



BOROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning together with Kind Hearts and Determined Minds

NEWSLETTER – week ending 7 March 2025

A message from Mrs Jackson...

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been in school this week! The sun has shone and, in response, there have been many smiling faces. Spring is in the air and is very welcome. The children (and staff) looked amazing in their costumes and embraced our theme of 'Little People, Big Dreams.' Thank you for supporting the day and celebrating the importance and joy of reading. We look forward to our book week commencing on 17th March with our visit from James Mayhew. Please don't forget to make your contributions for the whole-school Escape Room which is taking place on Wednesday 19th March. James will be signing some of his wonderful picture books from the Katie series after school on Monday 17th. More details about this and our book week flyer will be shared with you at the start of next week.

Our Poetry By Heart finalists shared their poems with Miss Armstrong and I last week. We are inviting them to Poetry Club to polish their performances for a final competition at the end of term. We are offering them Thursdays 3.15-4pm from next week. For any of the children who are unable to make this time, we can work with them on Friday from 12.30-1pm. We look forward to enjoying the challenge of performing their poems and sending off some entries to the national competition.

I would like to thank Mr Wheatley for leading forest school sessions for the Year One children this week. The children were immersed in the learning outside and enjoyed making use of our extensive grounds. We are so lucky to have these opportunities, and we look forward to more year groups taking their learning out of the classrooms.

Some of my highlights this week include: the joy of World Book Day; All of KS1 and Apple Class reciting the Pancake Poem in assembly; Year 1 writing inspired by Meerkat Mail, Emily's excitement during pond dipping; Apple Class making use of the planters in the pond garden; listening to the songs from Wind in the Willows during their rehearsals; hearing about Forest School; the warm welcome I receive whenever I enter Bay Class; Year 5 and 6 writing based on Shakleton's journey and the Martin Luther King home learning projects.

During recent weeks, several incidents have been brought to our attention where some of the children are not being kind to others and have been using rather unpleasant words. This does include interactions using social media such as Messenger and WhatsApp. Please could we ask all parents to ensure that they are taking full responsibility for their children's use of devices at home and are monitoring their interactions. Most of the APPs being used do have a recommended age of 13+ because children are not always ready to make a good choice when interactions are not face-to-face. We will, of course, support and follow up incidents that are impacting friendship groups and individuals in school but would really appreciate some closer monitoring at home. This monitoring is so important to make sure your children are safe online and interacting in a sensible way with people that are known to them. As always, being true to our school motto, kindness towards others in our community should be the norm.

I wish everyone a fabulous weekend. Fingers crossed for more spring sunshine...

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Jackson

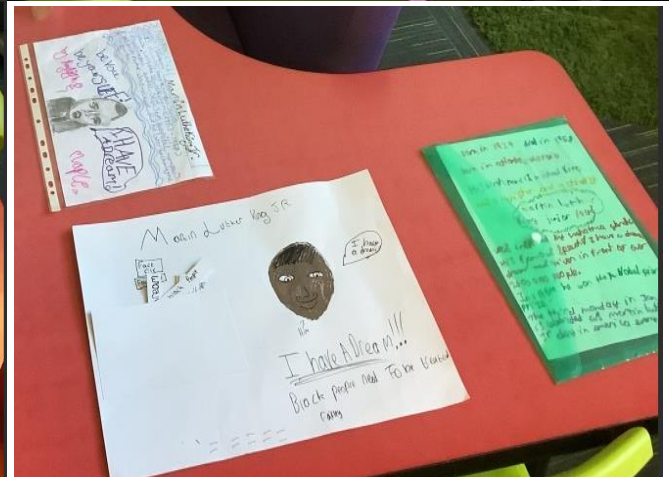
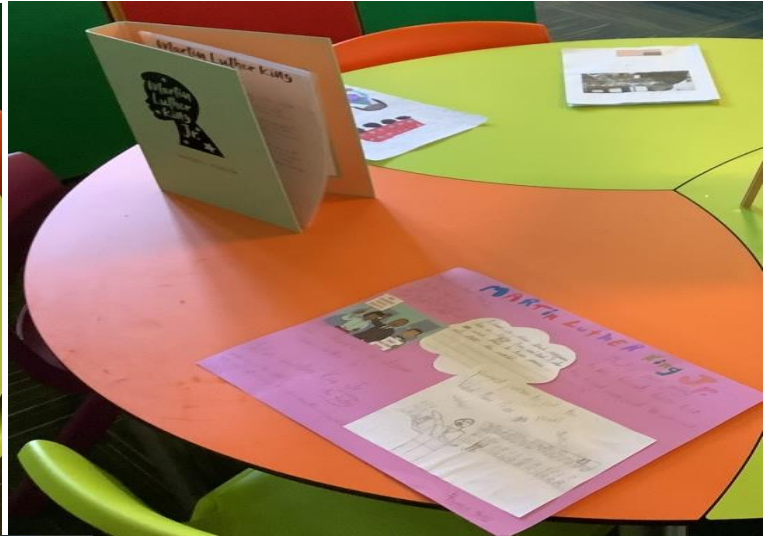
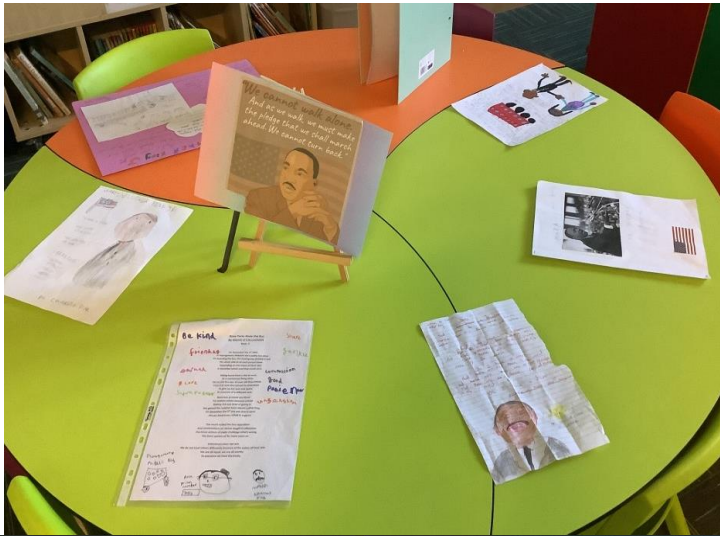
What we have been up to last week and this week...

World Book Day



Martin Luther King Competition

We celebrated all entries with an exhibition held on Thursday (WBD). We will be displaying them again on Monday 17th March in the library where there will be an opportunity to see author James Mayhew, purchase one of his books, and get them signed by the author himself.



Year 5 & 6 enjoying learning Golf with our community outreach teacher.



At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](#) guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://www.nationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- ### 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help accessing digital reading tools, consider by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- ### 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- ### 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in settings under accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with hearing aids or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- ### 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- ### 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogue and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve story-telling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- ### 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- ### 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and follow-up skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, enhancing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- ### 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to hear their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- ### 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to have it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- ### 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, it also presents new-age distractions for 10-15 year olds, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can also be a fun and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert
 Catrina Lown is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO, she recently launched her own site, [WakeUpWednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com), which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and learning organisations.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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Year 1 & 2 children had a wonderful Forest School session with Mr Wheatley



From our FLO...

Anyone for a good night's sleep?

I often hear parents and children talking about how difficult sleep can be and the huge impact it can have of families. Kent Adult Education are offering FREE fun and informative course about managing sleep. This is one of a number of free courses that they run and it's well worth visiting their website to see what's on offer. There are a range of online courses and some free fun children's activities that are in person. We have attached further information in this newsletter.

Any parents/carers that are interested can book via TonbridgeandMallingFH@kent.gov.co.uk

kae Family Learning
kent adult education

Managing Sleep

Is your child having sleep problems?

- Discuss how poor sleep affects our children's and our behaviour?
- Find out about everyday tasks that could be interfering with sleep?
- Explore different ways to help our children and ourselves get more sleep?

This course is for you!

Where: Online
Date: 01/04/2025
Time: 12:45pm
To book a place please contact:
Tonbridgeandmallingsfh@kent.gov.uk or call 03000418008

We want you to enjoy learning with us. To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.

FREE, fun & informal courses



kae Family Learning
kent adult education

Family First Aid

Would you like to know:

- How to make an emergency phone call?
- How to use the primary survey?
- How to practise cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)?
- How to place a casualty into the recovery position?
- How to recognise and treat choking?
- How to treat and monitor bleeding, minor bleeds and burns?

This course is for you!
Where: Longmead Family Hub, Waveney Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3JU
Date: 30/04/2025
Time: 12:15pm-2:15pm
To book a place please contact:
Tonbridgeandmallingsfh@kent.gov.uk or call 03000418008

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FREE, fun & informal courses





Exploring Behaviour Strategies

Would you like to:

- Explore reasons behind your child's behaviour
- Be able to identify behavioural triggers
- Develop strategies to promote good behaviour

This course is for you!

Where: Online

Date: 26/03/2025

Time: 9:30-11:30

To book a place please contact

Tonbridgeandmallingfh@kent.gov.uk or call 03000418008

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FREE, fun & informal courses



Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills



Easter - Creative Paperworks

Would you like to:

- Make 2D and 3D objects from paper?
- Use card and paper to help your child's creativity?
- Develop your creative side?
- Make new friends whilst learning a new skill?

This course is for you!

Where: , Tonbridge Family Hub, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1TG

Date: 08/04/2025

Time: 10am-12pm.

To book a place please contact:

Tonbridgeandmallingfh@kent.gov.uk or call 03000418008

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FREE, fun & informal courses



Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills

Fundraising for the Little Princess Trust...

One of our Year 1 pupils, Florence is growing her hair and has decided to get it cut and donate it to The Little Princess Trust. We've spoken about this charity so she's made an informed decision herself to do this and is very proud of herself.

Her haircut will be on the 14th April, up until then she is collecting sponsorship to raise money for the charity.

Please help by following this link Florence's sponsorship page is <https://gofund.me/57f34332>



Attendance...

We really do want your children to achieve the best education at Borough Green Primary School, in both their academic and personal development. For us to achieve this, we need them to be here. Let us work together to improve attendance. There are 190 school days in every academic year. Together, we can make the most of them...

Apple	97.31%
Willow	98.95%
Myrtle	93.33%
Bay	94.44%
Cherry	91.21%
Poplar	91.07%
Acacia	98.57%
Maple	90.69%
Oak	93.85%



The total attendance so far this year is 92.6%, while the national average is 94.6%.

As we have said before, we believe that we are 'better than the national average at Borough Green Primary School' in many different ways. Help us to show this with our attendance too! We need the children here to work with them and provide the best opportunities to succeed...

PTA...



Awards this Week...

Star of the Week Awards

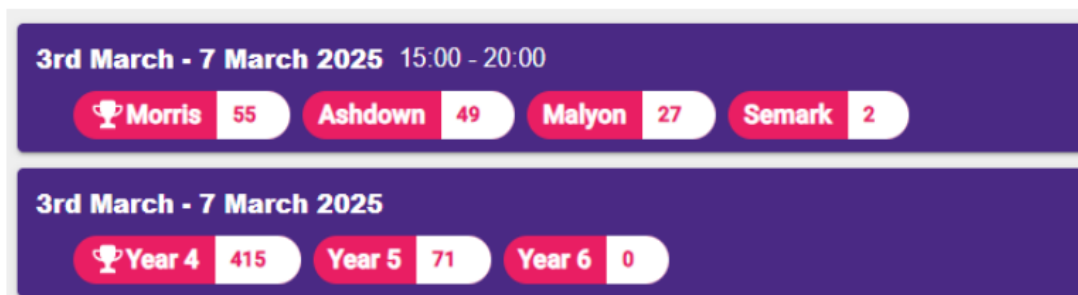
Well done to our Children that have received an Achievement Award this week.

Apple	Ethan	Poplar	Arthur
Myrtle	Quinlan	Cherry	Caleb
Willow	Amelia	Acacia	Jenson
Bay	Teddy	Maple	Teddy
		Oak	Ethan

Term 4 House Points

House	Ashdown	Malyon	Morris	Seamark
This Week	222	305	280	345 winner
Total	722	882	846	979 winner

Times Table Rock stars



Messages & Emails sent out this week...

All years: PTA School Disco details emailed out.

All years: Reading Escape Room - 19 March, please pay by Arbor, £3.50 per child

Year 1 & 2: IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Kent Life Trip - Years 3 and 4 - Monday 17th March 2025

Year 1: PE changes - Tomorrow (Tuesday 4th March) and next Tuesday (11th March), the children will need to wear PE kits for indoor PE. We will swap back to the Wednesday for indoor PE the week beginning 17th March.

All years: Parent Consultations - Tuesday 25th March 2025 and Thursday 27th March 2025, now open for booking via Arbor.

Year 6: National Offer Day for secondary schools Monday 3rd. KCC have advised that emails will be sent out after 4pm informing parents of their child's allocated destination. Once you have received your email, if you have any queries or concerns please do contact Mrs Quantick via the school office.

Year 6: Bushcraft Residential Trip payment reminder.

Term 4 dates to remember...

Thurs 13 March: Forest School for Acacia Class

Fri 14 March: PTA – School Disco

Mon 17 March: Year 3/4 School trip to the Museum of Kent Life

Mon 17 March: James Mayhew Author & Illustrator visit & after school book signing

Wed 19 March: Reading Escape room

Tues 25 March: PTA – Mother's Day event

Tues 25 March: Parent Consultations

Thurs 27 March: Parent Consultations

Mon 31 March- 4 April: PTA: Wonka Bar Event Golden Ticket

Mon 31 March: Year R Kent Community Health Team visiting to carry out the Vision and Hearing Screening

Wed 2 April: Year 3/ 4 Play Rehearsal

Thurs 3 April: Year 3/ 4 Play in the Hall

Fri 4 April: Year 3/ 4 Play in the Hall

Fri 4 April: Last day of Term 4

Tues 22 April: Start of Term 5

FULL LIST OF CALENDAR DATES ARE ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

