



# South Avenue Primary School

## End of Term 6 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of another vibrant and fulfilling academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the many successes, milestones, and joyful moments we've shared as a school community.

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary. From the classroom to the playground and beyond, our children have grown not only in knowledge but also in confidence, resilience, and character. It has been truly heartening to watch them develop into kind, thoughtful individuals who support one another and set positive examples for their peers. Their progress, both academically and personally, has been remarkable, and we are incredibly proud of the students they are becoming.

Among the standout events this year was our fantastic Sports Day, where the energy, determination, and sportsmanship on display were truly inspiring. A heartfelt thank you to all the families who came along to cheer from the side-lines—it meant the world to the children. Our winners this year were Walmer!

Our school trips have added a special spark to the year. From educational visits to museums, gardens, and zoos, to thrilling adventures at Harry Potter World, Chessington, and Go Ape. None of this would have been possible without the tireless support of our amazing staff and volunteers.

We also had the absolute pleasure of watching our Year 6 production of *Aladdin*—a true highlight of the year. The performance was a joyful celebration of creativity and confidence. It was wonderful to see our budding actors and singers shine on stage, some revealing talents we hadn't seen before! The show was a testament to the hard work and teamwork of the children and staff, and it reminded us of the incredible talent we have within our school community.

We sadly say goodbye to a dedicated and valued member of our teaching team, Mrs Haybourne. Many of your children will have been taught by Mrs Haybourne and have seen first-hand the significant impact she has had. Whilst working hard in year 1, she has helped to redevelop our modern foreign languages across the school and has co-ordinated reading and phonics for all, ensuring that our children are given the best start they deserve. Her kind nature and positivity has had a lasting impact on both children and adults, and we wish her all the best at her new school.

We will also be saying goodbye to some Teaching Assistants from across the school - Miss Major, Miss Godden, Mrs Turner, Miss Burns, Mrs Hansen-Addy, Miss Huxter, Miss Mount, Mrs Whiting and Miss Huxter. We thank them for their hard-work and support over the years and for the positive impact they've had on our school. Your care, passion, and dedication has helped shape the lives of many children, and your presence will be truly missed. We wish you all the best in your next chapters.

As we wrap up this school year, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to every member of our school community—our staff, our families, and of course, our wonderful children. Your ongoing support, commitment, and energy are what make our school such a special place.

Wishing you all a restful, safe, and sunshine-filled summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back on 3rd September for another exciting year ahead.

With warmest regards,

Miss T Cadwallader  
Head of School



# *Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing*

## South Avenue Celebrates New Knights in Heart-Warming Ceremony

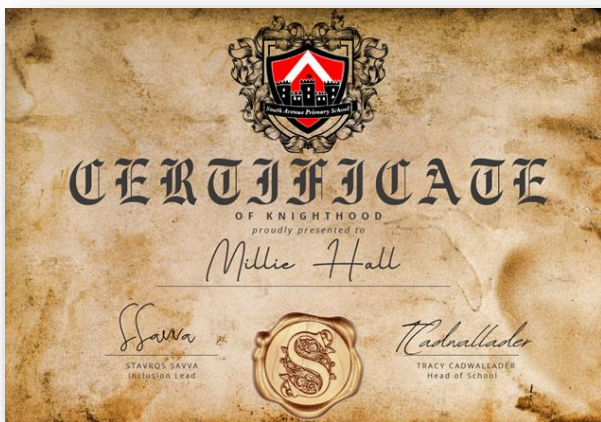


The 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 was a special day for South Avenue. For the first time, children, staff, families and special guests gathered for the school's annual Knighthood Ceremony, a celebration of courage, kindness and everything that makes our school community shine.

The tradition took on even more magic this year, thanks to a playful legend that has captured the imagination of children and teachers alike. After some drainage works took place last year in one of the outdoor areas, students were fascinated by the idea that ancient items might be hidden beneath the school grounds. And so, the story was born: that buried deep below the soil, shields and swords once belonging to real medieval knights had been discovered.

With that legend in mind, this year's ceremony felt even more meaningful. Local MP Kevin McKenna joined proud families and friends to honour a new group of student Knights - children who have shown the values that South Avenue holds dear: Listening, Ambition, Encouragement, Resilience, Respect and Nurturing. Miss Cadwallader opened the event by welcoming everyone and reminding us that knighthood at South Avenue isn't just about a title, it's about character and heart. "Knights have always stood for bravery and honour and today we celebrate those same values in our students," she said.

Millie was first to be honoured. She was praised for her quiet leadership, her thoughtful support of others, and her determination to tackle challenges - especially in maths and PE. Having once needed support herself, she now offers it to others with kindness and strength.



Next up was Chloe-Mae, recognised for staying calm during a challenging moment on the playground when a classmate was hurt. Her maturity and caring nature stood out, and she always shows compassion without expecting anything in return.

Finally, Daisy was celebrated for her resilience, respectful nature and her brilliant work as Head Pupil. Whether welcoming visitors or helping younger students, she always sets a positive example with a smile.

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Each student was invited on stage, where they knelt before the Head of School and were knighted with a ceremonial sword. "I dub thee Knight of South Avenue," said Miss Cadwallader. Afterward, the new knights stood together to recite the Knight's Pledge, promising to carry the spirit of South Avenue with them wherever they go. MP Kevin McKenna then stepped forward to present each new knight with a special certificate. Miss Cadwallader closed the event by thanking families, staff and pupils for being part of such a meaningful day.

### The ceremonial sword



"A true knight leads not by sword or shield, but by example," she reminded everyone.



### Parent Feedback Highlights

We recently asked for your thoughts on our classroom rewards and how well children are understanding and handling different types of problems. Thank you for the amazing responses! Here's a quick peek at what you shared:



### Motivation Matters!

#### Class Dojo Points? Big hit!

Most of our children are loving the chance to earn Class Dojo points. Class Dojo points are given when our children demonstrate one of our school values. These boosts seem to be going a long way in making learning more engaging.

#### Teamwork = Shield = Excitement!!

Shields for working together as a class? Also, very popular! Children enjoy working towards a common goal and celebrating group success.

#### Rewards Like Pizza Parties or Pyjama Days?

Parents said children are definitely motivated by classroom-wide rewards. These aren't just fun - they build anticipation and foster a sense of achievement. In fact, our whole-class rewards have been built around offering students memorable experiences they look forward to, like our Christmas Party in Term 2, Pizza Party in Term 4 and our Hot Dog Party in Term 6. These celebrations give everyone something exciting to work toward together and help create those school memories we all cherish.



A 3D pizza from 3D!

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## **Special Mentions? Special Feelings.**

Most students said they feel **proud and happy** when they or their friends get a special mention in class.

## **🧠 Problem Solving: Big or Small?**

We talked to families about how children are handling everyday problems at school, and here's what stood out:

### **Small Problems?**

These included things like forgetting a pencil or someone taking a turn in a game. Parents say children recognise these as manageable moments.

### **Big Problems?**

Getting hurt or having big arguments with friends were listed as more serious. It's great to see that most children are beginning to understand the difference.

### **Who Do Children Talk To?**

Teachers are the top go-to adults when something's up, followed closely by parents. Some children even mentioned trying to solve problems on their own. We love that independence is growing, but it's comforting to know they feel supported by grown-ups too.

### **Do All Problems Need the Same Kind of Help?**

Some problems are bigger and need more support and children are learning to tell the difference. A few are still developing this skill, which is totally okay! We'll keep working on it together.

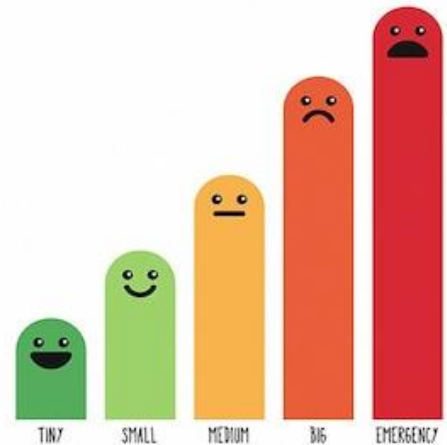
## **🏠 Understanding the Zones of Regulation**

Some of you mentioned in the survey that you'd love more clarity on what the **Zones of Regulation** actually are. Great news, Mr Savva has put together a short and helpful training session for parents, explaining how we use the Zones to help children recognise and manage their emotions.

📱 Simply **scan the QR code** to access the training and learn how to support this language at home too!

WHAT'S THE SIZE OF THE

## **PROBLEM?**



## **🏆 Is the Reward System Working?**

Most parents said that yes, the current mix of Dojo points, shields, and special mentions **does help keep their children motivated**. A few mentioned their children might benefit from some tweaks or more variety in rewards, which is great feedback we'll take on board.

We would like to say **huge thank you** for your feedback and support around our behaviour policy. Your input truly matters, and it helps shape a system that works for everyone, children, staff and families alike.

# *Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing*

## Our OPAL Journey So Far

Since September 2024, South Avenue Primary School has been working with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) and what a journey it's been! For those who may not be familiar, OPAL is a nationally recognised programme that helps schools transform playtimes into imaginative, inclusive and exciting experiences that support children's physical, social and emotional development.



At South Avenue, we've always believed in the power of play and through OPAL, we've worked to make lunchtime the most exciting and multisensory part of our children's day. Our children have embraced the freedom to play in new and exciting ways. They've loved using tyres, planks, crates and construction tubes to build dens and structures that often test the boundaries of gravity and engineering!

Our *costume zone* has been a particular favourite, where children can transform into characters of their choosing, creating magical, imaginative worlds with friends. Right next to it, our *music zone* has been filled with rhythm and energy, with *Fun Kids Radio* playing in the background. Why not tune in during the holidays and bring a bit of the playground home?

Thanks to Mrs Honey, one of our Sports Leads, we now have additional sports equipment including hockey sticks, a huge hit with the children! Our *sandpit* continues to be one of the most popular play areas, and we're incredibly grateful to our generous PTFA who have purchased extra sand for us ready for next year.



In another special corner of the playground, Mrs Day from Year 2 has been busy developing a little animal enclosure which is now home to two guinea pigs, *Oreo* and *Cookie*. These furry friends come out during playtimes and have been lovingly nurtured by many of our pupils, who have learned about care and responsibility through hands-on experience.

Our *Gardening Club* run by Mrs Spicer also celebrated its first harvest last term, proudly digging out over **20 potatoes** and **10 spring onions** - a fantastic achievement for our young gardeners!

Of course, with around **400 children** playing outdoors every day, our resources are constantly being used and naturally break. Toys simply aren't built to last when enjoyed by so many busy hands, so **we are always very grateful for donations** to help us continue developing and refreshing our playtimes.

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### Can You Help?

As we prepare for September, we're currently in **urgent need** of the following items:

- Dressing-up clothes and costumes (all ages)
- Sports equipment (footballs, basketballs, tennis rackets, etc.)
- Tyres, planks, and tubes for building
- Small world toys
- Mud kitchens
- Mud kitchen equipment (cooking utensils, pots, pans)



If you have any of these items in good condition and would be happy to donate them, please get in touch with Mr Savva ([ssavva@southavenue.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ssavva@southavenue.kent.sch.uk)). **Your support makes a real difference.**

Thank you to all our families, staff and children for being such an important part of our OPAL journey so far. We can't wait to see what exciting new developments the next school year brings!



At the Summer Fair, Lilah impressed everyone with her dedication and enthusiasm by raising an incredible £121.70 for Happy Pants Ranch with her creative ideas and hard work. She made a real difference and showed what a caring and determined member of our school community she is. Safaa also lent a hand with the preparations and helped run the stall on the day. A big well done to both of them for their amazing teamwork and for supporting such a great cause.

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# Sports Day



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**Sports Day**



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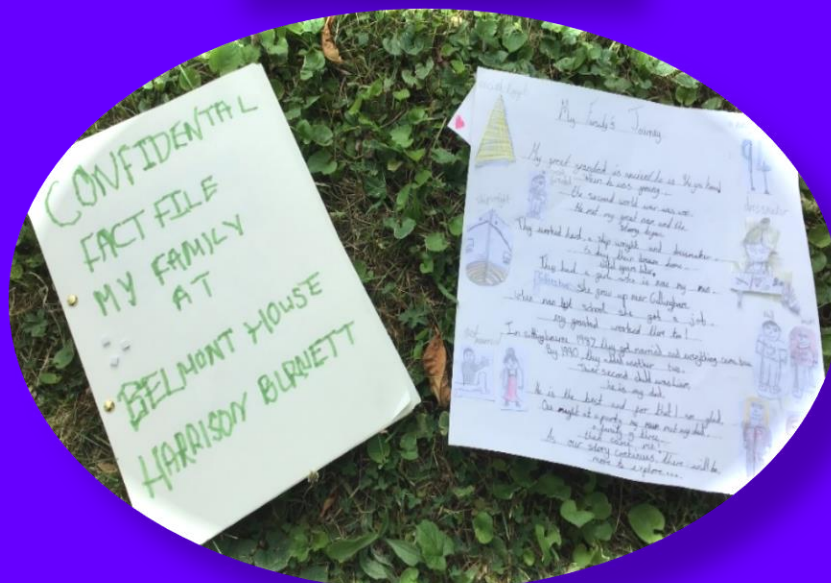
# HISTORY & WRITING COMPETITION!

## THEME: "MY FAMILY'S HISTORY"

Wow! We were amazed by all the incredible entries to our History and Writing Competition. What a wonderful array of exciting family adventures you all have! You have shared epic journeys, toys and games adored by all the generations and love stories. There were poems, interviews, descriptions, family trees and fact files to name but a few. Your creativity and team work has shone throughout and made choosing winners incredibly challenging! But it is our pleasure to announce that Harrison in Year 1 and Lilah in Year 5 are our overall winners receiving a voucher to spend at The Light. Well done to everyone who entered.



The Winners!



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EYFS loved their trip to Wingham



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Year 1 had a wonderful trip to Whitstable. The adventure started by catching the train, which was very exciting. We then had an incredible tour of the Lifeboat station, we learned so much about keeping safe at the beach. We explored Squeeze Gut Alley and played on the beach, we had a much needed ice cream after our picnics. Throwing stones and making beach art was also lots of fun. What an amazing day out!



Y1 visit to Whitstable



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Year 2 had an exciting and sunny trip out as they travelled on the train to visit Rochester Castle and the Guildhall Museum. The children explored the historic castle, climbed the ancient stone steps, and enjoyed stunning views from the top. They were very brave! At the museum, Year 2 saw replicas of the castle and were amazed by the crowns and jewellery! Year 2 also drew some amazing sketches of Rochester Castle. It was a fun and memorable trip for all!



Rochester Castle  
with Year 2



## Year 3's International Music Day

On Thursday 27th June, Year 3 took part in a fantastic celebration for **International Music Day**—a day dedicated to exploring the rich sounds, rhythms, and traditions of music from around the world.



Throughout the day, the children were taken on a musical journey across continents, learning about a variety of countries and the unique music and dances that make each culture so special. From the energetic beats of African drums to the elegant moves of traditional Chinese ribbon dancing, there was something new and exciting around every corner.

The pupils particularly enjoyed trying out different styles of dance, including Latin American salsa steps, Indian hand gestures used in classical dance, and even fun-filled dances from Eastern Europe! It was a great way to learn how music connects people, tells stories, and expresses identity across the globe.

In class, the children also explored the instruments and musical traditions from each country, sparking thoughtful conversations about the diversity and beauty of cultures worldwide. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity shone throughout the day.

Well done to all of Year 3 for embracing the spirit of International Music Day with such energy and open-mindedness. The day was a true celebration of global music and community - and we're sure some of those dance moves will be remembered for a long time to come!



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Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Canterbury Museums, where we explored the fascinating topics of the Romans and Anglo-Saxons that we've been learning about this year.



The day was packed with exciting and engaging activities that brought history to life. We learned about Roman engineering by building and testing catapults, and even had the chance to make our own Roman coins. Dressing up as Romans helped us imagine what life was like in ancient times, while exploring real Anglo-Saxon artefacts sparked our curiosity and imagination. We even tried our hand at drawing some of the artefacts we saw, carefully sketching their intricate designs. It was an unforgettable day filled with fun, learning, and discovery!

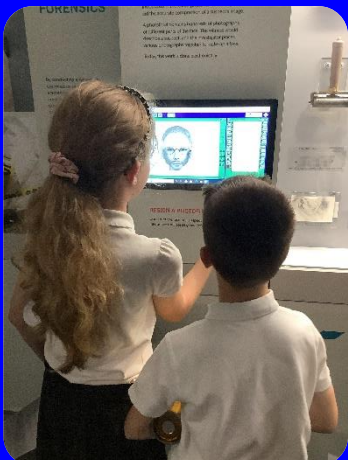


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Year 5 had an exciting and educational visit to the Police Museum. The students explored the history of policing, tried on uniforms, and even stepped inside an old-fashioned jail cell! They learned about how policing has changed over time and asked thoughtful questions about keeping communities safe. It was a fun and inspiring day that brought their learning to life.



**Faversham Police Museum**



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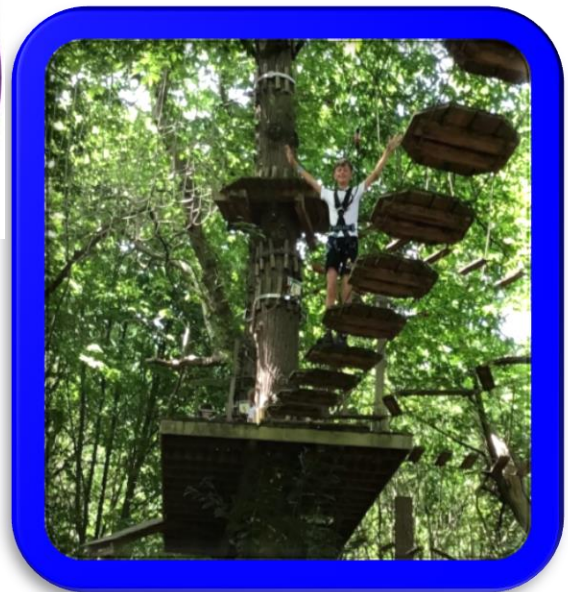
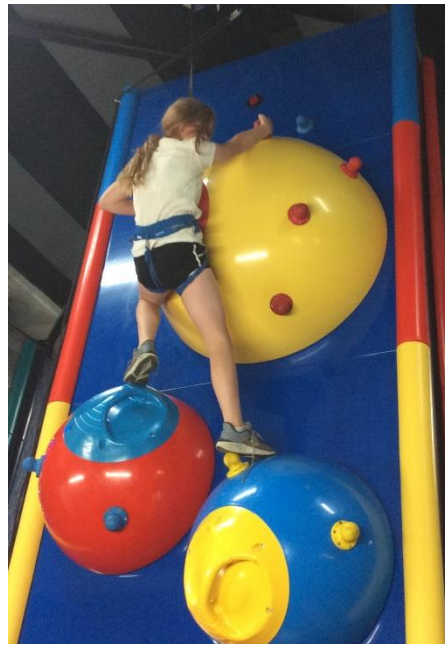
WOW, what a term it has been for Year 6; this year, our children have most definitely loved their 'Wicked Wednesdays'! We launched the trips off with a fantastic day at Chessington World of Adventure in which the children were able to experience some thrill-seeking rides and create memories we hope they will cherish forever. Their dare-devilish ways prepared them for challenging themselves at Clip and Climb and even Go Ape. We were overjoyed in observing their courageous talents and loved the support they provided each other over every hurdle or fear of heights. Not only have they demonstrated superb resilience, but they have also indulged in fun team building activities along the way, including bowling. Well done Year 6 for embracing every challenge and it has been a pleasure to witness some of the attributes you will apply during your transition to secondary school.



**Y6 does  
Chessington!**



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**Picnic in the park!**



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## **Year 6 Production 2025**



Disneyclips.com



### Year 1 Ballet Club

It was lovely to see our ballerinas performing for their families. They looked wonderful in their tutus and danced so gracefully. Well done!



### Year 3 and 4 Contemporary Dance Club



A beautiful performance from the Contemporary Dance Club. It was lovely to see how confidently they all danced. Well done!

### Irish (Intermediate) Dance Club

A big thank you to the Intermediate Irish Dance Club for performing at the Summer Fayre. You were amazing!



### Friday Irish Dance Club



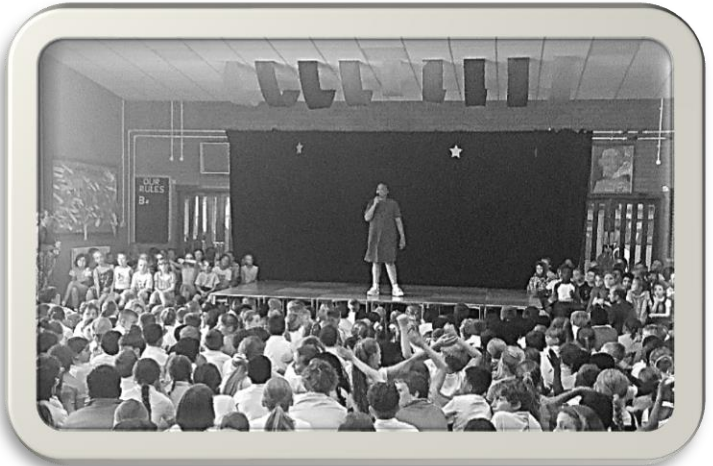
It has been wonderful to see all the progress that the children have made at the Friday Irish Dance Club. They were able to perform for their family and friends recently.

Well done to you all.

### After School Clubs.

The After School Activities Clubs have now come to an end for this academic year. They have been a great success and children have learnt so many new skills as well as having fun! A Clubs letter will go out in the first week back in September, which will inform you of the Clubs for Terms 1 and 2.

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Here are just a few of our talented children performing in the finale in front of the whole school and a panel of judges. With special thanks to Mrs Hatt, FMAT Trustee, for giving her time to the judging panel. All those that took part were absolutely amazing and our winners this year were Oliver, Timmy and Jacob from 4G: they performed a rap which they had written themselves all about the environment and deforestation.. *The winners were presented with a trophy, certificates and an Amazon voucher.*



Big thanks go to D & T Bouncy Castles who once again provided us with some fantastic inflatables. The children had the opportunity to enjoy these as a way of staff thanking the children for all of their hard work this year.



# Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing



What an incredible year it's been for our PTFA! From exciting new additions to the playground to unforgettable events and thoughtful support for our pupils, the PTFA has once again gone above and beyond to enhance school life for everyone.

We began the year with the much-anticipated unveiling of our brand-new **climbing frame**, an instant hit with the children and a fantastic improvement to our outdoor space. Their excitement and smiles said it all!

As winter rolled in, the festive spirit was in full swing at the **Christmas Disco** where children danced the evening away and the **Craft Market** where families shopped for handmade treasures and seasonal goodies.

In spring, we celebrated the special people in our lives with two wonderful events. The **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea** was beautifully set and warmly received, offering a lovely moment of calm and appreciation. Then came the lively **Father's Day Fun Day**, full of games, laughter, and shared memories.

This year's **Summer Fair** was a wonderful celebration of community spirit, sunshine, and summer fun. With classic games like hook-a-duck and beat the goalie, delicious treats, stalls bursting with goodies, and even a raffle packed with exciting prizes, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Families came together to laugh, play, and make lasting memories – a perfect way to round off a fantastic school year!



Throughout the year, the PTFA has also provided crucial support for various school activities and resources. Highlights include:

- **Swimming sessions for Year 4**, helping ensure every child has access to this vital life skill.
- **New dolls houses** for Year 1, encouraging imaginative play..
- **Lost property boxes**, making it easier to reunite items with their owners.
- Support with **Year 6's Aladdin production**, contributing to a magical end-of-year performance.



- **Ice creams on school trips**, adding an extra treat to a day of adventure and learning.

We ended the year on a high note with a **Circus Skills Workshop** for all children - a joyful, inclusive celebration filled with juggling, balance beams, and laughter. A perfect way to close a brilliant year.

If you would like to volunteer with us (however much or little) you are all so very welcome and your time is hugely appreciated.

Finally, an enormous 'Thank you' to every parent, carer, teacher, and volunteer who supported, donated, attended, or cheered us on. Your involvement makes everything we do possible. Here's to another year of partnership, fun, and fantastic memories.



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THE  
READING  
AGENCY

**Summer Reading Challenge**

## Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The **Summer Reading Challenge**, created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, is a **FREE**, fun-packed way to keep kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme is **Story Garden**, where imagination blossoms and stories grow! Children will explore creativity, storytelling, and the magic of books through exciting activities and adventures.

### Why Join?

- It's **FREE!** Available at local libraries and online
- Inspires a **lifelong love of reading**
- Boosts **confidence, creativity, and imagination**
- Earn **rewards, certificates, and prizes**
- Fun for the whole **family**. Visit your **local library** together
- **95%** of children said they **read more** after joining!
- Children **choose their own books** to read over the summer, **collect rewards** for each milestone they reach, and **receive a certificate or medal** when they complete the challenge.



Visit your local library or go online at  
👉 [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)  
to get started from 5 July 2025.

**Help your child start their reading adventure today!**

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## *Dates for your diary!*

<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025</b>	<b>Start of Term 1</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Kent Test</b>
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>End of Term 1</b>
<b>Monday 27<sup>h</sup> October</b>	<b>Start of Term 2</b>
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>Whole school flu vaccinations</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Term 2 - 1.30pm finish</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>Start of Term 3</b>



## Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....



This year we have seen an improvement of 1% in our overall school attendance taking us to 94.4%. We will continue to strive for our target of 95% in the new academic year, with your help and support this is totally achievable. We should like to thank all of you who have ensured that your children are in school, on time, every day. We have celebrated this with the children this week, having a special assembly to recognise all those with an attendance percentage of 98% and above. 194 children across the school managed to achieved 100% attendance in Term 6 with 34 children achieving 100% attendance across the whole academic year! Many congratulations to all of the children and a special mention to the 34 children - Anastasia, Benjamin-Cash, Bianca, Borisa, Charlotte, Chloe, Dominik, Ellie E, Ellie F, Eva, Grace, Harrison, Harry, Isabelle, Jane, Katie Kendrick, Kristina, Kurtis, Lily, Luke, Maddison, Maisee, Mollie, Oliver, Oluwafiiayokunmi, Oluwafifehanmi, Saffron, Sean, Shire, Sonnie, Subomi, Sylvia, They will have come home this week with certificates, stickers and badges to recognise their amazing attendance. 5B won the class attendance with 97%. They were able to celebrate with a donut treat. The child who won the £100 voucher for The Light from the 100% attendance draw was Luis in 4G - we hope he enjoys this over the Summer.

