



The Phoenix



The Wrotham Road Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to 2026 we have had at Wrotham Road!

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their brilliant performance at the Golden Gala, where we finished 5th overall – a huge improvement on last year. Our trophy cabinet is certainly filling up! A special well done to all of our competitors, including our youngest participant in Year 1. Their determination, teamwork and confidence were wonderful to see.

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent workshops on 13th January. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to explore ways to support your children with phonics, reading and maths. Your partnership in your child's education truly makes a difference. We are very grateful to Mrs Ghaffuri, Miss McIntosh, Mrs Miah and Mrs Shaxted for leading such informative sessions.

We also appreciate the parents and carers who attended our CEO's SEN drop-in session on 3rd February and those who completed the SEND survey. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us continue to improve the support we provide. If there are other areas of the curriculum you would like workshops on, please do let us know – we are always keen to respond to your interests and needs.

This term, we have continued to embed our School Values of Individuality, Independence, Creativity, Confidence and Enjoyment, alongside the British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Through assemblies, we have revisited our Golden Rules, particularly focusing on responsibility, respect and creating an environment where everyone can learn, feel safe and be happy.

Our discussions have centred around the British Values of Rule of Law and Individual Liberty, as well as our school value of Individuality. Pupils have reflected on how we are all unique and free to make choices – about our hobbies, friendships and interests – while also understanding the importance of following the rules and laws that keep us safe and support our community. We have also explored the concept of fairness, recognising that fairness does not always mean everyone receives the same thing, but rather what they need to succeed. These are powerful conversations, and you may wish to continue them at home.

As we approach the end of term, we are delighted to share some joyful news. Mrs Ghaffuri and her husband welcomed their beautiful baby boy, Issa, on Wednesday 4th February. We send them our warmest congratulations and look forward to meeting him when they visit in the coming weeks.

Miss Costanza from the office team will soon begin her maternity leave, with her last working day being 13th March. During this time, Mrs Kanetti will be increasing her hours, and we will also welcome a new team member to cover the remaining days. We kindly ask for your patience and support as our new colleague settles into the role.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful half-term break with your children and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 23rd February.

Kind regards,

Nicole Galinis
Executive Headteacher

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY 2026

- Monday 23rd February – Return to school
- Wednesday 25th February – Young Voices
- Friday 27th February – Poetry by Heart Competition Final
- Wednesday 4th March – PTA Disco (Reception and KS1 3:30–4:30pm, KS2 4:45–5:45pm)
- Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
-
- Monday 16th March – Y5 **Falcons** Cutty Sark Trip
- Monday 23rd March – Pupil Photos – Individual
- Tuesday 24th March – Y5 **Hawks** Cutty Sark Trip
- Wednesday 1st April – Bubbles for Books Fun Run (Sponsorship forms will be sent home in March)
- Thursday 2nd April – Easter Craft Afternoon – Parents invited to attend at 2pm to make Easter Crafts with their children
- Thursday 2nd April – Break up for Easter Half Term

Awards



This term we have introduced some new awards.

The Phoenix Trophy is being awarded at the end of each term to one pupil per class who has demonstrated our school values and followed our Golden Rules, being an excellent role model to others. The trophy winner gets to keep the trophy until the end of next term, when it will be awarded to another person in the class. Trophy winners are also invited to join Miss Galinis for afternoon tea!

Children awarded the trophy this term were:
Elsabeta, Rose Kaur, Emilija, Jind, Saudah, Raunaq, Roxana, Harvi, Yaalini, Theo, Maryna, Sabrina, Alexandra-Maria and Priya - well done to all of them!

Please can trophies be returned on Monday 30th March at the latest. Thank you.

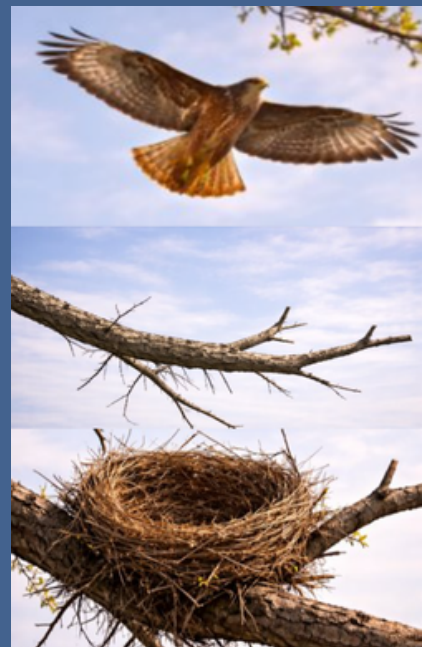
Dojo Winners - We are also awarding children who get the highest number of Dojo points in each class. The child with the most in their class will receive an Amazon voucher for £5 and there are other prizes for the children in second and third place.

Reading Challenge - As I'm sure you are aware we introduced the Reading challenge some time ago and we have had lots of children being awarded certificates, bookmarks, stickers and badges for achieving the bronze, silver and gold levels. This week we had our first set of platinum level achievers who all joined Miss Galinis for drinks and biscuits as their reward. Keep going children - there are more rewards for Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire and Diamond levels!

The Nest, The Branch & Soaring High!

In each class there is a picture of a nest, branch and bird soaring through the sky. This is what we are using to celebrate pupils hard work and good choices. All children start the day in the nest and if they do something great they can be moved onto the branch and receive 3 dojo points. If they do something outstanding they can be moved onto the bird because they are 'soaring high' and they then receive 5 dojo points! This is not a 'one size fits all' measure - we do take into account the individual needs and challenges children may have and celebrate everyone's successes.

Unfortunately poor choices might mean they are **discretely** taken out of the nest but they can quickly work there way back by making good choices again. Staff will always help and support children with this when needed.



Award Winners

Isobel received her certificate and badge for completing her Platinum GOALS booklet - well done Isobel! If your child hasn't yet completed their GOALS booklet, maybe they could have a go at the activities over half term - it's a good way of keeping them entertained!



Congratulations to all of our Phoenix Trophy winners and Dojo winners for Term 3! Please return trophies by Monday 30th March - thank you!



Nursery

In nursery this term we have been learning all about Nursery Rhymes and Fairytales, as well as beginning our RWI journey, learning a new sound a week.

The children have been having a wonderful time with building blocks, helping to make a display and they also had a chance to see a real police car!



Reception

In Reception this term our topic has been 'People Who Help Us'. We have been strengthening our communication and language skills through lots of role play, pretending to be police officers, doctors and firefighters. Using our imaginations, we have created towns and fire stations using small world toys. At the art table, we have create different props to add to our role play. In Reception we are clever writers and some of us have been using 'colourful semantics' to help us build and write sentences.

This term in Maths, Wren Class have been very busy measuring, building and exploring! We've compared long and short objects (and discovered some very long "worms" made from playdough!), built tall towers to see whose could reach the highest, and used cubes to measure everything from tables to our friends. The children have loved using their practical maths skills around the classroom.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful term focusing on 'Brilliant Britain - Castles and Crowns'. They have been learning about who lives in a castle and made their own with a drawbridge! They enjoyed seeing the police car visit and trying on some of the uniform too! They learnt on Safer Internet Day what is fun and safe about AI and what is unsafe and upsetting.



Year 2

We were very excited in year 2 to have an amazing experience set up by the Gravesham Police force. We explored the life of a police officer during a wider assembly before trying on the police gear and experienced sitting in the police car. We loved it!



Year 3

Year 3 Police Visit

This week, Year 3 enjoyed a special visit from local police officers. They taught us about their important job and how they help to keep our community safe. The children loved looking at the police uniform and equipment, and all pupils had the chance to try parts of it on. The highlight of the day was that every child got to sit inside a real police car and learning about how it is used.



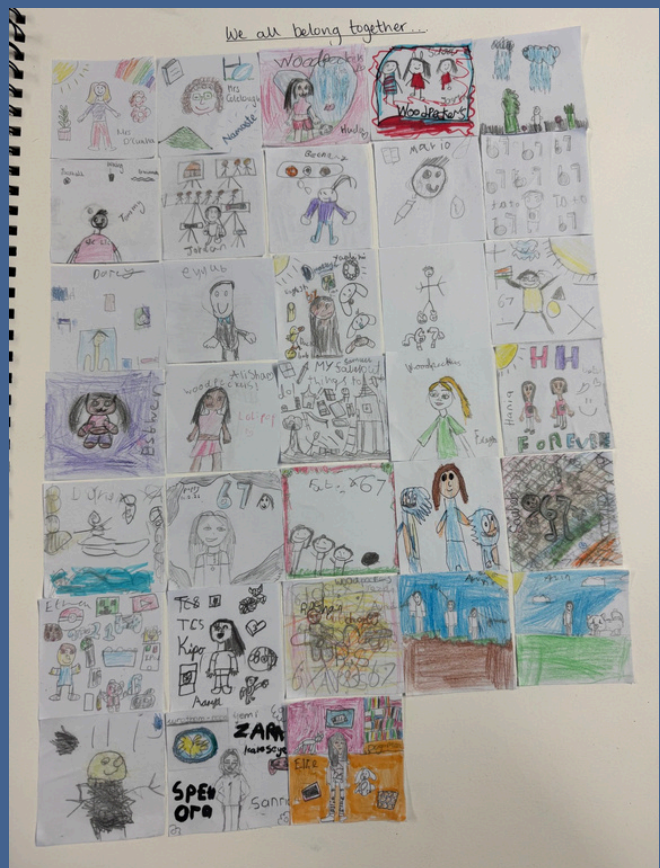
Puffins got moving with lots of Times Table Dances today to celebrate Number Day! They had great fun chanting their times tables while following the actions and moving to the music. It was a lively and active way to practise their maths skills, and everyone joined in with big smiles. A fantastic way to enjoy maths together! 🎵🌟



Year 4

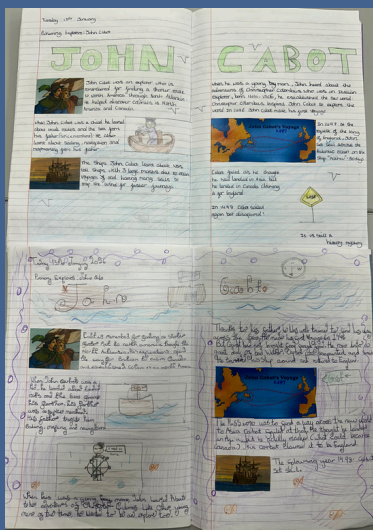
Year 4 have been on fire this week! From bold, brilliant artwork to powerful poetry performances and dramatic re-enactments of the Viking epic Beowulf, creativity has been bursting out of every corner of the classroom. The children brought King Hrothgar's banquet to life, expertly miming the mighty warriors and capturing all the action and excitement of the feast!

Alongside our adventures in Anglo-Saxon legend, we've also been exploring what it truly means to belong. We celebrated what makes each of us unique and discovered something even more special - when we bring all our talents, personalities and strengths together, our school shines even brighter as one incredible community.



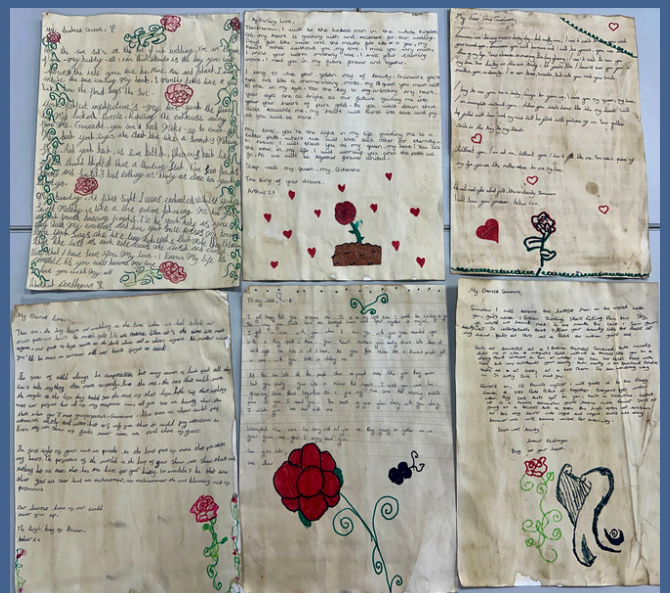
Year 5

This term Year 5 have been creating monoprints in their Art lessons. A monoprint is a unique, one-of-a-kind print created by applying ink or paint to a smooth surface (like glass or metal) and transferring it to paper, resulting in an image that can't be exactly reproduced, blending painting with printmaking.



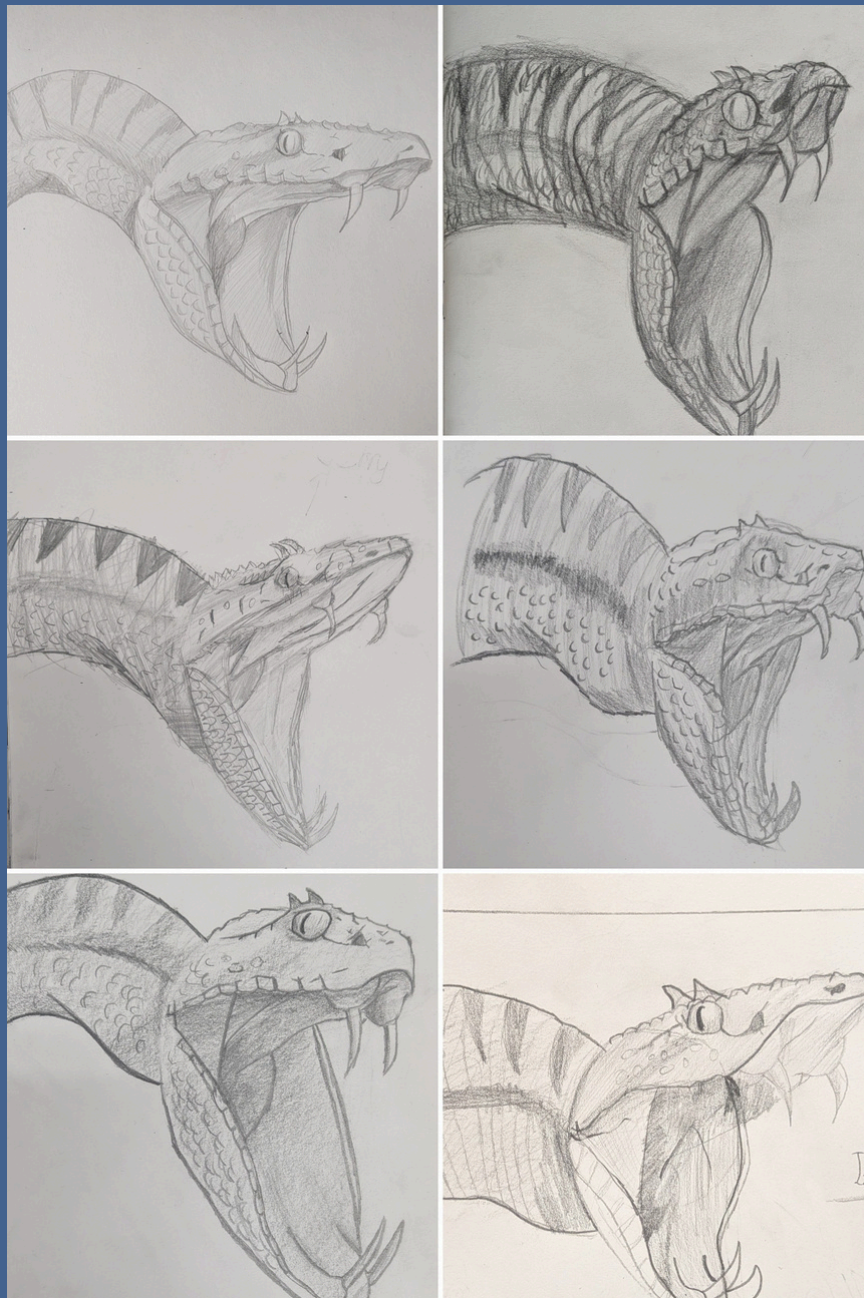
In history, Year 5 have been learning about The British Empire. They have researched information about John Cabot who discovered the quickest and safest route to North America. The children produced detailed and eye-catching posters about the explorer.

In English, Year 5 have been reading Arthur, High King of Britain. The children have taken on the role of King Arthur and have written love letters to Guinevere. The letters are packed full of figurative and descriptive language.



Year 6

Inspired by our class novel *Holes* by Louis Sachar, students created detailed drawings of snakes. In the story, snakes represent a possible escape from the exhausting task of digging holes at Camp Green Lake, as a snakebite would mean a trip to the hospital—and a break from the hard work. After discussing this symbolism, students followed a guided drawing tutorial to create their own snake artwork. They worked carefully and creatively, and they were incredibly proud of their finished pieces!



PTA / Fundraising

Term 3 was seemingly quiet for the PTA, however behind the scenes we have been very busy! Preparations are well under way for next Terms events! We have our first disco of the year on 4th March, we would love to see as many children as possible, so please buy your tickets by 28th February. The children always enjoy the discos, and they'll be coming home with a little treat in hand!

Our Mother's day pop up shop last year was so successful we are doing another this year! Children are invited to visit us in the Sunshine hut during the day on Friday 13th March. Items 'around a pound' with a selection of goodies available for the people they'd like to celebrate, so please remember to give them a little bit of change if they'd like to visit.

Like last year you may find us out on the playground at pick up if we have any gifts left.

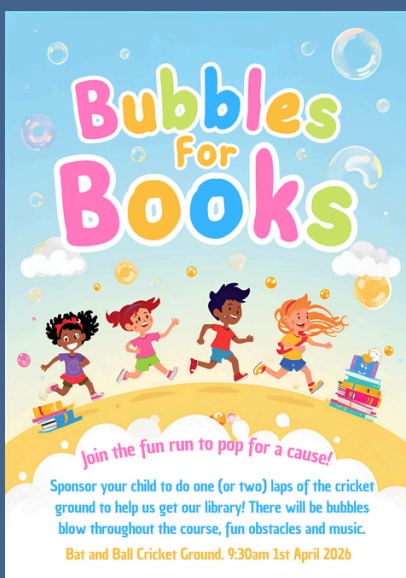
(Also watch this space for Easter events!)

This term, with all your support and generosity we have been able to make a donation of £500 to the school library fund. We hope this helps get our school a bit closer to their final target. This would not be possible without the children and their families at Wrotham Road school, so please note this donation isn't just from the PTA it is from all of you too!! Thankyou!



We wish you a restful half term, and look forward to Term 4.

As always if anyone would like to join the PTA, please find us on Facebook, Instagram or pop your details in at the office.



Gravesham Family Hubs



Gravesham Family Hubs Timetable

Monday 23rd February - Thursday 2nd April

Our Family Hubs:

Riverside
03000 422342
Dickens Road,
Gravesend,
DA12 2JY
riversidefh@
kent.gov.uk

Chantry
03000 420007
Ordnance Road,
Gravesend,
DA12 2RL
chantryfh@
kent.gov.uk

Kings Farm
03000 413838
Cedar Avenue,
Gravesend,
DA12 5JT
kingsfarmfh@
kent.gov.uk

Northfleet
01474 351451
Hall Road,
Northfleet,
DA11 8AJ
northfleetfh@
kent.gov.uk

Shears Green
03000 420895
Packham Road,
Northfleet,
DA11 7JF
shearsgreenfh@
kent.gov.uk

Lawn
03000 421125
Lawn Road,
Northfleet,
DA11 9HB
lawnfh@
kent.gov.uk

All of our groups and services are free to attend.

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Monday

Chantry Talking Walk in (KCHFT) 9.30am-11.30am	Lawn Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am	Lawn Child Health Clinic (KCHFT) 9.30am-11.30am	Riverside Bookworms 9.30am-10.30am 16 th Mar - 30 th Mar
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Tuesday

Kings Farm Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am	Lawn Stay & Play 9.30am-11.00am	Kings Farm Child Health Clinic (KCHFT) 9.30am-11.00am	Kings Farm NCT Infant Feeding Group 10.00am-12noon
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Wednesday

Riverside Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am	Shears Green Stay & Play 9.30am-11.00am
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Thursday

Riverside Child Health Clinic (KCHFT) 9.30am-12noon	Riverside Childminders Session 9.00am-11.00am	Chantry Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am
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Friday

Kings Farm Stay & Play 9.30am-11.00am	Lawn NCT Infant Feeding Group 9.30am-11am From 27 th Feb	Riverside Little Talkers 10.30am-11:30am 27 th Feb - 27 th Mar
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Afternoon

Chantry Stay & Play 1.00pm-2.30pm	Northfleet BeYou (LGBT+) 4.30pm-6.00pm	Northfleet Compass 12 - 16 years 4.30pm-6.00pm	Northfleet Gravesend Street Cricket 5pm-6pm
Shears Green Baby Massage 1.30pm-2.30pm 25 th Feb - 25 th Mar	Chantry Time to Shine 4-7 3pm-4pm 25 th Feb - 1 st Apr	Riverside Stay & Play 1.00pm-2.30pm	Riverside NCT Infant Feeding Group 1.15pm-3.15pm
Riverside Stay & Play (SEND) 1.00pm-2.00pm	Shears Green Baby Group 1.30pm-2.30pm	Chantry Baby Massage 1.30pm-2.30pm 26 th Feb - 26 th Mar	Northfleet Stepping Up 8-11 years 4.00pm-6.00pm
Lawn Bookworms 1.30pm-2.30pm 27 th Feb - 13 th Mar			

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

Information

Stay & Play

A relaxed session for families with play, singing, stories and messy fun for children aged 0-5.

Stay & Play (SEND) Referral only

Session aimed at children aged 0-5 with SEND needs or social communication difficulties. It encourages socialisation, play and interaction with others.

Baby Group

A welcoming space to bond with your baby and meet other parents. Includes songs and sensory play. For babies who are pre-walking.

Bookworms Requires Booking

Step into the magical world of books! 3 fun sessions with stories and activities. Free book packs included. For children aged 1-4. Contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details.

Little Talkers Requires Booking

A playful 6-week course for 2-5 year olds to build speech, language and attention skills. Contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details

Baby Massage Requires Booking

A 5-week course to learn soothing massage techniques to help your baby relax, sleep better and ease colic. Great for bonding. For babies 0-6 months. Contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details.

Healing Together Referral only

A 6-week trauma-informed programme for children aged 5-16 to support emotional wellbeing and recovery.

Parenting Support Advice Online

Online/Email for friendly advice on any parenting questions (0-19) - no booking needed. Contact ParentSupportandAdvice@kent.gov.uk for further details.

Making it REAL Referral only

Practical tips and activities to help parents support early reading and writing at home. For children aged 2-4. Contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details.

Time to Shine (SEND) Referral only

Small, supportive groups for children aged 4-7 years with SEND to build confidence and social skills through fun activities. Contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details.

Baby, Family and You Requires Booking

A supportive course for expectant and new parents to build positive routines and confidence in baby's first year. Contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details.

Stepping Up Invite Only

A 6-week programme for 5-11 year olds to boost confidence, manage emotions and make friends.

Speak Out Parents Requires Booking

24th March at 1pm - Riverside Family Hub
We are gathering feedback on the support parents received during their parenting journey, including the challenges faced and the services they've accessed. For further details or to book contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk.

The Communication Tree Referral only

A 4-week course to understand how communication develops. For children aged 2 years plus, including fun activities to boost your child's communication skills. Contact graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details.

Strengthening Family Relationships Requires Booking

A workshop to help parents reduce conflict and build positive family relationships. Email graveshamfh@kent.gov.uk for further details.

NCT Infant Feeding Group Drop in

Friendly, free infant feeding support from pregnancy through early parenthood. Trained peer supporters help you feel supported and connected. A great way to meet other parents!

Healthy Start Vitamins

Are you eligible for Healthy Start Vitamins? If so, complete this form to order Healthy Start Vitamins to your door.

Free for 2

Some 2 year olds can get up to 15 hours of free childcare per week. For more information and how to apply.

Useful Contact Numbers:

Health Visitor
0300 013 2204

Midwife
01322 428753

Please Note:

For Health and Safety reasons there are room capacity limits in place.

For more information about opening times give your local centre a call

@Graveshamfamilyhubs

@Graveshamfamilyhubs

@Graveshamfamilyhubs11-19

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub
Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council



Your child's attendance is crucial to them doing well in school. We cannot authorise holidays during term time and we urge you all to make sure your child's attendance is at least **96%** - this means no more than 7 days off across the whole year!

Of our statutory school age children (those aged 5 and over) **Swallows** and **Hawks** are our highest attenders. Well done! Both classes achieved 98% (Data up until Thursday 12th February).

Thinking about booking a holiday during term time?

REMEMBER: ANY ABSENCE MUST BE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE

Absence for an activity or holiday that can be arranged during the annual 13-week holiday time will not be authorised during the school term.

A penalty notice may be issued if there are five days/10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. This can include irregular attendance.

First offence - the first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. Reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.*

A penalty will be issued for each child



£160 + £160 + £160

3 x children + 1 parent = **£480**
reduced to £240 if paid within 21 days

A family of two parents and two children



£160 + £160

2 x children + 2 parents = **£640**
reduced to £320 if paid within 21 days

Second offence (within 3 years) - the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.*



1 child
£320

2 children
£640

3 children
£960

Third offence - a penalty notice will not be issued, the case will be presented to the Magistrates' Court for prosecution, where either a fine of up to **£2,500**, a community order or a custodial sentence of up to three months can be imposed. A conviction in the Magistrates' Court may be disclosed on future DBS certificates.

*Failure to pay a penalty notice may also result in prosecution. Details correct as of September 2025.



Friendly February 2026

MONDAY



2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

TUESDAY



3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

WEDNESDAY



4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

THURSDAY



5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

FRIDAY



6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

SATURDAY



7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

SUNDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today



23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Mindful March 2025

SATURDAY

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

SUNDAY

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

MONDAY

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

TUESDAY

4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

WEDNESDAY

5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

THURSDAY

6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

FRIDAY

7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible



29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together