



HARRIETSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Nurtured We Flourish



27th April 2026

Dear Families,

It has been so lovely to see all of the children back at school this term. There has been a nice buzz of learning around the school and it has been great to see the children enjoying their newly invigorated outside areas in the sunshine. My thanks to all of the staff and families who helped with developing these.

This week we welcomed Mrs Fenner, our new Deputy Headteacher, to the school. She has already begun getting stuck into life at Harrietsham and she has lots of fantastic ideas for our curriculum going forwards. We also welcomed Miss Rodriguez, our new Year 5 teacher. Again, she has settled in really well and has enjoyed getting to know her new class.

This week we also welcomed Ms Pittam and Mr Walker as Phase Leaders of the Upper and Lower School. They are really excited to work with the children and teachers in their phases to further enhance teaching and learning and our offer to our children.

I am excited to let you all know that Miss Spain is expecting her second child. She has timed her maternity leave really well so that it doesn't impact on her current class (Brownie points to her!) and she will be leaving at the end of this academic year. We send our congratulations to her and her family.



Jackie Chambers (Headteacher)

UPCOMING



Term 5	
Monday 20 th April 2026 – Friday 22 nd May 2026	
TERM STARTS: Monday 20 th April 2026	
April	
Tuesday 21 st April	Parent Focus Group Meeting 2:15pm – 3:15pm
Tuesday 28 th April	Singing Assembly 9:15am
9:15am	Performance to Parents of Musicians (Invites to follow from Music teachers).
May	
Tuesday 5 th May	Year 5 CATS Tests
Monday 11 th May – Friday 15 th May:	Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 13 th May:	Year 5 Parents Kent Test Info Evening 3:30pm – 4pm
Thursday 14 th May:	Mud Run for Year R and KS1 children
Friday 15 th May:	Mud Run for KS2 children
Monday 18 th May:	Guitar performance
2:30pm	Performance to Parents of Musicians (Invites to follow from Music teachers).
Tuesday 19 th May:	Year 1 Class Worship 9am
Wednesday 20 th May:	New EYFS Cohort 26/27 New Parent Open
Drumming Assembly 9:15am	Evening 5-6:30pm
Thursday 21 st 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

Please note: Forest school sessions are subject to change throughout the term. Changes will be communicated with as much notice as possible.					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Forest School Term 5					
Week 1	WARRIORS - AM	WOODPECKERS - AM	HERONS - PM	KINGFISHERS - AM	EAGLES - AM
W/C 20.04.26	SWALLOWS - PM	BLITZERS - PM		SWALLOWS - PM	
Week 2	WARRIORS - AM	WOODPECKERS - AM	HERONS - PM	WRENS - AM	KESTRELS - AM
W/C 27.04.26	SWALLOWS - PM	BLITZERS - PM	WRENS - AM	NIGHTINGALES - PM	
Week 3	WARRIORS - AM	WOODPECKERS - AM	HERONS - PM	KINGFISHERS - AM	EAGLES - AM
W/C 04.05.26	SWALLOWS - PM	BLITZERS - PM	WRENS - AM	SWALLOWS - PM	
Week 4	WARRIORS - AM	WOODPECKERS - AM	HERONS - PM	WRENS - AM	KESTRELS - AM
W/C 11.05.26	SWALLOWS - PM	BLITZERS - PM	WRENS - AM	NIGHTINGALES - PM	
Week 5	WARRIORS - AM	WOODPECKERS - AM	HERONS - PM	KINGFISHERS - AM	EAGLES - AM
W/C 18.05.26	SWALLOWS - PM	BLITZERS - PM	WRENS - AM	SWALLOWS - PM	

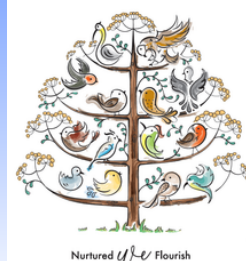
For a more detailed calendar, please see our website here: <https://www.harriets.ham.kent.sch.uk/term-dates-1/>

Follow us on Social Media:

Harrietsham Primary School TikTok:

Follow our OPAL Progress:

Forest School News:



Nurtured We Flourish



Phase News

Lower School News



What a brilliant first week back!

I have seen lots of outdoor learning taking place in EYFS and Year 1, they have been enjoying their new outdoor areas. Some Year 2 children were planting some seeds and have promised to keep us updated on their progress!

It was an absolute pleasure to visit Lower School Worship this week, my first time! The children showed me their 'Wake up Shake up' routine, listened beautifully as we spoke about this week's theme of hope and then sang amazingly well during singing. My thanks to Miss Frazier for getting the children up to a West End standard of singing!

Next week, lots of learning will be continuing. We are always looking to develop our outdoor and play areas. We had a donation this week of a 'sensory tent' from Rachael Gomer (an ex-parent), we are so grateful! If anyone has any old toy cars, toy people or dressing up they wish to donate, please do drop it off at the office!

Have a lovely weekend and see you all next week.

Mr Walker



Upper School News



Hello Upper School!

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week! The classrooms are buzzing with energy and chatter once again as our Upper School students dive straight back into their learning.

In Year 3, our young scientists have been cracking into their new topic with a fascinating egg Science experiment, observing changes and testing hypotheses with great care. Meanwhile, Year 4 has been busy exploring the wonders of the human body. They are also drafting persuasive letters to Mrs. Chambers in hopes of securing some well-earned extra playtime—we shall have to wait and see if their arguments win her over!

Higher up in the school, Year 5 kicked off their week with an incredible "Apprentice" style Hook Day. The classroom transformed into a boardroom as students competed to market and sell dream holidays. The tension is high as we wait to find out which travel company will reign supreme! Finally, Year 6 has travelled back in time to explore the fascinating world of the Maya Gods, researching the complex deities and rituals that defined this ancient civilisation.

We are looking forward to lots more coming up this term.

Ms Pittam

Curriculum Updates



Hello everyone!

I have had a lovely first week at Harrietsham and have really enjoyed getting to know the school, spending time with the children and meeting families on the gate each morning. Everyone has made me feel very welcome and I am so pleased to be joining the team!

My main role in school will be leading and developing the curriculum and I am very excited to continue the hard work already taking place. I want to make sure our curriculum helps all children to succeed, is taught effectively across the school and remains broad, balanced and meaningful.

A key part of this will be looking closely at how learning is sequenced, refining key concepts, reviewing ready to progress criteria and making sure content is concise and purposeful so that children stay engaged and remember what they have learned. I will also be looking into how we assess foundation subjects so that we can better identify gaps in children's learning, address them effectively and ensure the curriculum gives children the building blocks they need.

I am really excited for the future and look forward to working together with the children, families and staff of Harrietsham and to continue building on the strengths of our curriculum, ensuring it enables every child to flourish.

Mrs Fenner

Forest School 'Thank-you's' from Miss Bradley



We wanted to give a huge 'thank-you' to Harrietsham Parish Council for our allotment - it is almost ready to use. Now we just need soil, native seeds and native plants so that we can grow vegetables and flowers.

Also, a huge 'thank-you' to Bodhi's mum who very kindly bought us some new logs to sit on at Forest School. We have used five in the gazebo and the rest have replaced the broken bench at basecamp.





Hello again from the Inclusion Team!

Inclusion Updates

Sensory circuits

Mrs Hancock has restarted circuits after the holidays. This is an opportunity for some children to meet their sensory needs before starting the day. If you feel your child could benefit from this, or if you would like to find out more about it, please contact Mrs Hancock or your class teacher.

Specialist teaching and Learning Service (STLS)

This week we had a visit from the Specialist Teaching service who provided training for our Year R staff on Intensive Interaction. It was an excellent opportunity for our staff to develop their practice through engaging play and enriching language. The teachers in this service support our school on a regular basis, offering advice and training in many different areas of SEND. This was the case before the Easter holidays, where all our staff received a training session about supporting children with ADHD in mainstream schools.

This week's link is for Kent's Children Therapies. This organisation provides support and advice for Speech and Language, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. I recommend taking a look as there are some excellent videos for how you can support your child at home: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/>

Mrs Evans

Pastoral Updates



Support for Anyone Affected by Domestic Abuse in Maidstone

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone – regardless of gender, age, or background. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, help is available locally and confidentially.

CHOICES Domestic Abuse Service offers free, specialist support to adults and young people affected by domestic abuse. They can provide one-to-one advice, safety planning, access to refuge accommodation, and group programmes to aid recovery. You can contact CHOICES by calling 0800 917 9948 or visiting <https://medway.simplyconnect.uk/activities>.

In Maidstone, you can also visit the Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop, run by CHOICES, every Tuesday morning from 9:30–11:30am at the Salvation Army Hall, 74–80 Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED. You don't need an appointment – just drop in for advice and support from trained professionals.

For urgent help, always call 999. If you need to speak to someone anytime, the National Domestic Abuse Helpline is free and open 24/7 at 0808 2000 247.

You are not alone – safe, understanding help is here in Maidstone.

Mrs Griffin

Office Updates



Attendance Update

Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing, and progress. The government expects pupils to attend school every day during term time and parents have a legal responsibility to ensure this happens.

We aim for all children to have an attendance of at least 96%. This target allows for the usual coughs, colds and illnesses that children experience from time-to-time.

Absences should only be taken when absolutely necessary, e.g. for genuine illness. Appointments should be made outside of the school day wherever possible. Please note: we are not able to authorise term-time holidays.

Our school attendance is currently at **94%**. This is below target levels, meaning lots of our children are missing vital learning and development opportunities. Please help us to improve this.

Mrs Masterson



Attendance

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	Hérons	
Last Week	96%	97%	96%	88%	92%	96%	97%	100%	91%	100%	97%	97%	92%	93%
Year to Date	93%	95%	94%	91%	94%	96%	95%	96%	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	Hérons	
Last Week	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	98%	100%	98%	100%	98%	97%	98%	98%	98%
Year to Date	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%	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

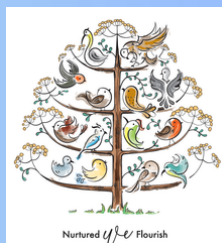
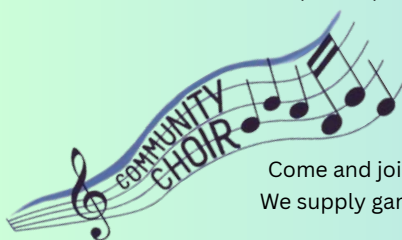
Games Club

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.



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>



Messy Church



St Mary's Church, Lenham

Saturday 16th May 3pm-5pm

* Hand Print Canvas * Lego * Giant Balloon Tennis

* Pin the Wings on the Butterfly

* Games Table 10+ * Tattoos * Cress Cups

* Bath Bombs and much more

Including Our famous Messy Party

Tea



Join the fun at Messy Church!

Free Event

Everyone Welcome

Join us on facebook @Messy Church LVB





CHEQUER TREE CAMP 2026

When?

Tuesday 28th July -
Friday 31st July

Who?

Children in
school years 4-7

Where?

St Luke's
MAIDSTONE
ME14 5BE

Join us this summer for a fun journey of discovering faith. Enjoy exciting activities, worship and making new friends while learning about God's love for us.

Book a space today!
The Family Trust

Chequer Tree Camp began in 1987 and continues today as part of The Family Trusts work to inspire the next generation to explore Christianity. Chequer Tree Camp is a place where children can have fun and learn about faith in a safe environment and engaging way!

Chequer Tree Camp is run by The Family Trust, supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated team of volunteers, all of whom have received training and hold an enhanced DBS check.

The venue for camp this year will be St Lukes Church in Maidstone. Stay over night or join each day of fun activities, games, bible teaching and small group conversations.

OVER NIGHT OR **DAY ONLY**
£155 **£110**

Come and stay at camp overnight.

Come to camp everyday, but sleep in your own bed at night.

Both prices include all activities and all meals.

HOW TO BOOK

You can book a space on our website www.chequertree.org.uk or scan the QR code to take you straight to the site. All bookings close on 28th June 2026.



Get in Touch:

✉ bookings@chequertree.org.uk 🌐 www.chequertree.org.uk
☎ 01622 577960 📺 [chequertreecamp](https://www.facebook.com/chequertreecamp) 📷 [chequertreecamp](https://www.instagram.com/chequertreecamp)