



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

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Dear Parents and Guardians

It was so much fun to see the amazing effort that children, parents and staff put into our World Book Day events on Thursday. I would like to give a special thanks to Miss Gowling, our Lead English Teacher. Her hard work was greatly appreciated by everyone and all of the activities planned ensured that every child benefited. It was a fabulous day that ended with our PTA book sale. The PTA members put in a lots of hours collecting and sorting through books as well as setting up and manning the stalls. This was very well received and I have even been asked if there is a chance of another sale! Days such as this have such a positive impact on our school community and therefore I thank each person that helped to make the day so much fun for all. The fun doesn't end there as we still have some classes who have yet to visit the library as well as a special visit from the storyteller – Mike Dodsworth – on Monday.

This week, I have also had the pleasure of visiting two of our destination schools: Bancrofts and Benenden. Both Miss Brewster and I, visited Bancrofts where we talked to the Headteacher and Head of Lower school about their vision for the school. The changes they are making to their curriculum for Year 7 and 8 sound very exciting and life skills are at the heart of this.

On Thursday, I visited Benenden (not in my Roald Dahl witches costume) and had a lovely tour and conversation with the Headteacher, the Admissions Manager, Head of Year 7 and a House Mistress. Benenden also shared their new curriculum for Year 7 and 8 pupils – their diploma is designed to capture the sense of awe and wonder that children have at that age.

We have our Year 4 destination meetings booked in for March but if Year 5 parents would like to discuss either school with myself or Miss Brewster, please contact the office to arrange an appointment.

Finally, I wish you all a happy and healthy weekend. Let's hope the sunny weather we experienced last week returns soon.

Kind Regards

Mrs Carroll
Headteacher

HEAD TEACHERS AWARDS

- Year 6 - Fred E
- Year 5MB - The whole class for their amazing volcanoes
- Year 5UN - The whole class for their amazing volcanoes
- Year 4CM - Jessica W
- Year 4JM - Maria T
- Year 3 - Halimah P
- Year 2 - Sikemi O
- Year 1 - Zara J
- RNC - Nifemi P
- RJW - Joshua O



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

- Y1 - 95.9%
- Y2 - 99.4%
- Y3 - 96.3%
- 4JM - 89%
- 4CM - 91.4%
- 5UN - 99.2%
- 5MB - 95.6%
- Y6 - 93.8%

HOUSE POINTS

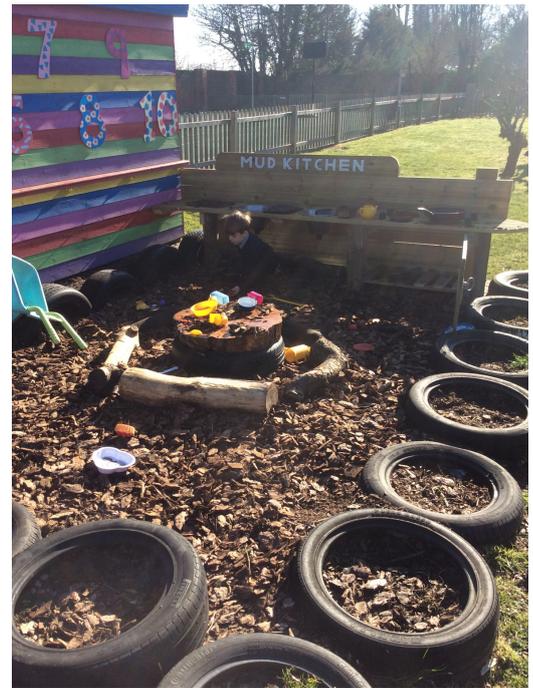
- 1st: Oak 447
- 2nd: Elm 409
- 3rd: Beech 364
- 4th: Chestnut 276



Year Group Highlights

KINDERGARTEN

We are so grateful to our wonderful site team for their hard work during the holidays. Mr Andy and Mr Kevin have worked incredibly hard during the half term to transform our Kindergarten garden and the children are thrilled with their new resources. The huge sand pit and pebble pit have been a massive success. We have introduced a reading corner and an outdoor writing station to support the children with their pencil control. We have been so pleased with the children's writing and we always want to encourage the children to explore writing both inside and outside of the classroom. The children are thrilled with the cube, this is a fantastic resource that Mr Andy built; we change the cube according to the children's interest. This week it has been a jungle and a teddy bear tea party. We are very excited for you to come and play in our new Kindergarten garden in our upcoming stay and plays.



Year Group Highlights

RECEPTION

This week Reception have read the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' as part of their topic 'Once upon a time...'. The children have received letters from Mr Wolf asking for help. Mr Wolf asked the children to write him a shopping list to remind him what he needed to buy to make pancakes. Mr Wolf also wrote the children a letter asking them to help order the pancake recipe as he had lost his recipe book. The children were so helpful that Mr Wolf left some pancakes in the classroom for the children to try. The children enjoyed sharing raisins and cutting their pancakes in halves and quarters before gobbling them all up, just like Mr Wolf!

In maths this week Reception have chosen two toppings they would like for their pancakes and added the prices together. Reception have also enjoyed pancake races and pancake flipping in PE. The children have used the laptops to design their own tasty pancakes.

YEAR 6

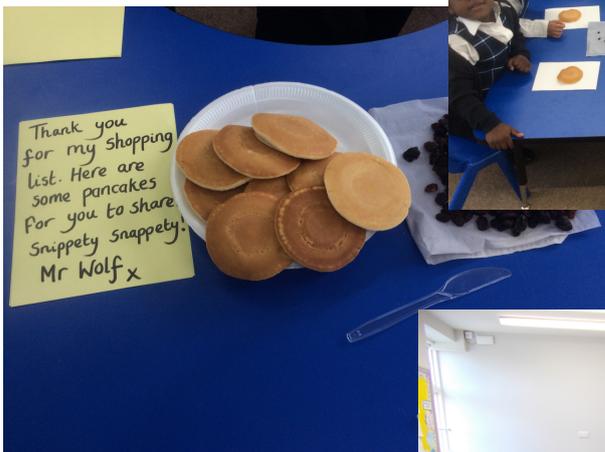
Children in Year 6 enjoyed decorating the class room door to show that they have been studying 'Alice in Wonderland'.

As part of World Book Day, Year 6 decided to quiz the younger classes on their knowledge of the books they have been studying in class. Using the Internet and their knowledge of the texts, the Year 6s created a quiz in groups of three. Each group took into consideration the age of their allocated class when compiling the quiz. The children were encouraged to make an eye-catching presentation of the quiz to give the younger children a chance to hear and see the questions.

During the day, each group presented their quiz to the given class and were received warmly by both children and teachers. Here are some comments from the participants:

'It was amazing!' 'I thoroughly enjoyed it', 'a lot of fun', 'the quizmasters took it seriously', 'fabulous'

Well done, Year 6!



NETBALL

On Wednesday 6th March, our Year 6 girls netball team attended the yearly Bancroft Prep School netball tournament. This year was the largest entrance with 26 schools competing for the Bancrofts cup, shield and vase.

In our pool we had 5 games to play (10 minutes to score as many goals as possible). Our first game was against St Cedds and we won 6 / 4 . Second game was against Bancrofts B team and we won 8 / 1. Our third game was against Gatehouse where we narrowly lost 3 / 4. Our next game was against Mossford, we won 4/1 and our final one was against Forest which we won 7/0. We finished winners of our pool, which meant we went through to play for the main cup in the quarter finals. We played an extremely fast and tall team called St Edmunds who beat us 7/2. We finished in the top 8 schools in the tournament. Congratulations to all of the girls who played and especially for Heidi Burt, who was chosen by the umpires, to be player of our pool in the tournament; for her enthusiasm, determination and awesome jumping and intercepting. She received a rosette and a certificate.

Miss Peacham
Head of PE



UPCOMING SPORTS FIXTURES

- Tuesday 12th March - Mixed swimming gala at Abbs Cross
- Friday 15th March - Girls U.9 netball rally at New Hall
- Wednesday 27th March - Mixed U.11 tag rugby at Woodlands school
- Tuesday 2nd March - Mixed u.11 Basketball at Emerson Park



Sports Athletics Awards

World Book Day



Mrs Murphy and Miss Emin's Kindergarten Classes



Mrs Williams and Mrs Cafull's Reception Classes



Miss Gowing's Year 1 Class



Mrs Well's Year 2 Class



World Book Day



Mrs Vardin's Year 3 Class



Mrs Buckley's Year 4 Class



Mrs Marshall's Year 4 Class



Miss Brown's Year 5 Class



Ms Ndlwana's Year 5 Class



Mr Trusler's Year 6 Class

Student Achievements

Lexie-Blu R (in Year 4) and her gymnastics group Sparrows have been selected for GBR National Squad. Only five groups throughout the country have been selected.

Well Done Lexie!



Scarlett E in Year 1 has received her Pre-Bronze Certificate of Merit for the British Association of Dancing Exam.

Well Done Scarlet!



Gabriel O in Year 4 achieved a 'Distinction' for his stage 1 LAMDA exam.

Well Done Gabriel!



PTA BOOK SALE

A big THANK YOU from the PTA for your support at our World Book Day Second Hand Book Sale. We managed to raise £146.45! We hope your children enjoy their new books.



Benenden Open Mornings

Visits for Prospective Pupils and their Families

We would be delighted to welcome families to an Open Morning at Benenden in spring and summer 2019.

Mrs Samantha Price, Headmistress, and senior staff will be happy to answer your questions about the academic, co-curricular and modern boarding life of the School. During your visit you will have a tour of the School with a current student and a chance to meet members of the teaching and boarding staff.

Prospective pupils of all ages are welcome at any of the following Open Mornings. Some dates are reserved solely for candidates seeking 11+, 13+ or 16+ entry, as noted below.

Spring Term 2019

Saturday 2 March
Friday 8 March at 1.45pm (13+ candidates)
Tuesday 12 March (11+ candidates)
Saturday 23 March

Summer Term 2019

Thursday 2 May (11+ candidates)
Saturday 11 May
Tuesday 25 June

Open Mornings commence at 9.45am, unless noted above.

If you would like to attend one of the above events, or to arrange an individual appointment to visit the School, please contact

Sarah Davies: 01580 240592 or e-mail skd@benenden.school

Trains to Benenden (Staplehurst Station) run from Charing Cross and London Bridge.
(Please note: Local taxis must be booked in advance.)

Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4AA www.benenden.school

Upcoming Events

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 12th March - Stay and Play
- Tuesday 19th March - Parents' Evening 1:1 Appointments
- Thursday 21st March - Parents Evening 1 to 1 Appointments
- Wednesday 27th March - Stay and Play
- Monday 1st April - Year 4 destination school meetings
- Wednesday 3rd April - Year 4 destination school meetings
- Thursday 4th April - Transition Day
- Tuesday 9th April - Easter Egg Hunt (PTA)/Early Years Easter Bonnet Parade
- Thursday 11th - Friday 26th April - Easter Holidays

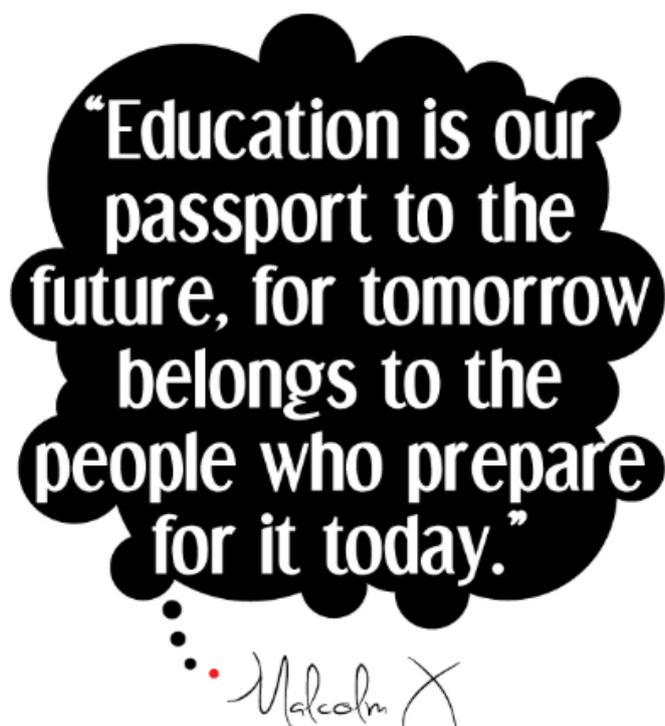


11+ 2020 Entry

We are aware that some parents of children in Year 5 will be considering applications to selective schools for 2020 entry. The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE) have contacted us to remind you of the process and key dates. Further details can be found at www.csse.org.uk.

The key dates for your information are:

- ☐ **Registration for the 11+ exam opens on 14th May 2019**
- ☐ **Registration for the 11+ exam closes on 1 st July 2019**
- ☐ **The 11+ Test will take place on Saturday 21 st September 2019**



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