



End of Term 5 Newsletter, Week 6
Wednesday 22nd May 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Coming up

3rd - 7th June - PGL France Residential Year 6 - to be at school 05.00am leaving at 05.30am

Week beginning 3rd June - CAT tests year 5

4th June - Bags2School collection

6th June - NHS Mental Health show for all children

7th - 9th June - PGL Bawdsy Manor Year 5

11th June - Year 5 & 6 Benenden School Science Day

12th June - Year 2 class trip - further information to follow

14th June - Fathers Day activities with children 13.45pm - 15.00pm

20th June - Class Photos with Tempest Photography

1st - 4th July - Homewood school transition week Year 6

3rd July - Whole school transition afternoon to new classes

5th July - Vicar end of year school service

10th July - Sports Day (17th as back up)

11th July - Whole school transition afternoon to new classes

15th July - School Reports go out to parents

16th July - Year 6 dress rehearsal leavers show to school pupils and staff 1.30-2.30 Charter Hall

16th July - Open classroom after school

17th July - Year 6 leavers show performance to parents and family 1.30- 3.15 Charter Hall

17th July - Sports day back up in case of bad weather

19th July - Smarden Nursery School Graduation

18th July - Governors Prize Giving in Charter Hall - 1.30 -2.30

23rd July - Leavers Service for Year 6 - School Hall

Smarden Nursery School

What a wonderful term we have had learning all about Life Cycles and Growing! The term has included lots of fantastic first hand experiences for the children, including exploring signs of Spring during Forest Time, meeting lots of amazing animals (massive thanks to Mrs Seaton) and younger siblings (a big thank you to the parents) and growing their own bean plant. We also still have our pot of caterpillars and they are getting bigger and bigger by the day, the children are very curious to see what will happen next!

Our older preschooler children have now learnt an impressive amount of phonics and we are hearing them find these letters in the environment and in their names. We are now practising name writing daily and the children are all approaching this challenge with a fantastic attitude! In Maths we have been consolidating our knowledge of numbers 1-5 and have been also looking at patterns, capacity and weight.

Next term there's lots to be excited about! Our overall theme will be Summer Holidays and we will look at different countries, travel and music amongst other things. Sports Day will be a little different for us this year. We will be holding our own Sports Week in Nursery on the week beginning 17th June. The children will take part in races etc at the end of the day just before pick up so you all get a chance to see your child. We will also have our little Smardenbury festival week again on 24th June where the children will sing for you at the end of the day too. Further details will be announced closer to the time.

Our family fun day trip to the Rare Breeds Centre is on Tuesday 11th June.

Please remember to bring a named water bottle, sunhat and have suncream applied to your child. We recommend croc type shoes as a good choice for summer footwear!

Nursery Graduation for all children leaving us this year for Reception and their parents on Friday 19th July in the nursery school garden if fine or main school hall if raining. Please RSVP to Laura Rowland via dojo

Have a lovely half term and see you on the 3rd June!

Laura and the Caterpillar Team



Blyton Class

This term in Blyton the children have begun transition activities to prepare them for Year 1. We are having slightly longer teaching sessions and the children are really impressing us with their written work, especially their sentence writing! We have really enjoyed our topic on Houses and Homes and through this have focused on some excellent books to enhance their interest and understanding. These have included 'In every house on every street', 'The can caravan' and most recently 'Traction Man'. We loved our local area walk to see the different sorts of buildings in Smarden. The children were able to identify many different types of houses, including terraced houses and semi-detached ones. We were so proud of how sensible they were whilst out and about and are really looking forward to taking them on another school trip next term.

We have been enjoying some changes to our outdoor area. We now have a stage to perform on. The children have been exploring different musical instruments and putting on shows for us. We have also got a new reading area outside. This has been really popular in the last couple of weeks and we have seen some excellent story telling and language development.

This term we have also introduced our learning dinosaurs to encourage children to recognise and celebrate different characteristics of learning. It has been wonderful to hear the children talk about being a 'have-a-go-adon' or being an 'i-try-ceritops'. These skills will definitely help them as they move into Key Stage 1.

The class have continued to enjoy weekly Forest School sessions. They are able to identify many of the different plants that grow there and have noticed how the site has changed throughout the seasons. We see really purposeful play and the sessions are always full of discovery. We hope to finish Forest School this term with a campfire!

We're looking forward to our topic about the sea next term. Please look out for information for the school trip that we have planned!

Many thanks for your continued support, Team Blyton.

Donaldson Class

What a lovely term it's been! We have been focusing our learning around our key question and concepts which are, Why are people proud to be British? Duty, Passion, Responsibility

English, Writing and Phonics

- Creating characters using our senses, what can we see as well as what type of personality a character may have.
- We have worked extremely hard in phonics especially with reading longer words.
- We created our own character stories based on the Indian tale Monkey see, Monkey do.

Maths

- This term we have learnt about fractions halves and quarters.

- We focused closely on lengths and mass using standard and non standard measurements and even used our own bodies to measure the playground.
- Towards the end of the term we have focused on numbers 50-100 by counting in tens and ones.

Science

- This term we have started a new unit of Animals including Humans which kicked off with learning about the butterfly cycle as we had 10 caterpillars arrive at the beginning of April and released them mid May.
- We have been learning how to group the types of animals and have new table names to help us remember.
- We explored adjectives in writing for our own pets and shared them with the rest of the class.

Jigsaw

- Term 5 is all about relationships, from families to friends and it has been amazing to see children creating new friendships as well as learning how to maintain their current friendships. It has been lovely learning about their families and them learning how unique they all are.
- We have also explored the emotion 'worried' and how to overcome this uncomfortable feeling.

Art & DT

- In Art we have been learning about 3D paper art and in DT we have created smoothies supporting previous Jigsaw unit Healthy Me and Our current Science unit Animals including Humans.

PE

- Mrs Leeks has been supporting us to learn basic cricket skills in PE, listening to instructions, throwing and catching.
- For movement breaks we have enjoyed a range of yoga and playing music statues from songs in the past.

History

- We have been learning about Queen Elizabeth 2nd from her duty and responsibility to her passions and how she still lives on in our everyday lives on stamps and coins. We linked this to the british values and royal family of today.

Please continue to practice QR codes and supporting phonics words using 'special friends, fred talk, read the word'.

Now for a well earned break! Have a lovely school holiday and see you ready for Term 6 on Monday 3rd June.

Austen Class

This term the children have really enjoyed exploring our inquiry question 'What makes a place special?' We have had a strong focus on seaside towns and how they have changed since the Victorian times. The children have identified how people used to travel to seaside towns, what they used to wear, the different types of entertainment on offer and souvenirs people used to buy. We have compared all of this to British seaside towns of today and we will be delving even further into this next term looking specifically at Herne Bay.

In English, the children have been learning about the features of instructional texts and how to write their own example. The children particularly enjoyed this as they got to make their own chocolate rice crispy cakes! We have also read the story *The Snail and the Whale* and the children have been learning how to include descriptive language in their writing to make it more interesting. Both Mrs Miller and I were immensely proud of their writing, with every child in Austen Class showing huge ambition and producing some wonderfully descriptive pieces. Well done!

In Maths, we have been learning how to name 2D and 3D shapes and identify their properties. We have also had a focus on shape patterning, symmetry, direction, movement and rotation, The children have really enjoyed these units and have even been heard saying 'we didn't even realise we were doing Maths; it was so fun!' which is lovely to hear.

We have also been having a lot of fun in Science this term, learning all about plants. The children have completed an experiment, identifying what conditions plants need to grow, they have sorted and dissected seeds and learned about the life cycle of a bean. They have also planted runner beans, which are now quickly growing outside our classroom.

Finally, this term in Computing the children have been developing their skills by learning how to create their own pictograms and block diagrams using computing software J2Data. They have thoroughly enjoyed collecting data on different peoples' attributes, creating tally charts and then inputting the data. I was very pleased to see how kind, caring and patient they were towards each other, particularly whilst helping each other to log onto the computers, supporting each other to create the diagram and analysing the data. What a great team we all are! Next term, the children will be having PE on a Monday, so all PE kits will need to be in school on the first day back. Please also take some time over half term to go onto Freckle and TTRS. It would be fantastic if the children were able to recall their 2, 5 and 10 times tables with great speed and consistency by the end of next term, as this will set them up brilliantly for Year 3. Thank you for all your continued support and I wish you all a very happy half term. Enjoy the relaxing break!





Sassoon Class

We've had another busy term in Sassoon! In maths we finished our fraction unit and then worked very hard on learning how to tell and measure the time accurately. Time is a tricky unit, but Sassoon have blown me away with their focus and determination. We've also begun our new topic about angles.

In English this term the children have written some amazing journey stories, involving some impressive character descriptions, with lots of fantastic similes, which served as sequels to Peter and Wendy's adventures after Neverland. For our non-fiction writing the children have written some discussions, which offer reasons for and against a specific discussion question, before giving a final answer. A highlight was setting up our very own 'Sassoon Court' at the start of this learning, where children acted as defence lawyers, prosecuting lawyers or jury members in a case that debated whether Mr Wolf from the three little pigs was innocent or guilty!

In history this term we have compared four ancient civilisations, Ancient Sumer, Ancient Indus Valley, Ancient Egypt and The Shang Dynasty, to discover what they all had in common. We've looked at the location of each of the civilisations, explored ancient writing systems and some of their impressive architecture, as well as exploring their greatest achievements and inventions that are incredibly important to us today. Sassoon were very lucky to have Mrs Dilley pay us a visit, who is an expert on Ancient Egypt, which gave the children an opportunity to ask her lots of questions.

For our science learning we have been studying plants. We set up an investigation at the start of term to investigate just how important having enough space to grow is for plants. We have also looked at the various types of seed dispersal methods that plants use to move away from their parent plant, the functions of the parts of a plant and have explored how water transports through plants. As well as this, we have learnt about pollination in flowering plants.

In our art lessons we have incorporated our history learning by exploring Ancient Egyptian art, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. We started off by replicating some of the colours, patterns and symbols of this type of art in our sketchbooks, before moving on to create our own version of papyrus paper. We then used our papyrus paper as a base for our very own Ancient Egyptian scrolls which convey a message, story or information. They looked absolutely brilliant and will be going home with the children on the last day of term.

Rounders was our topic in PE this term. The children practised some key teamwork skills, as well as useful skills in rounders such as passing and catching the ball, and trying to hit the ball as hard as they could using a firm grip. We all very much enjoyed playing whole class games.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term and I will see you in the new term!



Dickens Class

We have enjoyed an action- and fun-filled Term 5 with our English, maths, science, computing, French, forest school and much more.

In English we have enjoyed exploring writing narratives based on the novel 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant'. I wonder if you can find the next book in the series to read at home? We produced some extremely funny persuasive texts for Mr Dixon and Miss Edmondson, including advertisements for healthy smoothies with anti-ageing properties!

In the last two weeks of term we have been studying a famous poem by the American writer Robert Frost called "[The Road Not Taken](#)". It's about a path that diverges in a wood. But what does it mean? We will be making a short film of the poem. Watch this space!

In Maths, Year 5 have worked hard with coordinates, and converting measures of time, mass, and length.

Year 4 have been looking at area and perimeter as well as time and, of course, our multiplications! Make sure you are practising times tables over the half term, Year 4!

In Science there were experiments looking at health, what we drink, and how this affects our teeth - using eggshells as a stand-in for teeth. We wanted to find out what effects cola, orange juice, and water might have.

In Computing we began coding using our Micro:bit computers, which was extremely fun. We made a name badge, a mood badge and experimented with music and visuals. If you'd like to play with this more over half term, you can access the simulator and coding platform online [here](#). In French we learnt names for clothing.

History this term was based around Ancient Egypt and we have immersed ourselves in the knowledge from this time, creating a non-fiction text of our very own. We created pharaoh

headaddresses and pyramids, and researched the Nile, the gods and the Egyptian way of life. The children have produced some fantastic texts and images on this topic.

In R.E., we have learned about the five pillars of Islam, the ninety-nine names of Allah, and about prominent British Muslim, Sir Mo Farah.

In P.E., we used our hand-eye coordination to explore tennis and try to keep a rally going with a partner. Children tried their hardest and made some great progress in their ability.

Year 4 had a fantastic experience at Living Land, and were amazed by the dancing sheep! They also learnt about sustainable farming and the big machines that make it all possible.

We are looking forward to term 6 with more trips to attend and year 5's PGL.

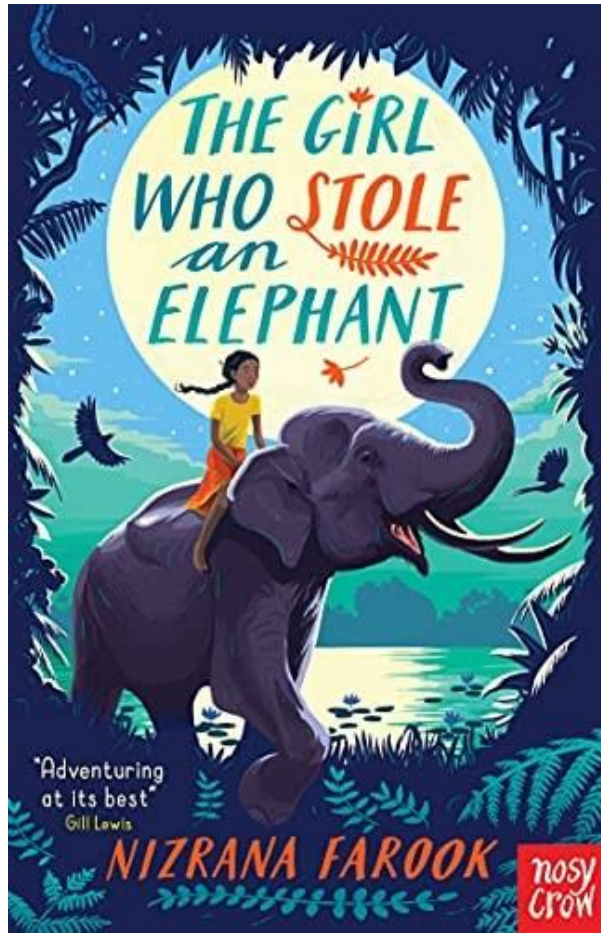
Have a great half term, Dickens class!

TUTANKHAMUN

Tutankhamun's Tomb


In 1922 a famous archaeologist Howard Carter and his benefactor Lord Carnarvon discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. It appeared that there was these little mud and woman called shabti in ancient Egypt they believed they would come to life. In the tomb there were 4 chambers in the 1st chamber there was walking sticks because when Tutankhamun was born with necrosis of bone tissue in his left foot. In the tomb there were more than 400 shabti. 5,000 objects were found in Tutankhamun's tomb. He was 8 when he became a Pharaoh and 18 when he died. Archaeologists discovered Tutankhamun's casket and found out it weighs 10KG. In his tomb they found thrones and games. Tutankhamun had one cousin called Smenkhkare.





CLEOPATRA

The most famous thing associated with Cleopatra, who was born around 69 BCE in Egypt, but in fact she descended from Greeks and spoke Greek. Her dad was called Ptolemy and his ancestor was one of Alexander the Great's generals.



She decided to marry her brother and also decided that she was the living embodiment of the goddess Isis and dressed accordingly on occasions.

Rowling Class

Rowling Class Term 5 Newsletter

Rowling class have impressed absolutely everyone this term with their ambition and determination.

SATs are now all complete and we can continue to work through the remainder of the Year 6 curriculum. We will be focussing on Science, History, PSHE and PE in addition to play rehearsals and of course our exciting PGL trip to France.

In maths we will continue to focus on arithmetic but will also work on some problem solving projects to ensure that all children are secondary school ready.

In English we will continue to carry out short writing tasks with a focus on writing for pleasure; I will be giving children opportunities to write about things that interest them.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all of your support - it is much appreciated.

Reading
Please could children read at least 4 times per week.

PE
Every Friday - full kit needed for every lesson please

Forest School - News

This term in Forest School, we have had a great time with Dickens Class! They have thrown themselves into all sorts of different activities such as making bubble wands, learning how to make friendship bracelets, den making and, perhaps most impressively, a great array of campfire cooking. Over the term we have made wild garlic bread, pizzas and dandelion pancakes. The children have been involved in every stage from making the suggestions (including one of the children identifying wild garlic on our site) to carefully preparing and then cooking over the fire. We have ended every session by sharing our food with adults around the school.

The children have really helped to develop the site with their creative building skills. This has been really beneficial as the dens built by Dickens Class have been inspiring and really enjoyed by Blyton Class. It's lovely how the Forest can be enjoyed in this way.

Please look out for our Forest School Fundraiser that we are planning for next term! Miss Almond





Parent Notices



Bags2School

If you are having a clear out over half term, we will be having a Bags2School collection on 4th June. Please only bring any items bagged up to the front of school for 08.30am for collection

If you would like details on items they will accept please use this link: - <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Medication

If you have provided medication to the office for your child this term, please could you collect by the end of Friday. After this date we will be taking all medication left in school to the local pharmacy to dispose of.

Pupil Premium

If your child is in receipt of benefits related payments, you will receive an email with vouchers for the half term break. Should you have any difficulty opening the email or attachments please email the school office.

Trip Payments

Please could we ask if your child is attending a class trip next term that payments are made via school gateway to confirm their place and attendance. Also any google form requests are completed that provide your consent to attend the trip.

Debts on account

All debts must be cleared on your child's account by the end of half term. This is in regard to school lunches and wrap around care. Any debt still remaining we will be requiring packed lunches and for those wishing to access wrap around will not be able to book before payment is made for any outstanding clubs.

Lost Property

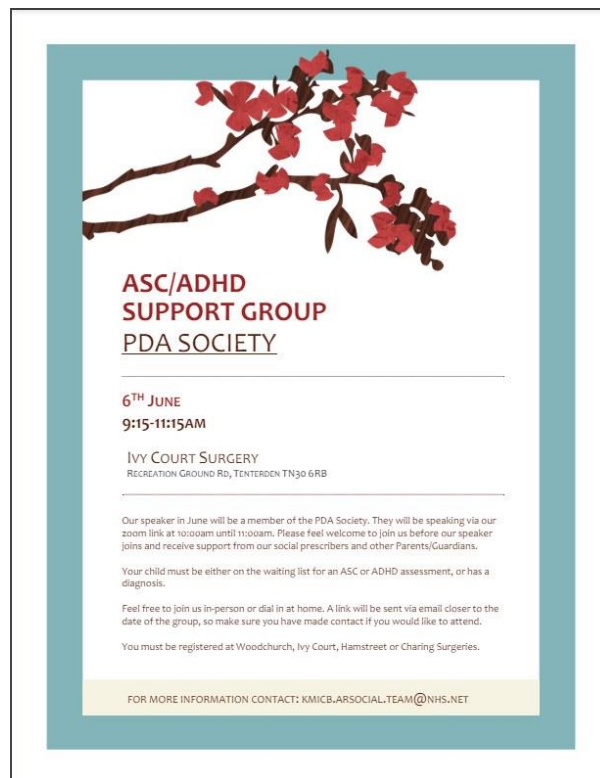
We have a large amount of lost property in the black box on the playground. Please do take a look if your child is missing any items.

Messages during half term

If you do need to contact us during half term please use the email below and either Mrs Miller or Mrs Speight will get back to you

office@smarden-tkat.org

Please do not send a DoJo message as these are not always picked up during holiday time - thank you



The poster features a decorative illustration of a branch with red flowers in the top left corner. The text is centered and includes the following information:

**ASC/ADHD
SUPPORT GROUP
PDA SOCIETY**

6TH JUNE
9:15-11:15AM

IVY COURT SURGERY
RECREATION GROUND RD, TENTERDEN TN30 6RB

Our speaker in June will be a member of the PDA Society. They will be speaking via our zoom link at 10:00am until 11:00am. Please feel welcome to join us before our speaker joins and receive support from our social prescribers and other Parents/Guardians.

Your child must be either on the waiting list for an ASC or ADHD assessment, or has a diagnosis.

Feel free to join us in-person or dial in at home. A link will be sent via email closer to the date of the group, so make sure you have made contact if you would like to attend.

You must be registered at Woodchurch, Ivy Court, Hamstreet or Charing Surgeries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: KMICB.ARSOCIAL.TEAM@NHS.NET



**STUDY
SMART**



LOOKING FOR A JOB IN A SCHOOL?

Teaching Assistant
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**Fully Funded (FREE) - Qualified in ONLY 6 weeks - No Travel -
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Register here: www.studysmartuk.online or scan the QR code

Subject to funding availability in your area.

Contact Adam: 07534 175 965

adam.shearer@aspireeducationacademy.co.uk

**May Half-Term
FOOTBALL CAMP**

FA Qualified & First Aid
Trained Coaches ✓ **£20 per day
10-3pm**

Thurs 30th &
Fri 31st of May
@Charing Primary

**SPORT
FRENZY
ASHFORD**

To book please email
lfriendly1988@outlook.com

Term Dates:



TERM DATES 24/25

TERM 1: MONDAY 2.9.24 - 18.10.24

TWO WEEK HALF TERM 18.10.24 - 4.11.24

TERM 2: 4.11.24 - 20.12.24

TERM 3: 6.1.25 - 14.2.25

TERM 4: 24.2.25 - 4.4.25

TERM 5: 22.4.25 - 23.5.25

TERM 6: 2.6.25 - TUESDAY 22.7.25
EVEN THESE TWO LAST DAYS
OF THE YEAR ARE IMPORTANT!

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME
- EVERY DAY COUNTS.

FOSP News

Leavers Hoodies

FOSP are delighted to have once again subsidised the purchase of the leavers hoodies for year 6 pupils; you may have already seen the year 6s proudly wearing these colourful and cosy new hoodies, which arrived in perfect time at the end of a very busy SATs week and before their upcoming PGL trip to France! We hope you agree that they look very smart!

Easyfundraising couldn't be easier!

Did you know that over £650 has now been raised for our little school from this fundraising initiative?! It doesn't cost you a penny, as the donations are made by the online shop that you would make your usual purchases through. Simply signing up and continuing with your usual online shopping through many brands (including large supermarkets, homewares and clothes) means little donations from those brands here and there easily add up to substantial sums for our school. Please sign up here - it couldn't be easier! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-smarden-primary-fosp>

Get in Touch

As always, any questions, suggestions or offers of help can be directed to our chair Jo Piper at chair@fosp-pta.org.uk





And finally,



As ever, I am available to talk about anything you are worried about, no matter how small. Please do not hesitate to ring me on 01233 770316 or email

head@sarden-tkat.org

Have a lovely week!

Mrs Miller