

## Headline:

At this school, we believe that learning to read is an essential life skill.

We invest heavily in the teaching of reading. Mrs James leads on supporting the Read, Write Inc programme whilst Mr Atkins is in charge of English across the whole school.

According to Ofsted's 2010 report on Reading, developing a love of reading can be more important for a child's educational success than their family's socio-economic background.

In schools that have success with their pupils' reading, teachers read, talk with enthusiasm and recommend books, the results of which are seen not only in test results but also in the enthusiasm for reading which extends beyond the classroom.

Children who read for pleasure have enhanced levels of text comprehension, an increased knowledge of grammar and show improvement in their writing.

Young people who enjoy reading are nearly five times as likely to read above the expected level for their age compared to young people who do not enjoy reading at all.

This last statement cannot be underestimated.

We believe that developing a love for reading is vital. Here are a few ways you can help with this:

- Read to your children or listen to them reading (depending on ability)
- Talk to them about things they have read (see News section of school website)
- Let them read what they want to read (including comics)
- Show them that you enjoy reading in the family home
- Join and visit the local library
- Use audio books

A partnership between home and school is also important. If your child's

class teacher suggests ways you can help, take these on board and ask if you are not sure what they mean by this.

Remember, reading impacts on the whole curriculum. Once a child can read, it opens the key to the other subjects. Indeed, it opens the key to the whole world.

During the week commencing 4th December there will be a half price book fayre in school hall from 3:30pm (Monday-Thursday).

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all"

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Mr Carthy

## News

### Christmas Fayre – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Urgent help needed with refreshments at the school fayre. Please contact the office if you are able to help. Thank You.

### Parking

Street parking outside the school has always raised issues, in particular parking on the zigzag lines at each of the main gates.

Safety of the children is paramount and if parents feel that this has been compromised by thoughtless parking it would be appropriate for individuals to contact Medway Council.

Please call 07718130962 between 7am and 1am to report any parking issues.

### Class Assemblies

Parents are invited to join their children for their Class Assemblies. Please allow plenty of time to sign in and take your seat – assemblies will begin promptly at 9am and access to the hall

## Coming Soon

KS1 Production to Parents  
 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am and 2.30pm

Christmas Fayre  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Foundation Stage Nativity to Parents  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am and 2.45pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Dinner  
 and Class Parties

Christmas Jumper Tag Day for MENCAP  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Church Service at St Augustine's  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am

## Term Dates 2017/18

**Term 2**  
 Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017  
 until  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Term 3**  
 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
 until  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Term 4**  
 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
 until  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Term 5**  
 Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
 until  
 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Term 6**  
 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
 until  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## Term Dates 2018/2019

**Term 1**  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
 until  
 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## Uniform

A navy blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan.  
 Navy, black or grey trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or dress/navy and white checked dress. A white or blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse. Flat plain black shoes or trainers (no heels or open toes).  
[www.tesco.com/ues](http://www.tesco.com/ues)



The Westbrook Trust  
 Achieve together

after this is disruptive for the children hosting the assembly. The next assembly this term is:

5N – 29<sup>th</sup> November.

### Activities and Support Groups

To access information about various activities and support groups at Gillingham Baptist Church, please visit the following website <http://www.gillinghambaptistchurchkent.org.uk/diary.html>

### Lost Property

Has your child lost a pair of spectacles? We have several pairs in the office that so far have not been claimed.

## Reminders

### Break Snacks

Children in Year R, 1 and 2 receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every school day through the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS), administered by the Department of Health.

For Junior aged children we follow guidelines set out by the national school food plan. Children are allowed the following food for their break time snack:

- Fruit
- Snacking vegetables such as carrots
- Cracker based snacks such as Mini Cheddars or Dunkers
- Rice Cakes
- Fruit bars (no nuts)
- Cereal bars (no nuts)
- Yoghurts
- A small sandwich (separate to any packed lunch items)
- Any other packet snack with a saturated fat content no higher than 10%

### Children In Need

Huge thanks to all of you for helping us raise £511.10 for Children In Need last Friday.

## Health & Wellbeing

### Cough and sneeze etiquette

Hygiene etiquette involves practices that prevent the spread of illness and disease. A critical time to practice good hygiene etiquette is when you are sick, especially when coughing or sneezing. Children should be encouraged to practice good hygiene etiquette too.

Respiratory illnesses like flu and coughs and colds are spread by:

- Coughing or sneezing
- Unclean hands
  - Touching your face after touching contaminated objects

- Touching objects after contaminating your hands.

To help stop the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put your used tissue in a waste basket.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

Remember to wash your hands with soap and water after coughing or sneezing. Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Coughing etiquette is especially important for infection control in school.

One final practice that helps prevent the spread of respiratory disease is avoiding close contact with people who are sick. If you are ill, you should try to distance yourself from others so you do not spread your germs.

## In The Community

**Rochester Christmas Market** – 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> November, 10am-6pm; 1<sup>st</sup> December, 12 noon-8pm; 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> December, 10am-7pm; 8<sup>th</sup> December, 12noon-8pm; 8<sup>th</sup> December, 12noon-8pm; 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December, 10am-6pm. Browse stalls for gifts, sample delights of the Bavarian food village and listen to the bandstand performers. Visit the funfair – rides on Fridays are only £1 per person.

### Park for Free

There will be free parking in all Medway car parks between Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November – for details of all Medway car parks visit [medway.gov.uk/parking](http://medway.gov.uk/parking).

## Pat on the Back

The class with the best attendance for week beginning 13th November was 3K with a 99.6%. FS2M had no late pupils last week and 98.8% of children arrived on time.

## Inclusions this week

- Breakfast and After School Letter to specific parents
- KS1 Christmas Production Tickets
- FS Santa's Grotto Tickets
- Christmas Fayre Flyer
- Year 6 Residential Trip Departure Information
- Chartwells Festive Menus
- Book Fair Flyer
- Job Advert - Cleaner

*This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination*

Head Teacher: Mr Carthy

Deputy Heads: Mrs Langthorne (4-7 year olds) and Mr Chantler (7-11 year olds)

Family Liaison Officer: Mrs Vella

Inclusion Manager: Mrs Hill

*This school operates a very clear whistleblowing policy for staff*