great way to start the day and, hopefully, relieve some of the anxiety that can arise during this week.

The school gate will be open from 8:15 until 8:20. Please complete the form below so that we can organise how many children will be coming in and whether they would like a sausage sandwich or a vegetarian sausage sandwich. Even if your child does not want to eat, they are still very welcome to come in early and be with their friends. For those children who go to Morning Sports, they can grab a breakfast and join in the sports with Mr Hobbs as usual. If you would like your child to attend these early morning breakfasts for Year 6 children, please complete the form by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/5rswFiEARL>

These end of Key Stage assessments provide an important opportunity for children to demonstrate the progress they have made over their last four years of education and their outcomes

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will be used by secondary schools to generate targets for each child in every GCSE subject. The children have worked hard to get to this point, and some nervousness is expected and a natural response to wanting to do well. These assessments are not intended to cause large amounts of anxiety, but we recognise that for some children this could be a potentially trickier week than usual. If you have concerns or your child is showing considerable signs of anxiety, please discuss this with your child's class teacher, or Mrs Wood who can be found on the gate most mornings, so that we can support them. A timetable for the week has been included below for your reference.

Monday	English grammar, punctuation and spelling paper 1 (45mins)	English grammar, punctuation and spelling paper 2 (20mins)
Tuesday	English reading paper (60 mins)	
Wednesday	Maths arithmetic paper 1 (30mins)	Maths reasoning paper 2 (40mins)
Thursday	Maths reasoning paper 3 (40mins)	

## SEN NEWS

### Training Opportunities for Families

There are a range of training workshops for parents and carers available in School Age Language section of the service website: [School aged language | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust \(kentcht.nhs.uk\)](https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk)

The website also has a range of other information and workshops relating to other areas of SLCN (e.g. speech, voice, feeding, ASD, Hearing Impairment). Also available, is information and advice from the Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Care Co-ordination Teams which sit within the Children's Therapies Service.

[Children's Therapies - The Pod | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust \(kentcht.nhs.uk\)](https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk)

**Selective Mutism Training:** Training is available via the Children's Therapies website:

[www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language-therapy/selective-mutism/](https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language-therapy/selective-mutism/)

**Cued articulation training** (£30) Online via Microsoft Teams Cued Articulation is a system of simple hand cues and colour coding which represent the sounds of the English language. It has been developed to assist those who have difficulty producing, remembering and sequencing sounds. It has also assisted the normal development of language, reading and spelling skills. It facilitates the development of sound awareness – basic to acquisition of literacy.

[Cued articulation training | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust \(kentcht.nhs.uk\)](https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk)

### Parent/Carer Makaton Taster Session

Children's Therapies are offering a free Makaton taster session for parents/carers of children who have been known to the service in the last 12 months.

The aim of this 1.5 hour taster session is to introduce Makaton with a focus on teaching some key Makaton signs. For more information on Makaton please go to - [www.makaton.org](http://www.makaton.org)

The sessions we are currently offering are:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 25th June	09:30-11:00	Heathside Centre, Coxheath
Tuesday 9th July	09:30-11:00	Virtual – MS Teams
Wednesday 25th September	15:30 – 17:00	Virtual – MS Teams

If you feel that this would be useful then please email [kentchft.makaton@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.makaton@nhs.net) to book a place.

## #WAKEUPWEDNESDAY

### What parents & carers can learn from the Ofcom Media Report 2024

On 19th April 2024, Ofcom released their annual Media Use and Attitudes Report, detailing the findings of several surveys and their implications for parents, children and young people in the UK. These statistics often include plenty of thought-provoking information relating to online safety.

The report itself is extremely extensive, so instead National Online Safety have created a bespoke guide, with a selection of data gathered by Ofcom about children and young people's experiences on social media, video games and the like. We have attached the guide to this newsletter.

## FAMILY SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

Mental Health Week will take place from the 13<sup>th</sup> May, with the theme of "Movement: Moving more for our mental health". On Monday, Mrs Kingman, Mrs Edwards and Mr Hobbs spoke to the children about the week and the importance of moving for our wellbeing. We spoke about the link between physical health and mental health and that even small changes can make a big difference. The children were engaged and enjoyed hearing Mr Hobbs talk about what motivates and inspires him to run, including the positive impact on his mental health.

Next week, Mr Hobbs will be taking part in The Grand Union Canal Race, which goes from London to Birmingham along the oldest canal route in England, totalling 145 miles. Mrs Edwards spoke to the children about the skydive she is doing to raise money for the Mental Health Foundation at the end of mental

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health week: [Hollie Edwards is fundraising for Mental Health Foundation \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Hollie-Edwards-is-fundraising-for-Mental-Health-Foundation)

To raise awareness of the week, and its important theme, we have planned activities for the children, staff and parents to take part in (see the poster attached for details). Throughout the week, we will be raising money for the Mental Health Foundation.

**'Change to make a change'** - We kindly ask that children bring in any change lying around the house to go towards our fundraising effort for the Mental Health Foundation: [Mental Health Awareness Week | Mental Health Foundation](#)

**'Move with Mr Hobbs'** - On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, Mr Hobbs will run around a track on the field for the entire afternoon. Each class will be given a 15-minute time slot to join him and parents & carers are welcome at that time too. Class time slots will be shared next week on social media and in the newsletter. Please remember, we will be 'moving' around the track. That may include running, walking, skipping, hopping, jumping etc...

**'Wear it Green day'** - On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, staff and children will wear green to raise awareness of the Mental Health Foundation [Wear it Green Day | Mental Health Foundation](#)

Each year group has planned a range of lesson and activities throughout the week, including beach and park visits. Please look out for posts and photos shared on social media during the week.

## INCLUSION BEAR

### **Awarded to:**

Mrs Kingsland nominated the whole of Johnson class. She said, "They have been amazing on my return to work, so considerate in everything. They are letting me move around the classroom before they move and they have even stopped swinging on their chairs to ensure I don't get hurt! They are amazing and I'm so happy to be back with them. Mrs Lewis -Taggart has been alright as well! 😊"

### **Nominated:**

Willow nominated Isaac, in Kahlo class. Willow said, "Isaac is always a good friend and manages to smile, even when things are tough for him."

Willow also nominated Bobby, in Kahlo class, because he makes her laugh. Willow said, "When I am upset, he makes me smile and puts a rainbow in my day. I hope Bobby never changes. He deserves Patch every day as he is an amazing friend."

Robyn nominated Elsie, in Da Vinci class, for being there for her and playing with her when she is sad.

Malena nominated Deborah and Kitty, in Picasso class, because they helped her make a nest outside. Malena said, "They helped me get dry grass and wool to make a nest big enough for a bird and its eggs. They are both very kind for helping me."

Abrielle nominated Erin, in Picasso class. Abrielle said, "On the field this week, I was teaching Erin a very hard trick. Even though she fell multiple times, she was very resilient and I am very proud of her."

## ROCKING READERS

This week's Rocking Readers are Da Vinci class, recognised for the consistency in quiz scores and time spent reading. Well done to all!

## TT ROCKSTARS

Our TT Rockstars are Park class! Like last week's winners, Da Vinci, most of the class are logging in regularly and this has hugely impacted their average minutes of engagement and accuracy. Keep it up!

## TT ROCKSTARS COMPETITION

All the children across are currently fighting against each other in this term's House tournament with Eagles currently in 1<sup>st</sup> place. There is still plenty of time for this to change – please encourage your child to be logging in to TTRS and playing daily! The results will be announced in next week's assembly.

## SPORTS AWARD

This week, our girls football team took part in a tournament at the University of Kent. Out of the 16 schools that took part, our fantastic team came 2nd following a penalty shoot out. They returned to school jubilantly adorned with their silver medals! In recognition of their success, Mr Hobbs announced the whole team as this week's winners of the Sports Cup. Fabulous!

## MR FOREMAN'S ECO CORNER

### University of Kent BioBlitz

Mixing it up a bit this week: instead of me telling you (hopefully) interesting information and attempting to inspire you to be greener than you are, this is your chance to get out there and do something that you can then tell me about.

So, what is it that I'm roping you all into? Well, you have all been officially invited to the University of Kent's BioBlitz 2024!

### **What is BioBlitz?**

BioBlitz is an interactive, participatory, one-day event that families and local community members can turn up and engage in nature-based learning with University of Kent students, scientists, and local wildlife experts, including Kent Wildlife Trust, RSPB Canterbury, and Kent Moth Group. It is going to be hosted by the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) ([Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology -](#)

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[University of Kent](#)) who run globally recognised undergraduate, Master's and PhD courses on conservation and ecology, and work in 46 countries around the world. They really know their stuff and it's a really rare opportunity to work and learn from these guys and girls.

Their aim with this event is to record as many species of wildlife as possible on the University of Kent campus but they need your help. Below is the information that you need.

#### Event Details:

Date: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Time: 8:00 AM to 9:30 PM; come and go as you please

Location: Colyer-Fergusson Building, University of Kent

#### Registration:

**Free of charge.**

However, you will need to sign up for the event. Here is the link to register:

[University of Kent BioBlitz 2024: Survey Sign-up | Eventbrite](#)

Attached to the newsletter is a flyer including all the details above.

It's local, it's free, so get out there, join in, and have some fun!

#### Eco dates this week:

##### No Mow May

For the whole month of May don't mow your lawn! This is the perfect month for lazy gardeners and those that love wildlife. Let your lawn grow and check out the variety of grasses, flowers and flying insects that will enjoy your garden.

##### International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) – 5th to 11th May

The goal of ICAW is to work together to raise public awareness on why we all should be composting our organics and using compost to create healthier soil.

### HERNE BAY LIBRARY DINOSAUR CRAFT EVENT

Attached to the newsletter is a flyer giving information about Dinosaur Craft event on 11th May.

### FLYIN' AT THE MUSEUM

RAF Manston History Museum will be holding an event on Friday 24th to Sunday 26th of May called Flyin' At The Museum, in association with LAA. Attached is a flyer giving all the exciting details.

### MONKTON U10S FOOTBALL TEAM

Monkton FC under 10s football team are looking to expand their squad ready to move up to 9aside football, next season. If your child is in Year 5 and interested in joining the team, please see the attached poster for details.

### STAR OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following children for being identified by their class teachers as this week's Stars of the Week. Certificates will be emailed to parents/carers.

Parks	Rosie Martin
Shakespeare	Olivia Villiers
Tolkien	Melisa Metodieva

Da Vinci	Hayden-James Adams
Dali	Aubrey Jones
Kahlo	Oliver Thompson
Picasso	Jaxon Couldwell

Anning	Jessica Pavey
Curie	Logan Beard & Betty Clark
Hawking	Kardelen Coker
Jemison	David Petrai

Banneker	Evie Reed
Johnson	Freddie Crouch
Nightingale	Lucas Manser
Turing	William Leeks

### TA RECOGNITION AWARD

Each week, our TAs recognise those children who consistently shine as positive role models to others during break and lunch times. Certificates will be emailed to parents/carers.

This week's awards go to:

Year 3	Evie Turner
Year 4	Noah Cheeseman
Year 5	Lucas Kimberley
Year 6	Bobby Willmott

Wishing you all a happy extended weekend.  
Best wishes,



Melody Kingman  
Headteacher

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