HARRIETSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Nurtured We Flourish



20th April 2026

Dear Families,

I truly hope you have all had a wonderful Easter break and enjoyed the lovely sunshine. I am really looking forward to this term - it is the term that we welcome our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Fenner, and our new Year 5 teacher, Miss Rodriguez. It is also the term that Mr Walker and Ms Pittam begin as Phase Leaders of the Lower and Upper School. We have put together this new format of newsletter to hopefully provide you with a little more useful information going forwards. If you have any feedback, please do let me know.

Just a quick reminder of our Parent Focus Group Meeting on Tuesday 21st April at 2:15pm. Please come along to this informal meeting to discuss our school. If you can attend, please complete this Google Form: https://forms.gle/mdTG5wbqF5tRYcL49



Kind regards,
Jackie Chambers
Headteacher



Last term we presented a cheque to the ECHO Heart Charity for the money we fundraised together during our 'Wear Red Day'. They were hugely appreciative of the very generous donation.

UPCOMING



For a more detailed calendar, please see our website here: https://www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk/term-dates-1/

Term 5
Monday 20th April 2026 – Friday 22nd May 2026
TERM STARTS: Monday 20th April 2026

April	
Tuesday 21st April	Parent Focus Group Meeting 2:15pm – 3:15pm
Tuesday 28th April 9:15am	Guitar and a Singing/Drums Performance to Parents of Musicians (Invites to follow from Music teachers).
May	
Tuesday 5th May	Year 5 CATS Tests
Monday 11th May – Friday 15th May:	Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 13th May:	Year 5 Parents Kent Test Info Evening 3:30pm – 4pm
Thursday 14th May:	Mud Run for Year R and KS1 children
Friday 15th May:	Mud Run for KS2 children
Monday 18th May: 2:30pm	Guitar performance Performance to Parents of Musicians (Invites to follow from Music teachers).
Tuesday 19th May:	Year 1 Class Worship 9am
Wednesday 20th May:	New EYFS Cohort 26/27 New Parent Open Evening 5-6.30pm
Thursday 21st May:	Summer Census Day (All infants to have a school dinner unless otherwise notified) World Day for Cultural Diversity

TERM ENDS: Friday 22nd May 2026

Forest School Term 5

Please note: Forest school sessions are subject to change through... Changes will be communicated with as much notice as possible.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 W/C 20.04.26	SPARROWS - PM	WOODPECKERS – AM ALL YEAR R - PM	HERONS -PM	KINGFISHERS- AM SWALLOWS -PM	EAGLES - AM
Week 2 W/C 27.04.26	JAY - PM	ROBINS – AM ALL YEAR R - PM	HAWKS - PM	WRENS– AM NIGHTINGALES -PM	KESTRELS – AM
Week 3 W/C 04.05.26	SPARROWS – PM	WOODPECKERS– AM ALL YEAR R - PM	HERONS – PM	KINGFISHERS- AM SWALLOWS -PM	EAGLES - AM
Week 4 W/C 11.05.26	JAYS- PM	ROBINS– AM ALL YEAR R - PM	HAWKS - PM	WRENS– AM NIGHTINGALES -PM	KESTRELS – AM
Week 5 W/C 18.05.26	SPARROWS - PM	WOODPECKERS – AM ALL YEAR R - PM	HERONS - PM	KINGFISHERS- AM SWALLOWS -PM	EAGLES - AM

Follow us on Social Media:

Harrietsham Primary School TikTok:

Follow our OPAL Progress:

Forest School News:

Nurtured We Flourish



Phase News

Lower School News



Hello Lower School!
I am absolutely delighted to be your new Phase Leader.



My vision for the Lower School phase is one filled with play and nurture. We want to provide our children with as many positive, unique and memorable learning experiences as we can within a 6-hour school day! Whether this be playing in a beautiful environment, working with a supportive adult or enjoying a special activity, everything we do will be purposeful and enabling our children to learn!

This term, the children will be returning to school to find that their outdoor areas have been completely transformed. EYFS has a new water area (courtesy of a new outdoor tap, fitted by Mr Pryor, who we cannot thank enough!) and lots of refreshed areas to play and learn in. Year 1 and 2 are also enjoying refreshed areas with a new bark pit, a new garden and a new “small world” area for playing! We really hope that the children love their ‘jazzed up’ areas. In school we will be showing the children how to keep these areas tidy and how to look after everything we have in school. It would really help us if you shared this message with children at home to ensure the children understand how important it is to demonstrate our rule of respect towards our school.

I am so excited to be working with each and every one of the children and families. Please do say hello if you see me around school and never hesitate to contact me at ben.walker@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk.



A huge thank you to B&S Building Supplies in Harrietsham for their generous donation towards EYFS KS1 outdoor area.

Upper School News



Hello Upper School! As we kick off this new term, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as the new Upper School Phase Leader.

I am incredibly excited to be working alongside our talented staff and students in Years 3, 4, 5, and 6. This is such a pivotal stage in a child’s education, ensuring children gather the skills and knowledge through their upper school years and build upon them. Our goal is to continue developing our end of the school into a hub of independence, curiosity and ambition.

We have some truly fantastic "Hooks" and "Fab Finishes" planned for this term (from Mayan immersion days to alpine explorations) and we are committed to ensuring every child has access to these types of rich, exciting learning opportunities. Whether it’s through hands-on technology, or outdoor learning, we want our Upper Schoolers to feel empowered and inspired every single day.

This term, our Year 3 Geographers are investigating the places we call home. They will be comparing different types of settlements and looking at our national climate. Year 4 is tracing the journey of our meals from the farm to the dinner table. Expect some budding chefs in the making! Year 5 are heading to high altitudes as they study the geography of the Alps and learn about the courage of the explorer Matthew Henson. Our eldest students are stepping back in time to Ancient Mesoamerica. Expect an immersive experience of Maya history and food.

I look forward to the term ahead and to working with all our children and families. Please do contact me if needed. You’ll find me in Year 6 ‘Hawks’ if you ever need to catch me or contact me at nicki.pittam@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk

Curriculum Updates



Home Learning Policy update: We are pleased to share our updated Home Learning Policy, which reflects our commitment to meaningful, balanced and inclusive learning at home.

The policy sets out our whole-school approach to Home Learning, including expectations as children move through the year groups, and how we work in partnership with families to support learning without adding unnecessary pressure. We encourage all parents and carers to read the full policy on our website, where you will find clear guidance and support. As always, if Home Learning ever becomes a challenge, please speak to your child’s class teacher so we can work together to help.

Our Home Learning Policy can be found on our policies page here: Home Learning Policy 2025

Welcome to Mrs Fenner, our new Deputy Headteacher: We are delighted to welcome Mrs Fenner as our new Deputy Headteacher, taking over from Mr Gambell. Mrs Fenner will now lead on the curriculum - she will continue enhancing and refining our rich and distinctive curriculum, ensuring that the knowledge and skills we teach are purposeful, relevant and prepare our children well for their next steps in education. A key focus moving forward will be refining the ‘ready to progress’ criteria across all subjects, alongside the development of meaningful assessment tools in the foundation subjects. This work will support teachers to identify learning gaps and plan effectively to address them, helping every child to flourish as they move through the school.





Inclusion Updates

The Inclusion Team at Harrietsham is led by Mrs Evans, with support from Mrs Hancock (our SEN Assistant) and Mrs Weeks (our Nurture Leader).

We support children in our school with Special Educational Needs – this support includes individualised support; liaising with class teams; working with other professionals; and co-ordinating diagnostic paperwork.

Each week we will share a helpful link and a couple of things that are going on with Inclusion in our school and locally.

The SEND Hub:
This is a website that helps you to find help, advice and services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It brings together support from education, health, social care, and local community groups, all in one place. KCC call our local offer the 'SEND Information Hub': https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.

Inclusion appointments:
Mrs Evans and Mrs Hancock are regularly available to discuss anything related to SEND. You can make an appointment with one of them using the dates and times set up on Arbor. These are open to anyone who feels they need to talk over their child's needs.

Nurture provision:
We have now established a Nurture provision at Harrietsham following some funding from our Community of Schools. The setting operates on core principles, including the understanding that behaviour is communication, that mental health and wellbeing are central to development, and that the environment provides a safe base. This is achieved through small group work and early morning and lunchtime support. Mrs Weeks is our Nurture Leader and the children love her!

Pastoral Updates



Welcome to our pastoral blog, we hope you had a wonderful Easter break. Our pastoral team consists of myself, Mrs Griffin, our FLO, Mrs Smith, and our Nurture Leader, Mrs Weeks. We work closely with the inclusion team.

The pastoral team are dedicated to providing a caring and supportive approach for anyone who may have worries or concerns. Whether it's something small or more significant, we are always available to listen and help.

Our aim is to ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn and thrive. We understand that challenges can arise, and we are here to work alongside families to find the best possible support. If a situation requires additional expertise, we will happily signpost or refer families to other trusted professionals and services.

Each week we will be adding a different topic to the pastoral section. If you would like to discuss further, or wish for particular support information to be published here, please do not hesitate to reach out – we are here to help.

Office Updates



Meet the Office Team!

Following some changes to the office team this academic year, we wanted to do a little 'Meet the Team'. Our school office is a busy and welcoming hub, and we're lucky to have a fantastic team here to support families.

If you're ever unsure who to speak to, here's a handy guide to help point you in the right direction!

Mr Mellor (Receptionist): Mr Mellor is usually the first friendly face you'll see when you arrive at school. He manages the front desk, answers the phone and is always happy to help with enquiries. Whether you're dropping something off, signing in or need information, Mr Mellor is your go-to person.

Miss Roberts (Admissions & Attendance): If you have any questions about school places, admissions or your child's attendance, Miss Roberts is here to help. She works closely with families to support good attendance and can advise on procedures, reporting absences and attendance-related concerns.

Mrs Atkins (Finance Officer): For anything involving payments, such as school trips, Mrs Atkins is the person to contact. She keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes when it comes to school finances and is happy to help with any payment queries.

Mrs Masterson (School Business Leader): Mrs Masterson oversees the operational side of the school, including finance, HR and the day-to-day running of the school business. As a member of the leadership team, she helps to ensure everything runs efficiently and she works hard to support the wider school community.

Our office team is always happy to help, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions—we're here to support you!

Photos from our Family Working Day

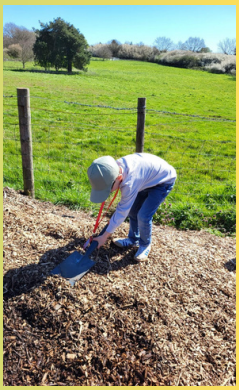
Building a ‘rabbit proof’ planting area at Forest School













Developing the Year R Garden











Developing the Key Stage 1 Garden

















Creating outdoor provision for Year 3






Attendance

Attendance Matters
Every student. Every day.

Whole School Attendance since beginning of School Year	93.9%

Our school attendance target is 96%.

We need more children to be in school every day to reach this target.

As per Government Guidance, all holidays during term-time will be unauthorised.
We will also not authorise early collection from school unless proof of appointments can be provided.

If your child is well enough to be in school, it is imperative that you ensure they are in.



Class Attendance

Well done to all of the classes over our school target of 96%.

	Attendance % for each Class (School Target 96%)													
	Year R		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
	Ducklings	Cygnets	Wrens	Kingfishers	Sparrows	Jays	Robins	Woodpeckers	Swallows	Nightingales	Kestrels	Eagles	Hawks	Herons
Year to Date	93%	95%	94%	90%	94%	95%	95%	95%	96%	94%	93%	94%	94%	93%

Class Punctuality

Well done to all of those children who have been on time every day.

	Punctuality % for each Class (% of marks on time)													
	Year R		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
	Ducklings	Cygnets	Wrens	Kingfishers	Sparrows	Jays	Robins	Woodpeckers	Swallows	Nightingales	Kestrels	Eagles	Hawks	Herons
Year to Date	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%



Church Notices



Prayer Meeting

The Harrietsham prayer group now meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, at 4pm in the Church Room (at the back of the village hall).
Everyone is welcome. Please phone Paul on 01622 859634 or Pamela on 01622 859442 for more details or to ask for prayer, or do just come along to pray about our community and anything on your mind.

Community Choir

Come along to our fun singalong community choir for adults, singing popular songs for all!
At St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham.
We meet once every fortnight between 7pm and 9pm.
Tea, coffee and cake will be served. Everyone is welcome.
For more information, please phone 01622 853819.



Bible Study

Come and join our Harrietsham Bible Study group on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, at 2pm in the Church Room (there is a door into this at the back of Harrietsham Village Hall).
Please join us on the day or phone 01622 859442 to find out more.
Tea and coffee will be served and everyone is welcome.
Supported by St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham

Games Club

Come and join us on 1st Tuesday of every month, from 2pm – 4pm, at the Booth Hall.
We supply games but please feel free to bring something you would particularly like to introduce us to, teach us or just play.
Please join us on the day or phone 01622 859442 to find out more. Tea and coffee will be served and everyone is welcome.
Supported by St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham.

Community News

The below are flyers that we have been asked to share by various community groups.
Please note that we have no connection with these groups and so cannot endorse them, but we wanted to share the information in case anything was of interest.



Equality Diversity Inclusion

Equality and Diversity Committee - Representatives Needed

We are still looking for parents or carers who can represent the following communities on the committee:

- People/ families from ethnic minority backgrounds
- Religious backgrounds
- LGBTQ+

If you feel you can bring your perspective and voice to help us shape a more inclusive environment for all our children and families, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the school office (office@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk) if you would like to find out more or volunteer to represent one of these communities.

Atom Learning

Free 11+ Preparation and KS2 learning support

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School has partnered with Atom Learning, a Key Stage 2 learning and 11+ preparation website, to provide free KS2 learning to primary school children who are eligible for Pupil Premium.

Eligible students will receive access to Atom Home for free (normally £575.90 a year).

There is a 5-day free trial of Atom available for non-Pupil Premium families.

What is Atom Home?

Atom Home is an online learning and exam preparation platform for ages 7-11. Covering English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning, children can practise 11+ questions and explore learning resources, mock tests, video tutorials, and exam preparation materials.

Do you know someone who is eligible?

If you would like to explore this resource further, please visit: https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/primary-schools

After completing the form on this page, the school office will receive a notification to verify your child's pupil premium eligibility. Once confirmed, your child's Atom Home account will be created.

How to find out if you are eligible for Pupil Premium:

If you feel your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, but you have not yet claimed this, please visit: https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals#tab-1