



Headteacher Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to anyone I haven't already seen at the school gate. Christmas already feels like a distant memory, and the school term has returned in full force! Thank you for your understanding when we had to cancel clubs due to snow and ice last week; I'm hoping we don't get any more!

I am very pleased to be able to share some wonderful news with you.

After a long search, I am thrilled to announce that our very own **Mrs Dady** will be taking on the role of **SENCo** from Term 4. Mrs Dady brings a wealth of experience and expertise from her previous roles, and I am confident that she will be an incredible asset to the team.

We are very fortunate to have her stepping into this position, and I know she will continue the work already in place. I will of course support the transition and will still be here to answer any queries you may have during the handover.

Due to the demands of this role, Mrs Dady will no longer be able to continue teaching in Silver Birch Class.

Therefore the following changes will be in place from Term 4.

Silver Birch - Mrs Birtchnell

Nursery - Miss Alderton

Please note that parents have been informed separately via ParentMail if the changes directly affect their child.

Dates for your Diary



Friday 23rd January - Young Voices Choir to the O2.

Thursday 29th January - Netball Match at Archbishop Courtney School

Monday 2nd February - Friday 6th February - Safety Week

Wednesday 11th February - Pupil of the Term (Invite only)

Thursday 12th February - Year 5 Celebration Assembly (2.45pm)

Wednesday 4th March - World Book Day

Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March - Year 6 Wick Court/Activity Week

Tuesday 24th March - Year 3 & 4 Performance (Time TBC)

Monday 30th March - Parents Evening

Tuesday 31st March - Parents Evening

Wednesday 1st April - Pupil of the Term (Invite only)

Dates for our INSET Days for next academic year (2026-2027) will follow shortly but I can let you know that school will definitely be closed on Tuesday 1st September.

The Vision for West Borough

At West Borough Primary School, we want every child to feel safe, included and excited about learning. Our goal is to help children grow not just academically, but also emotionally and socially, so they develop confidence, curiosity and resilience. We want them to aim high, enjoy learning, and feel ready for the future. To make this happen, here's what parents can expect from us:

A Safe and Inclusive School

Every child is welcomed, cared for and respected.

We provide a nurturing environment where children feel confident to be themselves and are supported whatever their needs.

How we make this happen:

- Warm, positive relationships between staff and pupils
- Consistent routines and high expectations for behaviour
- Support for emotional and social needs
- Celebration of each child's strengths and individuality

A Place to Learn and Grow

We help children develop strong skills in reading, writing and maths while also nurturing creativity, problem-solving and teamwork.

How we make this happen:

- High-quality teaching and an engaging curriculum
- Lessons that build knowledge step by step
- Opportunities for enrichment, clubs and leadership
- Strong partnerships with families.

Developing Confidence, Curiosity and Resilience

We want children to enjoy learning, to ask questions and to feel proud of their achievements. We teach them that mistakes are part of learning and help them develop a "can-do" attitude.

How we make this happen:

- Encouraging a growth-mindset across the school
- Celebrating effort, progress and personal successes
- Providing real-life experiences and challenges

- Helping children persevere and stay motivated

Preparing Children for the Future

Our aim is for every child to leave us as a happy, confident learner who is ready for the next stage of education—and excited about their future.

How we make this happen:

- Teaching essential life skills alongside academic subjects
- Building independence, responsibility and teamwork
- Supporting smooth transitions between year groups and on to secondary school
- Promoting high aspirations for all children



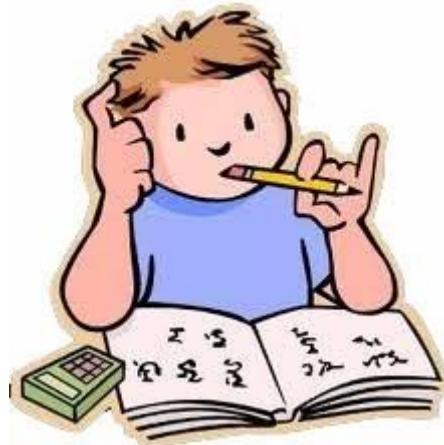
Focus for the next couple of terms

Over the next couple of terms, we will be placing a particular focus on **Behaviour** and **Home Learning**.

We know these can sometimes be areas that raise questions or concerns for families, and we want to make sure that any decisions we make reflect the views of our whole school community.

To support this, we will soon be sending out a **Parent Survey** asking for your thoughts on both behaviour and home learning. Your feedback will help us shape our approach moving forward. We will also be involving the children, as their experiences are just as important.

Thank you in advance for sharing your ideas with us.



BEHAVIOUR

READY

'Ready' is the right time, right place and the right attitude



RESPECTFUL



Respectful is caring for ourselves, our people and our environment

SAFE

Safe is taking actions that look after myself and others



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.

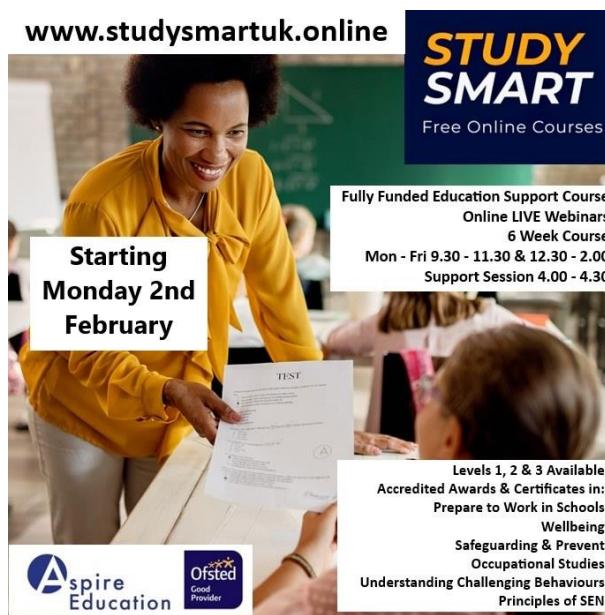
Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
Cause for Concern	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days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

Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Education Support Course

These courses are FULLY FUNDED (Free) to attend and specifically designed for parents and carers who are looking for a springboard into working in a school. Each course only takes 6 weeks to complete, with **online sessions run ONLY in school hours and term times, to fit in around family life**. Our next course starts on **Monday 2nd February**. Places are limited and will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.



Cbeebies Parenting Website

CBeebies Parenting helps little ones learn and develop through play at home.

You can access their website here from some great ideas.

[CBeebies Parenting](#)

Message from the Kent Oral Health Team

The Oral Health team have composed a list of some fun brushing songs you may wish to use with your children to encourage brushing at home.

Brushing Songs

Hello brushers!

We have composed a list of our favourite songs to brush to for you and your children. If you have a favourite that's not on this list, please let us know so we can share with everyone.

Early Years & Key Stage 1:

<https://youtu.be/BPjcrT3ejE4?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/wxMrtK-kYnE?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/anFIODqG7UI?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/m-C1nrwzj-M?feature=shared>

Key Stage 2:

https://youtu.be/O4wDITXrvrc?si=9QXCDYPIWoOj_8sd

<https://youtu.be/gdcn9KbNTQY?si=4B56ZDACuGaJpu5>

The Brush DJ app is great for those who prefer non tooth related songs and their top played changes all the time.



Reminder! 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

