



Enriching generations to serve and flourish

November Newsletter 2019

So much has happened...

Kent test – We are very proud to have our highest number of passes for the Kent test with 40% of children who took the test having passed. We also had 75% pass the Medway test. This was despite the raised pass mark to 110 per section which hasn't been raised in the last 3 years. We will still be supporting some parents in appealing but would just like to extend a huge well done to all the children who worked hard for the test.

New member of Ditton family – We were pleased to hear that, on the 5th November Mrs Stapleton delivered a beautiful, healthy boy and that they are both doing well.

Ofsted – We were pleased to welcome the inspectors into our school after half term. They looked deeply at our Maths, reading, history, PE and Science provisions to gain a good insight into our curriculum. They also spoke with children about behaviour and personal development that we provide. Our children were a credit to our school and in recognition of that we ensured all children had afternoon tea on Friday.

Reading – This year our focus has been on continuing to develop our reading curriculum. Having started with Accelerated Reader, the library and our reading intervention, we are now ensuring all staff are trained and confident in phonics to build further on the infant school provision. Children have all been re-tested for reading age which will be shared at parents' evening.

Word day – This was an amazing day and well done to everyone for the fantastic costumes. Children made sentences in morning workout and looked at the different use of words through poetry.

Attendance – Thank you for all your support in ensuring our whole school attendance stays above 97% ensuring pupils are receiving a full education.

Playground – This term our Senior Leadership Team, supported by our Pupil Leadership Team, monitored play and lunch times. There were many strengths and a few improvements which we have started to introduce e.g. separation of dining tables, rota for hockey etc.

Wider curriculum – Once again our after school clubs have been popular and well attended. Thank you to our staff who run these to ensure our children have a wide choice. Also Kent Music are offering a recorder club so that children can continue to extend their musicianship. Years 3 and 4

consolidated their creative learning based around 'Communities around us' through a journey around Ditton.

Homework – We have now created our new website pages on homework as asked for in Parent Forum. We hope these are supportive and welcome any other suggestions as we develop our website to ensure better communication.

Parents' Evening – Our new system for signing up for times for parents evening is hoping to address the concern that parents weren't getting times that were suitable and also ensure that the school office has full ownership of communication with parents about times. So far this has been well received through positive comments. We are currently looking into online systems to improve this further.

Macmillian Coffee morning – We raised £115.75 for Macmillian which is a charity close to many of our staff and families hearts. Thank you for your donations.

Harvest Festival – I would like to extend the Church's appreciation for all the donations for Harvest festival. It is great to support our community and remember those less fortunate.

Fireworks – Thank you to the PTA and everyone who joined us for a fabulous fireworks night. It is always a great event made better by the additional support of the cadets and community wardens.

We are now looking forward to the Christmas festivities, especially the Pantomime as last year this was a very memorable visit for all the children.

A letter in prayer

Lord,

**I thank you for all the blessings you have given me.
I thank you for all the governors, staff and families, especially those who may find it difficult at this time of year.**

**As I write to them, I pray you will guide my words,
so I not only share the ups and downs but show genuine support and respect.**

I pray you will be near them and bless them with your love and peace as we move towards this special time of year.

Amen.