Newsletter

Monday 10th February 2025

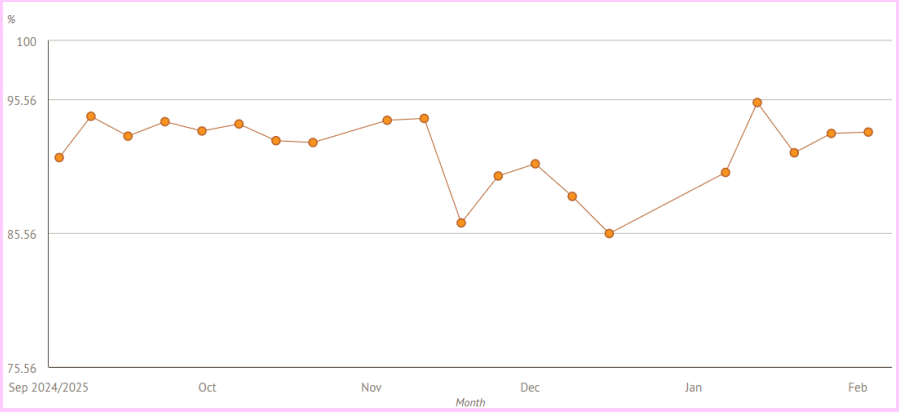
Upcoming events this week:

- Safer Internet Day - Tuesday
- Year 5 swimming lesson (5 of 5) – Friday
- Brilliant Brook Day – Climate, environment and our school grounds focus – Friday
- **Last day of Term 3 – Friday**

IMPORTANT: Attendance

Our current whole-school attendance figure for this year to date: 92%
The percentage figure we are expected to have is: 96%
The national average for this year to date is: 94.5%

This time last year, our attendance was much higher and in line with national at 94.9%



Good whole school attendance %

The graph shows attendance over the year so far, and in only one week have we reached the expected %.

As a school, we are under constant scrutiny with regards to attendance and the DfE, as well as Kent County Council, have high expectations on schools to raise attendance figures and ensure that all children who can be in school are in school. We have duty and obligation to tackle attendance and follow our policy with regards to penalty notices and informing Kent services so they can become involved in supporting parents with attendance.

We understand that there are mostly very genuine reasons for children being absent and we will never question these genuine reasons***, however, please consider carefully if, before keeping your child from school, they really need to be at home.***

Attendance matters, not only for your child's education, but also for self-esteem, friendships and the experiences they receive.

Going to School:
don't let your child miss out!

Let's work together to make sure your child doesn't miss out on school and gets the best start in life.

Children and young people can become **anxious** or **worried** about going to school. You might want to let them stay off school, but it does not help things to get better.

Why it is **important** for your child to go to school.

We know that children who go to school every day are more successful.

Going to school helps them to:

- ✓ Learn
- ✓ Have fun
- ✓ Make friends
- ✓ Get new experiences
- ✓ Get the qualifications that help them to get a job
- ✓ Increase their confidence

and most of all...

- ✓ Have the best start in life

What can happen if your child misses lots of school?

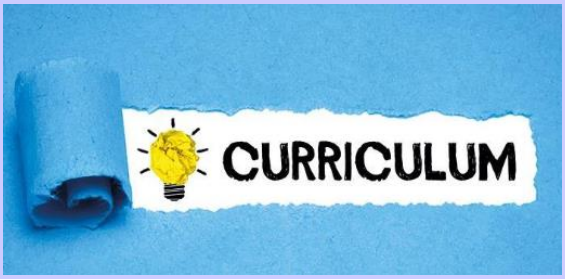
- X Find lessons difficult
- X Do less well in their exams
- X Be worried about going a school
- X Have lower self-esteem and fewer friends
- X More likely to get involved in crime or anti-social behaviour

It's **really important** to talk to your child's school if you child is worried about going in.

IMPORTANT: Stop and Drop

Just a gentle reminder that morning stop and drop (as for afternoon car collection) should be a quick way to drop off your child. If you need to talk to a member of staff, please park up instead as this is causing delays and congestion. Stop and Drop only runs for 10mins in total and should end by 8.45, which is when school officially starts. Thank you for your support.

CURRICULUM UPDATES: PE and Design and Technology



We are pleased to share our latest curriculum updates. PE and D&T have been improved, and we are proud of the further coverage in skills and knowledge your child will receive in these two subjects. The overviews for both curriculums are at the end of this newsletter. There is also more information about our entire curriculum and all subjects on the website and, if you would like to see the full detailed written curriculum for any of the subjects below, please ask.

As a reminder, the following non-core curriculum subjects have now been further improved over the last year:

- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology Design and Technology – Brook Community Primary School
- Music
- PSHE
- Science
- RE
- PE Physical Education – Brook Community Primary School
- Computing

Our final subject to improve is Languages and we will keep you updated!

INFORMATION: Brilliant Brook Enrichment Day

On the last day of term, we have our Brilliant Brook Enrichment Day, which is now a regular part of every term. This term, the focus is all about climate, environment and our school grounds.

Staff recently received some excellent training in developing our approach to this area and received some new resources to support us in this teaching. We have a climate action pack with wind speed measurers and different types of thermometers for soil, air and surfaces which we hope to build into the enrichment day for some classes.

Keep an eye on dojo for messages from teachers with more information!

DIARY DATE: World Book Day

This fun day is coming up next term! On Thursday 6th March, children are invited to attend school dressed up as a book character. This is optional.

2024-2025 Calendar

Every effort will be made to keep these dates in place but please be aware, changes may occur.

Updates/changes are highlighted.

TERM 3 – 2024/25			
Week	**Day/Date**	**Event**	**Further information**
6	Mon 10th Feb/Tues 11th Feb	Parents' Evening Meetings	
	Tues 11th Feb	Safer Internet Day	
	~~Fri 14th Feb~~	~~Top up Swimming lessons start – 5 weeks~~	~~Some Yr5 and 6 (by invitation)~~
	Fri 14th Feb	Final swimming lesson for Year 5 only	
	Fri 14th Feb	Brilliant Brook Day – enrichment day	
	Fri 14th Feb	**End of Term 3**	

TERM 4 – 2024/25			
Week	**Day/Date**	**Event**	**Further information**
1	**Mon 24th Feb**	**Term 4 begins**	
	Fri 28th Feb	Top up Swimming lessons begin	Some Yr5 and 6 – invitation only
2		Clubs start this week	
	Thurs 6th March	World Book Day	
3			
4	Thurs 20th March	Class Assembly – Saplings	Hall, 9.00am
	Fri 21st March	Music Concert	After school, All welcome, (hall)
5	Fri 28th March	Coffee Morning	9.00am, All welcome (library)
6	Fri 4th April	Easter Service – St. Mary's Church	9.30am, All welcome
	Fri 4th April	End of Term reports issued	
	Fri 4th April	**End of Term 4**	
Environment-led learning days will take place as usual this term. Dates TBC nearer the time.			
TERM 5 – 2024/25			
Week	**Day/Date**	**Event**	**Further information**
1	Mon 21st April	Bank Holiday	
	Tues 22nd April	**Term 5 begins**	
2		Clubs start this week	
3	Mon 5th May	Bank Holiday	
	Thurs 8th May	Class Assembly – Little Acorns	Hall, 9.00am
4	12th – 15th May	Year 6 SATs	
	Fri 16th May	Year 6 Fun Day	
	Fri 16th May	Coffee Morning	9.00am, All welcome (library)
5	Fri 23rd May	FUNDRAISER! Whole School Walk	
	Fri 23rd May	**End of Term 5**	
Environment-led learning days will take place as usual this term. Dates TBC nearer the time.			
TERM 6 – 2024/25			
Week	**Day/Date**	**Event**	**Further information**
1	**Mon 2nd June**	**Term 6 begins**	
	2nd – 13th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check	
2	w/c 9th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen	
	TBC	Transition begins	
3	Fri 20th June	World Music Day – Music Concert	
4	Fri 27th June	Sports Day and family picnic	
	Fri 27th June	FUNDRAISER! Summer Fair	

5	Fri 4th July	Mighty Oaks Camp Out	TBC
	Fri 4th July	SEN/D Provision Review Meetings	By Invitation
6	Fri 11th July	End of Term reports issued	
	Fri 11th July	Year 6 trip	TBC
	Fri 11th July	Coffee Morning	9.00am, All welcome (library)
7	Mon 14th July	Parents' Open Afternoon/Evening	3.30-5.00pm
	Tues 15th July	Mighty Oaks' Show	1.30pm
	Wed 16th July	Mighty Oaks' Show	5.00pm
	Thurs 17th July	Year 6 Forest Party	
	Fri 18th July	Year 6 Leavers' Service - St Mary's Church	Time TBC
	Fri 18th July	**End of Term 6**	
	Mon 21st July	Staff Development Day 4	
	Tues 22nd July	Staff Development Day 5	
Environment-led learning days will take place as usual this term. Dates TBC nearer the time.			

PE Curriculum Overview

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 3	Spring Term 4	Summer Term 5	Summer Term 6
Little Acorns Year R	Gymnastics: Gym in the Jungle	Dance: Dinosaurs	Best of balls	Dance: Dance 'til you drop	Gymnastics: Jumping Jacks	Athletics: The Olympics
Odd Cycle Saplings Year 1&2	Gymnastics: Animals Multi-skills: Throwing and Catching 1	Dance: Gunpowder Plot Multi-skills: Running and Jumping	Gymnastics: Landscapes Dance: Plants	Dance: The Seasons Multi-skills: Bat and Ball 1	Athletics: Sports Day Multi-skills: Throwing and Catching 2	Athletics: Animal Olympics Multi-skills: Bat and Ball 2
Even Cycle Saplings Year 1&2	Gymnastics: Traditional Tales Circuit Training 1	Dance: Toys Multi-skills: Attacking and Defending 1	Gymnastics: Under the Sea Dance: Starry Skies	Circuit Training 2 Games: Invasion Games – At the Fair	Multi-skills: Attacking and Defending 2 Games: Invasion Games	Yoga: Salute to the sun Games: Target Games
Odd Cycle Young Oaks Year 3&4	Gymnastics: Shape Games: Net and wall fundamentals	Dance: Water Games: Net and Wall - Badminton	Gymnastics: Shape and Balance Games: Dodgeball	Games: Striking and Fielding fundamentals Dance: Rainforest	Games: Striking and fielding – Cricket Athletics 3	Athletics 4 Dance: Carnival of the animals
Even Cycle Young Oaks Year 3&4	Gymnastics: Movement 3 Circuit Training 3	Dance: Romans Games: Invasion Fundamentals	Dance: Extreme Earth Games: Invasion 4	Circuit Training 4 Games: Invasion – Tag Rugby	Outside and/or Adventurous Activities 3 Games: Invasion - Hockey	Outside and/or Adventurous Activities 4 Gymnastics: Movement 4
Odd Cycle Mighty Oaks Year 5&6	Gymnastics: Shape and Balance Games: Net and Wall – Tennis	Circuit Training 5 Games: Net and Wall - Volleyball	Gymnastics: Rivers and Mountains Dance: Dance through the decades – Year 6 Swimming – Year 5	Games: Striking and Fielding Dance: Electricity	Games: Striking and Fielding - Rounders Athletics 5	Athletics 6 Circuit Training 6
Even Cycle Mighty Oaks Year 5&6	Gymnastics: Movement 5 Games: Invasion 5	Dance: WW2 Games: Invasion –Basketball	Dance: Dance through the decades – Year 6 Swimming – Year 5 Games: Invasion – Handball	Dance: Eco Dance Games: Invasion 6	Outside and/or Adventurous Activities 5 Games: Invasion – Netball	Outside and/or Adventurous Activities 6 Gymnastics: Movement 6

Design and Technology Curriculum Overview

	Autumn Term 1 or 2	Spring Term 3 or 4	Summer Term 5 or 6
Little Acorns Year R	**Food:** Growing plants to eat	**Mechanisms:** Pop-up books and toy cars	**Structures:** Strong and safe buildings
Odd Cycle Saplings Year 1&2	**Mechanisms:** Sliders and Levers	**Structures:** Freestanding structures	**Textiles:** Templates and joining
Even Cycle Saplings Year 1&2	**Food:** Preparing fruit and veg	**Mechanisms:** Wheels and Axels	**Structures:** Bridges
Odd Cycle Young Oaks Year 3&4	**Mechanisms:** Levers and linkages	**Textiles:** 2D shape to 3D product	**Electrics:** Circuits and Switches (inc. a micro: bit lesson on programming a night light)
Even Cycle Young Oaks Year 3&4	**Food:** Healthy and varied diet	**Mechanisms:** Pneumatics	**Structures:** Shell structures
Odd Cycle Mighty Oaks Year 5&6	**Mechanisms:** Pulleys and Gears	**Mechanisms:** Cams	**Electrics:** Complex switches (inc. a micro: bit lesson on programming a door alarm)
Even Cycle Mighty Oaks Year 5&6	**Food:** Celebrating culture and seasonality	**Structures:** Frame structures	**Programming:** CAD and CAM