

Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

March 2026

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sun is finally beginning to shine as we move into the final weeks of the Spring Term. This newsletter is full of information and upcoming events so please take some time to read through it. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask or email headteacher@chilham.kent.sch.uk

Science Week



During the week beginning 9th March, the children took part in a range of exciting activities and talks as part of our Science Week celebrations.

We kicked things off with a visit from River's Rodents. Each class attended an engaging session where the children met — and even got to gently pet — a variety of animals including a rat, a gerbil, a blue-tongued skink, a corn snake, and a tortoise. The children were

fascinated by the animals and asked River some brilliant questions.

On Wednesday 11th March, the children took part in a carousel of fun science activities throughout the afternoon. They joined their sports teams and rotated around three different hands-on sessions, all designed to spark curiosity and teamwork.

Then on Thursday 12th March, we were delighted to welcome Dr. Sophie Duncan, who spoke to the children about her inspiring career in the S.T.E.M. field. She shared stories from her work with companies such as British Aerospace Space Systems, Pfizer, Dyson, and Canterbury Christ Church University. The children were especially amazed to learn that she worked on a project in 1992 that resulted in her team's experiment being sent into space by NASA!



World Book Day

It was wonderful to see the children arrive dressed as their favourite book characters. We began the day with a lively costume parade on the playground, followed by time spent sharing and reading some of the children's much-loved stories.

Red Nose Day

We had a fantastic time taking part in our Joke-a-thon - the children shared some wonderfully funny jokes that kept us smiling and giggling throughout the day!

Our bake sale was also a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated delicious sweet treats and generously contributed.

Thanks to your support, we are delighted to share that we raised a total of £198.98 for the charity.

Year 6 SATs – Information for Parents

As we approach the summer term, our Year 6 pupils will be preparing for their Key Stage 2 SATs. These national assessments take place in May and provide a snapshot of your child's learning at the end of primary school.

The tests cover Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (SPaG). Writing is assessed by teachers over time, rather than through a test. SATs are completed in school under calm, supportive conditions, and the children are well prepared by their teachers.

Monday 11th May- Grammar, Punctuation and spelling

Tuesday 12th May- Reading

Wednesday 13th May- Maths Paper 1 and 2

Thursday 14th May- Maths Paper 3

Reminder: Club Timings

To ensure the safety and supervision of your children, please stick to our scheduled club hours:

Morning Club: Starts at 8:00 am. Please do not drop children off before this time, as our breakfast club leader needs this time to set up and will not be ready to receive them.

After School Club: Finishes promptly at 4:30 pm.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Information on Forest school

We pride ourselves on being able to deliver Forest school sessions from Reception-Year 6. Forest School provides hands-on, child-led learning in a natural environment, enriching and complementing the National Curriculum. Through practical outdoor experiences, children develop strong personal, social, and emotional skills while deepening their understanding across a range of academic subjects. Sessions are carefully planned to support EYFS outcomes and Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum objectives.



Science (KS1 & KS2)

Children identify, name, and describe living things, materials, and seasonal changes. Through exploring habitats, observing life cycles (such as minibeasts and pond life), and investigating natural materials, pupils develop scientific enquiry skills and curiosity about the world around them.

Geography (KS1 & KS2)

Using geographical skills including observation and simple mapping, children develop an understanding of their immediate environment. Activities include mapping the Forest School site, studying weather patterns, and observing environmental and seasonal changes.

Physical Education (KS1 & KS2)

Forest School supports the development of coordination, balance, and agility through adventurous outdoor activities. Children build shelters, navigate uneven terrain, use tools safely, and explore the site, strengthening both gross and fine motor skills.

English (Speaking and Listening)

Children articulate ideas, describe experiences, and expand vocabulary through shared outdoor learning. Activities such as storytelling around the fire circle, describing natural objects, and collaborative problem-solving encourage confident communication.

Art and Design

Children use a range of natural materials creatively to design and make products. Experiences may include clay modelling, land art, and constructing with found materials, fostering imagination and artistic expression.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

A key strength of Forest School is the development of confidence, independence, resilience, and risk management. Children take supported risks (such as fire lighting or tree climbing), engage in collaborative problem-solving, and practise self-regulation within a calm, nurturing environment

As many of you are aware, there was a recent traffic incident involving a car crashing into the Forest School fence. We are happy to share that the fence has been fully repaired, and the woodland owner is looking forward to welcoming us back.

Safety remains our priority; following advice from Ashford Borough Council, we are conducting a fresh site survey to update our risk assessment before the summer term begins. We will keep you updated on our progress!

Attendance and lateness

Please do let us know by telephone if your child is ill by 8.30am each morning. If you wish to make a leave of absence for an exceptional circumstance, please email into the school office and we will look at each case individually before writing back to you to let you know if this will be authorised or unauthorised.

Information on OFSTED inspections for parents

OFSTED Inspections have recently undergone a consultation and a new inspection framework is in place. Please see this link for more information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kb1OFvY976g>

Amazon Wishlist

We are always looking for ways to enrich our students' learning experience and provide them with the best possible resources. As a small school our budget is very limited when replenishing our resources. To help us do this, we've created an Amazon Wishlist filled with items that will directly support classroom activities, creativity, and learning.

If you would like to contribute, please visit our Wishlist using the link below (please avoid deliveries being sent to the school during school holidays). Every item, big or small, makes a meaningful difference and is greatly appreciated by both staff and students.

<https://amzn.eu/O3IOp6bj>

Diary Dates

We will let you know as more dates and events are added.

Friday 27th March	Peacocks to the Science Museum
Monday 30th March	Easter Service at St Mary's Church @2:15pm
Tuesday 31st March	Chilham Has Got Talent at Chilham Village Hall @10am
Thursday 2nd April	Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Break up for Easter at 1.30pm
Monday 20th April	Return to School
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 11th-Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 22nd May	Break up for May half term @3:15pm
Monday 1st June	Return to school
Monday 8th-Friday 12th June	Year 1 phonics Screening check Year 4 Multiplication Check
Wednesday 10th-Friday 12th June	Year 6 Residential
Friday 26th June	Sports Day at Chilham Sports Centre from 1:30pm
Friday 3rd July	Back up Sports Day (in case of postponement) 1:30pm
Tuesday 14th July	School Council Trip to the Houses of Parliament
Friday 17th July	School finishes for Summer Holiday @1:30pm

Best wishes,

Rebecca Dolan

Canterbury HAF Easter Timetable

7th April - 18th April, 2026



Our Activities

Wildwood Trip
Gym and Swim
Fishing with Willowbank Education
Story Sacks
Rivals Social
Cooking
Rocket Making with KAE
Family Swim
Parenting Support and Advice Drop-Ins
Spring Crafts and Activities
Roller Skating
Sports Day

Contact us

CanterburyFH@kent.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook or
Instagram at
Canterbury Family
Hubs



Canterbury Family Hubs



Information:

Booking Activities:

Families of children aged 4 to 16 years, who are in receipt of benefits related to free school meals can access our Summer holidays Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in Kent focuses on children's physical health and wellbeing by providing healthy food and exciting activities for children and young people during the school holidays.

To register your interest, please email: canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk

Drop In Activities:

Our drop in activities are available for everybody, no need to book.

13th & 18th April Wildwood Trips

We have a number of tickets available for families to enjoy a day at Wildwood, with lunch provided for all young people attending. For 0-19 years (25 SEND). Parents/carers in attendance.

Meet at: 10:00am

Herne Common,
Herne Bay
CT6 7LQ

Requires
Booking

31st March to 30th April Gym and Swim

Ready to feel stronger, more confident, and full of energy?

The gym is a great place to challenge yourself, learn new skills, and discover what your body can do. No experience needed. It's a space to set your own goals, make new friends, and feel proud of your progress. Come along and give it a go.

For young people 14-16 years old (25 SEND)

Herons Leisure Centre
Kingsmead Pools & Fitness
Whitstable Pools & Fitness

Requires
Booking

Fishing Programme with Willowbank Education

A three day programme during the day, with all equipment provided.

Whether you've never held a rod before or already know your way around the water, it's a chance to spend time outdoors, learn new skills, and enjoy the thrill of the catch — Big or small.

Each young person will leave with a gift that will help them carry on in the sport.

You'll need to make your own way to the venue, but if transport is a challenge, just get in touch and we'll see what we can do.

Lunch will be provided each day (with allergen options available).

For ages 11-19 (25 SEND).

7th April
10:00am - 2:30pm

Willowbank Education,
Nethergong Hill,
Canterbury,
CT3 4DN

8th April
10:00am - 2:30pm

Willowbank Education,
Nethergong Hill,
Canterbury,
CT3 4DN

9th April
10:00am - 2:30pm

Willowbank Education,
Nethergong Hill,
Canterbury,
CT3 4DN

Requires
Booking

13th April
Story Sacks



Come along for a fun filled session of story telling and crafts, creating own props to bring stories to life to take home and share with others. For children 3 to 8 years old. Parents/carers in attendance.

11:00am - 1:00pm

Wincheap Family Hub,
Hollowmede,
Wincheap, Canterbury,
CT1 3SD

Requires
Booking

14th April
Rivals Social

Smash strikes on their AR-powered bowling lanes for a futuristic spin on classic competition, fire up your skills in Hot Shots and then step into The Arena, an immersive game zone designed to throw you straight into the action.

For young people 11-16 years old.

10:00am - 4:00pm

Rivals Social,
4a Simmonds Road,
Canterbury,
CT1 3RA

Requires
Booking

14th April
Cooking

It's a chance to get hands-on in the kitchen, learn and discover skills that will actually come in handy—whether you're cooking for yourself, your family, or just want to impress your friends. You don't need any experience, Come along, get creative, and let's serve up something amazing! For young people 11-16 years old.

12:00pm - 3:00pm

Whitstable Family Hub,
Tower Parade,
Whitstable,
CT5 2BJ

Requires
Booking

Canterbury Family Hubs



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Drop In Activities:

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14th April

Rocket Making

Come along to design, construct and decorate your own pop bottle rockets and paper planes. We'll be learning about the principles of flight and rocket propulsion in a hands-on way.

Suitable for children aged 3 to 11. Parents/carers in attendance.

10:00am - 12:00pm

Whitstable Family Hub,
Tower Parade,
Whitstable,
CT5 2BJ

**Requires
Booking**

14th April

Family Swim

Free Family Swim session. Meet us at Kingsmead Leisure Centre reception for your 1 hour swimming ticket and healthy snack bag (12.15-1.15pm). For families with children 0-11 years, parents/carers in attendance. *One family swim ticket entitles 2 adults and 2 children.

12:15pm - 1:15pm

Kingsmead Pools and Fitness, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury CT2 7PH

**Requires
Booking**

Parenting Support Advice Drop-Ins

Drop in for friendly advice on any parenting questions (0-19 years). No booking needed.

14th April

9:30am - 11:30am

Whitstable Family Hub,
Tower Parade,
Whitstable,
CT5 2BJ

15th April

9:30am - 11:30am

Herne Bay Family Hub,
Memorial Park,
Kings Road,
Herne Bay, CT6 5RG

15th April

Spring Crafts and Activities

Spring Crafts and Activities, including paper crafts, painting, baking and planting seeds. For children aged 0-11 years. Parents/carers in attendance.

11:00am - 3:00pm

Herne Bay Family Hub,
Memorial Park,
Kings Road,
Herne Bay, CT6 5RG

**Requires
Booking**

16th April

Story Sacks

Come along for a fun filled session of story telling and crafts, creating own props to bring stories to life to take home and share with others. For children 3 to 8 years old. Parents/carers in attendance.

12:30pm - 3:00pm

Briary Family Hub,
Greenhill Road (West),
Herne Bay,
CT6 7RS

**Requires
Booking**

16th April

Roller Skating

Join us for an awesome afternoon of roller skating and music. No experience? No problem! Skates will be available. Bring your energy and have some fun. For 0-19 years (25 SEND). Snack bag provided for all children and young people who attend. Parents/carers in attendance.

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Bay Sports Arena,
Bullockstone Rd,
Herne Bay,
CT6 7NS

**Requires
Booking**

17th April

Sports Day on the Green

Please join us for a day of family fun. Bring the whole family and enjoy lots of games and fun sports activities. Feel free to bring along a picnic rug as all children with receive a free healthy lunch box (allergen options available). For 0-19 (SEND) with parent/carers in attendance.

10:30am - 12:30pm

Kingsmead Playing Field,
Broad Oak Rd,
Canterbury,
CT2 7PW

**Requires
Booking**



Stepping Up



Booking Required

Stepping Up is a 6 week programme to encourage and support children age 5 to 11 (school years 1 to 6) with confidence, socialisation and managing in a group.

DATE: 23rd April 2026 - 28th May 2026

TIME: 3:45pm - 5:15pm

VENUE: Waterside Family Hub, Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ

To book please go to: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub/activities-and-groups-near-you>

email: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk Follow us on Facebook or Instagram: ashfordfamilyhubs

Visit your local Family Hub today

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub





Ashford Family Hubs Time to Shine



Time to Shine is a time-limited closed group for children with SEND aged 7-11 years that struggle to cope and access mainstream groups such as Beavers, Dance, Football and aims to support them to develop the necessary skills to manage in those environments and ultimately move on to those services. The group numbers are lower to meet the needs of everyone attending and to create a calmer environment.

DATE: 20th April 2026 -18th May 2026

TIME: 4.00pm - 5.30pm

Booking
Required

**VENUE: Waterside Family Hub
Turner Close
Willesborough
Ashford
TN24 0PQ**

To book please go to: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub/activities-and-groups-near-you>

Visit your local Family Hub today

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

