



**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**

**Principal Comments**

What a fantastic first week back we have had. The pupils have been amazingly well behaved and really enthusiastic. The whole school is learning about space and it shows. Every classroom is its own galaxy. The ceilings and walls are decorated with stars and planets and the pupils have been really keen to share the stories they are planning. I was in awe of the home learning brought in too. There have been some absolutely stunning examples of 3D projects and examples of creativity across the school. Thank you all so much for enriching your children's learning experience in this way. It really has had a notable impact.

Thank you to all those who completed the recent parent surveys. We had over 120 responses and a tremendous amount of support too. It was very clear from the surveys that the new curriculum and assessment procedures the government have introduced remain unclear. I will be presenting an information session next **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** to help clear the fog! A letter will go out this week.

I hope you have managed to check out our new website. We have launched the site and we think it looks great! There will of course be some teething issues with it but it is now also mobile friendly. Please do give us some feedback on improvements we could make.

As part of our journey into multimedia, we have also created a Facebook page. This is new territory for us so please do share some thoughts on what you would like posted on it. I want it to be a tool for us to keep you up to date on any changes to dates, timings of clubs and events and other news. We will also be using it to post successes and celebrations of the school such as some of the home learning projects I've seen! So that we can keep you all informed of the school's activities and maintain a healthy channel of communication, I strongly urge you to use the site for celebration and constructive feedback. All comments will be monitored and responded to. As a community, we are all responsible for the fair and appropriate use of this page. In order to keep it a safe and friendly site, any misuse of the site should be reported immediately so that it can be dealt with appropriately and maintain the integrity of the Facebook page.

As we may wish to post celebratory pictures of school events, curriculum exhibitions and excellent work from the pupils, I will be sending an important letter out with an opportunity for you to refuse consent for the school to use your child's name, photo or work in any form of digital or public media such as newspapers. Of course we want to share everyone's successes but will fully understand and support you should you choose to not give consent. If you are unsure about this then please do come and see us so that we can talk you through the precautions we take to ensure our high standards of safeguarding. In the meantime, enjoy our new website, celebrate your child's school on Facebook and wish us luck with our social media journey!

**Secondary Selection**

If your child is in Year 6, you will be notified on Tuesday afternoon (1st March) after 4.00 pm if you applied on line and on Wednesday (2nd March), if you applied by paper application.

If you have any queries/concerns regarding the administration of the process, please see Mrs. Gardiner.

If you wish to appeal against the school your child has been offered, please make an appointment with the school office to speak with Mr. Bird, who will be able to offer advice and help guide you through the process. Thank you.

**Themes for our Assembly**

As you know, our school has a church foundation and this means we give particular importance to the collective worship part of assembly.

During lent, we are focusing on kindness and how important it is to use it as motivation.

It is like building your house on solid foundations as explained in one of Jesus' parables.

**Dogs on School Site**

If you bring your dog into the school grounds, could we request that you keep your dog on a short lead. We have had one or two instances of late where dogs have started pulling and barking to get to each other and this has frightened the children. A few of the dogs were on retractable leads. Thank you for your support.

**Sports Discount Card**

This week your child will be arriving home with a sports discount card. This card will allow them to access a range of clubs/facilities in the Shepway area at a discounted price or even for free! Some of the clubs that are listed are offering multiple free sessions to give children a taster of a particular sport. This will allow your child to have the opportunity to try new sports or try an alternative of something they perhaps already do. It is important that they take this card with them when they go to the session, as discount will only be allowed when this card is produced.

For more information and for a list of participating clubs, please see:

[www.shepwaysportstrust.org/sportdiscountcard](http://www.shepwaysportstrust.org/sportdiscountcard)

### **Space Poem (by Harry Smith Cedar)**

Autumn, winter, summer and spring,  
We don't have the seasons says the alien king!  
I live on a spaceship in the night sky,  
I'm a tiny little alien knight as small as a fly!  
Even though our type are as small as flies,  
We shall eat any prey at any size!  
Our mouths are as big as a Gulper eel's,  
With a mouth like that, they are tasty meals.  
We don't like being as small as bugs,  
Because when we're in love, we can't give love hugs.  
With our little chubby legs, we can't go far,  
And lots and lots of us want to reach for a star!



Look at the North Star, that's where we are,  
On a tiny little planet covered in tar.  
All of our animals are scattered around,  
On teeny tiny islands covered in ground.  
Like to stare into the abyss,  
As a meteor comes by and makes a near miss!  
We're not just aliens covered in muck,  
Our bedrooms must be in the dark.

Luckily our lives aren't just about sadness,  
Badness, cruelty, and crazy madness.  
There's a little bit of joy and a little bit of happy,  
No need to feel bad and no need to be snappy!  
There is always room for the great brand new,  
Stranger, villain, hero and you!

### **Holiday Club**

Wow, what an amazing week we had at holiday club in the half term holiday. On Monday, the Junk Orchestra came into school and the children made their own instruments from recycled yoghurt pots, water/drink bottles, tins and tubs. They also got to play some ready made junk instruments, as well as forming their own bands and playing the instruments that they had made.

On Tuesday, we started the day with a walk to the cinema to see Alvin & the Chipmunks 'Road Chip' and then back to school to make cakes and calendars and a bit of sport.

On Wednesday, we spent the whole day at the Sports Centre, where we were able to play foot golf, go tobogganing, exercise in the gym and play sports in the hall. We had a really exhausting day and then the long walk back to school!!

So on Thursday we had the whole day in school but it wasn't a relaxing day by any means. We made cakes, pizzas, calendars, jewellery and best of all the bungee run and batak. The weather wasn't so good but it certainly didn't spoil the day. At lunchtime, we played a game of 'Family Fortunes', just what do the children do before they come to school? We had some very interesting answers!!

Finally, Friday and to finish off the week, we visited the Blue Reef Aquarium in Hastings, where the children were still excited about 'Finding Nemo'. We then made our way up to the Smugglers Adventure and into some very dark caves. A very exciting week, which we couldn't believe went so quick.

However, none of this would have been possible without the willing staff who gave up their holiday to help run the holiday club week, so a very big THANK YOU to Mrs. Errington, Mrs. Milton, Mr. Wright, Mr. Gowing, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. O'Connor.

