



Newsletter - No 2 September 2026

28th

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks in school and have already enjoyed a class assembly by Year 1 and Year 5. Both classes shared their learning about their class Saint in creative ways - thank you to both classes and their teachers! This week, we look forward to Year 6's class assembly on Tuesday, as well as Year 3's on Friday. We love welcoming parents and family members into school for these events, and thank you for your support of the children, they love to have you there!

This week, I am also joining Year 5 in attendance at our KCSP Beginning of Year Mass in Aylesford. This is a joyous event every year and we are very much looking forward to being part of the celebration. Some of our children will be involved through reading prayers and representing our school in a procession at the start of the mass.

While we are still settling in our youngest children of the school as Year R settle into school routines and have started to join us for celebration assemblies, we have also welcomed other visitors to our school in our first Open Morning of the year. This was well attended and I would like to thank the Year 6 children for acting as great tour guides for the event. Please see details for further open mornings for prospective parents on our website page: St

Augustine's Catholic Primary School - Visit Our School¹. If you know of anyone interested in visiting for a child starting in Reception in September 2027, or even possibly looking for a change of school for a child in a different year group, please do pass this information on. Private tours are also always available if people contact the office.

Best wishes,

Mrs Thompson and All the Staff

Parents Evenings



Our parents evenings are planned for Tuesday, 20th and Wednesday, 21st October 2026 and we will be sending out the booking schedule very soon so that you can make the necessary bookings to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress to date.

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.

¹<https://www.staugustineshythe.org.uk/Visit-Our-School/>

Medicines



We are now half-way through Term 1 and understand that there are still a number of children who should have medication in school which has not yet been returned with a newly completed form. It may be that your child no longer needs any medication, and so would appreciate an email/letter to that effect for our records.

Medical Forms are available on the school website, but can also be picked up from the school office, so please let us know if you require one. All medicines need to be clearly labelled with your child's name on please, and these are kept in the classroom for ease of use.

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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.

For further information about Attendance, please details of our Thrive Under 5 Campaign and most up-to-date policies and forms on our website: St Augustine's Catholic Primary School - Attendance².

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

²<https://www.staugustineshythe.org.uk/Attendance/>

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.



Friends of St Augustine's School (FOSA) AGM



AGM MEETING

All parents welcome!



Thursday
1st October



6:00pm



At School

Come along to our AGM to find out what we've achieved, meet the team and help shape the future of FoSA.

New faces, fresh ideas,
and lots to look forward to!



Together we support
our school, our children
and our community



Your voice
matters!

The FOSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place at **6:00pm in the school hall on Thursday, 1st October**. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact **Lauren Jones** or **Wynona Kruger**, our current FOSA Chairs, or speak to the school office.

We would also like to remind parents that becoming involved with the PTA can be as little or as much as your circumstances allow. There is no expectation to attend every meeting or event; any support you are able to offer is greatly appreciated and helps make a positive difference to our school community.

Use of Mobile Phones

We are a mobile phone free school. This means that both adults and children are not permitted to use a phone on school site. Therefore, we would like to remind parents that the use of mobile phones within the school grounds is strictly forbidden. Once you come within the school gates we ask that you do not use your phones. We really appreciate your co-operation with this, and is for the safety of our children.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium



Free School Meals

Further to the information shared before the summer holidays regarding changes to Free School Meal eligibility, we would like to remind parents and carers that, if you receive certain benefits, your child may be entitled to Free School Meals.

Applying is quick and easy and can be completed online via **www.kent.gov.uk** by searching for *Free School Meals*. You will receive an instant result, and if your application is successful, the school will be notified automatically so that your child can begin benefiting straight away.

Even if your child is currently in Key Stage 1 and receives **Universal Infant Free School Meals**, it is still important to apply if you believe you may be eligible. A successful application

provides additional funding for the school, helping us to enhance the support and opportunities we can offer all pupils.

If you would like any assistance with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Our team will be happy to help.

Birthday Celebrations



Birthday Celebrations in School

At **St Augustine's**, we have traditionally welcomed children bringing in sweets or treats to share with their classmates on their birthday. These have always been distributed at the end of the school day for children to take home, allowing parents and carers to decide whether they would like their child to enjoy them.

Over recent terms, a number of parents have shared their views about this practice and suggested that the school review its approach. As a school that promotes healthy lifestyles and healthy eating, and in recognition of the wide range of dietary requirements and allergies within our community, we have carefully considered how best to move forward.

We believe that birthdays are special occasions and that every child should feel celebrated on their birthday. We will, of course, continue to recognise children's birthdays in school and

make their day feel special, including celebrating together in class and singing *Happy Birthday*.

Therefore, from **Term 2**, we kindly ask that sweets, chocolates and other birthday treats are no longer brought into school to be shared with classmates.

For families who would still like to mark their child's birthday with the class, we would warmly welcome the donation of a book for the classroom. This could be a new or pre-loved book that other children can enjoy for years to come. If you wish, your child could write a short message inside the cover to commemorate the gift, and the book could be shared with the class on their birthday.

This approach supports our commitment to promoting a love of reading while still providing an opportunity for children to celebrate and contribute something meaningful to their class community. Of course, there is absolutely no expectation for families to bring anything into school.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we introduce this change.

Census Day: 1st October 2026



Why Does Having a School Dinner on Census Day Help Our School?

You may have heard us mention Census Day and encourage children to book a cooked school meal on that day. But why is it so important? The Government uses information collected on Census Day to help calculate the funding schools receive. For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, every infant school meal recorded on Census Day contributes to the funding allocated to the school. By choosing a hot school dinner on Census Day, you are helping to ensure that our school receives the funding it is entitled to. This funding supports all of our pupils by helping us to provide resources, equipment and enriching opportunities that enhance children's learning and experiences in school.

Even if your child usually has a packed lunch, booking a school dinner for Census Day can make a real difference. Children can return to their packed lunch routine the following day if they wish.

Thank you for your support. By ordering a school meal on Census Day, you are helping us maximise funding for the benefit of all our children.

Lunches for school census day can be booked in the usual way via ParentMail.



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.

PE shorts should also be either cycling shorts or loose football style shorts, both of appropriate length for school. Please note, **Nike Pro type shorts are not permitted** uniform and parents will be contacted if children are coming to school in shorts of this style, as the length is not appropriate for school.

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.

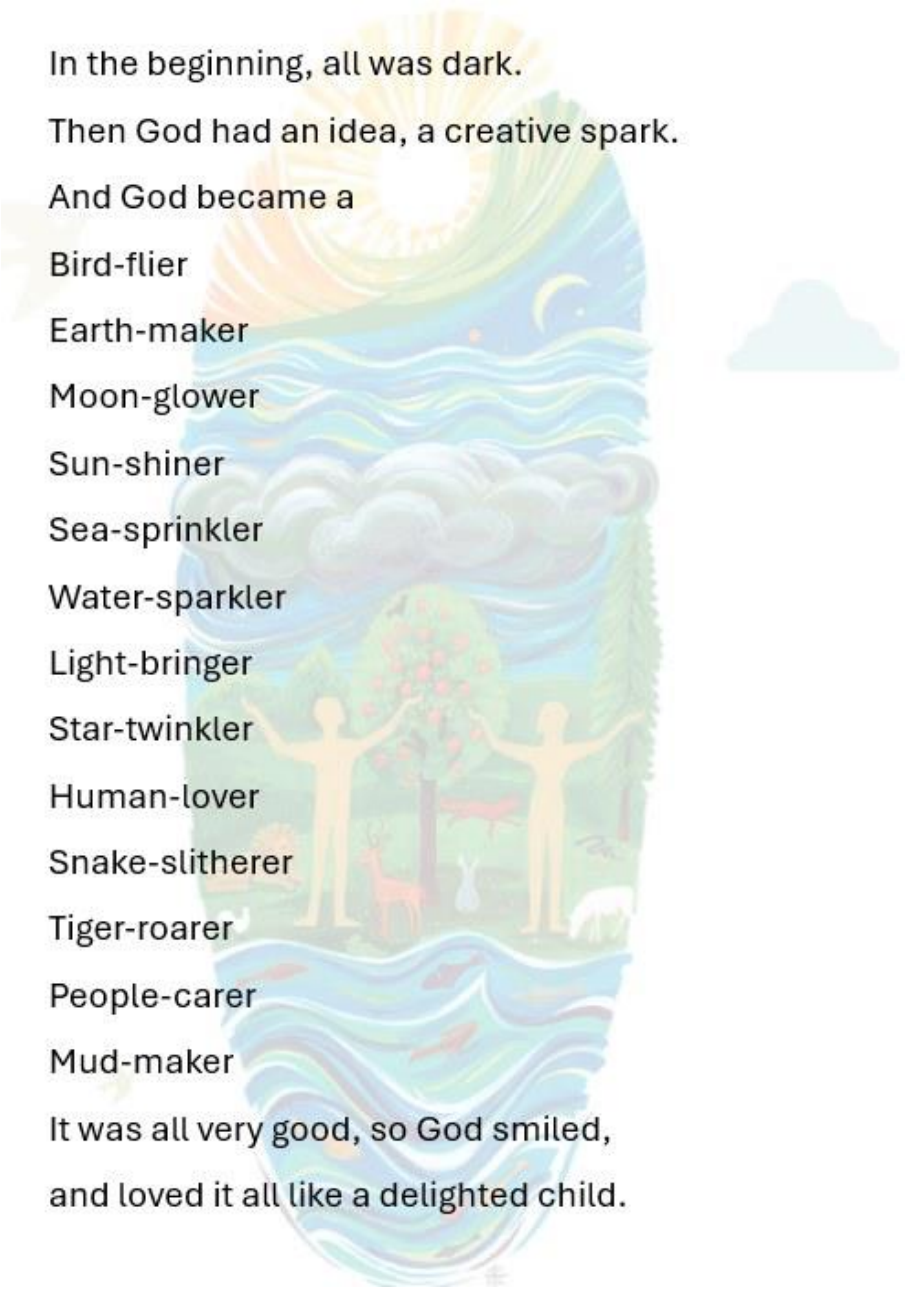
Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards and ensure that all children are safe, comfortable and ready to learn.







Creation Poem - Year 1



In the beginning, all was dark.
Then God had an idea, a creative spark.
And God became a
Bird-flier
Earth-maker
Moon-glower
Sun-shiner
Sea-sprinkler
Water-sparkler
Light-bringer
Star-twinkler
Human-lover
Snake-slitherer
Tiger-roarer
People-carer
Mud-maker
It was all very good, so God smiled,
and loved it all like a delighted child.

In RE this week, Year 1 created their own lovely poem inspired by a Kennings word pair poem for creation. We used the introduction and conclusion sentence from the original, but the word pairs were made completely independently by the children. It's so lovely and the children were so proud of themselves and we felt that this should be shared with the wider school community.

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, Fidgets and trading cards



To help maintain a calm, focused and positive learning environment, we kindly ask that **toys, collectible cards (including football cards) and personal fidgets are not brought into school.** While we understand that children often enjoy sharing their favourite items with friends, these can sometimes become a distraction to learning or lead to disagreements and upset if they are lost, damaged or misplaced.

We would be grateful if you could discuss this with your child and support us by ensuring that these 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 accordance with the agreed arrangements and stored safely when not in use. Please note that approved fidgets should not be taken onto the playground during breaktimes.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a positive, orderly and productive environment where all children can thrive.

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.

[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>**.³

[Attendance Toadstool](#)



³<https://us.list-manage.com/CyNFdfpMA7o?e=e9f80d323b&c2id=341bb5dd10d23c386008ddc3307d8c18>

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 5** who achieved a fabulous **99.58%** attendance for last week and to **Year R** who have managed an amazing **99.26%** attendance for this week. Brilliant!

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.

Friday, 18th September 2026

Special Mentions:

Year R: Whole Class - settling in so well and working hard. Jaxson K for coping so well and overcoming his fears

Year 1: Ada L - settling in so well and already being an incredible friend. Whole Class for settling in to Year 1 so well.

Year 2: All of Year 2 for welcoming and supporting Mrs. Folkard in her new role as part-time Year 2 teacher

Year 3: Abel - great work, always perfect attitude to his learning and a great friend. Raphael - brilliant role model

Year 4: Vienna D - joining in so well for English and meeting all the learning objectives. Charlotte G for her independent work and always being a good friend to everyone in class.

Year 5: Frankie H - for trying hard and always giving his best. Daisy B - working really hard and settling in so well in a new class

Year 6: Elizabeth G for great work and patience in science. Bella C and Dolores A - always working hard and doing their best.

Catholic Social Teaching Focus: Common Good and Participation

Year R: Esther J - for joining in with all the class so work. Abyaan A - for being the kindest friend to everyone - adults and children alike, and for having such lovely manners.

Year 1: Stewardship - Nora C, Esme W, Indie L, Willow E and Margot B - for an absolutely fantastic job of keeping the classroom tidy after painting

Year 2: Whole Class for being kind to everyone

Year 3: Respect - Olivia K and Olive D - for always being polite, kind, respectful and a pleasure to have in class

Year 4: Oscar J and Elizabeth G - for always showing respect to others and showing such kindness to everyone

Year 5: Common Good - Minh N - working together and always helping everyone.

Year 6: Common Good - Poppy R - helping out and great contributions especially in RE lessons.

Friday, 25th September 2026

Special Mentions:

Year R: Liara O - putting great effort in to all subjects. Amelie C - always happy and joining in with a great smile

Year 1: Aloys N and Lucian E - great writing and use of ambitious adjectives in their English Work.

Year 2: Sena P - independent writing and great work in English. Harry F - fantastic work in phonics.

Year 3: Torin F - retains the information given - great listening in all subjects. Amandine N - great writing at school and at home

Year 4: Alex P and Cassian G - always putting 100% effort in to everything they do. Finnley P - participating well in class and his stamina for writing has come such a long way.

Year 5: Oakley A - impressive writing in RE. Florence E - English writing and reading, and a great summary of the class book.

Year 6: Oscar H and James G - for great science work using their knowledge of circuits to create a door alarm. Ivy J and Jeevan S - beautiful and thoughtful diary entries catching the characters perspective.

Catholic Social Teaching Focus: Common Good and Participation

Year R: Lennie A - kind and helpful member of the class

Year 1: Participation - Oscar S - pleasure to teach and always trying his absolute best.

Year 2: Isla T - Stewardship - perfect example of being a good steward - being so loving and caring

Year 3: Common Good - Bella G - such a kind and caring friend to everyone

Year 4: Poppy B - always helpful and such a good role model in the class and values keeping the classroom tidy. Cooper F - looking out for others, kindness and helpful.

Year 5: Common Good - Isabelle F - perfect role model, always helpful and always making the right choices

Year 6: Human Dignity - Lottie O - being a kind, helpful and considerate member of the class - and especially with our younger members of the school.

Neve K - for being a great friend, supportive and kind to the children in Year 1.

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. For the week ending 25th September 2026, the award goes to: **Violet D** in Year 2. For being helpful and kind to all her class mates.

Diary Dates



Monday, 28th September 2026 -

3.00-4.15pm - Girls Football ASC

Tuesday, 29th September -

Year 5 - Aylesford Priory

9.00am - Year 6 Class Assembly

3.00-4.15pm - Creepy Claws ASC

3.00-4.00pm - Cheerleading ASC

3.00-4.15pm - Boys Football ASC

Wednesday, 30th September -

3.00-4.15pm - Netball ASC

Yrs R-6 - Flu Immunisation

Thursday, 1st October -

3.00-4.00pm - Choir ASC

6.00pm - Friends of St Augustine's AGM Meeting - all welcome

Friday, 2nd October -

9.00am - Year 3 Class Assembly

Monday, 5th October -

9.00am - Hope Shoebox Appeal Assembly - tbc

3.00-4.15pm - Girls Football ASC

Tuesday, 6th October -

3.00-4.15pm - Creepy Claws ASC

3.00-4.00pm - Cheerleading ASC

3.00-4.15pm - Boys Football ASC

Wednesday, 7th October -

9.00am - Year 4 Class Assembly

3.00-4.15pm - Netball ASC

Thursday, 8th October -

3.00-4.15pm - Choir ASC

Friday, 9th October -

9.00am - Year 5 Class Assembly

Black History Celebration Assembly - tbc

Monday, 12th October -

9.00am - Year R Class Assembly

Tuesday, 13th October -

Wednesday, 14th October -

Thursday, 15th October -

Friday, 16th October -

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, 15th December - 5.30pm - Yrs 3-5 Performance to Parents

Wednesday, 16th December - 9.00am - Year 6 Chris Dingle Assembly

Wednesday, 16th December - Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday, 17th December - 6.00pm - Carol Service - all welcome

Friday, 18th December - End of Term 2 - School Finishes at 1.15pm

Christmas Holidays - 21st December - 1st January 2027 inclusive

Monday, 4th January 2027 - INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Tuesday, 5th January - Start of Term 3

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of parents say their child loves or enjoys their Rocksteady lessons

Insights from 3,737 parents

"Rocksteady is his favourite time of the week. He can't get to school quickly enough on a Monday morning!"

Lisa

92%

of Rocksteady pupils report greater confidence and self-belief

Insights from 1,738 children

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE!

0330 113 0330
(Mon-Weds 8am-8pm, Thurs-Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)
info@rocksteadymusicschool.com

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Chess Club



The FJCC is the only dedicated junior chess club in SE Kent. Chess is the only computer game parents approve of. I am sure you have keen chess players, boys and girls, at your school. Would you please let them know about the FJCC. We would be delighted to see them and improve their chess.

<https://folkestonejnrchess.wixsite.com/juniors> FJCC: St John's Hall, 2 St Johns Church Rd, Folkestone CT19 5BQ