



Good afternoon,

School has been incredibly busy over the last two weeks, full of exciting visitors and events.

On Monday January 26th, we were visited by Oly Newton. Oly is a public speaker who tours multinational companies and schools across the country to discuss his experiences with mental health, OCD and ADHD. KS2 completed some activities and discussed ways to reduce our levels of stress. We were honoured to host Oly and look forward to welcoming him back again in the future.

Tuesday January 27th saw our school competing in a local Maths competition, hosted at Dover College. A massive well-done to the children who took part, and a big thank you to both Dover College for hosting and Mrs Pegler, who gave up her own time to take the children to the contest. We did extremely well and, in a strong field, managed second place. This was followed by another Maths competition at St Edmund's on Thursday 29th. We are yet to hear the results. Thank you and well done to all of the children taking part.

Last week, we were visited by Elham Historical Society and Model Railway. Chris and Trevor from the EHS launched a competition, on the subject of the old Elham Valley Railway. The children saw photos from the railway, discussed the age of steam and learnt about the role of the railway during WW2. Classes will now work to complete entries to the contest, with each class having a winner before an overall champion takes home the Andree Sladden cup.

We hope you are enjoying this half-term, if there is anything you wish to discuss, please get in touch.

Farewell to Tina

Today, we said farewell to Tina, one of our wonderful After School Club ladies. Tina is beginning a well-deserved retirement, and we thank her for all the care, kindness, and dedication she has given over the years. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her every happiness in this next chapter.

ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB

For information about our local churches and the services they are offering, please visit their website:

[https://
elhamvalleygroupofchurch-
es.co.uk/](https://elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk/)

Parent Forum

Apologies from Mr Magliocco, who was ill and therefore missed the forum. We have rearranged to February 10th. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All events can be found on the school website in the Calendar tab under

Key Information

- 5th February, 3.25pm—Marking & Feedback Information Mtg in Potter Class with Mr Magliocco
- 6th February—Mid year reports out
- 10th February—KIC Theatre
- 11th February—Class drop in
- 12th February, 3.25-4pm—Residential Meeting for Parents & Children
- 13th February—Term 3 ends
- 23rd February—Term 4 starts
- 23rd February—Mini squash lessons for Peake & Nightingale classes (every Monday in Term 4)
- 2nd March, Andrea Anderson, Lyminge Library—whole school
- 3rd March—Yr 6 Safety in Action @ 3 Hills Sports Club
- 5th March—World Book Day
- 5th March—Yr 5/6 Football League (7 a side) @ 3 Hills (team to be selected)
- 12th March—Nightingale Quicksticks cricket @ 3 Hills

Elham Historical Society

We were delighted to welcome members of the Elham Historical Society to lead our Worship with a fascinating talk about the Elham Valley Railway. The group kindly brought along a model of the railway, which was set up in the Russo Room for the children to view and explore.

They have also been very generous in providing prizes for a competition that we are running across the school.

Huge thanks to Chris Francis, Stephen Cupit, Ian Sladden, Derek Smith, Paul Hopper and Trevor Gasson for giving their time and sharing their knowledge with us.

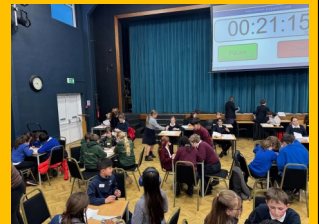
There will be a **Model Railway Exhibition** at **Elham Village Hall** on **Saturday, 11th April, 10am–4pm.**

Maths Challenges!

This week, members of Peake class have taken part in two maths challenges. The first, for Yr 5 pupils, was at Dover College. We were ably represented by Kaladin, Maria, Eloise, Dylan and Polina. Out of seven schools, they came second, scoring 175 points (only 10 points behind first place!)

The second event was for Yr 6 pupils and took place at St Edmund's school. Our team was Teddie, Selby, Zoe and Jacob.

A huge thank you for parents for transporting the children to and from the venues, also to Mrs Pegler and Mrs Hall for accompanying them.



Christmas Fundraising

The PTA are delighted to announce that Christmas fundraising raised a total of **£1,038.28**. A huge thank you to everyone who supported and contributed — your generosity makes a real difference and this is a fantastic achievement for such a small school.

Emotional & Mental Health

We were fortunate to welcome Oly Newton into school this week to speak to our KS2 pupils about mental health and wellbeing. Oly shared his personal experiences of anxiety, OCD and depression, and spoke honestly about his journey to recovery. He encouraged the children to think about "learning to become comfortable feeling uncomfortable," leaving them with a powerful and positive message.

Huge thanks to Mr Robbins for organising this visit.

Information Evening

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend an information session on **5th February at 3.25pm.**

We are currently undergoing a **change to how we mark books and provide feedback** to children from their lessons and books.

We are keen to share with you what these changes are and why they are being made.

Mr Magliocco will host the session. It will have a small presentation outlining the above before opening to a Q&A. We hope to see you there.

New Website

Our new website goes live on Wednesday. The update has reset some of our pages and so new content will be coming all the time. We hope that you find the new pages easier to navigate and better set-out. The website is intended to be a useful place for information about the school. If you have feedback which could help it to improve then please get in touch.