



Foreland Fields School

End of Term Newsletter December 2023



Christmas Events

Once again, our Christmas events were much enjoyed by our pupils/students and their parents/carers. Staff from across the school put a lot of effort into making sure these events are enjoyable and appropriate for our young people, and I would like to thank them all for their ongoing efforts. We have received some really positive feedback from parents/carers which is always welcomed.

Parent Governor

A ballot process took place earlier this term for a parent governor. Huge thanks to the many parents/carers who took the time to vote.

We can now officially confirm the appointment of Mrs Amy Moat as a Parent Governor with immediate effect.

The school and Governing Body all look forward to Amy's active involvement and collaboration in supporting the continued success and development of the school.



Sensory Regulation room



Amazing news - the new sensory regulation room has been completed and is now in use. We are already beginning to see the benefit of this. A wide variety of pupils and students from across the school are using this space. It's fair to say, the room is in pretty much constant use.

There are a variety of swings with soft walls and floors, as well as rebounders, body boards, soft play bricks, parachutes and balance apparatus. The aim of this space is to help pupils meet their sensory needs. It is also an excellent space to develop play and communication skills, especially intensive interaction.

Huge thanks go to the Margate Rotary Club and The Percy Bilton Charity who made this possible with their kind donations.



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Procedures for School Closure

After Christmas we enter the coldest months and there is always a chance of snow. In the unlikely event that the school should have to close due to adverse weather conditions, we will put an early morning notice on ClassDojo, the school website and post a notification on the Kent Closures website. This will then be broadcast, along with other school closures, over the radio.



Whilst we endeavour to keep the school open, many of our staff live outside the area and it could prove dangerous for them to travel into school. In addition, many of our pupils arrive each day by school transport and sometimes providers are unable to drive the buses in the heavy snow, particularly those travelling from further afield. The decision as to whether to drive is the individual transport providers, not the schools.

Locality Model for Special Educational Needs Inclusion



Kent County Council are proposing to establish a Locality Model for Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inclusion in Kent. The proposed model will call for KCC, Schools, the NHS, and other SEN service providers to work together, locally, to secure identified improvements.

The consultation, which can be accessed below, is now open and closes on 24th January 2024.

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/locality-model-for-special-educational-needs-inclusion>

Christmas Eve Boxes

One of our Explorers' parents is making up 70 Christmas Eve boxes for children in Rainbow Ward at QEQM over Christmas. She is also making boxes for parents who have to stay in hospital with their child over Christmas. Foreland Fields School is contributing hot chocolate sachets and socks. School Council representatives shopped for the items and each class had the challenge of raising £4 towards the cost. Fundraising ideas included carol singing and guess the name of the teddy.



Talk for Writing

Pioneers' pupils have been using a strategy called 'Talk for Writing' to develop their storytelling, reading and writing skills since September. This term they have used their skills to produce a 'Big Write' independently. They have produced some fantastic pieces of writing and they should be very proud of themselves.





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Royal Shakespeare Company



We have been selected to be one of the schools to take part in the Royal Shakespeare Company performance. Students who have shown an interest in performing arts in years 7 and above have started to explore the play Hamlet. Throughout the year, students will participate in weekly drama sessions, developing their confidence, interaction and imagination skills. We will be working towards creating our scene together to perform at the Marlowe Theatre next year.



Our group have been given scene one in Hamlet and as a group they created a mood board of how they may feel in the setting. We presented their amazing ideas at a meeting and the director put their work straight up on the display board.

We look forward to our workshop next year, where experts will work with our group to put together an unforgettable scene. We will be in touch with parents/carers of children who have expressed an interest early in the New Year.

Garlinge Phoenix Project



Some pupils at Foreland Fields and our satellite classes at Hartsdown and Garlinge have been visiting the Phoenix Project this year. This is a lovely outdoor space with cabins and opportunities to meet chickens and see other wildlife. The pupils/students have been learning all about plants, habitats and seasons. During the last few weeks pupils have been making Christmas decorations at the Phoenix Project. Some pupils have made Christmas logs to take home and others made their class centre piece for Christmas dinner at school.



Dave and Chris from the Phoenix Project also generously donated some items made by Dave's wife Sue to sell at our Christmas Fair.

They have also made us a class Nativity set. The Phoenix Project set up our very own trees to decorate. Polar Bear Class made their own baubles to decorate the tree with other decorations provided by the Phoenix Project team.





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Goodbye and Hello



Within the last few weeks we have said a sad goodbye to Dawn Baldwin, who provided TA support in our Hartsdown satellite class, and Betsy Wagland who was a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant.

A big welcome goes to Gemma Hart who recently started at the school as a Teaching Assistant. Tymara Boyce joined the school only this week as a Teaching Assistant.

Sadly, this week we will be saying goodbye to Kia Thorp. Kia has worked most recently in Potter class. We would like to thank Kia for her hard work and wish her all the luck in her future endeavours.

We have recently said hello to a new transport operative, Michelle Voss.

The Hive

The Hive project continues to gather pace. We are working towards a 'soft' opening around Easter time. This dual-purpose space (for community and school use) will provide a base from which to use our school playing fields and the Forest school and Horticulture Centre.



The next phase, building of paths to and around the building, is due for commencement within the next few weeks. The remaining works are getting the sensory gardens and horticulture areas developed and planted, plus a kitchen to be fitted in the Hive and the building to be clad.

If anyone knows of friendly local builders, kitchen fitters, or has links to local building supplies for cladding, kitchens etc then let us know. Diarmuid Molloy, our Director of Philanthropy can be contacted via email: fundraising@foreland.kent.sch.uk

We are getting so close to the completion of this project, so any support or ideas are welcome. We have a large number of local organisations just waiting to use the facility during evenings, weekends and holidays. This space will be dedicated to providing opportunities for children, young people and adults with learning difficulties. We really hope that this will be the centre of our community and provide a space that our pupils can use, even once they have left school.

We have formed a Community Interest Company, which will serve the Hive and enable us to provide out of school clubs, training and the leisure activities that we want to provide. More detail on this will follow in the New Year.

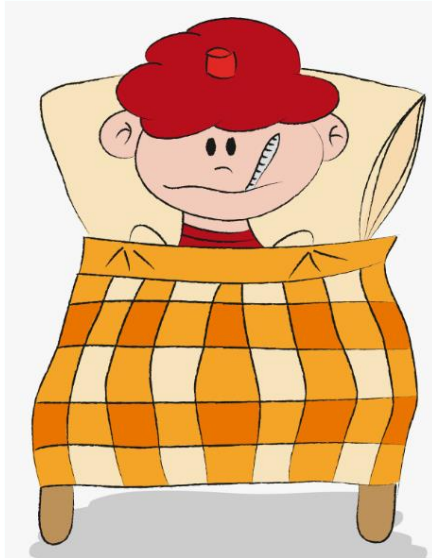


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Illness



Many of our pupils and students are vulnerable to infections which can spread quickly at this time of year. Remember, your child should be kept away from school for 48 hours from the last period of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Details from Public Health England about infectious diseases and exclusion periods can be found on the school website or through the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

Could parents/carers please ensure they call reception to report their child's absence.

East Kent College

East Kent College is closed until Wednesday 3rd January. **All East Kent College students should therefore attend the Foreland Fields site on Tuesday 2nd January.** All transport providers have been notified. The kitchen will also provide lunches for any student requiring one.

2024

Term 3

Start of Term 3: Tuesday 2nd January 2024*

End of Term 3: Friday 9th February 2024 @ 2.50pm

*East Kent College students to attend the Foreland Fields site on Tuesday 2nd January due to the college being shut.



Term 4

Start of Term 4: Tuesday 20th February 2024

End of Term 4: Thursday 28th March 2024 @ 2.00pm

Monday 19th February is a staff training day and school is therefore closed to all pupils and students.



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Term 5

Start of Term 5: Monday 15th April 2024

Monday 6th May is a Bank Holiday therefore school is closed to all pupils and students.

End of Term 5: Thursday 23rd May 2024 @ 2.00pm

Friday 24th May is a staff training day and school is therefore closed to all pupils and students.

Term 6

Start of Term 6: Monday 3rd June 2024

End of Term 6: Tuesday 23rd July 2024 @ 2.50pm

I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. We look forward to seeing all pupils and students on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Adrian

