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Friday 28th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Science Week

This week we've been celebrating Science Week and we kicked off the week with a visit from staff at the Kings School who talked about science and what scientists have to do in order to be good at their jobs. Over the course of the week, children have engaged in experiments, learnt about famous scientists and, most importantly, had plenty of hands-on experience of science ranging from rocks to insects.

Please take a look at our [Science](#) page to read the blogs that have already been written about the children's experiences this week and I'm sure there will be more coming up in the next week.

I'd like to thank Mrs Dennett for all her hard work in organising this week and, of course, the staff for ensuring that it's been a wonderful experience for the children.

World Book Day

It's a busy term and Miss Allison has already been planning World Book Day and attached to this newsletter is a letter from her detailing some news and upcoming events.

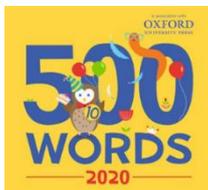
As is tradition, as part of the day, we are inviting children to, once again, dress up as a favoured book character.



Bridge Wins BookTrust Competition

We were very pleased to hear on Thursday that Bridge School had won a BookTrust competition to spend a day at the Guardian Education Centre in London with 30 of our Year 5 and 6 pupils. The children will spend the day taking part in a workshop about making and designing the front page of a newspaper. This is a wonderful opportunity and parents of the selected children should have received a ParentMail.

500 Words Competition



The closing date for entering these stories has now passed and copies of any stories sent to me have been published to our school website on our [Writing](#) blog.

It's not too late to send entries and I've really enjoyed reading them over the past few weeks.

Brian Starling

Parents would have received the sad news about our ex-member of staff and family member Brian Starling on Friday morning and our thoughts and prayers are with his family. When the time is right, and in conjunction with the family, we will find a way to commemorate his life and contribution to the school.



Staffing News

Mrs Hughes has been a staple part of Bridge School for 18 months now and, as well as being a Teaching Assistant, also teaches Foreign Languages in Year 6. I'm pleased to say that she has secured a teaching position at Highsted School where she will be working three days a week. We're very sad to see her go but thankfully, she loves Bridge School so much that she doesn't want to entirely leave and so we will still be seeing her a couple of mornings a week where she will be supporting Year 5.

Mrs Lord is one of our school cleaners and, whilst not the most glamorous of roles, this is extremely important to the running of the school. Sadly, she will be leaving us at the end of this week and I just wanted to take this opportunity to publically thank her for work. She always has a smile on her face around the school and she will be missed.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been advertising for a replacement TA and cleaner and we hope to have more information soon.

Corona Virus (COVID-19)

This week I've had a few parents ask for more information about Monday's visit from the Japanese students. We continue to follow the guidance from the Local Authority Health Protection Team and Public Health England and I am checking daily for any updates.

The students in question are from Chiba province and, at the time of writing this, there are 12 reported cases of COVID-19 in Chiba province (out of a population of 972,000 at the last census) and none of these students have been in contact with anyone who has presented as symptomatic before leaving Japan.

The students have been in the country since 17th February, hosted by Simon Langton School. These means that they would have already been in England for two weeks at the time of their visit further reducing any potential risk. They are, of course, being monitored themselves and are not presenting any symptoms. Any student presenting cold/flu symptoms (no matter how mild) have been asked not to come on Monday.

Our Christian Distinctiveness

Since joining the school, Estella and I have been working on what it means to be a pupil at Bridge School as a Church of England School. My **vision** for the school on joining was very much based around the characteristics of *creativity*, *excellence* and *resilience* and you will see these words displayed around the school.

In conjunction with staff, children and parents, we also reviewed and revised our **Christian Values**.

Over the past month Estella and I, with some of our Year 4 and 5 worship leaders have been re-writing our School Prayer to better reflect the vision for our school and Hugo was kind enough to lead the school in prayer on Friday when we introduced this to the children:

Our School Prayer

Lord,
Thank you for our school; for all who work and learn here.
Help us to care for each other and value all our gifts.
May we always try to bring out the best in ourselves and one another.
Let our school be a place where we love to learn and learn to love.
In Jesus' name
Amen

with thanks to Scarlett & Alex (4JH), Sophia-Rose & Hugo (4ST), Kyle & Zeina (5JP) and Holly & Henry (5JS)

Parking Arrangements

You may have noticed that we have rearranged the parking situation down School Road to allow for the increased number of families who have a Blue Badge. Rob Moon and I have been monitoring the parking this week and recognise that almost all parents have respected these family's need for these spaces – thank you.

This change in arrangements was designed to make School Road safer for the children but please do consider where you park in the village as there has been some unsafe parking reported to me. There is little I can do about this but appeal to you all as parents about the importance of making sure all of the children are safe.

Don't forget that this newsletter and all previous newsletters can also be found on the [Headteacher Newsletter](#) section of our school website.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbels". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Latest Blog Posts

Below are links to some of our blog posts in the past week

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)

We love to read your comments on them so please keep them coming.

21st February 2020

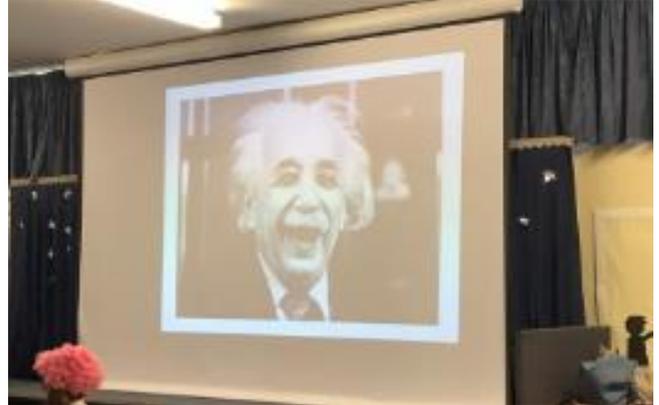


Darwin's Finches & his theory of evolution

Drawing inspiration from Darwin's book, *On the Origin of Species*, Year 6 pupils have been exploring collagraph and mono-printing techniques within their art lessons in term 3.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

24th February 2020



Kicking Off Science Week

Science Week at Bridge School started with some very excited children attending an assembly on Monday morning in the school hall led by Miss Astin and Dr Nelson from The King's School, Canterbury...

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

25th February 2020



Geckos, African land snails and more.....

Year 4ST have had the most fantastic morning with Clive who is a local Scientist. We have been learning about animals and insects as part of our Science week.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

27th February 2020



4JH Science Day

4JH have had a superb morning learning about animals and insects as part of our Science week. The children learnt about how different animals move and the way they are designed.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

Upcoming Events

All dates and events can be found on our new school calendar.

[CALENDAR >](#)

You are also able to 'subscribe' to the calendar (there is a link underneath the calendar) which means that you can have the school calendar on your phone or tablet and any updates will automatically appear on your device!

Monday 2nd March	Secondary Admissions: National Offer Day	Japanese Students Visiting	
Tuesday 3rd March			
Wednesday 4th March		Marvellous Maths Parent Workshop (Year 2)	Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day	Cross Country Competition	
Friday 6th March			
Monday 9th March	<i>Parental Consultations this week</i>		
Tuesday 10th March			
Wednesday 11th March			
Thursday 12th March	Kent School Games Quickstick Competition	Marvellous Maths Parent Workshop (Year 3)	
Friday 13th March			
Monday 16th March	<i>Parental Consultations this week</i>		
Tuesday 17th March			
Wednesday 18th March		Marvellous Maths Parent Workshop (Year 4)	
Thursday 19th March	Eco-Council Village Litter Pick		1.30pm: Relax Kids Parent Workshop
Friday 20th March			
Monday 23rd March	<i>Book Fayre in all week</i>		Girls' Football Match vs Aylesham
Tuesday 24th March	Year 6 Bioblotz Day		
Wednesday 25th March	4ST Trip to Wildwood		PJ & Loveheart Evening
Thursday 26th March	Kent School Games Gymnastic Competition	Year 6 School of Rock Auditions	
Friday 27th March			