



Newsletter - No 1

14th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and to the start of Term 1!

It has been wonderful to welcome our children back after the summer break and to see the excitement with which they have returned. A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Reception children, as well as the pupils who have joined us in Years 1, 4 and 5. We are delighted that you are now part of our school family, and I know that our staff and children will do everything they can to help you feel happy, settled and welcome.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Stapleton, the newest member of our support staff team. Mrs Stapleton is working in Reception alongside Mrs Folkard and Mrs Carrá and has already settled in brilliantly with our youngest children. In addition, while she is certainly no stranger to our school community, I would like to officially welcome Mrs Newton as the newest member of our teaching staff. It is wonderful to have Mrs Newton in our teaching team, and I know that Year 4 have enjoyed a fantastic start to the year with her.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in helping the children return to school so positively. It has been lovely to see children arriving promptly each morning, dressed smartly in the correct uniform and equipped with everything they need for the school day.

As the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year, we kindly ask that all children bring a coat to school every day so that they can remain comfortable during outdoor playtimes. Please also ensure that all uniform, coats and other belongings are clearly named.

Please take some time to read through this newsletter and visit our school website for further information and key dates for the months ahead. We have an exciting term ahead, including class assemblies, Harvest Festival celebrations, Parents' Evenings and many other opportunities for us to come together as a school community. We look forward to welcoming you into school throughout the term and sharing these special events with you.

Best wishes,

Mrs Thompson and All the Staff

Beginning of Year Mass



Thank you to those who attended our Beginning of Year Mass on Friday. For the first Mass of the year, Year 6 took the lead with the readings and prayers. Well done to Year 6 and to Jeevan who was also serving for this Mass.

Meet the Teacher Meetings



Thank you to those who have managed to attend our Meet the Teacher meetings so far this term, or who are planning to attend the remaining meetings this week. If you are unable to attend, please be assured that we will share the slides via the Class Pages on our Website for you to be able to access.

We hope that you find these meetings helpful, but please feel free to contact school if you have any further questions or wish to speak to the class teacher directly.

Attendance and Timings



A reminder that our school gates now open at 8:25am, and all children should be in school and registered by 8:40am to ensure lessons can begin promptly.

Children arriving after 8:40am will be marked as **late** and must report to the school office to be signed in, as classroom registers will have closed.

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to children's learning and wellbeing. If a child is consistently late, we will contact you to discuss how we can work together to improve punctuality and any appropriate next steps.

Thank you for your continued support in helping children arrive at school on time and ready to learn.

Attendance

Persistent and severe absence

Any child with attendance of 90% or below (regardless of the reason for any absences) is considered to be a persistent absentee by the government. This equates to missing ½ a day of school every week. A child with attendance of 50% or below is considered a severe absentee.

Do you know what your child's attendance percentage is?

If your child is persistently or severely absent, the school might organise a meeting to find out what could be causing the absences and what is needed to help make things better. This may result in the creation of an attendance contract or referrals to services such as Early Help and Preventative Services, who may be able to provide your family with additional support.

Advice for schools

The school might also contact the Kent PRU and Attendance Service at Kent County Council for advice and in cases of severe or persistent absence.

All the information covered in this leaflet is available at:

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance

There are 190 days in a school year, which leaves 175 days to spend on whatever you choose.



190 DAYS
100%

Very best chance of success



183 DAYS
96%

Off to a flying start



179 DAYS
94%

Less chance of success



175 DAYS
92%

Harder to make progress



MORE THAN 19 DAYS' ABSENCE
LESS THAN 90%

Persistent absence, not good for your child

Positive attendance for all...



School Attendance: A Guide for Parents & Carers

Kent County Council works closely with schools and other services to promote the regular attendance of children at school.



Mobile Phones



As a reminder, mobile phones are not permitted to be used by pupils during the school day. If a child needs to bring a mobile phone to school because they walk to or from school independently, the phone must be handed to the school office on arrival and collected at the end of the day.

We appreciate parents' support in ensuring that children use mobile phones responsibly and in accordance with our school policy. These arrangements help us maintain a safe, focused and positive learning environment for all pupils.

If you have any questions about our mobile phone procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

School Uniform



A gentle reminder that children should attend school with their **natural hair colour only**. We have recently noticed a few instances of coloured streaks and blocks of colour appearing in hairstyles. While we appreciate children's desire to express themselves, these additions are not permitted under our school uniform policy.

Where possible, long hair should be tied back for school, and this is especially important on PE days and during other practical activities to ensure children's safety and comfort.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that **nail varnish and make-up are not permitted in school** and should be removed before children arrive each day.

For **Forest School**, children should attend in their navy PE kit, including joggers or leggings and a long-sleeved top. Children should also bring suitable footwear, such as trainers or wellington boots, to change into at school. As Forest School takes place outdoors in all seasons, waterproof clothing should be kept in school at all times, as the weather can be unpredictable.

Please remember that, even in warmer weather, **shorts and cropped trousers are not suitable for Forest School activities** due to health and safety requirements. We also ask that any additional jumpers worn for Forest School are **plain navy**, without logos, images or branding.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards and ensure that all children are safe, comfortable and ready to learn.







Link to Hope - Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal



We are delighted to announce that our school will once again be taking part in the **Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal**, supporting vulnerable families and individuals in **Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria**.

Over the coming weeks, information flyers will be sent home with details of how you can support this wonderful initiative and prepare a shoebox donation. The children will also take part in a special assembly, where they will learn more about the appeal and how even small acts of kindness can make a significant difference to the lives of others.

We know how generous our school community is, and we hope that many families will be able to support this worthwhile cause. Every shoebox received helps to bring practical support, comfort and hope to those who need it most.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and continued support. Together, we can make a real difference to families facing challenging circumstances.

Toys and Fidgets



A reminder that **toys, collectible cards (including football cards) and personal fidgets should not be brought into school**. While we understand that many children enjoy sharing their favourite toys and collections with friends, these items can often lead to distractions, disagreements or upset if they are lost, damaged or misplaced.

We would be grateful if you could discuss this with your child and help us by ensuring that such items remain at home.

Where a fidget has been agreed as a support strategy and permission has been given by **Mrs Carrá** or the class teacher, it should be used in line with the agreed arrangements and kept in a safe place when not in use. Approved fidgets should not be taken onto the playground during breaktimes.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a calm, focused and positive learning environment for all children.

Harvest Festival



We are looking forward to celebrating our **Harvest Festival** on **Thursday 22nd October**. Families and friends are very welcome to join us for the celebrations.

- **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:** 9:00am
- **Key Stage 2:** 9:30am

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will once again be collecting donations to support local families through the Rainbow Centre's Food Services. We would be extremely grateful for any contributions and would like to thank you in advance for your generosity. Our school community is always incredibly supportive of these worthwhile causes.

Donations can be brought into school from this week onwards. Suggested items include:

- Coffee
- Instant noodles
- Tinned fish
- Sauces
- Long-life fruit juice cartons
- Cooking oil
- Pasta in sauce packets
- Corned beef
- Large tinned ham
- Custard (long-life, not fresh)
- Biscuits, snacks and chocolate
- Sugar
- Instant mash
- Feminine hygiene products

- Men's deodorant
- Washing-up liquid

If you would prefer to make a financial donation, you can do so via the following JustGiving page:

[justgiving.com/campaign/rainbow-centre-food-services](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rainbow-centre-food-services)

Thank you for your continued kindness and support. Every donation, no matter how small, will help make a difference to those in our local community.

Make Time for Music

Make Time for Music

Bringing Music To Life

🎵 Music Lessons at St Augustines 🎵

New Spaces for September 2026

Expert tuition on: 🎸 **Guitar** | 🎹 **Piano** |

Why Choose Us?

- ✅ **Convenient:** Lessons during school hours.
- ✅ **Affordable:** Spread the cost over 11 months.
- ✅ **Expert:** Not-for-profit, specialist tuition.

Choose Your Pathway:

★ **Group Sessions: £22 / month**

(Perfect for beginners! Add £12 for starter book)

★ **Individual: From £38 / month**

(1-to-1 focus for faster progress, 20min: £38 | 30min: £55)

*30 lessons per academic year

Ready to Start? Scan the QR code or visit or [Click Here](#)

📞 01303 894178

✉ office@maketimeformusic.org

www.maketimeformusic.org

**Start Their
Musical
Journey
Today!**



Does your child want to learn a musical instrument? Make Time for Music are now accepting new applications for Guitar or Piano lessons starting this September! To find out more and to secure a space for the new term, please see the attached flyer or visit maketimeformusic.org¹.

[Children's Commissioner's National Survey](#)

Launch of the Children's Commissioner's National Survey - The Big Future

We invite all schools to support The Big Future, the Children's Commissioner's final national survey, which seeks to capture the views, concerns and ambitions of children and young people across England.

Please share the survey widely with pupils and encourage completion before the deadline of Friday 23 October, to help ensure their voices are heard and reflected in future decision-making: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.²

[Attendance Toadstool](#)



The Attendance Toadstool is a very important aspect of the school team and am sure the children have told you all about it! The class with the highest attendance this week has the honour of having the Attendance Toadstool in their classrooms!

Well done to Year R who have managed an amazing 99.01% attendance for the first week back. Brilliant!

¹<https://maketimeformusic.org/>

²<https://us.list-manage.com/CyNFdfpMA7o?e=e9f80d323b&c2id=341bb5dd10d23c386008ddc3307d8c18>

Special Mentions



Every week in our Friday celebration assembly, staff share their 'special mentions' about specific children who have really impressed them that week. This could be for anything, from kindness and courtesy, to effort with classwork, a sporting achievement or demonstrating one of our values. Please see the list below for the Special Mentions in the last two weeks. If your child's name is listed, please ask them to share with you what this was for.

The Mrs. Knight Award - Knights of the Round Table Award

Every week Mrs. Knight will be awarding a child her special award if she has seen them behave in a particularly kind, and thoughtful way.

Diary Dates



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 20th October - Year 2 Assembly

Tuesday, 20th October - Parents Evening by appointment

Wednesday, 21st October - Parents Evening by appointment

Thursday, 22nd October - 9am - KS1 Harvest Assembly

Thursday, 22nd October - 9.30am - KS2 Harvest Assembly

Friday, 23rd October - INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Monday, 26th-Friday, 30th October - Half-Term Holiday

Monday, 2nd November - Start of Term 2

Thursday, 5th November - All Souls Mass - tbc

Thursday, 12th November - Open Morning

Monday, 7th December - Year R - Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, 8th December - KS1 - Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, 8th December 2.30pm - Year R Performance to Parents

Wednesday, 9th December - 2.00pm - KS1 Performance to Parents

Friday, 11th December - 10am - Advent Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel

Monday, 14th December - Yrs 3-5 Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, 15th December - 1.30pm - Yrs 3-5 Performance to Parents

Tuesday, 5th January - Start of Term 3



TERM TIME CLASSES



HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS



Art Classes

FOR AGES 5-12

Now Booking for Autumn Term 2026

Safari Adventures

- Cheetah with Watercolour
- Safari Tent with Soft Pastels
- Elephants at Sunset with Watercolour & Ink
- Binoculars Still Life with Pencils
- Zebra Print Land Rover with Printing
- Hippo with Acrylic
- Painted Dog with Charcoal
- Edward Saidi Tingatinga Painting with Oil Pastels
- Giraffes with Watercolour Pencils
- Meerkat with Clay



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Harvest Festival

We urgently need the following items



Coffee



Instant Noodles



Tinned Fish



Sauces

- Juice (long life carton)
- Cooking oil
- Pasta in sauce packets
- Corned beef
- Large tinned ham
- Custard (not fresh)
- Biscuits / snacks / chocolate
- Sugar
- Instant mash
- Feminine hygiene pads
- Mens deodorant
- Washing liquid



Folkestone Model Railway Club



Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, CT20 2DZ

Sat 26th & Sun 27th September 2026,

10am- 4.30pm

ADULT (16+): E9, CHILD(5-15): E4, FAMILY: E24

