



Halfway through the academic year! The occasion has snuck up on us. In the first half of the year we have achieved so much as a school community and hope you agree that they are having a positive impact. Thank you to all of our families who have been in school over the last half-term, both in person and virtually. It was wonderful to see so many of you on Wednesday for our Family Drop In. We hope this was an enjoyable and rewarding opportunity to see your child's learning and chat informally with class teachers. Community is at the centre of what we do and we are always looking for ways to improve the links between families and school. We hope to have more to announce to you all soon.

Next half-term we are continuing to make changes to improve our school. The website has been revamped. These are still the early stages. Please bear with us whilst we iron out the wrinkles. The website is there to support our existing school community with information, links and resources. It is also a gateway for new families to find and join the school. For these reasons, we want you all to have the best experience possible. Feedback on your experience of the website, positive or constructive, would be fabulous.

The return of Forest School is also on the horizon. Thank you for your shared patience while training was taking place. Mrs Strover is now fully qualified. Congratulations and well done to her. We hope to have Forest School lessons taking place next half-term.

Finally, we are actively considering ways to increase attendance at our After School Club. There will soon be two surveys available to families. One aimed at those who use the service currently, and one aimed at those who do not. We want After School Club to be as fun and popular as possible. We would greatly welcome any tips or ideas.

Please also note that if children attend a free or paid club between 3.15 and 4/4.15, they can attend ASC for only £6, even if staying until 6pm. Many of you will already be aware of this but a friendly reminder never goes amiss.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Enjoy half-term!

World Book Day



World Book Day is on Thursday, 5th March, but at Elham Primary we will celebrate this occasion on **FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH!** We'd like the children to dress up as their favourite character from a book **but as Thursday is a PE day, we'll enjoy our celebrations on Friday.** There will be a number of reading and book themed activities to be excited about. We cannot wait!

ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB

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

<https://elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk/>

Parent Forum

Thank you to our class reps for taking the time to attend our recent Parent Forum.

It was a positive and productive meeting, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share ideas and feedback. The minutes from the meeting will be shared in due course.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Key Information

23rd February—Term 4 starts

23rd February—Mini squash lessons for Peake & Nightingale classes (every Monday in Term 4 - PE KITS PLEASE)

2nd March, Andrea Anderson, Lyminge Library—whole school

3rd March—Yr 6 Safety in Action @ 3 Hills Sports Club

5th March—Yr 5/6 Football League (7 a side) @ 3 Hills

6th March –World Book Day

Week beginning 9th March—Science Week

12th March—Nightingale Quicksticks cricket @ 3 Hills

13th March, 2.45pm:Celebration Assembly—PARENTS INVITED

19th March—Peake Mini Hockey @ 3 Hills

23rd– 26th March—Peake Residential, Hailsham, East Sussex

30th March, 9.30am—Rock's Cool Concert

2nd April—Elham Historical Society—Nightingale & Peake—historical walk around Elham

KIC Theatre

We had another fantastic day with Ian from KIC Theatre, who delivered engaging workshops to all of our classes. Farah class explored Billy the Beast, Potter stepped back in time to experience Victorian schools, Nightingale brought The Selfish Giant to life, and Peake travelled to the world of the Ancient Greeks.

Each session was interactive, creative and thoroughly enjoyed by the children. These enriching workshops were funded by PTA funds. A huge thank you to everyone who supports the PTA and their fundraising efforts — your contributions make experiences like this possible. The children absolutely love days like these!

NSPCC Number Day

We were delighted to celebrate NSPCC Number day on Friday, 6th February. Thank you to parents for organising such an array of amazing costumes! The children took part in fun, meaningful maths activities throughout the day, and so far we have raised £52 for the NSPCC. Your generous donations help fund vital services such as Childline and the Speak Out, Stay Safe programme, supporting children today and protecting them for the future.

If you haven't donated yet and would like to, you can do so via our school's GiftT donation page using the QR code below. All donations, however small, make a big difference. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider adding Gift Aid at no extra cost to you.



Mr Whitethread

Potter Class were enthralled to welcome a very special visitor, David Whitethread, who joined them for their topic lesson to share stories about his school days.

The children were fascinated as he spoke about what school was like when he was young. They had plenty of questions for him and kept him busy with their thoughtful enquiries! They especially enjoyed looking at photographs of David and his wife when they were children — it was wonderful to make those real-life connections to their learning.

A big thank you to David for giving his time and bringing history to life for the class.

Mini Squash

Nightingale and Peake classes will have six weeks of mini squash tuition starting in Term 4. These lessons take place on Monday afternoons and therefore please may the children come to school wearing their PE kits every Monday.

New Website & Parents' Meetings

Don't forget to create your account so you can access the online booking system on our new website! This will enable you to book your appointment for Parents' Meetings which are scheduled for Wednesday, 29th April, for all children, and on Thursday, 30th April for children in Key Stage 2. The booking system will open on Saturday, 28th March, at which point you will be able to select your preferred appointment time. A reminder will be sent closer to the date.

In the meantime, please ensure that you have created your account so that you can access the system. Doing so will also allow us to resolve any initial issues should they arise.

Please note that this link has been sent to both parents. If you require only one appointment, please ensure that only one parent makes the booking.

<https://www.elhamprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Parents+Evening&pid=1688>

Paternity Leave

You may be aware that my family and I are expecting a new arrival in the coming months. Unfortunately, this will mean that I will be absent from school for two weeks in the near future, possibly the end of term 4 or the beginning of term 5. I apologise for the inconvenience. Myself and the staff have planned the cover for my absence. In case of an emergency, such as Ofsted or flooding, I may return sooner. Thank you for your understanding.

Zig-Zag Lines

The zig-zag lines which are outside of the main school gate should never be used for drop off or pick up during the school day. The lines mark "controlled areas" where stopping, waiting, or parking is prohibited to ensure clear visibility for drivers and pedestrians and are there to keep us all safe. It has been noted that some cars are beginning to ignore this. We understand that parking can be challenging, particularly with the current roadworks in the village, however we must ensure we all do what we can to keep the children, and each other, safe.

Morning Drop Off

From Term 4, we will be making a slight change to how we welcome you and your children to school each morning. Following discussions with the Parent and Carer's Forum, we have taken the decision to open the school gate from 8:30am each morning. This decision has been made to move yourselves and the children away from the road, which can get busy with traffic in the mornings. To combat this, and in an effort to promote everyone's safety, children and adults are welcome to stand on the school playground for the 5 minutes before the school day begins. This will take those who arrive early away from the main road.

Please note **that whilst the gate will be open from 8:30am, school will still begin at 8:35am. Until 8:35am, parents and carers remain responsible for the safety and behaviour of their children.**

We would also like to make clear that children should not be sent on to the playground nor into the school without an adult before 8:35am. The school gate will continue to be shut at 8.50am when lessons will formally begin. A follow-up email will be circulated which explains this.

Mini London Marathon

We are delighted to share that, after entering the ballot for places in this year's TCS Mini London Marathon, our school has been awarded the maximum allocation of 25 places for the one-mile distance. The event will take place on **Saturday, 25th April**. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to take part in such a prestigious and inspiring event.

Further details about how places will be allocated and event arrangements will follow shortly.

A huge thank you to Mrs Nicole Smith for making us aware of this wonderful opportunity!

Arrears


As we reach the end of this term, we currently have the following outstanding balances on School Money across the school:

Dinners – £183.50
Clubs – £3.50

We kindly ask that you take a moment to check your child's School Money account and ensure it is in credit ready for Term 4.

The school is not able to sustain this level of debt, and we would therefore be very grateful if all arrears could be cleared before the start of next term.

Amended Menu for February & March

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>whole SCHOOL meals</p> </div> <p>DATES: Week 1: 23rd Feb, 16th March.</p> <p>Week 2: 2nd Feb, 2nd March, 23rd March.</p> <p>Week 3: 9th Feb 9th March, 30th March</p> <p>Allergens: 1. <i>Gluten/Wheat</i> 2. <i>Dairy/Milk</i> 3. <i>Eggs</i> 4. <i>Soya/Soyabans</i> 5. <i>Mustard</i> 6. <i>Celery</i> 7. <i>Fish</i> 8. <i>Molluscs</i> 9. <i>Shellfish/Crustaceans</i> 10. <i>Sesame Seeds</i> 11. <i>Nuts</i> 12. <i>Lupins</i> 13. <i>Sulphur Dioxide</i> 14. <i>Peanuts</i></p> <p><i>All items with * can be made Vegan.</i> <i>All items with ** can be made Dairy Free.</i></p>	WEEK 1	Cheese Whirl & Sauté Potatoes 1,2 Vegetable Pasta Bake 1 Garlic Bread 1,4 Peas & Baked Beans Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Chocolate Krispie Cake 1,2,4 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Beef Tacos 1,2 Veggie Burrito 1 Vegetable Rice Carrots & Green Beans. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Carrot Cake 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy 1 Vegetable & Chickpea Tart 1 Rustic Roasties Cabbage & Sweetcorn. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Shortbread 1 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Pork Meatballs 1 Meatless Meatballs 1 Broccoli & Carrots. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Lemon Cake 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Fish Fingers 1,7 *Cheese Pizza 1,2 Skin on Fries or Pasta 1 Baked Beans & Sweetcorn. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Cooks Choice 1,3.
	WEEK 2	*Cheese Pizza 1,2 Mixed Bean Wrap 1 Pasta 1 Peas & Sweetcorn. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Jelly Yoghurt & Fruit Compote 2 Fresh Fruit.	Chicken Tacos 1,2 Sweet Potato & Spinach Dhal 6 Savoury Rice 6 Broccoli & Mixed Veg. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Chocolate Cake 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Roast Pork Veggie Meatloaf 1,4 Rustic Roasties Swede & Peas. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Shrewsbury Biscuit 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Beef Bolognese Veggie Bolognese Pasta 1 Carrots & Sweetcorn. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Chelsea Buns 1,4,12 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Fish Bites 1,7 Veggie Nuggets 1 Skin on Fries or Pasta 1 Baked Beans & Peas. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Cooks Choice 1,3.
	WEEK 3	Mac 'n' Cheese 1,2 Tomato Pasta 1 Garlic Dough Balls 1,4 Mixed Vegetables. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Cornflake Crunch 1,2,4 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Mexican Beef Tortilla Bake 1,2 *Veggie Tacos 1 Pasta 1 Carrots & Peas. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Iced Cookie Bun 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Sausages & Gravy 1,12 Quorn Sausage & Gravy 1 Mashed Potato Sweetcorn & Baked Beans. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Oat Cookie 1 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Curried Chicken Chunks 12 Vegetable Frittata 2,3 Rainbow Rice Cauliflower & Peas. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Marble Sponge 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Fish Fingers 1,7 *Cheese Pizza 1,2 Skin on Fries or Pasta 1 Peas & Sweetcorn. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2. Cooks Choice 1,3.

All items are subject to availability.

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

Young Artists' Summer Show

2026

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–18 living and studying in the UK.

Students can submit one artwork for consideration which will be judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals. Selected artworks will be displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts either onsite or online. The RA will award prizes for inspiring artworks.

How to enter

From 5 January 2026, teachers will be able to register their school. Next, teachers and parents/guardians can submit artworks via the RA website until 4 March 2026.

Important dates

- 5 January–4 March 2026**
Registration and submission open
- May 2026**
Judging
- 14 July 2026**
Online exhibition opens
- 14 July–30 August 2026**
Display at the RA open

Sign up and find out more
royalacademyarts.org.uk/youngartists
 @royalacademyarts

Made possible by Robin Hambro



ST MARY'S CHURCH PRESENTS -

Pancake Brunch

**SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY,
10.00 - 12.00 IN THE CHURCH**

**£4.00 for a
drink and your
first 2 pancakes
and then just
£1.50 for each
additional
pancake or drink**

**How many can
you eat?**



Various fillings available - both sweet and savoury, Gluten free Pancakes too



Take part in the Pancake Tossing Competition -

SILVERLAND STUDIOS

Children's Courses



Have Fun While You Learn - Enjoy Painting!

Children are born with a natural sense of colour and imagination. This painting week wants to feed and develop both: the enjoyment of painting as well as challenging creativity. A story full of pictures, colours and moods will be told in sequences on each day. During the painting process ideas will arise which can be incorporated and each child is free to develop these own ideas.

16th February - 20th February 2026, 10am -12pm (Age 5-9)

bookable at 5 sessions
fees 60 GBP

Please bring:

- An old, long shirt (to protect clothes)
- Old shoes
- 7 small jars with screwtops (for the paint provided)



Contact and more info: Christine Henn, Arch 18 Military Road / Ramsgate CT11 9LG
christine.henn@gmx.de Tel 01843 58 92 75 and www.christine-henn.com

Donations needed

Good quality second hand items including clothes and shoes (ladies, men's and children's), toys, linen, bric-a-brac and accessories.



Kent Family Hub

SPEAK OUT PARENTS

CONNECT, CHAT, RELAX - JOIN US!

FEBRUARY TOPIC: PARENTING SUPPORT

WHY JOIN?

We're gathering experiences from parents and carers about the support they've received during their parenting journey — including the challenges they've faced and the services they've accessed.

This feedback will help us review and improve our parenting courses, including how they're delivered, promoted, and how we engage with families. Your insights will guide us in making sure the support we offer is relevant, accessible, and truly meets the needs of parents and carers in our communities.

Thank you for helping us shape better support for families.

Join us and receive a £15 Love2Shop voucher as a token of appreciation for your attendance!

Enjoy complimentary craft activities along with refreshments and snacks!

Join us on:

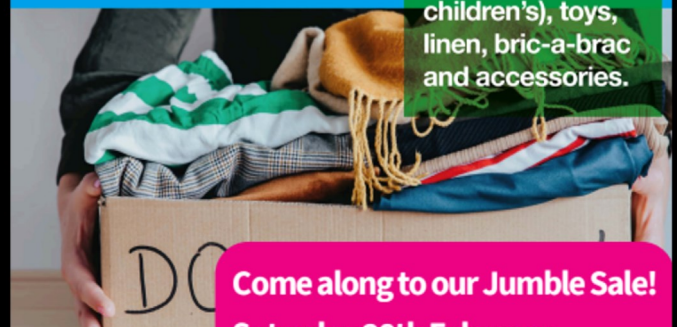
25th February 2026
12.30pm - 2.00pm

Folkstone Family Hub,
Dover Road, CT20 1QF.

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW:

☎ 03000 416 026 (TEXT)

✉ sarah.witts@kent.gov.uk



Come along to our Jumble Sale!

Saturday 28th February
10am – 2pm at Age UK Hythe

These can be dropped off at the following
Community hubs, from
Monday 16th – Wednesday 25th February

Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, TN23 5RF
Age UK Hythe, Sanford House, Stade Street, CT21 6BD

For further details please contact

01303 269602

vc@ageukhla.org.uk

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