St. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

2023-2024 Term 5

Inset Day Reminder

A reminder that this term we have two inset days, where the school is closed to pupils.
Thursday 27th and Friday 28th June, the school is closed for all children to allow for staff training.

Our term dates for this final term are:
Mon 3rd June – Tues 23rd July.

Saying a sad farewell

At the end of this term, we are sadly saying goodbye to Miss Sonia, who is leaving the school to start a new career at St Edmund's and I am sure you'll all agree we are very sad to see her go.

Although this news is sad for us it is a positive thing as this means Miss Sonia is staying within the Kent Catholic School's network. This means many of the children leaving St Richard's, to go to St Edmund's, will arrive with to a friendly face who they can approach and trust with any of those early days' concerns.

We know you will join us in sending her the very best wishes of luck and love.

Kent Test Information for Year 5 families

https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-1

Registration for the Kent Test for children due to **start secondary school in September 2025** opens on Monday 3 June 2024 and **closes at midnight on Monday 1 July 2024**.

Kent County Council cannot accept late registrations.

This year, the test will take place on **Thursday 12 September 2024** for pupils in Kent primary schools, and on the weekend of **Saturday 14 September 2024** for other pupils.

The results will be sent on Thursday 17 October 2024.

This is really important please read.

If your child has a disability or special educational needs which will affect their access to testing, you need to discuss this with their primary school's special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) before you register them for the test as the school will need to apply for any necessary access arrangements.

Requests will not be accepted after 12 July 2024.

The online registration form asks ***you to confirm that you have discussed a request for access arrangements with your child's school.***

There is meeting in school about the Kent test at 3.30pm on the 11th June. If you are interested please come to that meeting.

Reading Books

It is lovely that so many parents listen to their child read every night. This makes a massive difference to your children's progress so thank you.
Sadly, just recently, we have had some of our phonics books return in an unusable state or not at all. The books are used in sets of 6, as part of group work as well as going home.
When books go home and they come back in a state which means they can't be used again this has an impact on the reading groups in the school.

To replace a book, only packs of 6 can be purchased and they are very expensive. Phonic reading schemes have to be approved by the Department of Education so we can only purchase them from a single supplier in the manner they want.

We understand there are times when accidents happen and that can't be helped, we will always repair any torn pages just let the class teacher know.

If you have any books at home please send them back after half term you could help the school save up to £300.

Thank You!

It has been wonderful to support the children with more outdoor learning and educational visits recently.
We have had classes visit the Beach, Museum, Church, Dover Transport Museum and of course Year 6's Residential trip.
We would like to thank families for supporting these trips both financially and volunteering to help so we can safely run the visits.
We have lots more planned so watch this space!

Links to Church websites:

Please find the links to our affiliated Churches for information about the Parish.

St Paul's Roman Catholic Church:
https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/

Our Lady of Dover Church:
http://ourladyofdover.cloudaccess.net/

St Richard's Prayer

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen

As always our final term of the year is a busy one. Here are some dates for your diary:

Mon 3rd June – Return to school
Weds 5th June – YR5 Childrens Conference
Thurs 6th June –9am YR4&5 Assembly
Thurs 6th June – YR3&4 Cricket
Weds 12th June – Science Jamboree
Thurs 13th June –9am YR3 Assembly
Fri 14th June – YR5&6 Netball
Fri 14th June – Father's Day blessing (No Celebration Assembly)
Mon 17th June – YR5&6 Road Safety Workshops
Tues 18th June – Islam day
Tues 18th June – YR5&6 Kwik Cricket
Weds 19th June – KS1 Sports Day
Thurs 20th June- 9am Yr2 Assembly
Fri 21st June – St Peter and Paul Mass (No Celebration Assembly)
Mon 24th June – Yoga Day in School
Mon 24th June – YR6 Bikeability
Weds 26th June – YR6 Bikeablity
Weds 26th June – YR1 Trip
Thurs 27th June – Inset Day
Fri 28th June – Inset Day
Tues 2nd July – 9am YR R Trip
Weds 3rd July – YR5&6 Handball
Thurs 4th July- 9am YR1 Assembly
Thurs 4th July – Transition Day
Fri 5th July – PTFA Summer Fete
Tues 9th July – YR4, 5&6 Athletics
Weds 10th July – KS2 Sports Day
Thurs 11th July – YRR Assembly
Thurs 18th July – YR1&2 Cricket
Thurs 18th July –9.15am Leavers Assembly
Fri 19th July – Leavers Mass – time tbc
Tues 23rd July – Last Day of Term – School closes at 2.30pm.

Term Dates 2024/2025

Term 1

Tues 3rd Sept – Thurs 24th Oct

Term 2

Mon 4th Nov – Thurs 19th Dec

Term 3

Mon 6th Jan – Fri 14th Feb

Term 4

Tues 25th Feb – Fri 4th April

Term 5

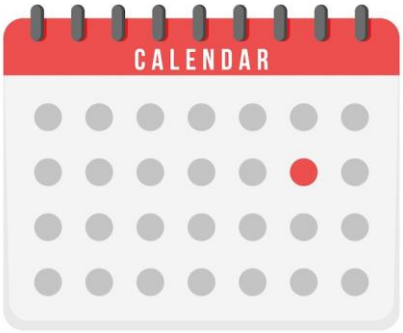
Tues 22nd April – Fri 23rd May

Term 6

Mon 2nd June – Mon 21st July

Staff Development Days 24/25 – School closed to all pupils.

Monday 2nd Sept
Friday 25th Oct
Friday 20th Dec
Monday 24th Feb
Tuesday 22nd July



What our children say

As we explained in the last News Letter, the school has changed how the children's learning has been presented. One or two children from each class will share with the Head Teacher what they have been learning about this term. These are their words explaining their learning throughout the term.

Year R Jeremiah and Iris talked about their learning

We have been learning about different kinds of stories and Africa. We learnt about Handa's Surprise, The Leopard's drum and Anna Hibiscus' song. In the book the Leopard's drum, it wouldn't share its drum! Lots of animals came to ask to borrow the drum but he always said no! The turtle had a hard shell and he got the drum.

In Handa's surprise she put 7 fruits in her basket. Then a monkey stole the banana, after that an ostrich stole the guava! More animals took fruit such as the zebra who took an orange. At the end of the book, s parrot took the passion fruit. Sadly, she had no fruit left. Just before she went home a goat bumped into a tree and all the fruit fell into Handa's basket. The last book was about how happy Anna Hibiscus was. She would run around dancing and singing and when she sits in the mango tree she is calm.

We have been learning about African animals, we have made animals like an elephant. We have made drums. I made a shaker out of cling film, a toilet roll and elastic bands. I used seeds to make it shake.

In Maths, we have been learning about shapes and adding. The adding we have done today is about how we will be adding in Year 1. We have made shapes into animals and humans. This work is on the Maths wall in our classroom.

In Writing, we have been writing long sentences and long words! A long sentence has to be written on lines. It takes three lines to write a long sentence. Here is one I wrote, 'We told the farmer that his goat was in the shower.'

Year 1 Olivia and Mileva talked about their learning this term.

In Writing, we have been learning about poems, especially one called, 'Down behind the dustbin and Chocolate cake.' I wrote one about my dogs and I wrote one about babies. We have really enjoyed writing poems. Here is some of mine, 'Down behind the dustbins, I met a dog called Roma, she was having lunch with her friend Tino'

In Maths, we have learnt about counting by tens and by twos. We have been counting by 5's as well! We have been using plus, minus and we have completed our assessments as they are important.

In D.T. we made our rockets and moon buggies, that was amazing, we really enjoyed that. We needed a big bottle, which we bought from home, we needed paper for the wings. For the moon buggies we had a cardboard box, we put straws through and then we could put the wheels on. In History, we have been learning about transport and we went to the transport museum. We learnt about vehicles from the past but they don't work anymore more as they are so old. We learnt about what is different from the past and the present. We learnt about boats from the past, I love the boats from the past because of how they were made and how they looked. I loved the old cars and how they look different from today.

In RE, we have learnt about the Dove and the Fire. This went to the disciples and the fire hung above their heads but it didn't hurt them. They were helped by it to share Jesus' lessons.

Year 2 Julia and Malcolm share what they have been learning about.

In Writing, we have written a story about the Ginger Bread man, we used computers and we used pictures to add to the story. We also made a book. We made our own stories about the Black rock and its secret. We have enjoyed making the book. I liked writing about a speed boat. I liked writing about my character because she sunk under the water. She shouldn't have fallen out of the boat. It was ok as the Black Rock saved her.

In Maths, we have been learning about clocks and telling the time. We have been looking at clocks very closely. When the minute hand is pointing to the 2, on the right hand side, this means it is ten minutes past. When the minute hand is on the four it is 20 minutes past. When it is pointing to the 6 that has been 30 minutes, this is called 'half past.' It is called 'quarter to' when the minute hand is pointing to the 9.

In PHSE, we are learning about how to be safe. In Geography, we are finishing learning about the physical features using the beach

as an example. We have also been learning about human features. A human feature is made by people, physical features have not been made by humans such as rocks and plants.

In PE, we have learnt about dance. We have been able to copy the dance on the screen, practice it and then we were able to do it without looking.

In Science, we have been learning about living things, habitats and micro-habitats. Micro means small and habitat is a place where creatures or plants live, get shelter, water and food. A micro-habitat is a small habitat in a larger habitat. There are times an animal could be a habitat. A shark swims in the sea. That is a habitat. Some small fish live in the shark or on it. That shark would make a habitat. We have also learnt about food chains. It is not a real chain. It starts with the sun, then a plant, something eats the plant and then something eats that. The chain keeps going; passing on energy.

Year 3 Reggie was able to tell me all about his learning

We have been learning about time. We have also been learning about Roman Numerals using time to help us. The rule of Roman Numerals is that you cannot do more than 3 lines like this III in a row. It then changes to IV which is 4. We have been completing lots of problem solving around time. An example of this is if the minute hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3 that means it is 3 o'clock. True or false. We have learnt about quarter past, half past and quarter to.

We have loved learning about Dover Castle. We have been writing balanced arguments about Dover Castle. We wrote about whether we should preserve old buildings such as Dover Castle. I felt we should keep Dover castle as it is an important part of history. I felt if we kept Dover Castle more tourists would come to visit. I then argued that the stair cases were too old and wobbly to use. I went up the wobbly staircases yesterday, on a school trip, it was fun but they were still wobbly as I said in my writing.
We have learnt more about preserving old buildings in History. We should keep old buildings as it is nice to have them there and learn about their history. It is important to learn about history so we know more about things, places and buildings from the past.

In Art, we sketched the castle from our school field.
Science has been exciting. We have found out about forces and magnets. You cannot always feel forces or magnets. When magnets are far away they can attract each other. I also learnt that if the North and South magnets will attract each other while the same, such as South and South, will repel each other.

RE has been interesting as we have been learning about the gifts of God and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit (when it came down) allowed everyone to speak different languages. That was good as Jesus said that he would get a gift from God and that is when the Holy Spirit came down. This allowed them to share the Good News across the world.

Year 4 Ralph and Poppy have shared what they have been learning this term.

We have learnt all about decimals and fractions. A fraction has a numerator and denominator. The smaller number is at the top and the bigger number is usually at the bottom. Unless it is an improper fraction where the bigger number can be at the top. There is a mixed fraction. Let me explain, once a fraction has the same amount at the bottom and at the top it is called one whole. However, if you have whole numbers and fractions that is called a mixed fraction. A decimal could be 0.3. It is part of a number like a fraction.

In English, we have been learning about the book, 'Escape from Pompeii.' It is the story about how these two children escape from the eruption created the volcano Mount Vesuvius. They manage to escape! Sadly, some people do not get away including the animals. They died from the lava coming from the volcano. We re-wrote the story and added our own parts such as running through the town away from the lava. We used lots of adjectives to do this. It has been very exciting we have really enjoyed it.

In Art, we have learnt about mosaics. How Romans used them on the floor like a carpet. How a house was heated and how they made them into stories, images, pictures of gods and patterns to decorate the house. In History, we have learnt about the Romans, who they invaded, how they did it, what their houses looked like. We were told a story about Romulus and Remus and how Rome was started. The brothers argued over what the city should be called, Romulus killed his brother. That is why the Romans thought it was

called Rome but Romulus was sad he killed his brother.
We watched a video of how the Romans invaded England. We learnt about their language called Latin. We learnt about their Kings, Emperors and punishments. The punishments were terrible.

In Science, we have been learning about sound. How we can make sound, vibrations, pitch, volume including how our ears work. We have used tuning forks and created experiments to see what makes the loudest sound with different objects.

Year 5 Noah and Ruby talked about their learning

This term in Maths we have been learning about degrees, angles, perimeter and the area of a shape. We have also been learning about square numbers and prime numbers. I enjoyed the practical activities such as using the protractor, I really enjoyed finding the perimeter or area of a shape. We both found problem solving hard but we did it.

English has been great. We have been learning about the Phantom of the Opera. We have written two letters; one to Christine and one pretending to be sent to the phantom, telling him to stay away. We also wrote instructions about how to catch a phantom. That was fun! The class came up with lots of ideas such as cages! I thought about using sticky glue and I thought about using an electric shock on a door knob such as from the film Home Alone.

In Geography, we have been studying the Vikings. We looked at where Vikings travelled on their long ships, how long it took and what it was like when they go there. We have been learning about the food and how they made it. We tried some of it and… some of it was nice such as the berries or bread but we were not too sure about the goat's cheese. We made real Viking armour which was amazing. We learnt about Viking long ships and we made one ourselves. We studies the time-line and the Viking ages. The class studied how much of the U.K. they conquered and that they were one of the first Europeans to get to the New World. We learnt how they would make their clothes and we made our own Viking satchels.

In our RE lessons, we have been learning about Paul, he was really naughty, he sent people to prison because they worshiped God. He was blinded for three days and in that time he talked to God! Afterwards, he changed his name to Saul and spent his time talking to others about God. In his life he was ship wreaked, bitten by a snake, sent to prison and he was in a storm. When the storm finished, he called the guards over and told them the Good News. We think it was astonishing and quite exciting as he changed from being mean to nice.

Year 6 Logan and Jessica have shared their learning.

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions and decimals. We would have a starter, such as 32 questions all about fractions and decimals. We have also created parabolic curves. We worked on the perimeter, shape, area and how to work out the angle in a shape or on a straight line. We have learnt about the different names of angles and how to define them. Triangles have angles on the inside which add up to 180 degrees. We could also find the missing angle.

In English, we have learnt about Odysseus, a King of Ithaca. He went to war for ten years. He didn't want to go to war as he had a new son. He pretended to go mad so he could avoid this but he was found out by the people. We also learnt about Demeter and how the Greeks believed the seasons of the year were made. Hades made Persephone stay with him for 4 months by eating seeds. So her mother, Demeter, covered the world in snow as she was so sad. When Persephone returned, the world would wake up with spring and summer.

We have completed a lot of work towards the SATs, we worked hard on them each day. Miss Drage said we were really well behaved and worked hard on them.

Have a lovely, restful week. We will see you all on Monday 3rd June!