



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Meningitis Outbreak in Kent

Many of you will have seen the recent news reports covering the meningitis outbreak in Kent.

We understand this news can naturally cause concern, therefore we want to reassure you that there are no cases at Balfour Infant School. We remain in regular contact with local health authorities, and there is no specific risk identified at our school. **Students can and should continue to attend school as normal.**

Your child's wellbeing remains our highest priority. For NHS guidance on the symptoms, please see the attached leaflet.

**School Website** <https://www.balfourinf.medway.sch.uk/>

You may have noticed that our school website is currently being revamped. On our new website you'll find the latest news, important announcements, upcoming events, and helpful resources all in one place. Our goal is to make communication easier and provide a clear window into school life. Whether you're looking for key information, celebrating achievements, or staying up to date with what's happening, our new website is your go-to hub for everything in our school community. Please bear with us while we add the finishing touches and ensure everything is fully up to date.

### Move To Arbor



Arbor

This newsletter will be the **last** communication that is sent out via the School Jotter App, which can now be uninstalled. Future communications will be sent out using Arbor. I would like to ask all parents to download the Arbor Parent app, available in the Apple and Android app stores.

### The Playground - Before and After School

A reminder that the children must remain with the adult dropping off or collecting them. Children are not permitted to play with equipment before or after school on the playground.

### Easter Bonnet Parade – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 (Last Day of Term)



Parents, guardians and family are invited to attend our Easter Bonnet Parade which will be taking place in the playground at 09:00 on the last day of term. Children are invited to wear an Easter hat or bonnet to school on this day. The whole school will be performing some Easter songs in the playground. If you wish to join us, please remain in the playground and you will be directed to a space to stand.

### Comic Relief – Mad Hair Day



I have seen some amazing hair styles today. Thank you to everyone for your kind donations to Comic Relief. Today you raised £180.23!

Thank you for your continued support. Mr Pomeroy



# SCIENCE DAY 2026

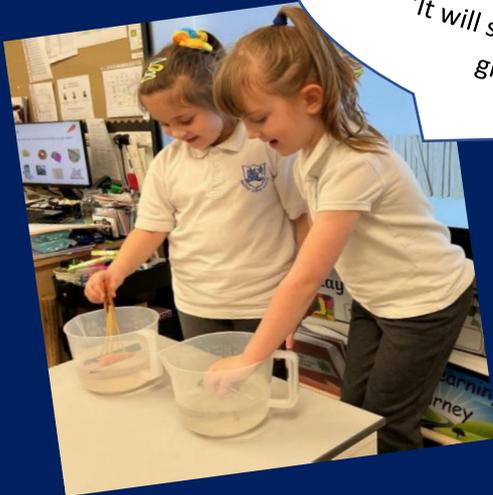
## Science Day

On Tuesday we celebrated Science Day. The theme was 'Curiosity'.

In Year R we investigated bubbles and also found out how long ice takes to melt.

In Year 1 we thought about how moths hide using camouflage. We designed boats that wouldn't sink and tried to make a carrot float!

In Year 2 we decided which material would make the best hankerchief and wondered if the person with the biggest feet would be able to jump the furthest. We also designed paper planes.



"It will sink because it is heavy"  
"It will sink because there is no gravity in water"



"Why are there bubbles in soap?"  
"What shape are bubbles?"



"Cloth is the best because it is absorbent and soft"



"Bigger feet are heavier so will not jump as far"



## Year 1 Trip

The deadline for the Year 1 trip to Shorne Country Park is fast approaching. **If you wish your child to join their year group on the trip, please make sure we have the consent slip and payment by the 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the very latest.** If we do not receive sufficient funds, we regret that this trip may have to be cancelled. If you feel you are unable to make the requested payment, please come and speak to us. Thank you.

## Vision & Hearing Screening

The School Nursing Team will be visiting us in April to carry out vision and hearing screening for our Reception children. Further information regarding this has been sent home separately this week, by paper copy and via Tapestry.

## A message from the School Council:

The School Council are having an Easter Raffle to win tasty, delicious and heavenly chocolate eggs.

The School Council will be selling raffle tickets for 50p each. All the money raised will go to the school.

**We will start selling tickets on Monday 23rd March until Wednesday 1st April.**

We will go round to each class to sell tickets so please send any money in a named envelope.

On Thursday 2nd April we will draw the raffle in assembly and the winners will get a chocolate egg.

Thank you for taking part and helping us.

The School Council.

KEEP YOUR CHILD ACTIVE, SAFE & SMILING THIS HALF TERM

# HORSTED SCHOOL

14<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

PRICES STARTING AT £25 PER DAY

TEACHER LED  
DBS CHECKED  
SEND SPECIALISTS

BOOK ONLINE TODAY VIA OUR WEBSITE

8:30AM - 4PM

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

MULTI-ACTIVITES  
LASER TAG  
GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL  
SPORTS GAMES  
**AND SO MUCH MORE..**

**CONTACT US!** 07378 951411 [www.strivepeandsport.co.uk](http://www.strivepeandsport.co.uk)  
@strivepeandsport

Previous attachment

## Make Fun Foam Mosaic Portraits

with artist Wendy Daws

Sat 21 March  
Session 1 - 10am - 12.30pm  
Session 2 - 1pm - 3.30pm  
Gillingham Library

Free!  
All ages welcome  
No booking required

Create your own colourful foam mosaic portrait and be inspired by the Circle of Six fabulous portraits celebrating Great Gillingham women.

For more information:  
phone: 01634 337 799  
visit: [www.medway.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.medway.gov.uk/libraries)  
or speak to a member of staff at any Medway Library

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# Celebrating Our Achievements



## Stars of the Week

This week our 'Star of the Week' certificates were presented to children linked to our core value of Curiosity.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
AJ	Joshan	Joseph
Victoria	Ada-Rose	Adam
Hunter	Lylah	Aoife
Alicious	Billy	Ramona
Buddy	Kian	Cameron
Freya	Kachi	Rupert



## Handwriting award winners

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Khaliyah	AJ	Millie
Eesa	Evie	Arwen
Haris	Luna	Hajar



## House Points

House	Points
Ruby	384
Diamond	367
Emerald	386
Sapphire	355

Well done to Emerald!

## Science Day Awards

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Hendrix	Kula	Lennie
Jasmine	Sherrin	Jaya
Ronak	Felix	Amber
Fred	Anna	Alex
Sylvia	Jake	Ariyah
Teddy	Kimrit	John





# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



## Attendance

Bumblebee 83%	Dragonfly 99.5%	Ladybird 97.7%
Nightingale 95%	Sparrow 85.4%	Woodpecker 97.4%
Badger 86.3%	Hedgehog 97.9%	Otter 99.2%

**Overall School Attendance: 93.5%**

**Our whole school target is: 96%.**

## Upcoming Events

Date	School event	Information
1/4/26	Spring Craft Day	Children doing Spring craft activities across year groups.
2/4/26	Spring Bonnet Parade	Children to design and make a bonnet at home to join the parade. Parents are invited to watch.  School uniform on this day please.  Last Day of Term 4

