



*Belonging . Courage . Perseverance . Compassion . Trust*

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

Good news – our year-to-date attendance is up 1.5% from 93.6% this time last year, to 95.1%. Whilst this may seem like a small increase, it tips us into the national target of 95% attendance, which is great! This is always a challenging time of year for attendance, with so many bugs about, and we really appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is in school unless they are too unwell to attend.

It is also positive that our school roll for census day this week was 160. The nature of small village schools is that numbers typically fluctuate but is good to have reached this number and we are confident this will increase again in September, after we lose our final small cohort and hopefully have a healthy reception intake. A growing roll, reflects the progress we have made and the strengthening of our reputation within the wider community. It is also critical for our funding as this is, of course, based primarily on our pupil numbers. As always, we are grateful for the part you play in promoting our school in the community and as we always say, our parents are our greatest advocates. Thank you!

This week, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our admin team for all the work they do, much of which goes unseen. Organising clubs, volunteers, school trips, visitors to school, firefighting problems with heating, deliveries etc. in addition to everything involved with the day-to-day management of the office (including taking care of unwell children) and school finances is no mean feat, particularly with no caretaker on-site! We are all very grateful for their commitment and support.

We are pleased to be able to offer some new clubs this term, with the addition of maths club and Laser-Light club and the return of piano lessons, which follow the introduction of French club and Craft club in September. It is always good to be able to add to the wide range of extra-curricular activities available to the children.

I am happy to be able to share the lovely news of the safe arrival of baby Lilah last Sunday, who weighed in at a healthy 8lb 6oz and is enjoying lots of cuddles from her older sister and brother, not to mention grandma (of course!). I'm sure you can guess how I'll be spending my weekend.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Bligh

## HOUSE POINTS

Congratulations to Falcon!

**Falcon 234**

**Eagle 223**

**Kestrel 215**



## Star of the week

Acorn: Grace

Magnolia: Narla

Elderberry: Darcey

Elm: Austin

Willow: Eli

Chestnut: Evalyn

Oak: Jessica

## Christian Value of the Week: Peace

*'Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right.'*

**Matthew 3:15**



## Birthday Announcements

**Luka, Gabriel**



## Golden Book Award

**Magnolia:** Arlo, Victor, Jesse, Dylan, Kestrel Girl

**Willow:** George F, Maisy S, Rory

**Oak:** Falcon Boy



## Attendance Cup

Well done

Willow Class!

100% attendance



Last week's whole school attendance:

**95.8%**

## The Week in Photos—Early Years & Key Stage 1

### ACORN

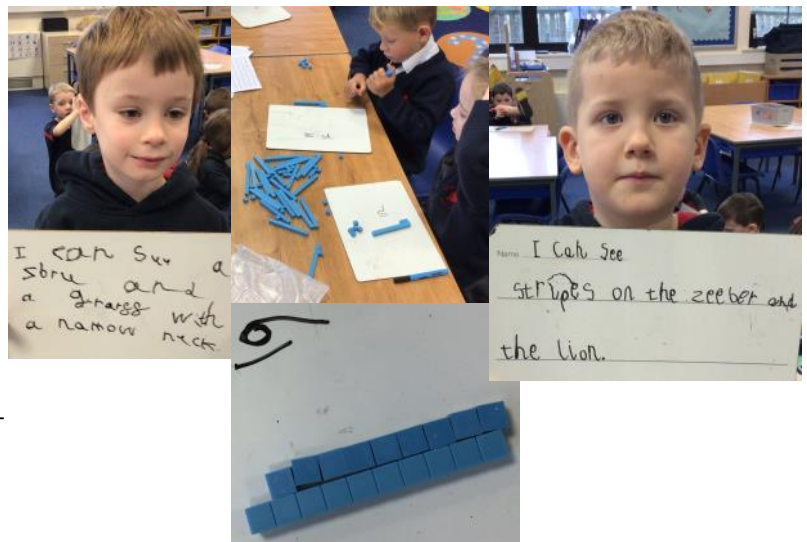
We really enjoyed our topic of Winter Wonderlands this week, where different frozen parts of the world are and which animals live there. We loved zooming off to different countries using globes, maps and google earth and thought about how we would feel if we had to live in frozen lands all the time! We have had great fun moving like penguins and we were fascinated by what noise penguins actually make and how fast they swim through the water!



### MAGNOLIA

Magnolia class have done some amazing work this week! In writing, the children have been writing sentences using 'and' to describe what they can see in images from our book. It has been amazing to see how creative the children can be, we have been so impressed by how much they have pushed themselves!

In maths, we have started looking at numbers up to 20. Some of the numbers can be really tricky to understand (eleven, twelve, thirteen..) as their name doesn't reflect their value. However, the children have been using their code names (ten and one, ten and two and so on) to help them understand them better!



### ELDERBERRY

The children are fully embracing all the new learning this week. In English they have written some detailed descriptions of the story setting and have shown an excellent knowledge of animals of the Savannah.

In Science the children have explored everyday materials and how they can be changed by twisting, squashing, stretching and bending. I have been very proud of the children's determination and perseverance to take on board new learning in maths this week. They have been learning how to add two 2-digit numbers when they cross a ten using equipment and jottings to help them. Well done Elderberry class!



## The Week in Photos—Key Stage 2

### ELM

During our writing lesson, we gathered outdoors to observe a tree, embracing a multi-sensory approach.

Students described the textures of the bark, the shapes and colours of the leaves, as well as the surrounding sounds and scents of nature.

Using their notes and insights from our class discussions, they compiled their observations into a comprehensive 'Tree Guide.'



### WILLOW

This week in dance the children have developed their 'space' sequences from last week.

They thought about how astronauts may move in space and how these movements may change if they suddenly saw an alien!

Working in pairs they then had to create a sequence of 3 movements that matched and had to be performed in a canon.



### CHESTNUT

We have had a fantastic week in class, and the children have been working very hard across all subjects.

In maths, we have continued with our fractions unit, learning how to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers. We had many 'Aha!' lightbulb moments and it has been great to see their understanding grow.

In Science, we've been exploring the concept of day and night, looking at how the Earth's rotation creates these fascinating effects.

Meanwhile, in English, the children have been learning to use concise expanded noun phrases to make their writing more vivid and engaging.

Well done for another great week of learning!



### OAK

This week in geography, Oak class have explored motorways, learning about their design and purpose. They used online maps to identify motorways in the UK which also helped them to better understand the reasons for their location.

In English, they wrote character descriptions of Norse gods and giants, using rich vocabulary to bring characters like Thor, Loki, and Odin to life.

On Friday afternoon, they took part in an NHS Friendship workshop. During this, they learnt about the importance of communication, kindness, and teamwork to build positive relationships. They also learnt about conflict resolution and their role in this.





## Forest School

This week Acorn class discovered what is living and growing in the forest during these cold winter months when it appears not much is growing at all!

Meanwhile Chestnut class investigated nature's art in the forest. We also learnt about the art of camouflage, how animals adapt camouflage to their changing environments and the importance for both hunting and hiding.



## Captain Wonderweb

On Tuesday, as part of our PSHE curriculum, we welcomed 'Captain Wonderweb and the Esteem Machine' show for the whole school. Theatre company Shooting Stars have been commissioned by the NHS to provide a Mental Health show to schools across Kent and Medway.

Captain Wonderweb and the Esteem Machine dives into five key points that empower children to develop strong minds and nurture positive self-esteem. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the show, it had them all laughing and joining in and was a great reminder of our core values and teaching the value of resilience, confidence and believing in yourself!



### EMMA'S KITCHEN

New menu is on the school website:  
<https://www.hever.kent.sch.uk/school-meals/>

Please send any feedback to the school office.  
 Emma's Kitchen



### \*\* Reminders \*\*

Please ensure that only fruit / vegetables / plain ricecakes / plain breadsticks are brought in for snack time and any after school clubs—thank you.

School Office

# UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weekend	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sunday 12th Jan:	20th January: Bore Place Trip— Year 4	21st January:	22nd January:	23rd January:	24th January:

Friday 31st January: British Museum Trip (Yr5 & Yr6)

Monday 3rd February to Friday 7th February: Children's Mental Health Week

## PTA Update

Another grant for £997 received for some new facilities for the Acorn playground! It is amazing what the grants group do, at the moment it is Amy and Megan making the applications supported by the school and Amy F in finance, as well as leading the PTA. We have a huge list of grants to look at but do not have the time, please can you help by supporting something else to give us the time?

We have almost updated our Christmas fundraising total, the raffle raised £797 after expenses which is amazing - thank you so much to all those involved. Our hamper volunteers are mainly from Year 6, do you think you could help with this next year?

Wonderful to see some of you this morning and great to support a lovely local business. We will have another coffee in a few weeks so hope to see some more of you then! <https://wheelerswagon.co.uk/>

Make sure you book for the Valentines disco asap! We are planning on two separate ones, but will change this back to one if bookings are low, so please book now so we can make the decision as soon as possible.

Quiz night is filling up - so get your bookings in now!

### Upcoming Dates:

**Astronomy Evening - Thursday 6 February 2025 - Free event for Year 5 and 6**

Arrival 18:00, Start 18:15.

Come along for an exciting astronomy evening on the field, with telescopes for planet and star spotting. <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/heverprimarschool/>

**Valentines Disco - Friday 7 February 2025 - WI Hall - £5**

This disco is split between KS1 and KS2, as long as we have enough children and volunteers, otherwise they will be linked.

KS1 - 16:30 - 18:00  
KS2 - 18:30 - 20:00

Free glitter tattoos on the night!!

Booking closes Monday 3 February, if last minute tickets are available there will be an additional cost. <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/heve>

**Quiz Night - Friday 28 February 2025**

Booking open now! £15pp including a choice of delicious meals! Get your team (up to 8) together! Email: [quizheverpta@gmail.com](mailto:quizheverpta@gmail.com)

**Hever School Fundraising Ball - Saturday 26 April 2025**

Full tickets including a sparkling drinks reception on the Loggia, a three course meal and wine in the Guthrie Pavilion followed by a live band, entertainment and dancing (initial deposit £35 - final payment of £50 due by 31 Jan 2025):

<https://buy.stripe.com/blYeYq4S6dVU3tu3cc>

Dancing only tickets (initial deposit £15 - final payment of £10 due by 31 Jan 2025):

<https://buy.stripe.com/14k5nQcky6tsfcb1j>

If you have already bought your ticket, we will be in touch shortly to remind you of how much you need to make payment for so don't worry!

Have a lovely weekend!

The PTA Trustees  
[heverpta@hever.kent.sch.uk](mailto:heverpta@hever.kent.sch.uk)  
xxx

Alex & Dean, The Brighton Marathon.



## Fundraising Update

2024-2025

**Fundraising Total: £14,952**

### PROJECTS

**Playground: COMPLETE!**

**Outdoor/Wellbeing**

**Classroom: £12,712**



The Friends of Hever School Present

## Quiz Night

All Welcome!

**£15** pp

QUIZ ENTRY - FRESHLY COOKED MEAL

**FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

WI HALL, STATION ROAD, EDENBRIDGE, TN8 5LX

**DOORS OPEN - 6:30PM**  
**QUIZ STARTS - 7:30PM**

Ticket includes fish/sausage/halloumi & chips meal (vegan option available). Drinks can be purchased at the bar.

Booking [quizheverpta@gmail.com](mailto:quizheverpta@gmail.com)  
Teams of up to 8.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HEVER C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA