



# Headteacher Newsletter

## Friday 21st November 2025

Term 2 is always a busy and exciting one and we are half way through already!

Over the last couple of weeks, we have held our Open Mornings to show the school off to lots of prospective new parents. Our visitors were full of compliments about the behaviour of the children and the fantastic teaching they saw throughout the school.

On 4th December, **Helen Grant OBE, Member of Parliament for Maidstone and Malling**, will visit us at West Borough Primary School. I am thrilled about the visit and we will again be able to showcase our wonderful school. During her visit, Helen will spend time with our Ambassadors. They will have the opportunity to ask questions and find out about her role and Helen will talk to them about public speaking.

**Mrs Jury-Sofi**

### Dates for the Diary

**Wednesday 26th November** - Family Trust Christmas Performance

**Saturday 29th November** - Christmas Fair

**Thursday 4th December** - Helen Grant to visit the school and meet the Ambassadors

**Wednesday 10th December** - Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

**Wednesday 10th December** - Pupil of the Term Celebration (Invitation only)

**Thursday 11th December** - Nursery Christmas Sing-a-Long (2.45pm)

**Tuesday 16th December** - Year R Wriggly Nativity (9.30am)

**Tuesday 16th December** - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Carol Service (2.15pm) **This is an additional performance**

**Wednesday 17th December** - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Carol Service (2.15pm)

**Friday 19th December** - INSET DAY (School Closed)

**Monday 5th January** - INSET Day (School Closed)

**Tuesday 6th January** - School Starts



## Staff News

After 23 years of dedicated service to our school community, our wonderful Family Liaison Officer, **Mrs Burtwell**, will be retiring at the end of this term. We are incredibly grateful for the care, support, and commitment she has shown to our families over the years. Her contribution has made a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed by staff, children, and parents alike. We hope you will join us in wishing her a very happy and well-earned retirement. Further information about FLO support going forward will be shared with you shortly.

**Mrs Kelly** and **Mr Sloane** are both moving onto pastures new after Christmas. We are grateful for the dedication and care they have shown during their time with us, and we know that children and families will join us in wishing them well.

**Mrs Bunting** is stepping into the role of Interim Assistant Head to support me in their absence. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating her on her new position. She will continue to be Hornbeam's class teacher but will have a Wednesday out of class. This will be covered by Mr Atkinson.

There are also some changes to our Office Team.

**Mrs Chater** takes the role of Business Manager

**Miss Axell** has taken on the role of Senior Admin Assistant

**Mrs O'Brien** remains an Admin Assistant

**Mrs Day** will join us as an Admin Assistant from 8th December.

We are currently recruiting for a Deputy Head and SENCO. I will of course continue as SENCO until we are able to recruit a suitable replacement.

With change often comes a sense of uncertainty, and I want to reassure you that our priority remains the same: providing a stable, supportive, and positive environment for all children.

**Mrs Jury-Sofi**

## Attendance & Punctuality

A reminder that good attendance is crucial for your child's progress. Please ensure your child arrives on time and attends school regularly unless unwell. Every minute of learning counts.

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
Unsatisfactory	91%	173 days	17	85
	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious cause for concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

## Year 5 & 6 - bike safety before and after school

I have spoken to the children in Year 5 and 6 this morning about safety before and after school.

There have recently been some concerns raised about the way that some of our children are riding their bicycles to and from school. To ensure the safety of all children, we kindly ask for your support in reinforcing the following guidelines:

- **Wear a helmet at all times** when riding a bicycle.
- **Use designated paths and crossings** and avoid riding on busy roads where possible.
- **Dismount and walk bikes** when on school grounds or in crowded areas.
- **Be alert and avoid distractions**, such as using mobile devices while riding.
- **Follow traffic rules**, including stopping at crossings and signaling when turning.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us keep every child safe. Please take a moment to discuss these safety measures with your child.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting a safe and responsible school environment.

## Parent Governor Role

We are delighted to announce that **Natalie Wright** has been elected as our new Parent Governor and warmly welcome her to the governing body.

Parent Governors play a vital role in supporting our school, bringing valuable perspectives from our parent community and helping to shape the strategic direction of the school. We look forward to working with **Natalie** and benefiting from their ideas, insights, and commitment to our pupils' education and wellbeing.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the election process and for your continued support of our school.



## Cleaner Wanted!



We are currently looking to appoint a **Cleaner** to cover a maternity leave until August 2026 to join our school team. The hours are 5.00pm - 7.30pm Monday - Friday.

This is a great opportunity to contribute to maintaining a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for our pupils and staff.

If you are interested in applying, or know someone who might be, please apply via Kent Teach. Follow this link to apply.

[Support Job Vacancies](#)

## Free 11+ Preparation and KS2 learning support for children who are eligible for Pupil Premium

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We're pleased to let you know that West Borough Primary School has partnered with [Atom Learning](#), the leading Key Stage 2 learning and 11+ preparation website, to provide free KS2 learning to primary school children who are eligible for Pupil Premium. **Eligible students will receive access to Atom Home for free (normally £575.90 a year).**



There is a 5-day free trial of Atom available for non-PP families. Atom Learning is a viable, more child-centric alternative to private tuition that we believe is a non-stressful and enjoyable way of making progress at KS2 and, when relevant, preparing for exams.

### **What is Atom Home?**

Atom Home is an online learning and exam preparation platform for ages 7-11.

Covering English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning, children can practise 11+ questions and explore learning resources, mock tests, video tutorials, and exam preparation materials.

### **Do you know someone who is eligible?**

If you know someone whose child is preparing for the 11+, or is in need of extra Key Stage 2 learning support (they do not need to be attending West Borough Primary School), please share this link with them:

<https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/primary-schools>

After completing the form on this page, their primary school will receive a notification to verify their pupil premium eligibility. Once confirmed by their school, their Atom Home account will be created.

Mrs Gemma Jury-Sofi

**West Borough Primary School**



The graphic features the Atom Learning logo at the top, which consists of a blue semi-circle and the text 'Atom Learning'. Below the logo is a central laptop displaying the Atom Learning interface. The interface shows a user profile for 'Hi Georgie!', a 'George's exam prep plan' with a progress bar, and various subject tiles for 'Maths', 'English', 'Verbal Reasoning', and 'Non-Verbal Reasoning'. To the left of the laptop is a 'Question 14/20' card showing geometric shapes. To the right are 'Equation Maths' and 'Sequences Verbal Reasoning' cards. Below the laptop, the text 'Free 11+ preparation and KS2 support' is displayed in white on a blue background. At the bottom, there is a Trustpilot logo with five green stars.

MEPA Training presents Snow White

