



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

2nd April 2026

This Week

We have enjoyed a wonderful end to the term here at Ightham Primary School.

We've been working closely with Starfish Malawi over the past few weeks to launch an exciting new project: **Growing Together – Sharing Knowledge, Seeds and Friendship**. This is more than just a project—it's a shared journey connecting two schools across two continents. Over the coming months, we'll be learning alongside our partner school, Thugulu Primary School in Malawi, as we explore how we both grow, learn and live. From classrooms to gardens, we'll be getting hands-on with the real science of farming—comparing weather patterns, measuring rainfall, testing soil, and discovering how different environments shape plant life. Back at school, we will be starting our own allotments! Last week, Starfish Malawi visited us to introduce the project and give pupils a glimpse into farming life in Malawi. We can't wait to start sharing our stories with Thugulu. **WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!** To fully engage in this exciting project, we need to prepare our school allotment areas. We will be hosting a **Lend a Hand Community Garden Morning** on Wednesday **15th April from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**. We would be very grateful for any help you can offer with weeding, clearing, and preparing the vegetable patches for the children to use next term with bacon sandwiches and tea/coffee to all who come along to lend a hand.

The 2026 Book Fair has been a fantastic success! Many children purchased books and stationery, which has helped us raise funds to buy new books for the school. A big thank you to Mrs Phillips and Ms Fisher for their dedication in organising and running the fair each day.

Thank you also to everyone who joined us for the Easter service at the church. The children performed the Easter story with wonderful energy and enthusiasm. We are grateful to all the adults who supported the children in learning their lines, songs, and making props. A special thank you goes to Mrs Black for her incredible energy and commitment in bringing the Easter story to life.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and a restful holiday.

Best wishes, Ms Earl





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Acorn Class

This week we have loved learning all about Easter! We used card and paint to create our own split pin chicks and have loved using our imaginations to collage our own chicks, eggs and Easter Bunnies! We have learnt a song all about a 'Spring Chicken' and have loved singing this everyday! In maths, we have used mini Easter eggs to practise our adding skills, the children are getting very good at writing numbers!

Pine Class

Despite it being a short week, we have packed so much into our learning! The children have completed their work on length and height in Maths by learning how to measure in centimetres, and they thoroughly enjoyed using rulers to measure a range of different objects. In English, we have been writing recounts about our recent trip to London; the children's writing has been wonderful, and they were all excited to share their favourite moments from the visit. The highlight of the week has certainly been Design and Technology, where we made smoothies. Everyone had great fun chopping up fruits and vegetables and using the food processor to create some delicious and healthy drinks!



Chestnut Class

It has been another fabulous week in Year 2 and a great end to a marvellous term! In English the children have completed their narratives about Jack and Jill and the progress in their writing has been great to see. In reading we have been looking at some additional texts alongside The Sun and the Wind, we have looked at a diary extract and an information text about the Sun and the planets. In maths we completed our temperature, capacity and volume units. In geography, following our unit the children decided whether they would rather live in a hot or cold country (or a temperate county like ours!). There has been another fabulous art project completed with Mrs. Brown this week. We finished the week with an exciting show performed by Year 3 and 4 and an Easter Egg hunt in our marvellous grounds.



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Willow Class

Year 3 have enjoyed a busy and creative final week of term. Much of our time has been spent preparing for the Easter Service, including the impressive task of making 90 palm leaves! We also explored the story of Passover, during which the children were excited to try matzo, but then concluded it was quite dry! In Science, we finished our unit on forces, whilst in English finished writing, edited and publishing our instructions for an Easter card. Finally, we concluded our maths unit on mass and capacity.

Elm Class

We have been diary writing this week, using expressive and emotive language. The children have mastered reported speech and enjoyed finding idioms and colloquialisms too. In Maths, we have been delving deeper into decimals, using manipulatives to help us understand hundredths.

We have continued to rehearse the play and it has been wonderful to see the children embracing their roles and rising to the challenge of performing. The children have been so kind and supportive to each other and this has been so lovely to see.

In Geography, we have used digital maps to explore the human features of countries in Europe. All this, and it's only Wednesday!

Beech Class

This week, Beech class have finished their CUSP reading book – 'I am not a label' by Cerrie Burnell.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading this anthology, which examines the lives of a range of disabled artists, athletes, scientists and activists from across the generations. The author's motivation is to ensure that people with a disability are represented in children's literature.

In maths we have completed the unit on decimals and percentages, and the children learnt how to represent these on a 100 bead rekenrek.

The children have worked extremely hard this term and are looking forward to a well-deserved Easter break!



Pupil Achievements

Cross Country

Well done to the children who took part in the Sevenoaks Cross Country event on Monday. It was a challenging course with a large number of participants but they all ran well and finished the course. We are really proud of how well they represented the school.

Art Work

Brooke in Year 4 has had her artwork shortlisted in the Young Artists 2026 awards and her work is currently in the YA exhibition at Maidstone museum. We are exceptionally proud of her achievement. It would be great if parents/families who are in the area could pop in for visitors vote and submit a vote towards her work. The work will be displayed until the beginning of June.



Pupil Achievements

Spring Poem

by Olivia in Year 4

Spring is the time for new beginnings,
Spring is the time for winter to stop grinning.
Spring is when animals awaken from hibernation,
And birds come back from a vacation,
Spring is for meadows of hope to start blooming.

And the figure of moan and groan
seizes its looming.

Park parades, tree takeover, happiness is home,
And I am free to run and roam.

Van of joy delivers ice cream to all,
Fizzy lemonade, refreshing and cold.

Sun spraying beams of love and hope,
Like a rope heaving us up, making sure we cope.

Daffodils cover acres and acres,
And bring cheerfulness to the greedy takers.

Bees pollinate from each flower,
And make yummy honey, that is a wow-er!

And all these smiles create a tower,
which we call spring!

And we bring others under our wings.

Spring!



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Oak Class

This week, Year 6 Oak have been busy crafting their own reflection stories, drawing on descriptive language and thoughtful themes to bring their writing to life. In maths, we have continued to revise fractions, strengthening our confidence with comparing, ordering, and calculating. Our science lesson saw us investigating electrical circuits, exploring how components function and how circuits can be changed to achieve different effects. In RE, we explored the key question: "Why might Christians need to stand up for their beliefs?", considering real-life examples and discussing the importance of courage and conviction.

Wig Walk for Caron

In memory of Caron Pullinger, who was a much beloved parent and a member of staff at Ightham Primary School, there will be a "Wig Walk for Caron" on Saturday 23rd May. It will start at the Recreation Ground with a 5K or 10K walk to choose from followed by a picnic, with a suggested donation of £5 going to Breast Cancer Research. Further details will follow but please save the date if interested.

You can also help raise money by donating online https://www.justgiving.com/team/ighthamwigwalk?utm_medium=TE&utm_source=EM

School Uniform

We would greatly appreciate your continued support in reinforcing the uniform expectations so that, together, we maintain the high standards we value at Ightham. Please ensure that you are familiar with the Uniform Policy, particularly the PE uniform, as we will be monitoring this after the Easter break.

Governor 200 Club

The winners of the March draw are:

1st - Jean Stirk, £9.00

2nd - Hugh Stirk, £5.40

Egg Raffle

The winner of the Egg Raffle, kindly run by the governors, was Ethan in Year 1. Well done!



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Awards and Certificates

The **Gold Cup** was awarded to:

Albert in Year 4

The **Courtesy Cup** was awarded to:

Isobelle in Year 5

The **Endeavour Shield** was awarded to

Willow in Year 6

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Acorn Class— Riley and Rosie

Pine Class—Toby

Chestnut Class—Grayson and Felix

Willow Class—Theo and Aelwen

Elm Class—Max and Robin

Beech Class—Grace and Millie

Oak Class— Flo and Philip

Maple Ready Award was presented to Chestnut Class.

The **Forest School Recognition** badges were awarded to:

Freddie T in Year 5

Roux in Year 1

Congratulations to all!

PSA

Have a lovely Easter break. Don't forget the sponsored read! Form attached. The class that raises the most will get a prize!

Upcoming events

Easter holiday - Sponsored Read/Activity (sponsorship form attached)

26th April - London Marathon (sponsorship link attached)

TBC - Break the Rules day

TBC - School Disco

3rd June - Bags2school

11th July - Ightham Summer Fair

Could you give up a couple of hours, once a month to come to PSA meetings? We meet roughly 8 times a year to discuss fundraising ideas and spending.

If you would like to come to a meeting and see if it floats your boat then please email chair@ighthampta.com or just turn up!

Team PSA

House Points

The House Points accumulated this term:

Mote	Chartwell	Knole	Oldbury
15	19	13	13

The winners this week were Mote. Chartwell are the overall winners for the term and can wear own clothes on Friday 24th April. Well done!



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School Calendar

Term 1: 1st September – 17th October

Term 2: 27th October - 19th December

Term 3: 5th January – 13th February

Term 4: 23rd February – 2nd April

Term 5: 20th April – 22nd May

Term 6: 1st June – 21st July

Inset Days:

1st September 2025

2nd September 2025

3rd November 2025

19th December 2025

1st June 2026

Upcoming dates

20th April Start of term—clubs start this week

23rd April Year 6 swimming starts

23rd April Year 2 Ightham Mote Partnership gardening afternoon

23rd April Year 5 Creative writing workshop

4th May Bank Holiday

5th May Year 4 Community afternoon

7th May Year 2 Ightham Mote Partnership gardening afternoon

11th—14th May KS2 SATs

19th May Year 6 trip to The Science Museum

20th May Year R trip to The Rare Breeds Centre

22nd May Year 5 trip to Herstmonceux

22nd May Last day of term

1st June Inset Day

Attendance and Lateness We are expecting attendance of 96% or above. The attendance for this week is:

Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole School	National
97.2%	97.9%	96%	94.8%	91%	96%	97%	95.7%	94.9%

Number of lates	Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole School
	2	2	0	0	0	2	3	9

It is important that the children attend school every day. If you are unsure if your child is well enough to attend school, please look at the NHS guidance. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>