

HARRIETSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nurtured We Flourish

Monday 15th December 2025

Dear Families,

4 days to go until the Christmas holidays - I can tell the children are getting very excited now.

We have quite a few things to celebrate from last week, as well as lots to still look forward to this week.

OPAL Visit and Donation Day: On Monday we had a visit from one of the lead OPAL mentors. She came in to assess our play offer and our risk management for our children. We are delighted to say that she left us with very positive feedback. In total, our children's playtimes amount to 20% of their school week, so we know how important it is to use this time wisely to plan for our children's growth and development. A very well done to Mrs Mannering, to our OPAL Working Group and to our Play Team on duty. A huge thank you also for all of the donations brought into school on Wednesday - we are excited to put these out onto the playground for the children to play with.

Musical Theatre: We were treated to a very special Musical Theatre performance on Tuesday. The group performed beautifully and sang their hearts out. I am in awe of their confidence when performing. A very well done to everyone in Musical Theatre and to Miss Frazier for dedicating her time to the group.

Guitar Showcase: On Wednesday, we were treated to another musical delight when our guitarists performed with Andy and Jack. Again, their confidence when performing was a delight to see and I am very proud of each and every one of them. Andy and Jack have said that they have spaces in their guitar, drum and singing lessons, so please do contact them via the school office if your child is interested. A very well done to each of our guitarists and to Andy and Jack for their wonderful lessons.

Year R Christmas Show: On Thursday, it was lovely to be present while our Year R children performed to their families in their Christmas show. It is very daunting when you are this young to perform to such a large audience and I think they did fantastically - their singing and signing was delightful. A huge well done to the children and to the Year R team for their hard work in putting the show together.

Christmas Fayre: A MASSIVE thank you to the staff team who helped to put together our Christmas Fayre. Without a PTFA, this was a massive undertaking and one I couldn't have done on my own. It was definitely a team effort and a sign of the staff's unwavering commitment to our school. Thank you also to the parent helpers who helped set-up and run stalls on the day - again, we couldn't have done it without you. We hope you all enjoyed the event and we will announce shortly how much we raised for laptops for our children.

Follow us on Social Media:

Harrietsham Primary School
TikTok:



Forest School
News:



Follow our OPAL
Progress:



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

Monday 15 th December:	I-Rock Performance to parents 2:30pm
Tuesday 17 th December:	Y2+ Y3 Christingle Service (children only)
Wednesday 17 th December:	Interim Reports Home Christmas Dinner – Christmas Families invited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christmas Jumpers allowed
Thursday 18 th December:	KS2 Church Service 2pm – 3pm (children only) Year 1 Nativity – 2pm CANCELLED: End of Term Disco for the children
Friday 19 th December - INSET Day – School Closed to all children)	

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TERM ENDS: Thursday 18th December 2025

U P C O M I N G

All Week:

- Our Year 6 children are planning and organising supporting different charities of their choice as part of the Genius Hour Project. All week Neve and Annie will be selling produce and collecting for Demelza House on the school gates. Please support them if you can.

Monday 15th December:

- I-Rock show to parents at 2:30pm in the school hall. I-Rock families welcome - Please come and sign-in via the school office and we will show you to the hall.

Tuesday 16th December:

- Year 2 and 3 Christingle Service at 2pm in the school hall. Year 2 and 3 Families are invited to attend - Please come and sign-in via the school office and we will show you to the hall.
- Charity Football Match for Year 6 Team after school.

Wednesday 17th December:

- Christmas Dinner Day for all children. The only option for school dinners this day is Christmas dinner. If your child does not want this, they MUST be sent in with a packed lunch please. Children may wear Christmas jumpers and headwear on this day, with their school uniform.

Thursday 18th December:

- Key Stage Two Church Service at 2pm. Our apologies, we are not able to invite parents to this as there is not sufficient space in the church. Please ensure you have completed the form to let us know if you will collect your child from the church at 3pm or whether you wish them to walk back to school.
- Year 1 Christmas Nativity at 2pm in the school hall. Year 1 parents welcome - Please come and sign-in via the school office and we will show you to the hall.

Friday 19th December:

- INSET DAY - School closed to all children. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - ROAD SAFETY AND PARKING:

I am afraid I have had more communications from concerned families and local residents about the parking situation around our school. I have to say, I share their concerns. **I urge you to please park sensibly on the roads around the school.** Breaking the rules of the highways with regards to parking can block drivers vision and this could mean that our children are more at risk when using the roads and footpaths. **Please do not block the entrance to roads or driveways and please do not park on the crossing where the drop curb is at the front of the school where children.**

Design Our New Road Safety Signage!



Road Safety Poster Competition: Closing Thursday 18th December at 3pm

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 18th December).

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>



Equality Diversity Inclusion

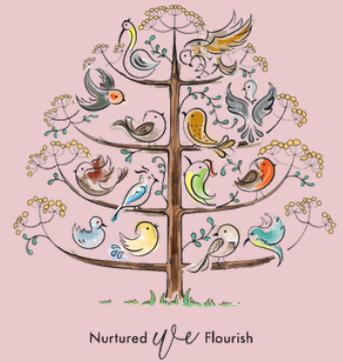
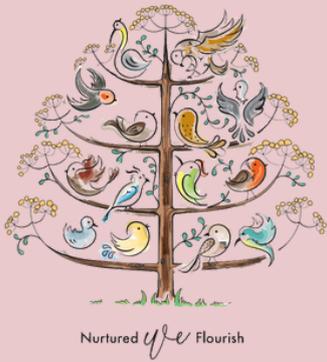
Equality and Diversity Committee - Representatives Needed

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 Mrs Giannini at 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	91.2%
Whole School Attendance since beginning of School Year	94.5%



ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
Children are required to be in school 190 days per year. The Government states that every month's attendance should be at least 91%.

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	Hérons
Last Week		79%	93%	93%	91%	95%	96%	81%	88%	97%	94%	94%	91%	97%	91%
Year to Date		93.5%	95.8%	95.2%	93.7%	94.2%	96.2%	93.7%	95.4%	96.5%	93.5%	93.4%	94.2%	94.4%	93.4%

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	Hérons
Last Week		100%	100%	98%	99%	99%	100%	99%	97%	99%	98%	98%	98%	99%	98%
Year to Date		99.7%	99.9%	98.6%	99.4%	98.9%	99.3%	99.1%	98.4%	98.9%	97.9%	98.5%	98.8%	98.8%	98.0%

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.

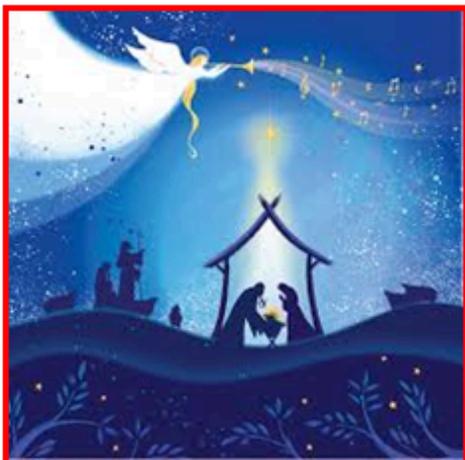
Crib Service

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!



M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

NATIVITY FUN FOR ALL



Christmas Nativity Fun with Messy Church

St Mary's Church, Lenham
Sat 13 Dec | 3pm - 5pm

Come dressed up as a nativity character or have fun with our dressing up outfits.

Craft activities, Christmas Nativity, snacks and drinks to enjoy!



The Pathways Church Christmas Special!

Lenham Community Centre
Sun 21 Dec | 4:30pm - 6pm

A special Christmas service for young and old.

With Christmas nibbles, carols and a craft for children to make.



Do bring family and friends. 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:



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

Schools Out! Christmas Holiday Club

Providing free childcare and peace of mind.

Schools Out Club provides the opportunity for children aged between 4 - 13 to participate in a range of **sports & fitness** and **arts & craft** activities. Sessions run for **4 hours** between **10:00 - 14:00**.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) places are now available. Simply log into the HAF website holidayactivities.com to book a space at one of our locations - or scan the QR code below.

Dates and locations:

Greenfields Community Primary School
Shepway, Maidstone
Archbishop Courtenay Primary School
Tovil, Maidstone
Tree Tops Primary Academy
Brishing Lane, Maidstone

Mon 22
December

Tue 23
December

Mon 29
December

Tue 30
December

HolidayActivities



Places for all other children available from **10 December 2025**. Visit stonesinthecommunity.org/programme/schools-out-holiday-club on the day to book a space at one of our locations or follow our social.



stonesinthecommunity.org