Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

September Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been great to see the children back in school, in their new classes and eager to learn. This newsletter has lots of information for the diaries so please do have a read. As always, thank you for your support and do contact me if you have any questions.

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival will be held on Thursday 15th September from 2:15pm at St Mary's Church. We hope to see many of you there.
We would like to support our local community and ask that rather than donations of food that donations are made to Canterbury Food Bank if you wish to do so.
https://canterburyfoodbank.org/give-help/donate/

Secondary School admissions

- Applications for secondary school places for children entering Year 7 close **Monday 2nd November 2026**. Apply here: http://www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
- You can name up to **4 preferences** for schools.
- After the deadline, applications are processed between **3rd November 2025 and 1st March 2027**.
- If circumstances change after you apply, you can email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk to request amendments.

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. We also get phone calls from grumpy residents quite regularly.

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.
- Avoiding stopping on School Hill to drop or collect.

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.

Attendance

Our recent Ofsted report highlighted the importance of improving attendance, noting that **"too many pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who are disadvantaged, miss important learning"** and that **persistent absence remains too high**.

We are pleased to share that our whole-school attendance is currently **96.2%** which is up on this time last year. Thank you to all our families for your continued support in helping children attend school regularly.

We are committed to working closely with families to strengthen attendance across the school. Good attendance means that children have more opportunities to learn, develop friendships, take part in school life and make progress.

To encourage and celebrate regular attendance, we are introducing two new initiatives:

🏆 **House Attendance Competition**
Each week, we will see which house has the highest attendance. Every day counts, so we are looking forward to seeing which house can reach the top of the leader board!

🎟️ **Weekly Attendance Raffle**
Every child who attends school **every day for the week** will have their name entered into our weekly attendance raffle, giving them the chance to win a prize at the end of the school year.

We understand that children do sometimes become unwell and that there can be circumstances which affect attendance. However, where children are well enough to attend, **every day really does count**.

PTA

A big thank you to the PTA for donating £1000 towards our pantomime trip on Friday 4th December. We are really looking forward to this whole school event and their generosity is greatly appreciated. More details about the Pantomime trip will be sent out next term.

Children in Need Ramble- Friday 13th November

We will be holding our ramble on Friday 13th November. A letter and a link to our fundraising will be sent out with more details in due course.

Labelling school uniform

We are trying our very best to locate items when they do go missing. Please could you ensure all school uniform is labelled with your child's name. We will try our best to put any jumpers and cardigans out on a Friday afternoon for parents if we cannot find an owner!

KS1 Nativity

Our Nativity Service will take place in the Church at **2pm** on **Wednesday 2nd December**. We always look forward to this and hope to see lots of you there.



Swimming Lessons - Years 5 and 6

Term 2 Swimming Lessons for Peacocks are on the following dates:

12th, 19th, 26th November

3rd and 10th December

Please ensure that you have completed the consent form for these lessons which has been sent out to you on ParentMail.

Children should wear the following for swimming, and earrings **MUST** be removed:

Girls: A towel, one-piece swimsuit (not bikinis), hair bands for shoulder length hair, goggles where needed (children must be able to fit themselves).

Boys: A towel, trunks or swim shorts (these must be above the knee and not baggy beach style swim shorts), goggles where needed (children must be able to fit themselves).

To save time once we arrive at the pool it would be useful if the children came to school wearing their swimming clothes under their uniform.

Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd November	Return to school
Tuesday 3rd November	Parents Evening 3.30-6pm
Wednesday 4th November	Parents Evening 3.30-6pm
Thursday 5th November	Year 6 visit to Cathedral Day at Canterbury Cathedral
Friday 13th November	Children in Need Ramble from 1.30pm
Wednesday 2nd December	Nativity play at 2pm (in St Mary's Church)
Friday 4th December	Whole School trip to Pantomime- The All New Adventures of Peter Pan
Sunday 6th December	Choir to attend St Nicolas's service at Canterbury Cathedral
Tuesday 8th December	Rock Steady Concert
Sunday 13th December	Carols in the Square from 6pm
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Disco in Village Hall from 3.30pm (run by Reverend Sue)
Wednesday 16th December	Children's Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18th December	**Break up for Christmas at 1.30pm**

Best wishes,

Rebecca Dolan

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat

Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease

If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome

Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo

They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox

Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles

They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea

Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.



Parents, carers and loved ones can find support and answers to common questions on the Kent Family website. It brings together trusted information and advice for families before and after birth, through childhood and up to age 19.

Time to shine Junior's

A group for SEND children and young people aged 7-11 years to socialise and learn new skills in a safe, relaxed environment. This group is for children and young People who may find it difficult to access mainstream groups and would like some support to build their confidence.

The group numbers are lower to meet the needs of everyone attending and to create a calmer environment.

Waterside Family Hub

DAY: Monday

Time: 4.00pm - 5.15pm

Address: Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Booking required – link in the description.

You do not need to have a diagnosis to attend this session





Visit your local Family Hub today
Kent.gov.uk/familyhub
KentFamilyHub

Stepping Up

5-11 Years

Join us for a fun, confidence-building course for children aged 5-11. Over six sessions, they will explore emotions, build friendships, and learn practical skills through creative activities, games, and discussions in a safe, friendly environment.

The Willow Family Hub

DAY: Thursday

Time: 3.45pm - 5.15pm

Address: Halstow Way, Ashford, Kent TN23 4EY

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk/ 03000 418800

Booking required – contact your Family Hub.

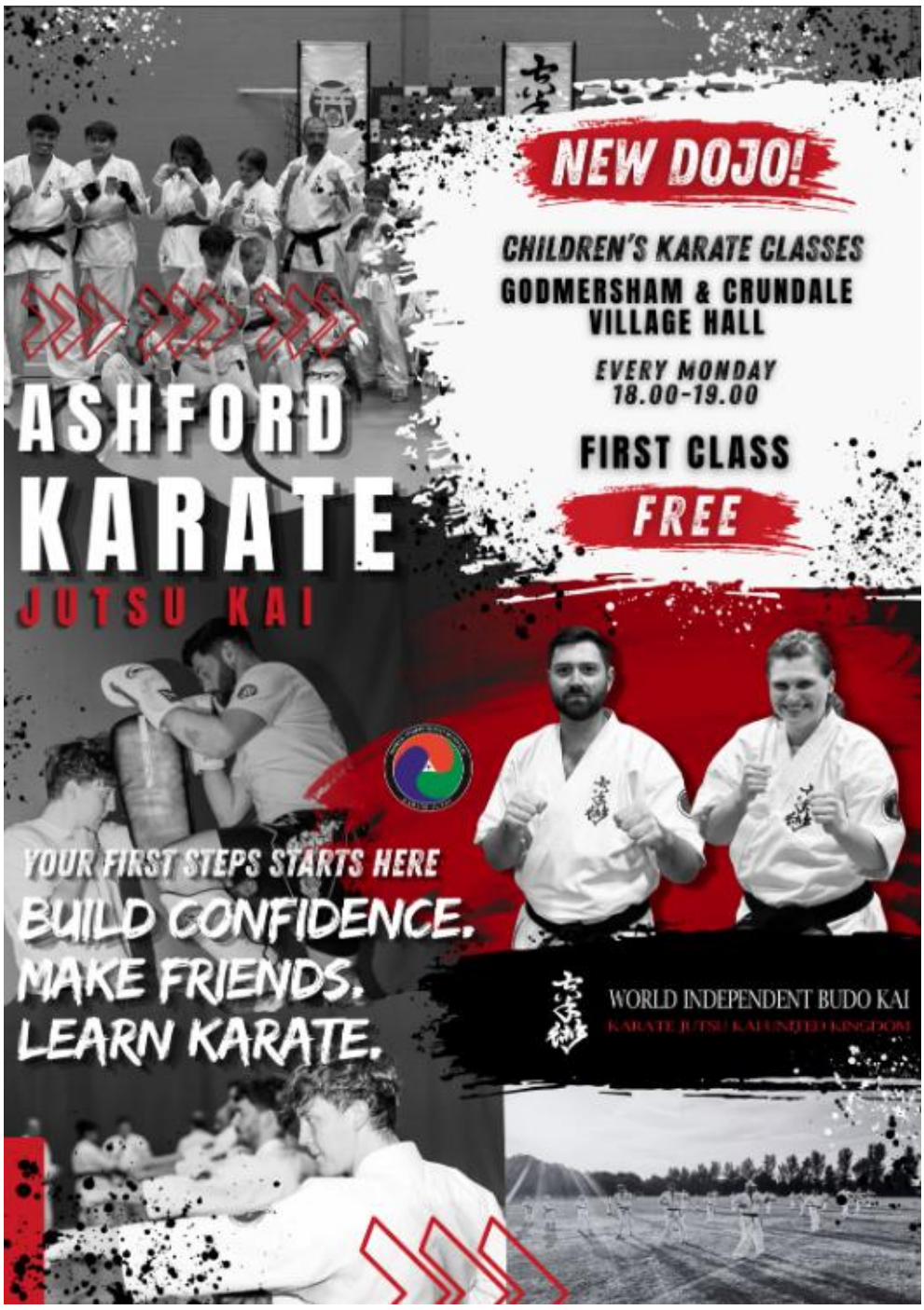




Visit your local Family Hub today

Kent.gov.uk/familyhub

KentFamilyHub


NEW DOJO!
CHILDREN'S KARATE CLASSES
GODMERSHAM & CRUNDALE
VILLAGE HALL
EVERY MONDAY
18.00-19.00
FIRST CLASS
FREE
ASHFORD
KARATE
JUTSU KAI
YOUR FIRST STEPS STARTS HERE
BUILD CONFIDENCE.
MAKE FRIENDS.
LEARN KARATE.
WORLD INDEPENDENT BUDO KAI