



Nurtured We Flourish



14th September 2026

Dear Families,

It has been so lovely seeing all of the children back at school - I am so proud of how well they have all settled into their new year groups after our first full week back. It is lovely to see our new Reception cohort settling in so well - they are doing so well with their learning and making lots of new friends. I am immensely proud of our Year 6 cohort who have helped our Year R children this week, every day, in the lunch hall. They have been excellent when collecting the children from their classrooms, helping them to collect their food, helping them cut it up and then taking them out to play. I can see the massive difference that this has made to our new children and I am sure having the familiar friendly faces in the playground will be helpful too. Year 6 were also excellent this week when some of them sat their Kent Test. The maturity in which the whole cohort approached the day was exceptional.

I also would like to give a massive shout out to Year 3 Robins class, to Mrs Finch and to Mrs Allitt, who have all worked excellently together this week after some unexpected news that Miss Alexander was not returning to school. The children have been so mature in their response to this situation and we are all so proud of them. I am pleased to say that we have now found them an excellent new teacher - Mrs Cummins will be joining the team on Wednesday this week and will take over teaching the class from next Monday.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Year Group presentations this week. These have now been saved on the Class Pages on our website (within each year group page they are saved under: 'Information for Families' - 'General Information'): [Class Pages](#)

I wanted to share with you all a beautiful display which has been gifted to our school from Hazel Roots, who made the crochet birds for our mustard tree in the school entrance. Hazel, and her craft group, have made us a Sunflower Kindness Garden which we can add to as we show our school values throughout the school year. We cannot thank Hazel and the craft group enough for showing such kindness themselves and for this extremely generous gift for our school - it has been very proudly displayed in our school hall.



Jackie Chambers (Headteacher)



UPCOMING



For a more detailed calendar, please see our website here:

<https://www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk/term-dates-1/>

October: Black History Month	
Thursday 1 st October:	Autumn Census Day (All infants to have a school dinner unless otherwise notified)
Friday 2 nd October:	Individual Child Photos Harvest Festival: Donations collected for Harrietsham Food Bank
Sunday 4 th October:	9:30am – Church Harvest Service
Friday 16 th October:	Classroom Open Afternoon 2:45pm – 3:15pm (All families invited to attend)
Tuesday 20 th October:	Year 6 Class Worship – 2:45pm (Y6 families invited to watch)

TERM ENDS: Friday 23rd October 2026





OPAL Update

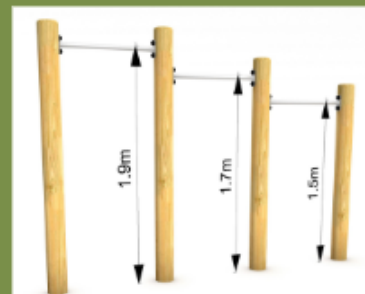
Before Mrs Mannering left our school, she ordered some new playground equipment with the money raised from the Mud Run.

We are excited that this will be installed from Monday 21st September.

Mrs Mannering made this poster to share with you all what was purchased.

Our thanks to everyone who collected money for the Mud Run. We are sure that the children will enjoy playing with this new equipment whilst developing their upper body strength on the high bars.

COMING SOON



I am very excited to announce that we have finalised the plans for a large piece of equipment from the money raised from sponsorship for the mud run. We will be moving one of our gym equipment items and adding in some high bars. These are an excellent piece of equipment to help the children use their upper body strength and challenge themselves using their dynamic risk assessing skills.

When we turn upside down, the blood pressure in the area above the heart initially increases because of gravity. More blood flows towards the heart and through our vagus nerve and our parasympathetic nervous system kicks in to lower blood pressure which brings the still sense of calm that many children find relaxing.



With the left over money we have also purchased a little plumbers water play kit to further develop our water area.

We look forward to adding both of these new pieces in the new academic year.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Kent Fire Brigade Notice



Kent Fire Brigade have asked that you please share the resources via the link below with your children...

Be safe with us | Kent Fire and Rescue Service



Attendance



Whole School Attendance Last Week

94.9%



Our attendance is already below our target of 96%.
Children who have already been absent from school will
have missed vital settling in days.

A child who has lower than 96% attendance is at
high risk of falling behind their peers educationally.

**We need you to ensure that your children are in
school EVERY SINGLE DAY.**

Class Attendance Last Week

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

Year R		Year 1		Year 2	
Ducklings	Cygnets	Wrens	Kingfishers	Sparrows	Jays
97%	95%	93%	95%	97%	90%

Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Robins	Woodpeckers	Swallows	Nightingales	Kestrels	Eagles	Hawks	Heron
89%	96%	100%	97%	92%	98%	97%	94%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

(Because every day in school really does count!)

Why attendance is so important:

- ★ Good attendance = better learning, more confidence, and stronger friendships.
- Missing school adds up quickly — even a few days here and there can make a BIG difference.

DID YOU KNOW?

90% attendance may sound OK... but it means 1 day off every 2 weeks!

That's 19 days a year — nearly a whole month of learning lost. Over 5 years of school, that's almost half a year missed.

DfE guidance:

- ✓ The Department for Education (DfE) says good attendance is 96% or above.
- Schools must work closely with families where attendance falls below this.
- ✓ Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to make sure children attend school regularly.

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

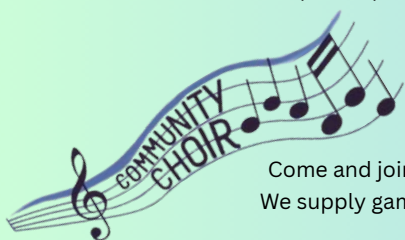
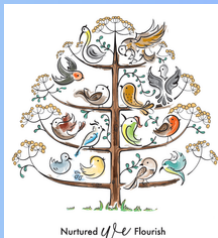
Games Club

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.

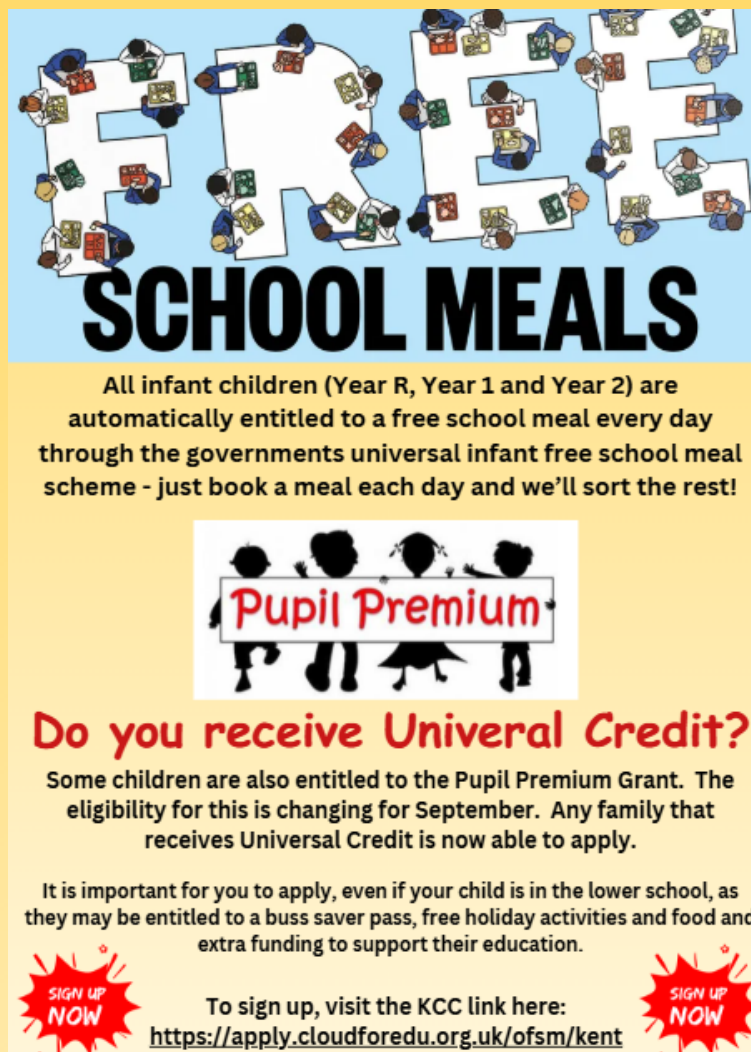
Please join us on the day or phone 01622 859442 to find out more. Tea and coffee will be served and everyone is welcome.

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.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

All infant children (Year R, Year 1 and Year 2) are automatically entitled to a free school meal every day through the governments universal infant free school meal scheme - just book a meal each day and we'll sort the rest!



Do you receive Universal Credit?

Some children are also entitled to the Pupil Premium Grant. The eligibility for this is changing for September. Any family that receives Universal Credit is now able to apply.

It is important for you to apply, even if your child is in the lower school, as they may be entitled to a buss saver pass, free holiday activities and food and extra funding to support their education.

SIGN UP NOW

To sign up, visit the KCC link here:
<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent>

SIGN UP NOW



ANDY DAVIS MUSIC

IN SCHOOL MUSIC LESSONS

GUITAR
SINGING
DRUMS



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:

MUSICAL THEATRE
DANCE
DJEMBE DRUMS



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>

Free event for children aged 5 - 10, run by Hazel (who made our Mustard Tree birds) - based on a character from her newly published children's book.

AN IMMERSIVE STORY & CRAFT EXPERIENCE FOR AGES 5-10

THE PROFESSOR'S MAGICAL Autumn ADVENTURE

FREE EVENT FOR CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN HARRIETSHAM

Step into the Professor's magical autumn world and become part of an enchanting adventure filled with story, curious discoveries and creativity.

PARENTS & CHILDREN WELCOME!
This is a shared experience - grown-ups stay and enjoy the magic together.

The Professor says...
Help yourself!

AN UNFORGETTABLE AUTUMN EXPERIENCE!

MAGICAL STORY  Meet the Professor and listen to his story in his enchanting autumn world.	SPARKLING BEAK PLAQUE  Decorate the Professor's beak with metallic tape, pens and gems to make your own door plaque!	GLOWING AUTUMN LIGHT  Create a beautiful autumn tealight holder (using real ramekins), to take home.	SWEET TREATS FROM THE PROFESSOR  Help yourself to tasty treats from the Professor's leaf bowl during the adventure!	TAKE HOME TREASURES  Leave with two wonderful creations - a sparkling Professor door plaque and a magical tealight holder!
---	--	--	--	--

SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER

VENUE HARRIETSHAM VILLAGE HALL

FREE FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-10 AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING ADULT

TICKET ONLY!
BOOKING BY TICKET ONLY

TO BOOK, PLEASE RING 01622 851885

BOOK NOW!

JOIN THE PROFESSOR FOR A MAGICAL AUTUMN ADVENTURE OF STORY, CREATIVITY & WONDER!