



## HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – MAY 2022

Imagine Believe Persevere Achieve

### REMINDER - JUBILEE

Tomorrow (Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>) we are having a small celebration at the end of our term, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A reminder that the children can wear red, white and blue (or any combination) and will need to bring a towel to sit on and some snacks and drink for the afternoon. This will be a low-key picnic at the end of the day for the children, with the weather hopefully allowing. The PSA have sent out additional information about their contributions on the day. Tickets for the PSA raffle will be available before and after school, as will a photo prop to have pictures as her Majesty in the afternoon.



### SENCO

Our SENCO, Mrs Collins, is leaving Parkwood at the end of this academic year, to take up a role at a smaller school in Medway and to spend more time with her family. We thoroughly support her in this but will miss her tremendously after 21 years at the school.

Luckily, we try to put strong succession planning into place and are lucky that the seamless transition to Mrs Wintle, as our new SENCO, is already underway. Mrs Wintle is our pastoral lead and many of you will know her already. Opportunities for parents to arrange meetings with her in July, will be forthcoming and we wish both Mrs Collins and Mrs Wintle all the best in their new roles.

### MUD RUN

A quick reminder that the children will be taking part in the Muddy Madness event on Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>, the first Friday back of the new term. Full details have been sent out and reminders will be sent out earlier in the week.



### FOUNDATION STAGE



Our topic "Ticket to Ride" has led the way to lots of lovely learning this term. We have been travelling around the world on our imaginary magic carpet and have visited Australia, Mexico and most recently Africa. In Australia, we had a go at making boomerangs and experimented with different "earth" colours to create some lovely pieces of Aboriginal art. Mexico, gave us the opportunity to practise our dance moves whilst listening to some local Salsa music, which was so much fun! We then tried to create our own music with an array of musical instruments. We made a very short stop in Africa and the children had the opportunity to try some typical fruits found in Africa! The pomegranate seeds and plantain chips were a big hit!

We have been so lucky this term to have welcomed so many visitors into FS. Medway Environmental Team came in at the beginning of term and they spoke to the children about the importance of Recycling. We were fortunate enough to have so many parents come in and read stories to all the children – this was a real highlight so thank you! Last week, seven of the cutest chicks paid us a surprise visit and we finished the week off with some well earned reward time playing with a variety of trains courtesy of Trainmaster. We have been so busy!

## YEAR 1

This term, in year 1, the children had the exciting prospect of creating an art gallery for people to visit, this was using the theme of rubbish and whether it could be beautiful. In addition to creating their work through the use of collage the children also looked at how colours can be used to create feelings, whether art can send a message and also completed a litter survey of the school site to see which are the main causes.



The project was completed by the children sharing their



artwork in Parkwood's Dining Room Gallery. The event was really well supported by parents and the opportunity to share their work with family was a huge motivator for the children to create a piece which they could be really proud of.

Over the last 6 weeks the children have been learning and revisiting all the sounds in the Read Write Inc. programme.

This has been to support and increase their confidence when coming across new words when decoding. We have also been working on speedy reading to help with understanding of the text.

Our maths sessions have seen the introduction of multiplication and sharing. The children have been practicing counting in twos, fives and tens, starting at different points. The children have solved simple multiplication and division problems by practically grouping and sharing objects as well as looking at halves and quarters.

In all, a very busy and enjoyable term.

## YEAR 2

Year Two have been working really hard taking their KS1 SATS tests, and their teachers couldn't be more proud, they were so grown up and took the whole experience in their stride but the biscuits were a particular highlight for most of the children.

The children have been learning about various folk artists work including; Faith Ringold, Arthur Hughes and other artists from around the world. They have learnt how art can include a range of materials and textures and how those different effects stimulate emotions and thoughts in the person looking at the artwork.



In English the children have been learning about various traditional tales and alternative versions of those, the children particularly enjoyed the story of the Three little Wolves and the Big, Bad Pig, who used dynamite to blow up the house of bricks. For maths this term the children have been practising their times tables, learning how to tell the time and looking at fractions and number and shapes.

We have been enjoying the weather outside this term particularly when doing P.E, where the children have been learning to track a ball and throw accurately both overarm and underarm and to track a ball and return it to the thrower in the shortest time possible.

### YEAR 3

Year 3 are enjoying their Create project this term. Our concepts are individuality, friendship and strength. We are looking at the work of some famous sculptors including Antony Gormley as we learn how to reproduce a 3D sculpture in the human form.



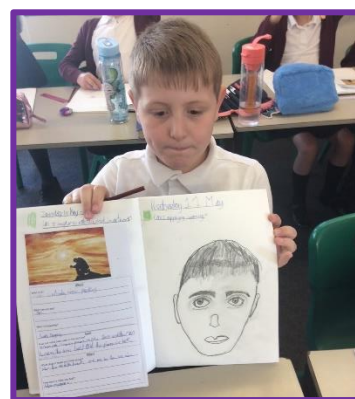
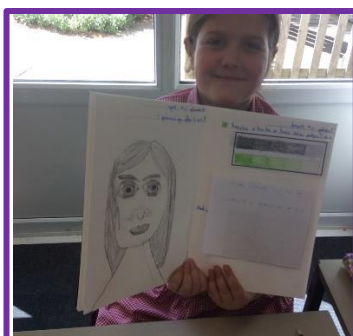
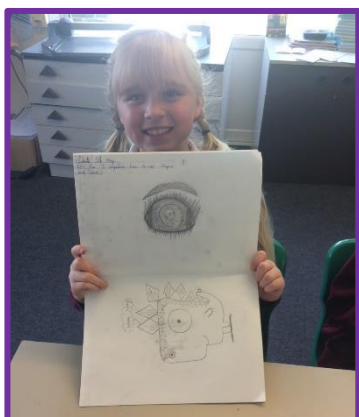
We are discussing answers to the question: How can we make our mark? Our core text this term is *One Plastic Bag* by Miranda Paul and we are

exploring different inspirational people who have made an impact on the world. Our trip to Lullingstone Country Park this week was a great success and Year 3 were able to improve their Geographical skills comparing the rural area of Eynsford to the more urban Parkwood.



### YEAR 4

This term, Year 4 have astounded us with their creative skills! Children have thoughtfully considered the question, 'What makes us different?' by investigating the skills required to create self-portraits. We started by exploring how artists use line and shape before developing our sketching skills to draw both an abstract and a realistic eye. These learned skills were then applied to sketching a full self-portrait. A particular highlight for the children has been exploring how artists use light and dark values of colour to create atmosphere, and then getting the chance to have a go at doing this by painting with coffee! In music, children have explored the significance of music and cultural identity by learning about Samba music. In addition, to reflect upon the concepts of compassion and diversity, we have been reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class', which follows the experiences of a group of children as they welcome a Syrian refugee into their class. The children have shown true maturity when discussing the themes and events within the book. Once again, we're incredibly proud of their hard work!





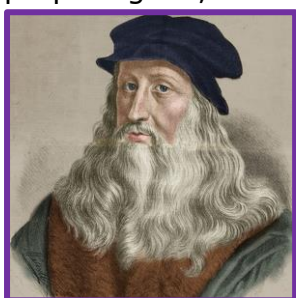
## YEAR 5

This term in Year 5, we have been studying Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo, it follows a young boy as he gets washed overboard on his journey around the world. In our English lessons, the children have written detailed setting descriptions of Kensuke's island, as well as newspaper articles describing the boy's accident. These lessons have been focused on enhancing writing using the Year 5 spelling and grammar features. Through the study of the book, we have explored the oceans in our art, using Hokusai's Great Wave as our inspiration. The children have started to visit Minster Beach, taking photos of the beach, which will be added to their seascape art. The other highlight of this term has been the successful rearing of nine baby chicks, who are now happily living with our helper Mrs. Hardy.



## YEAR 6

The staff in Year Six are incredibly proud of the tenacity the children have shown preparing for, and whilst sitting, the Key Stage 2 SATs. They showed maturity beyond their years and we could not have asked for any more from them.



Recently the children have produced some phenomenal pieces of writing and in the afternoons, some have already met staff from their new schools.

The children have started to look at the work of world-famous artists Damien Hirst and Leonardo DaVinci, critiquing their masterpieces with vocabulary fit for a gallery.

## SPORT AT PARKWOOD

Competitive sport is back at Parkwood! This term we have seen year three and four take part in a Hockey tournament, we hosted a friendly football match against Swingate Primary School and the girls of year 5 and 6 went to an all girl football event at Play Football.

All of the children were congratulated by staff on being excellent ambassadors for Parkwood.

## SATS

We have been really proud of our Year 2s and Year 6s, during their respective SATs weeks. They were really well behaved and approached the tests with confidence and were a credit to themselves, the school and their families.

I wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of the governors, staff and myself to say a big thank you to our families for their ongoing support and to the children for their consistent hard work, positivity and good behaviour. I would like to wish our families a very happy and relaxing (and hopefully Sunny) Jubilee half term week.

**Mr A Moir**  
**Headteacher**

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

26 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Trip
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Jubilee Day
	Last Day of Term 5
6 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Start of Term 6 – Children back to school
10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Muddy Madness – Whole School
13 <sup>th</sup> Jun	I.O.W Trip – Year 6 Monday - Friday