



Friday 30th January 2026

Newsletter

Term 3

Welcome back to Term 3 and a (belated) happy New Year! I trust you all had a lovely Christmas break with your families.

We've noticed that Santa was very generous this year and some of the children have returned to school wearing new Smart Watches. Whilst these are lovely gifts, they must be left at home if they have the ability to access the Internet or take photographs. Due to safeguarding regulations and Data Protection Regulations, these types of devices are not permitted in school.

The children have settled back into school very well this term and have been working hard.

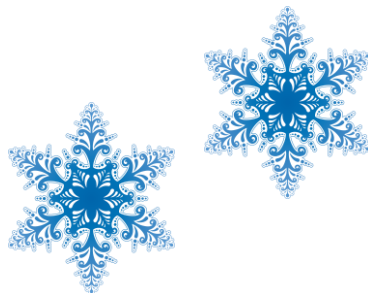
So far this term, the children have taken part in the Young Voices event at the O2, taken part in workshops about The Great Fire of London and World War II, and the children in EYFS had a visit from the Police and paramedics!

There is lots more to look forward to in the weeks ahead – hopefully this will also include some warmer weather!

Kind regards,

T. Gobell

Miss T Gobell
Headteacher



ABSENCE



Attendance

The Government is continuing its drive to improve school attendance, making good school attendance a priority. The Government is placing more and more emphasis on parents ensuring their children attend school regularly and expects schools and Local Authorities to take ever more robust steps to reduce absence levels. This includes issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for continuously condoned parental absence and the taking of holidays during term-time.

Overall attendance so far for the year 2025/26: 95.3% (nationally, primary school attendance is 94.7%)

Best Class Attendance:

Well done to Jemison Class (week ending 9th January 2025) – 99%

Well done to Newton Class (week ending 16th January 2025) – 100%

Well done to Nightingale Class (week ending 23rd January 2025) – 100%



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Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Lucas Yu in Thunberg Class who recently won the U9 tournament and was runner-up in the U10 tournament at his Tennis Club's annual Junior Championships. Lucas has also participated at local and county level in LTA tournaments, winning at Avenue Tennis in Gillingham and placing second at a county tournament in Newport, Wales – Lucas has now been selected to play for the Kent County U9 Training Squad. Finally, Lucas has also recently earned a distinction in his ABRSM Grade 4 piano exam – amazing achievements, Lucas!



Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set for the next few weeks:

A full list of dates for the full year has been emailed to all parents and carers. Please contact the school office if you have not received this.

- Monday 2nd February – National storytelling Week begins
- Wednesday 4th February – EYFS Chinese New Year workshop
- Monday 9th February – FODS Coffee Morning at 9:00am
- Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 11th February – FODS meeting at 7pm
- Friday 13th February - **End of Term 3**
- Monday 23rd February – **Start of Term 4**

Super Star Corner

Well done to Henry Martin in Nightingale Class, who has achieved his 200m swimming badge and to Peter Martin in Newton Class, who has achieved his first swimming badge after starting lessons in September – great news!



Value Points

All of the children have been working hard to uphold our school values of Honesty, Kindness, Perseverance, Friendship and Respect.

Winning House (week ending 9th January) – Peridot House! ★

Winning House (week ending 16th January) – Topaz and Peridot House ★

Winning House (week ending 23rd January) – Peridot House ★



Parking Issues: Once again, our neighbours in the community have been raising complaints about inconsiderate parking both before and after school. This includes parking in resident parking bays and parking across junctions (also making it very dangerous for the children attempting to cross the road). The issues have been reported to the local police and there will be periodic visits to monitor the situation, with penalty notices being issued where required. Additionally, some drivers are leaving their cars idling with the engines running, including whilst parked in our visitor parking bays, when waiting for their children at the end of the day. This causes a huge build-up of fumes for pedestrians and children walking past – this is hazardous to people's health so please turn off your engines whilst waiting to collect children.

Super Star Corner

Well done to Felita Rachel Kurian in Galileo class, who has won the silver medal in the under 12 girls' singles category and the bronze medal in the under 14 girls' doubles category at the Kent Future Badminton Tournament – an amazing outcome Felita.



Young Voices at the O2

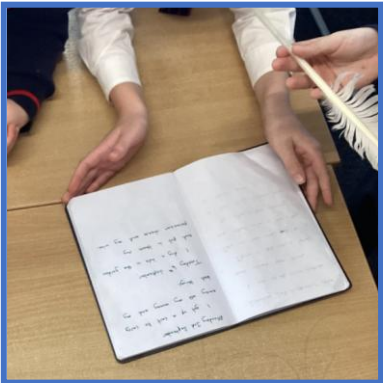
Our Key Stage Two Choir travelled to the London O2 Arena on Monday 19th January to participate in the Young Voices 2026 Concert. We joined with more than eight thousand other children to form a huge YV Choir and sang a fantastic selection of specially-written songs and medleys! This year, we were very lucky to be seated in a priority hospitality suite, which had comfortable seats and an excellent view of the stage (even if it was quite high!). Some of the other moments that made this year's concert memorable were singing 'Shackles (Praise You)', 'Something Inside So Strong' and 'It Must Be Love' with the special guest singers. The Choir were especially excited to sing 'Power in Me' – a Young Voices 'anthem' and a regular hit in our Music Assemblies in school. One member of the choir said that whenever they sing this song at school, it will remind them of their amazing Young Voices experience. The parents and families who were able to come and watch the concert also had a fantastic time. One parent mentioned that it was fantastic for the students to be part of such a wonderful opportunity and commented 'You should be very proud of your students in the choir'. It was so exciting for the children to perform in an event of this scale and the experience will stay in their memories for a lifetime. Well done to all the children who represented our school brilliantly and sang confidently – we are very proud!



Year Two News

Year 2 took part in a fantastic interactive workshop all about The Great Fire of London. During the day, all of the children took part in constructing a model of London in 1666. Through role-play, they brought to life the events of the Great Fire and attempted to put out the fire in the same ways that they did in 1666.

The children also took part in three additional activities, one of which was a multi-sensory handling activity with 'Samuel Pepys', including exploring foods and spices of the period, looking at burnt materials, studying newspapers and a diary and grinding ingredients to make fake gunpowder. Everyone had a brilliant day.



Super Star Corner

Well done to Alisa Alciauskas in Galileo Class, who has participated in the Future Cheer Essentials South 2026 cheerleading competition. Alisa was a member of two teams (U10 and U14), both of which came first in their age categories, with the U10 team also being crowned the Champions in their division - a great achievement, Alisa!



Congratulations to Esmail Patel in Nightingale Class, who recently competed in her first gymnastics competition and won the silver medal in her group – great news, Esmail!

