

# HARRIETSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Nurtured We Flourish

Monday 24th November 2025

Dear Families,

### Christmas is Coming!

The weeks seem to be pushing by and Christmas is drawing ever closer! We have lots of very excited children and staff! Please do have a look at Page 3 of this newsletter for updates about our Christmas Fayre - we would REALLY appreciate some parental support.

### Wet and Cold Weather Clothing:

As the days become colder, please can I remind all children to please come to school with a NAMED waterproof coat and change of footwear for use on the playing field. You will have also been sent the OPAL Term 2 Newsletter - please do have a look at the benefits for children being outside in the winter months. Please help us to ensure their warmth for this by sending them to school with the correct clothing.

### Parking and Traffic:

I continue to receive regular emails from concerned residents and parents regarding the parking and driving of some of our families on the roads around the school. We are extremely lucky to have a visitor carpark, but, I know this does not allow all of our families to park. If you are unable to park in the visitor carpark, please do ensure you park safely and respect the laws of the road and our local residents.

### Road Safety Competition:



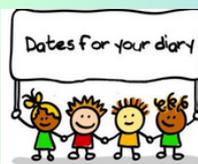
With this in mind I am launching a competition whereby I am asking our children to create a 'Road Safety' poster. Winners will have their posters made into signage which will be displayed outside our school. Please do encourage your child to join in.

**Design Our New Road Safety Signage!**

Calling all creative young minds! Submit your road safety poster design and see your artwork come to life on signs outside our school.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Named entries (child's name and class) should be completed on plain paper and should be handed to Mrs Chambers by the end of Term (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December).

Classroom Open Afternoons will be rearranged for Mr Hyder's and Mrs Stroud's classes. We will be in touch with new dates ASAP.



All dates for the term can also be found on our website here: <https://www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk/term-dates-1/>

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November:	New EYFS Cohort 26/27 Parent Tours
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November:	Classroom Open Afternoon 2:45pm – 3:15pm
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November:	Non-Uniform Day for Bottle Tombola and Chocolate Tombola
<b>December:</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December and Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December:	New EYFS Cohort 26/27 Parent Tours
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December:	Year 5 Class Worship – 9am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December:	OPAL Donation Day (children can wear own clothes in return for a donation for playtimes)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December:	DATE CHANGE: Year R Christmas Show – 2:30pm Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December:	Christmas Fayre after school
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December:	I-Rock Performance to parents 2:30pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December:	Y2+ Y3 Christingle Service (children only)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December:	Interim Reports Home Families invited Christmas Dinner – Christmas Jumpers allowed
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December:	Christmas Jumpers allowed KS2 Church Service 2pm – 3pm (children only) Year 1 Nativity – 2pm CANCELLED: End of Term Disco for the children

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December - INSET Day – School Closed to all children)

TERM ENDS: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

# UPCOMING

**Classroom Open Afternoon - 27<sup>th</sup> November:** Families are invited to visit their children's classes between 2:45pm and 3:15pm. Collection for children will be at 3:20pm from outside the school gates as usual.

**Note:** Classroom Open Afternoons will be rearranged for Mr Hyder's and Mrs Stroud's classes. We will be in touch with new dates ASAP.



## Online SafetyTalk - Lenham:

You are all invited to a 'Digital and Online Awareness Briefing for Parents' that will focus on the increasingly complex and potentially dangerous online world that children are growing up in. Mr Gaygan, a fabulous speaker from The Towers School, will deliver the session.

**Tuesday 25th November at 2-3pm at Lenham Primary School**

## 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>

**To find out more, visit our website here: [Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Pupil Premium](#)**

## Equality and Diversity Committee - Representatives Needed

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

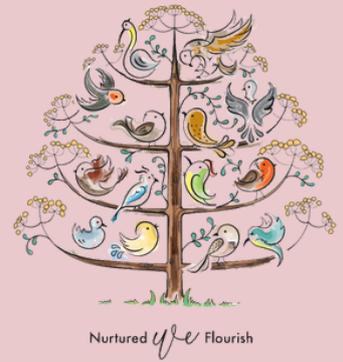
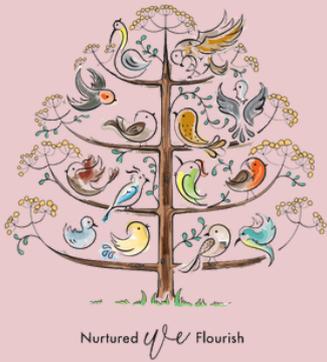
- People/ families from ethnic minority backgrounds
- Religious backgrounds
- LGBTQ+



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 Mrs Giannini at [emma.giannini@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:emma.giannini@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk) if you would like to find out more or volunteer to represent one of these communities.





Whole School Attendance Last Week	94.7%
Whole School Attendance since beginning of School Year	94.0%



## ATTENDANCE

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**  
Children are required to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every 2 month attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% & Below

Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%-90%

Cause for concern

100%-96%

Excellent

# 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
Last Week	99%	96%	90%	94%	94%	99%	95%	97%	99%	90%	90%	94%	96%	85%
Year to Date	95%	96%	96%	94%	94%	96%	95%	96%	97%	93%	93%	94%	94%	93%

# Class Punctuality

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

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
	99%	100%	97%	100%	98%	99%	99%	98%	99%	96%	98%	99%	99%	97%

# 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.



## Notices from St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham

### 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.



### Games Club

Come and join us in the Church Room (there is a door into this at the back of Harrietsham Village Hall)

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month, from 2pm – 4pm.

We supply games but please feel free to bring something you would like to 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.

### Bible Study

Come and join our Harrietsham Bible Study group

We meet on 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.

### Crib Service

If anyone would like to take part or help behind the scenes on the day, please contact Pamela Cuerden on 01622 859442.

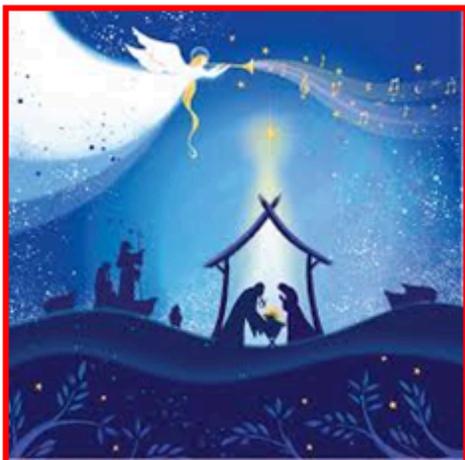
## Crib Service

We will be holding our crib service at St John's Church in Harrietsham

at **3pm**

on **Christmas Eve.**

Come and dress up if you want to, and bring your mum, dad, aunties, uncles, grand-parents, brothers, sisters and friends!



We would love to see you all.  
Everyone is welcome!

# Harrietsham CEP School Prayer Group

Please do come along and join our Prayer Group who meet in school at 2:45pm on the following dates:



- Fri 5th December
- Mon 12th January
- Fri 6th February
- Mon 2nd March
- Fri 20th March
- Mon 20th April
- Fri 15th May
- Mon 15th June
- Fri 10th July

## Step Into Santa's Magical Grotto!

Experience the Wonder of Christmas

### A Winter Wonderland Awaits

Join us this festive season for the ultimate Christmas adventure at Santa's Grotto! Let your family bask in the joy and magic of meeting Santa Claus in a warm, beautifully decorated setting. Create cherished memories together and soak up the holiday spirit.

#### Event Details

- Date: 30/11/2025
- Time: 12.00 – 16.00pm
- Location: Harrietsham Village Hall, Harrison Drive Harrietsham Me171bz

#### Your Magical Experience Includes:

- Meet and greet with Santa, Take a photo to treasure on your own device
- A special selection Box for Primary or younger children
- Joyful activities
- Warm seasonal treats and refreshments

#### Booking Information

To guarantee your spot, we recommend booking early.

Reserve by emailing [cllr.griffiths@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.griffiths@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Enquiries: 07793240529

#### Admission Prices

- Children Free
- Adults Free
- Refreshments Donations welcomed

Your visit helps support local Village Hall! Don't Miss Your Chance!

Bundle up, bring your Christmas wishes, and celebrate with us in a world of festive wonder. Santa and his joyful elves are waiting to welcome you! Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from everyone at Santa's Grotto Harrietsham





## FATHER CHRISTMAS SPECIAL EVENT

Sat & Sun 6th & 7th December  
Sat & Sun 13th & 14th December



TakethemajesticSteamTrain to Father Christmas's Woodland Grotto on the most anticipated journey of the year!

Featuring a Christmas Treasure Trail, Christmas Crafts and Activities for all ages, an open Fire for Marshmallow toasting and a private meeting with Father Christmas where he'll present your child with a personal gift.



For more details and to book tickets: [www.bwlr.co.uk](http://www.bwlr.co.uk)