



Chilham St. Mary's Church Of England Primary School

Newsletter 3rd February 2017

What we are learning about in class...

Wrens

Last week the Wrens focused on space travel and read the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy in which a bear flies to the moon. We explored moon sand and acted out the story. They also impressed by learning the basics of addition!

This week we have been thinking about travelling on holiday. Our bus station role play area was transformed into a travel agents. This play area has really inspired the children to write! In Maths we have learnt about different coins and have begun to consider their values.

Thank you for all of the amazing Special book entries each week. Where possible could your child bring it in on a Monday or you can add a photograph to Tapestry so that they have something to share with the class.



Hérons

This week we have been continuing our learning investigating how animals are similar and different. We learnt about birds on Monday, we looked at their feathers and different types of birds. Then we had lots of fun with the clay, we chose an animal from the bird, reptile, amphibian or fish family and started our clay masterpieces, we hope to paint them before our open afternoon on Monday.

We have started reading The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch in English and have written to Mr Grinling asking him what his favourite sandwich is, we are eagerly awaiting his response!



Here are some photos of the Herons doing gymnastics. They have been learning to move over, under and through apparatus using different body parts and how to make a strong and interesting still shape when they dismount.



Martins

The children have been busy planning their adventure story that their dragon will go on. Ask your child to tell you about their story they are planning.

In maths the children have been learning about decimal numbers and looking for rules and patterns when \times / \div by 10, 100 and 1000.

We are coming towards the end of our topic on China and the Shang Dynasty. Next term we will continue to focus on the continent of Asia and India will be our



focus. If your child has any books or information at home that they would like to share, then we would love to see it.



Peacocks

Wow! What an exciting week in Peacocks. Thank you to all the parents who providing family pictures to support our science learning. This term we are looking at inheritance and evolution. Can your child tell you some facts about Charles Darwin yet? Drama has featured heavily in our curriculum this week with superb acting from our year 5 and 6 children, recreating the story of Jesus working on the Sabbath. The year 6s have also been acting out some war time poetry after analysing a poem by Wilfred Owen.

Hurray! We were the first class to win the class 'Buster's Book Club' reading challenge, and huge congratulations to Henry A who won the individual award for reading above and beyond the minutes required. Let's keep it up and win it again this week! Don't forget next Friday is our 100% event for those children who have kept all their points this term. Keep up the good work! May we remind you that there are payments overdue for the Kingswood Residential visit in June.



Census Day Lucky Star Winners Were ...

Joshua R, Ella-Rose C, Saydie-Leigh D, Roy S, Morwenna S, Ellie V, Kiera K, Janey C, Skye S, Matteo M

The children were delighted to receive their prize for finding a 'lucky star' under their plate, and we would like to thank you for your fantastic support again, enabling us to access this valuable funding. Being able to claim for the full amount of funding available is vital to ensure that we can continue to provide the best education and learning environment for your children.

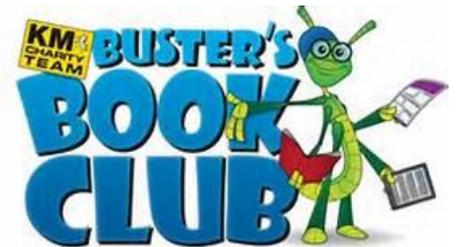
Parent View Questionnaire

Thank you to all of you who completed the parent questionnaire we sent home before Christmas, we found your answers and comments really useful. We are sure that you will have noticed lots of changes recently and would love to hear your views about school now.

The questionnaire is very short and will only take a few minutes to complete. Thank you. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Busters Book Club

Following last week's launch, we were delighted with the number of minutes reading achieved by your children! Last weeks total number of minutes was **637**; however, this week your amazing children almost doubled that figure, reading for a staggering **1058 minutes!**



- ☺ Last week's winning class was the Peacocks.
- ☺ The overall individual 'Star Reader' was Henry A.

This week, we are proud to announce that....

- ☺ The winning class are the Wrens for the huge increase in minutes spent reading, and everybody took part!
- ☺ The overall individual 'Star Reader' is Emily G.

Well done everybody on a fantastic start. Remember to record those minutes on your child's bookmark every Wednesday! Let's see how quickly we can contribute to the county target of 1,000 000 minutes!!

Attendance News

As you will be aware from the letter we sent home, we are taking part in the Kent County 'Project 95' Scheme. This is designed to assist schools and families in improving attendance at school which is so important for your child to make good progress in their learning and to get the very best from their education. We are therefore monitoring attendance closely and sharing that data with Colette Todman, the Education Liaison Officer. Overall attendance at school is currently



93.5% which is lower than the government target of 95%. We understand that children can become unwell and a period of absence can cause quite a dramatic drop in your child's attendance. We are here to offer help and support with any issues which may be affecting your child's attendance at school as we, like you, want the very best for your children.



There are an increasing number of occasions where children are either arriving late for school in the mornings or are late being collected at the end of the day. Gates open at 8.35 and children are supervised until they go indoors at 8.45. **All children must be in class by 8.50 ready for registration.** Late arrivals must be signed in at the school office by the parent/carer - please do not send children in alone. The school day finishes at 3.15.

Monday from 3.00pm, Open Event

The children have been working so hard that they would love to show off their amazing work! You are invited to pop in to your child's class from 3.00pm on Monday 6th February to come and see what they have been doing.

Wonderful Work Alert!

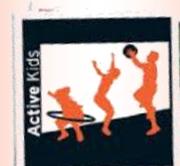
How many children can we squeeze in to Mrs Sweet's tiny office?
These children were keen to show off the fantastic work they have been doing this morning in the Peacocks – ask them about it!



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers 2017

It's back!
Please remember to send in your vouchers so that we can exchange them for fabulous resources for our school!

Thank you



Dates for your diary...

- Monday 6th February:** Open Afternoon for Parents/Carers, from 3.00 – 3.45pm
- Friday 10th February:** Last Day of Term 3
- Monday 20th February:** Staff Development Day, School Closed to Children
- Tuesday 21st February:** Term 4 Begins
- Wednesday 29th March:** Easter Service, St Mary's Church – details to follow