



Newsletter 5 - January 2025

We hope you have started the new year well! As the days gradually start to get longer again, it is wonderful to see children settled in their classes and working hard to ensure that they can make the best possible progress. Below, there are some important updates from our school community, with plenty to celebrate! Please also head to our [curriculum blog](#), where you will find examples of children's work from across the school.

School Value - Resilience



RESILIENCE

This term, we are focussing on Resilience with the children. We have shared the book "How to Catch a Star" by Oliver Jeffers and also shared [this engaging video](#) with our older children. We

are discussing how persistence is an important learning behaviour to display and look forward to recognising children displaying these behaviours with our School Values Awards!

PTA events

The Christmas Fair and other recent PTA events raised over £1700 for the school at the end of last term. Thank you so much to the PTA and all of our families for contributing.

Children's Mental Health Week

We are celebrating this in school from 3rd-7th February. This is run by the charity Place2Be and the theme for this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' and is focused on supporting the children to be self-aware and understand their emotions, and build resilience to grow and develop.



To launch this week in school, we **invite and encourage the children to come into school on Monday 3rd February dressed as an emotion** from one of the 'Inside Out' or they can choose an emotion of their own to represent with their clothes. The

characters in this film dress simply in one colour to represent the emotion, for example wearing all yellow for joy.

On the morning of 3rd February, we will be playing music on the playground to welcome the children in. It'll be great to see as many of you as possible to celebrate with us and raise the profile of mental health through singing and dancing.

Across the week in school, the children will take part in assemblies and activities in their classrooms linked to developing self-awareness and resilience.

The [Place2Be website](#) has some great information for parents and carers.

Promoting Reading

Reading is an essential skill for children to be able to access not only the school curriculum but the world around them. This is why we promote reading both in school and at home to ensure children are receiving daily practice. Our reading newsletters have book recommendations and ideas for how to share the love of reading with your child.

Why not set your child a challenge to read a book with a blue front cover over this term?

Astronomy Camp

Our year 5 children welcomed the Crayford Astronomy group to school. They came armed with different telescopes and a mountain of knowledge!

This happened to fall on the day that snow was predicted. With snow comes clouds and limited visuals and therefore a tweak to the proceedings.

The children experimented by looking at a model of Jupiter, and saw a variety of pictures of the sun, moons and planets that

had been taken throughout the South East of England. They also learnt about the orientation, facts and amount of moons and other features you find in space. We even discovered that there was an asteroid named Wentworth!

This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening arranged by the astronomy group and we are extremely grateful that they could share their expertise!



Science of Learning: persistence

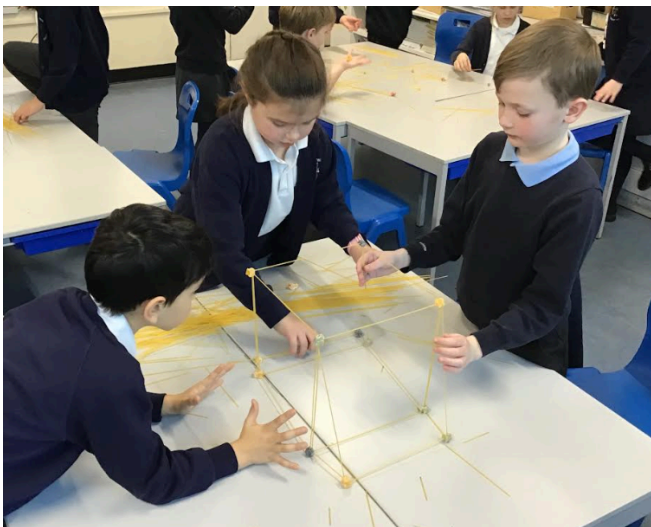
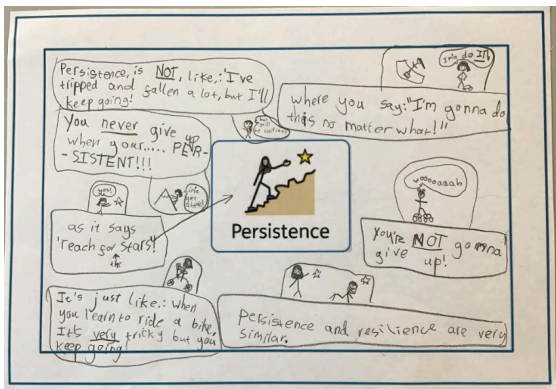
Learning behaviours are long-term skills that will support all of us in anything that we do. This term we're focusing on persistence: not giving up when we're finding something tricky.

Last week, through assemblies and in-class work, children learnt that -

- We have the ability to change any habits we have as our brains are malleable (called neuroplasticity)

- The more we practice persistence, the easier it becomes.

- Sometimes we have to work harder to begin with because we need to 'unlearn' a habit, such as giving up, and relearn the new habit, persisting.



To help support your child's understanding of the learning behaviour persistence, you could:

-Encourage them to have a growth mindset; instead of saying 'I can't do this', support them to say 'I can't do this yet'.

-Remind your child of previous times when they've persisted and been successful.

-Praise your child whenever you see them showing persistence.

-Encourage your child to try new things. Most things are not easy to do initially and this is a good opportunity for them to practice persisting.

-Model to your child how to show persistence in something that you're finding tricky so they can see it in action.

-Show your child how to problem solve with small things that crop up. Help your child to think of and see another way of solving the problem.

BBC Radio Kent feature

This week, our Year 4 school councillors recorded a segment called "Kent Kids" for the Breakfast Show. We look forward to being able to share when Wentworth will feature on air.

Glow in the dark dodgeball

Wentworth hosted a glow in the dark dodgeball completion for schools in Dartford and Gravesham. After getting their faces painted and putting on their fluorescent tops, they were ready. There was a gasp when the hall lights went out to reveal the UV lights and the games began. The year 3 children involved had a wonderful time if not a little tired after 6 matches winning several battles against the other schools. The year 3 & 4 children will all get the chance to compete in the outdoor dodgeball inter house event in the summer.



Basketball

Our Year 5&6 Basketball team had an amazing time at their first school basketball competition. Their hard work, teamwork and perseverance paid off getting all the way to the final and securing 2nd place. The children came back to school proudly displaying their medals and showed off their skills on the playground.



Football News

In the Boys FA Cup match vs Greenlands this week, the boys worked hard all match to secure a 7-1 win ensuring they move into the 3rd round and will face Hextable.

In the Girls FA cup, the girls have moved into the 3rd round after a bye in the 2nd round and will also face Hextable. They have been training hard in preparation and have enjoyed girls football Friday's which has seen lots of new girls take up football.

Regulation Resources

We are in the process of setting up some spaces at lunchtime to support children who need help to regulate their emotions on the playground.

Before our resources are delivered, we would appreciate it if you were able to donate any of the following items that are spare at home:

- Colouring books
- Colouring pencils
- Lego
- New playdough

Family first magazine

Please visit [this link](#) to the online magazine which supports the physical and mental wellbeing of families.

Managing Children's Behaviour Course

Did you struggle during the Christmas holidays? Do you find parenting tough? Would you like to learn some new strategies or how to set and maintain your boundaries? 4 weeks 2 hour course 9.15-11.15 - 21 & 28 January & 4 & 11th February [click here](#) to book

Supporting your anxious child – Happy Thoughts Jar

Does your child suffer with worries & anxieties? We are running a workshop where you can learn some strategies to support your child with their wellbeing and then your child will join the workshop where you will make a Happy Thoughts Jar together. Workshop is 4th February 2pm-4.30pm. [Click here](#) to book.

Just come Round – Wednesday 4-6.30pm

Free Fun and Food in the Winter Months – activities available for all Children 4-6.30pm

Christ Church Dartford, Christ Church Road
Dartford DA1 3ET. Everyone is welcome to
Just Come Round . Please see the flyer at
the end of the newsletter.

**HSF Winter Food and Energy Support
Scheme – Applications online from 9th
January 2025.**

You will be eligible for assistance if you:

- are aged 16 or over
- are a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bexley, or Bromley)
- are in receipt of means tested benefits, or your household income is less than £40,000 per annum before tax
- do not have more than £1000 in savings
- do not receive free school meals voucher support from your child’s school over the school holidays, for any child within your household.

If you qualify, they will issue your household with vouchers to the value of £100 which can be redeemed towards food, energy or both.

You will need to provide proof of residence at a Kent address as part of your application. [Click here for further info.](#)

Dartford Family Hub Support

At the end of this newsletter we have included the timetable of groups and services available from the Dartford Hub. These are all free and offer valuable advice and support for a range of areas.



Wellbeing Calendar

Ahead of February in a few weeks, we’re sharing the calendar for Friendly February.

For our wellbeing, relationships with others are really important. These quick tips give great suggestions of things to try.



Upcoming dates for the diary

- Mon 13th Jan - Clubs start
- Wed 15th Jan - Y3 swimming starts
- Mon 20th - Bag 2 School collection
- Thurs 23rd Jan - Young Voices @ O2
- 3-7 Feb - Children’s Mental Health Week
- Mon 10th Feb - Y4 Kingswood trip
- Fri 14th Feb - Last day of term

- Monday 24th Feb - Term 4 starts
- Wed 5th March - Open evening (from 3:30pm)
- Thurs 6th March - Open evening (from 5:30pm)
- Fri 28th March - Y6 to PGL
- Wed 2nd April - KS1 Easter Bingo
- Thurs 3rd April - KS2 Easter Bingo
- Fri 4th April - Last day of term

Tues 22nd April - Term 5 starts

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

YOU'RE INVITED TO



**IN JANUARY AND
FEBRUARY 2025**

AT CHRIST CHURCH DARTFORD
CROSS ROAD, DA1 3ET



FREE FUN AND FOOD IN THE WINTER MONTHS
ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN

Dartford Family Hubs Timetable

13th Jan 2025 - 14th Feb 2025

Our Family Hubs:

Dartford
03000 411049
Address: Oakfield Lane, Dartford DA1 2SW

Swanscombe
03000 415600
Address: Coopers Road, Swanscombe DA10 0BS (Pedestrian access only)

Knockhall
03000 419900
Address: Abbey Road, Greenhithe DA9 9HD



All of our groups and services are free to attend.

Monday	Dartford Stay & Play 09.30am-11.00am	Swanscombe Stay & Play 09.30am-11.00am	Knockhall Drop-in Clinic & Breastfeeding Support 09.30am-11.30am	Swanscombe Baby Group 1.00pm-2.30pm	Dartford Communication Tree 1.30pm-2.30pm	Swanscombe Resilience Information, Advice & Guidance 4.00pm-6.00pm
Tuesday	Dartford Talking Walk-ins 09.30am-11.30am	Knockhall Emotional Well-being 10.00am-11.30am	Swanscombe Drop-in Clinic & Breastfeeding Support 1.30pm-3.00pm	Dartford Pathway Play 1.30pm-2.30pm	Virtual Adolescent Parenting 5.00pm-6.00pm	
Wednesday	Knockhall Stay & Play 09.30am-11.00am	Dartford Communication Tree 09.30am-10.30am	Swanscombe Little Talkers 1.30pm-2.30pm	Dartford Resilience Information, Advice & Guidance 4.00pm-6.00pm		
Thursday	Dartford Active Tots 09.30am-10.30am 11.00am-12.00pm	Swanscombe Baby Massage 10.00am-11.00am	Dartford Baby Group 1.30pm-3.00pm	Swanscombe Baby Massage 1.00pm-2.00pm		
Friday	Swanscombe Little Talkers 09.30am-10.30am	Dartford Baby Massage 10.00am-11.00am	Knockhall Baby, Family and You 10.00am-12.00pm	Swanscombe Library Book Start 1.30pm-2.30pm		

Information



0-5 Years Old

Stay & Play

This includes a variety of activities to support your child's learning and development with Bookstart. Messy activities will also be available for children to explore, we advise wearing old clothing.

Baby Group

For parents with babies who are not yet walking. This includes a variety of activities to support your babies learning and development as they reach key milestones such as rolling, sitting and crawling.

Active Tots

From crawling until their second birthday. This session is to support your child's physical development in a fun and stimulating environment. We advise comfortable clothing is worn and all footwear will need to be removed for this session.

Book Start

Come along to our weekly Book Start session. We will be introducing different ways for you and your child to enjoy books together, exploring the benefits of reading for your child's development. Each child will receive a Book Start pack.

Requires Booking

Baby Massage

4 week programme

Learn how to massage your baby and more about their development. Please contact Dartford Family Hub for booking information.

Requires Booking

Communication Tree

4 Weekly sessions

This is aimed at families with 2-4 year olds with a social and communication delay.

Requires Booking

Emotional Well-being

6 Weekly sessions

This course is led by Kent Community Health Foundation staff to support mothers with babies under 1 year to maintain positive emotional well-being.

Talking Walk-ins

For families to bring their children to see a speech and language therapist without needing to complete a referral. This is a drop in session however there is a limited capacity each week.

Requires Booking

Pathway Play

6 Weekly sessions

Pathway Play offers an opportunity for children aged 2-5 year olds who are awaiting assessment to learn and develop in a safe environment that will be adapted to their needs, this group will have reduced numbers to create a quieter space for the children.

Requires Booking

Baby, Family and You

8 Sessions

New (0-12 months old) and expectant parents (due within 3 months of course). This is a combination of five group sessions and three individual consultations. You will be introduced to a range of strategies to help create a positive foundation for your baby.

Requires Booking

Adolescent Parenting

This is a virtual session for all parents with teenagers who feel they could benefit from some advice and guidance over things like dealing with conflict, understanding emotional well being, respecting boundaries and more.

Requires Booking

Little Talkers

4 Weekly sessions

These sessions aim to support parents support their child and confidently use responsive interaction strategies where the child may have difficulty understanding, using language, weak attention skills or where their speech is unclear. 2+ years.

Resilience, Information, Advice & Guidance

This drop-in session offers guidance and information over a range of topics. 11-19 years.

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 123 2075

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 hub a call or email

Dartfordfh@kent.gov.uk

@DartfordFamilyHubs

@Dartfordfamilyhubs_

@Dartfordfamilyhubs11to19

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

