



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

4th September 2026



This Week

What a fantastic start to the new academic year!

The children have returned looking exceptionally smart in their uniforms and have settled quickly into

school life with positive attitudes towards their learning. The atmosphere around the school has been calm, purposeful and happy, and it has been wonderful to welcome back the energy and enthusiasm that the children bring each day.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Reception children and their families. The children have settled remarkably well and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their wonderful classroom and outdoor learning environment. We are delighted to have them as part of our school community.



Over the past week, each class has worked together to create a Class Vision that will guide them throughout the year. These visions reflect the values, aspirations and expectations that we share as a school and will help to foster a positive learning environment in every classroom. The children have also begun learning about their class pioneer, finding out how these inspiring individuals demonstrate our school values through their actions and

achievements. In addition, the children were exemplary during our first fire drill of the year, responding calmly and sensibly throughout.

I am also extremely pleased that our Ofsted report has now been published. We are delighted that the inspection recognised the strength of our provision, with strong outcomes achieved across all areas. The latest national performance data places us within the top 15% of schools nationally. Under the new Ofsted framework, while many schools have achieved a Strong Standard in individual areas, only a small proportion have been recognised as achieving a Strong or Exceptional Standard across all seven areas. This is a significant achievement and one of which our whole school community can be immensely proud. It reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment of our staff, governors, children and families, all working together to provide the very best opportunities for every child. Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend. Best wishes, Ms Earl





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School Responsibilities

I am pleased to announce the following children have been given whole school responsibilities:

School Ambassadors: (Autumn Term)

Theo and Ibby

House Captains and Vice Captains:

Chartwell—Gabriel (C) and Sofia (VC)

Knole—Malachy (C) and Nevie (VC)

Mote—Miles (C) and Harrison (VC)

Oldbury—Alex (C) and Esme (VC)

School Council, Eco Council and Science Ambassadors will be announced shortly.

Congratulations to all!



Acorn Class

We have had a fantastic first week at school! We are so proud of how well the children have settled in. We have been busy learning the new rules and routines of school and having fun making new friends! The children have loved exploring the outdoor area and have been very busy completing the learning challenges in the classroom. The children are all very excited to try the yummy school lunches next week!





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Pine Class

We are so proud of Pine Class and the fantastic start they have made to Year 1! The children have settled into school brilliantly, learning new routines, getting to know their new teachers, and becoming familiar with their classroom environment. In English, we have been reading *The Dot* and completing some wonderful writing inspired by the story. We have been incredibly impressed with how beautifully the children are forming their letters, remembering finger spaces, and using capital letters and full stops in their work. To support our learning, we created our own dot paintings, experimenting with big dots, small dots, rainbow dots, and even mixing colours to create new shades. We have also been learning about our class pioneer, Charles Darwin, and have explored how he was patient and curious about the world around him. Just like Charles Darwin, the children showed these important qualities while completing their own observational drawings. What a fantastic start to the year, Pine Class. We cannot wait to see all the amazing learning that lies ahead!

Chestnut Class

It has been wonderful to get to know the year 2 pupils better this week. I have had lots of fun and I hope the children have too! In English, the children have used their imaginations to create a piece of writing about what they didn't do on their summer holidays! From riding angry, green dragons to flying rocket ships to the moon, I could see their ideas whizzing around the room! We have also reminded ourselves about our sentence structure and rules. In maths we have recapped some year 1 place value before beginning our new year 2 modules on Monday. In PE, the children worked on their fundamental movement and football skills. There are some future Harry Kanes and Chloe Kellys in the making! We have also spent some time learning about Lionel Lukin, our class pioneer, whose ideas paved the way to the creation of safer boats and the introduction of the RNLI. I am looking forward to next week already where we will begin our history and science topics along with lots more!

Willow Class

It has been a fantastic week in Year 3! We have been learning about Amelia Scott, a local pioneer who was a suffragette and campaigned for women to have the right to vote. In Maths, we have started learning about place value and exploring the value of digits in numbers. We have also begun reading *Greta and the Giants*, which we are really enjoying. To finish the week, we proudly elected our School Council, Eco Council and Science Ambassadors, giving lots of children the opportunity to take on important responsibilities within our school community. We are really proud of all our Year 3s for making such a fantastic start to the year!



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Elm Class

We have kicked off year 4 with a bang this week. Elm class have been busy discussing the year ahead and all that we have to look forward to. We had an afternoon learning about our class pioneer Katherine Rundell and inspired by her book 'Impossible Creatures' decided to create some creatures of our own. We can't wait to read the story and find out what happens. We have also started our maths and English curriculum. Learning about numbers up to 1000 in maths and refreshing our memory on sentence breaks, proper nouns and word forms in English. We also started our reading book 'The Queen's Nose' which the children are very excited to explore further. We have been working really hard this week and have settled in beautifully to what promises to be an exciting year of learning!

Beech Class

The children have had a wonderful first week in Year 5! They have enjoyed sharing their holiday news and catching up with friends. Routines have been introduced and we have started our first CUSP reading book of the year – 'Shackleton's Journey' which the children are enjoying. Our 'problem solving' maths lesson was met with enthusiasm and resilience – it was lovely to see the children working so well together. We have learnt about our class pioneer – Felicity Aston, and designed posters to share our knowledge. We have also considered which school values we feel are important and we should have. The children are looking forward to their first Forest School session next week!

Oak Class

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the year and have quickly settled into the routines and expectations of Year 6. We have created our class vision, learnt about our class Pioneer, William Harvey, and explored how our brains learn, including the important role of neurons in forming new connections. A great start to an exciting year ahead!



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PSA

Welcome back! Or just welcome to those new reception parents, glad to have you here.

We had a record breaking fundraising year last year and raised over £21,000. Thank you to everyone who donated in every way, time and/or money. It is truly appreciated.

Last academic year the money we raised paid for;

£2,100 Class donations for school supplies

£480 Reception class display panels

£535 Forest school canopy

£213 15 headphones and chargers

£601 Roman Britain workshop

£513 Viking workshop

£126 Multi sport games table for ASC

£865 Sensory room equipment

£514 Plants & compost for Science week

£400 Contribution to Science Week bus costs

£2,189 Workshops and kit for Science week

£1,680 Malawi day - cooking, singing, music & craft

£784 Playground equipment

£1,532.64 Jumbo moveable display boards

£334 Lab coats, magnifying glass and gloves for science

£130 Storage container for hard court

And £3,600 has been set aside to help pay towards the increased cost of travel for swimming lessons 26/27.

Our school gets limited funding from the government so the money the PSA raises is hugely important to advance our children's education and enhance their day to day life at school.

Dates for the diary

29th sept Bags2school

Upcoming events (dates tbc)

School disco, Film night, Family Quiz night, Christmas Elfridges

Team PSA

Awards and Certificates

The **Gold Cup** was awarded to: Freddie T

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Acorn Class—certificates start soon!

Pine Class—Iris & Elwood

Chestnut Class— Jasper & Primrose

Willow Class—Harry & Grace

Elm Class— Thea & Maddox

Beech Class—Harvey & Penelope

Oak Class— Oliver M & Sofia

Maple Ready Award was presented to Oak Class

Well done to all!

House Points

The House Points accumulated this term:

Mote	Chartwell	Knole	Oldbury
1	2	4	3

Well done to Knole House who had the most House Points this week .



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School Calendar

2026-2027

Term 1: 1st September-19th October

Term 2: 2nd November—18th December

Term 3: 4th January— 12th February

Term 4: 22nd February—25th March

Term 5: 12th April—28th May

Term 6: 7th June—23rd July

Inset days:

27th & 28th August

2nd November

4th January

7th June

Upcoming dates

7th September Activity Clubs start

9th September Meet the teacher 3:30-4:00 or 4:00-4:30

10th September Kent Selection Tests (Year 6)

10th September Year 2 swimming

11th September Roald Dahl Day

15th September Rock Steady Workshop

16th September School Values meeting , 9:00am, school hall.

17th September Year 4 swimming starts

24th September Open Books 3:20-4:00pm

1st October KS2 Harvest Service, St Peter's Church, 9:15am

2nd October KS1 Harvest assembly, 9:00, school hall

5th October Year 6 Community Afternoon

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

100Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole School	National
94.8%	100%	98.28%	100%	99.43%	98.89%	100%	98.6%	94.5%

Number of lates	Acorn	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Elm	Beech	Oak	Whole
	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2

It is important that the children attend school every day. If you 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/>