



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 16th October 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter our final week of term, we begin reflecting on the incredibly positive term we have had. The children have so much to be proud of with rich learning appearing in their books and around the school.

Monkton Nature Reserve

The children in Hedgehogs and Rabbits Classes were so excited and fit to burst when they came in yesterday. The first big school trip for many of them and what a wonderful experience for the children! They were so engaged when looking at the different woodland animal skulls and thoroughly enjoyed guessing which animal each skull belonged to. They also loved exploring the nature trail, searching for the different brass rubbings of insects along the way. It was lovely to see their curiosity, enthusiasm and excitement as they discovered and learned about the natural world around them. Best of all the adults were very complimentary of the children and their behaviour.

Courteous Behaviour

We are aware that some parents feel frustrated about other members of the school community parking illegally, including on the zigzags outside the school and on double yellow lines. We have also received complaints from local residents.

The school has no jurisdiction over the road and will not become involved in parking disputes. Parents who park illegally are likely to be challenged by others, so we ask everyone to take care and show consideration for the wider school community.

Please follow the restrictions shown on the signs:

- There is no stopping, parking or dropping off on the zigzags outside the school during the hours shown.
- There is no entry beyond the school gates unless the school has given explicit permission.
- Permission is granted for parents with disabled badges and may also be granted in other exceptional circumstances.



Guinea Pigs

The survey results are back and with an incredibly strong majority we are delighted to let you know we will be proceeding with our Guinea Pig plans. Most concerns we have had from parents/carers are about animal welfare which we take very seriously. The guinea pigs are owned by Miss Claringbould who will take them home over weekends and holidays and will maintain the cost of vet bills.

- X No whole class visits
- ✓ Soft baskets will be used to place guinea pigs in for handling with children sitting.
- ✓ 'Park keepers' will be nominated for daily cleaning and feeding routines
- ✓ There will be a long run for them to get exercise when in school
- ✓ Guinea pigs will be visited by small groups only

If you have any old guinea pig items (including hutches or general water and food bowls), please talk to Mr Brinicombe. The guinea pigs are only a few weeks old and we have some time before we see them in school.

PTFA Cake sale next week

You may have seen recent news coverage about Benedict's Law, new guidance being introduced to strengthen allergy safety in schools. When making any homemade bakes for the PTFA cake sale please ensure you complete the ingredients form provided by the PTFA.

Have a lovely weekend.

Neil Brinicombe – Headteacher



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Celebration Assembly

We are pleased to invite parent/carers to attend our Celebration Assembly.

Date: Friday, 23rd October

Time: 8:50am

Where: School Hall

We look forward to seeing you there.

Star Awards

w/e 16th October

Hedgehogs – All of Hedgehogs Class

Rabbits – Conner

Otters – Arthur

Squirrels – Hudson

Badgers – Iris

Woodpeckers – Zoe

Owls – All of Owls Class



Our focus school value this term:

Responsibility

Whole School Attendance

12/10/26 - 16/10/26

97.1%



Reminder – Nasal Flu Vaccinations Consent Form

This is a reminder to parent/carers to submit a consent or decline for the FLU vaccination via the Immunisation Service's website

<https://www.kentimmunisations.co.uk/>

Please submit your preference by 4pm on
9/11/2026

Thank you to those parent/carers who have already submitted their response for the Flu Immunisation Programme.

Lunch Menu: Week 2

w/c Monday, 19th October 2026

£2.75 per day

[Summer Menu](#)

to pay for your meals online, please go to:

www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk/pay

The Week Ahead

Week commencing 19th October 2026

Thursday, 22nd October

- 3:15pm PTFA Cake Sale
- 6pm to 7pm - Open Evening for prospective families for Reception Class 2027

Friday, 23rd October

- 'Celebration Assembly' – parent/carers invited to attend. Please come to the school office at 8:45am



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Reception Class 2027

We are already starting to think about our next new Reception Class. Do you have a child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023? If so, they will be eligible to start school in September 2027.

We invite families to book an appointment to come and have a look around our school at a time to suit. Please spread the word to anyone you know with a child of the right age.

Please see our poster below advertising an Open Evening we will be holding for prospective parents.



Is your child starting school in September 2027?

Parents and families are welcome to visit our wonderful school and grounds.

Join us for our open evening on:
Thursday 22nd October
6pm to 7pm

Come and hear from the headteacher, meet the governors and listen to our pupils sharing why St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School is so special to them as they guide you around the school. Book your place by ringing our school office on **01304 852639**.



St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School
www.stmargaretsprimary.co.uk

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2027

KCC residents apply online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Opens Friday 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027

For children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, Transferring to Primary school in September 2027

Whattodo

Choose a school

It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.

Read the guide to Primary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

You can name up to three Primary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.

Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens Friday 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027. Other LA deadlines may differ.

You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been correctly submitted.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

Receiving your offer

On offer day (Friday 16 April 2027) an email will be sent to you informing you of your offer.

You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by Friday 30 April 2027. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.

If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you are moving, please email the team on one of the email addresses below for advice.

Key dates

Friday 6 November 2026	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.
Friday 15 January 2027	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlinedmissions@kent.gov.uk
Friday 16 April 2027	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
Friday 30 April 2027	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Monday 17 May 2027	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals . You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Needhelp?

Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.

The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.

Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council (KCC) if the child resides at a KCC address. If your child does not reside at a KCC address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.



Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2027

For children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, Transferring to Primary school in September 2027.

Common misconceptions

✗ MYTH #1 Attending a nursery or pre-school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the associated school.	✓ TRUTH You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions ★ Nurseries and primary schools are not linked for admissions purposes.
✗ MYTH #2 A sibling attending the school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the same school.	✓ TRUTH You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions ★ If eligible, your application may be considered under a school's 'sibling' oversubscription criteria.
✗ MYTH #3 Attending an infant school will automatically guarantee a space for your child at the linked junior school.	✓ TRUTH You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions ★ Children do not automatically transfer to a junior school. Admissions are ranked according to the school's admission criteria, including any linked school arrangements.

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Needhelp?

Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions





PTFA



Email: stmacptfa@gmail.com

Participate Together, raise Funds and Add value!
Charity Reg No: 1187522

PTFA NEWS



Welcome back to our PTFA page. We will use this space to keep you up to date with upcoming events, fundraising activities, and other PTFA news.

We are always looking for volunteers to help organise and run our events. If you are able to offer any support, whether regularly or occasionally, we would love to hear from you.

For those who are new to the school or unfamiliar with the PTFA, we would like to introduce our core committee members:

- **Sally and Dave Wiltsher** – parents of a child in **Badgers Class**
- **Emma Pearson** – parent of a child in **Woodpeckers Class**
- **Kirsty Harper** – parent of children in **Otters** and **Badgers Classes**
- **Sarah Stanislawski** – parent of children in **Squirrels, Badgers, and Owls Classes**

We look forward to working together to support our school community and create enjoyable experiences for all our children and families.

How Our Fundraising Has Been Spent

Thanks to your support, we have been able to invest in several projects that benefit our school community:

- The purchase of **four gazebos**, which were successfully used during Sports Day.
- A **£700 grant from St Margaret's Parish Council**, which funded tables for the new Creative Arts Room.
- The installation of a **secure door on the PTFA garage**, providing safe and secure storage for equipment and resources.

We are incredibly grateful for everyone's support, which helps us continue to improve facilities and opportunities for our pupils.

PTFA

CAKE SALE

THURSDAY 22ND
OCTOBER 3.15PM

PLEASE DROP DONATIONS OFF AT RECEPTION
FROM WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

IF HOME BAKED PLEASE INCLUDE A LIST OF
INGREDIENTS

NUT FREE

Community Noticeboard



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER HALF TERM

- 🎃 Monday pony morning 9am - 1pm £40
- 🦇 Wednesday pony morning 9am - 1 pm £40
- 🦇 Thursday Halloween beginners pony ride 10am - 11am £20
- 🎃 Friday Showjumping competition 12pm onwards

Lessons and hacks available 7 days a week
Please book using the online system
Any questions please email
owlstables@aol.com



RAF MANSTON
HISTORY MUSEUM
Charity No. 1179982

MODELFEST

AT THE MUSEUM 10am - 4pm

24TH OCT - 25TH OCT 2026

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

A series of model displays including;



WARHAMMER
40,000



BOLT ACTION



SCALEXTRIC



& much more!

Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information

@RAF Manston History Museum
If you have any questions, please contact us at
info@rafmanston.co.uk

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.



Kids Go Free!

NHS sight tests are FREE for children.

HALF TERM eye tests available for children at Biggs Opticians.



Come along in spooky dress up for a prize!

Appointments available at both practices.
Deal 01304 381330
Dover 01304 201000

Or Book Online





www.biggsopticians.co.uk

Give your child the best start to life with regular sight tests.

Kids Go Free!

NHS sight tests are FREE for children.



Community Noticeboard



St Margaret's Jumble Sale in aid of St Margaret's Nursery

Wednesday 4th November 10am – 12 noon.

At St Margaret's Village Hall, Reach Road, CT15 6AP
Refreshments available. 50p entry

Have a good clear out and donate items
you no longer need or use –
clothes, shoes, bags, hats, scarves,
household linen, toys, books, puzzles, pictures,
kitchenware, household bric-a-brac etc etc.

Good quality items, suitable for re-use.

Please drop off all donated items
at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 3rd November 2pm – 7pm

St Margaret's Nursery
Registered Charity Number 1194058



DOVER FOODBANK MOST needed ITEMS HARVEST 2026



- ☒ CUPPA SOUPS
- ☒ UHT MILK
- ☒ FRUIT JUICE (UHT)
- ☒ INSTANT RICE
- ☒ TINNED SPAGHETTI
- ☒ TINNED TOMATOES
- ☒ INSTANT MASH
- ☒ TINNED SOUP
- ☒ TINNED VEGETABLES
- ☒ PASTA SAUCES
- ☒ MALE & FEMALE DEODORANT
- ☒ PASTA N SAUCE
- ☒ NOODLES
- ☒ TOILET ROLLS

PLEASE NOTE
We have plenty
of Pet Food &
Nappies

INFO@DOVER.FOODBANK.ORG.UK
UNIT 7, CHARLTON CENTRE, HIGH ST, DOVER
CHARITY NO. 1212301

Visit Kent Police Museum in Faversham and become a detective!

FREE
entry



Follow clues, explore real crime stories,
discover fascinating police equipment, and
enjoy interactive displays.

Learn how crimes were solved in the past
and see unusual objects from more than 200
years of Kent Police history.

Looking for something to do this
October half term?

The museum will be open from **Tuesday 27
October to Saturday 31 October, 10am to
4pm**. For the latest opening times and visitor
information, please check the museum
website before you visit.

Bringing Our History to Life



facebook kentpolitemuseum
twitter @kpolitemuseum

www.kent.police.uk/kent-museum
Email: museum@kent.police.uk
Telephone 01795 433028

Community Noticeboard



CHRISTMAS WINE & WISDOM QUIZ
St. Margaret's Lawn Tennis Club
Saturday 21st November 2026
Time: 7:00pm for 7:30pm Start
Venue: St. Margaret's Village Hall (CT15 6AP)
Cost: £40 per table (Maximum 8 to a table)
 Bring your own drinks and nibbles!
 Excellent raffle prizes!
Contact to book: blakeprw@gmail.com

PROUDLY SUPPORTING OUR CHARITY
British Heart Foundation
 Raising vital funds for the leading heart research
 Registered Charity No. 102475
 WITH THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

E.W. GEE LTD.
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

T.A.P.S.
THE ANTIQUE & PLANT SERVICES

OCTOBER 2026 AT THE RESERVE



BATS

The reserve's Scots pine cones have gone batty! After pollination by wind, the female flowers on a Scots pine turn green and develop into cones. Foraged from the woodland floor, we will transform these giant cones into bats with fuzzy ears and fangy smiles, ready for this season's celebrations. Find out about the Scots pine, and bats. Play the 'Bat and Moth' game.

SPOONS AND SHROOMS

Make these friendly spoon mushrooms that will cheer up any room. Last year the Kent Field Club ran a fungi survey on the reserve and found a range of fungi, including Meadow coral and the delightfully named, Mousepee pinkgill. Using a sheet to guide you, see how many species of fungi you can see.

STORY TIME

Free, drop-in, nature story time, read by a reserve volunteer.
 Times and dates TBC.

WANDS, WEBS, AND WINDFALL

Forage for fallen leaves to create spider webs and magical wands. Use apples from the reserve to make colourful prints. Take on the 'Autumn Nature Challenge'. How many seasonal treasures can you spot?

OCTOBER

Tues 27th:
 Thurs 29th:
 Fri 30th:

11AM

Bats
 Shrooms
 Wands

1PM

Shrooms
 Wands
 Bats



HOW TO BOOK

www.monkton-reserve.org/events/
 Visit our museum, café, gift, and book shops.

MORE INFO:

education@monkton-reserve.org

PRICE PER CHILD

Members: £3

Non-Members: £5

(incl. entrance to the reserve)

WHERE

Monkton Nature Reserve
 Canterbury Road
 Ramsgate CT12 4LN

WWW.MONKTON-RESERVE.ORG

THANET COUNTRYSIDE TRUST
 (CHARITY NO: 1211099)