

# Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy month at school with lots of events taking place. This newsletter is full of information, so please take some time to read through it. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask or email [headteacher@chilham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@chilham.kent.sch.uk)

### Belonging Week

Next week, we will be spending time in our classes looking at Diversity, equality and belonging in communities. Each class will cover different themes which are relevant to living in Britain today such as challenging stereotypes, racism, different families and immigration. A big thank you to the PTA for donating all of the picture books we will use to promote discussions within our school.

### Cross Country Events at Kent College

We have several upcoming dates for the Cross-Country Events at Kent College. Mrs Keir will share full details closer to each event, but for now please add the following dates to your diary:

- Saturday 7th February
- Friday 27th February (after school)
- Friday 31st March (after school)

More information will follow in due course.

### School Trips – Important Reminder

We have several exciting trips planned for the remainder of this academic year. As a small school with a limited budget, we are unfortunately not able to subsidise these activities. This means that we can only go ahead with trips if we receive the required payments.

If you consent for your child to attend a trip, please ensure that payment is made promptly. If you are experiencing any difficulties or need to discuss payment options, please feel free to speak confidentially with Miss Dolan.

### Young Voices at the O2



On Tuesday 20th January, myself, Mr Mankelow and Reverend Sue had the pleasure of taking 12 children to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices choir. It was an absolutely amazing experience, made even more special when we were unexpectedly upgraded to our very own private box!

The children represented the school beautifully throughout the day. Their enthusiasm, behaviour and excitement were a credit to them, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

### **A Message About Parking Considerately**

We would like to remind all parents and carers to park safely and respectfully when dropping off or collecting children from school.

Recently, there have been several cars blocking the hill and obstructing the road outside the school. This not only causes frustration for local residents but also creates potential hazards for our children and other pedestrians.

Please help us keep our community safe and pleasant by:

- Using designated parking areas or walking a short distance to school. Taylors Hill carpark has plenty of spaces.
- Do not stop on School Hill to drop or collect children.

We understand that mornings and afternoons can be busy, but a few extra minutes to park considerately can make a big difference to everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

### **Kent Fire & Rescue Visit**

We had a wonderful time on Thursday 29th January when Corrine from Kent Fire and Rescue visited the school. She spent time in every class delivering engaging fire safety talks, and the children thoroughly enjoyed meeting her and learning about how to stay safe.



### **Forest school**

Forest School for term 4 will be for Martins class on a Thursday afternoon.

Clothing:

With the exception of very severe weather – high winds and thunderstorms – please assume that the children will be taking part in outdoor forest school activities on their allocated day. Therefore, it is essential they have the appropriate clothing to wear, ideally including waterproof over-trousers and jackets.

Children should come to school in their forest school clothes on their allocated day. They do not need to bring school uniform as they will go straight home in forest school clothes. However, they must have a pair of shoes so they can change out of their Wellies or muddy boots/shoes.

Clothing should be suitable for woodland activities – long trousers, tops with long sleeves and sturdy footwear or wellies. As the weather gets colder, layers of clothing are really important, along with hats, gloves, scarves, waterproofs etc. Please ensure ALL clothing is clearly labelled.

### **Multi Skills Sporting Events**

Over the last couple of terms, our pupils have taken part in several Multi Skills sporting events. Mrs Keir has been extremely impressed with all the children who attended. She said they represented our school brilliantly, showed great enthusiasm, and tried exceptionally hard in every activity.

We are very proud of them all!

### Attendance and Lateness

Please do let us know by telephone if your child is ill by 8.30am each morning. If you wish to make a leave of absence for an exceptional circumstance, please email into the school office and we will look at each case individually before writing back to you to let you know if this will be authorised or unauthorised.

### Parent View

OFSTED inspect schools every 4 years and we are now due an inspection. You have the opportunity to give your views about the school in advance or when the inspectors are in school. Please see the link below.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

### Diary Dates

We will let you know as more dates and events are added.

<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day- Dress as a Book Character
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup>- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Science Week- 'Curiosity'
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parents Evening (All Classes)
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parents Evening (Hérons, Martins and Peacocks)
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Peacocks to the Science Museum (information to follow in due course)
<b>Tuesday 31st March</b>	Chilham Has Got Talent @10am (information to follow in due course)
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Break up for Easter at 1.30pm

Best wishes,

*Rebecca Dolan*