



## First Holy Communion

Last term over 25 children from Our Lady Help of Christians and St Joseph's took their First Holy Communion. The sacrament of Holy Communion is a beautiful occasion for the communicants, their families and the wider school community.

In the months leading up to this occasion, both Mrs Jukes and Mrs Archibald work hard with Communion Classes preparing the children are ensuring they are ready for this special sacrament.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their dedication and hard work in preparing for this special day.

## Mass for Mary

Last term, we celebrated Mass for Mary on the school field. This was a beautiful occasion with many children bringing flowers into school for Mary in the offertory procession. Thank you to all the families for coming along to celebrate this special Mass together.



## Booking a School Meal

As you are aware, School Meal's are now all booked in advance by using ParentPay. All parents are given access to ParentPay and 97% of parents have activated their accounts. Parents MUST book their child's meal before 9.30 a.m. when Chartwell's will run the dinner numbers and the kitchen team will work to those numbers.

We no longer have the flexibility to override dinner numbers and Meals will stay the same price in September at £2.25 per day.

## Attendance & Punctuality

We are fast approaching the end of the academic year and we are working hard with the children to achieve 96.5% overall attendance for this year. The school year is made up of 190 days and we often talk to the children about aiming for 100% attendance. So far we have 18 pupils on track to have achieved 100% throughout the year.

To help with our attendance we would ask that where possible, medical appointments are booked outside of school hours.

Remember – if your child arrives at school after 9.15 they will be recorded as unauthorised absent for the entire morning. Between 9.00 and 9.15 the children will be recorded as late. Next month the annual school reports will be issued which will contain a break down to date of your child's attendance and punctuality.

Remember that school starts promptly at 8.45 a.m. each day and finishes at 3.15 p.m. Please ensure your child arrives on time and ready for learning and is collected on time. To safeguard your child, if you are unable to pick up on time, they will be taken into After School Club where they will be charged £5 for the session.

## After School Provision

For those parents who use the After School Provision, please note that from September we will need to increase the price to £6 per session. This is to ensure all costs associated with this provision are met. This is still far cheaper than other local schools. We thank you in anticipation for your support with this.

## Office Communication

For most parents, Ourschoolsapp is a very useful tool which enables you to easily access notifications, calendar information and newsletters. For more specific information, we will send emails to parents via ParentPay – and from time to time, back this up with a paper letter in school bags too. This hopefully will ensure our communication from school to parents is as efficient as possible.

## Stella Maris Website

Over the past few months, we have worked hard to improve the school website. This now has many new areas such as Extra Curricular Clubs, Catholic Life, Classes & Curriculum. Each week, the 'Class Newsletters' will be put onto the website for ease of access for parents. If you have not

looked at the site in a while, we would encourage you to do so. The School Office is often a very busy place and therefore you may like to look on the school website/ourschoolsapp if you have a question in the first instance. Of course, if you cannot find your answer, you are always welcome to speak to Mrs Barham or Mrs Tidd.

## Stella Maris Football Team – Semi-finalists!

Congratulations to Stella Maris Football Team for their excellent success at this years' Herald Cup. The team made it to the semi-finals – but sadly lost to Sandgate (who eventually went onto win this cup). Well done – the team played superbly throughout, often against much bigger schools.

## TERM DATES

Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Griffins Taser Day – St Anselm's
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Griffins – Secondary School Transfer meeting at 6.00 p.m.
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day – School Closed
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Hobbits – Picnic and Praise – Aylesford Priory
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports' Day
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Elves trip to Dover Museum
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Hobbits – London Trip (further details on ParentPay next week)
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Griffins & Unicorns – Harry Potter World Trip
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Griffins – Wagamama's trip Ashford
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Final Payments to be made for Residential Trip (Griffins)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> at 6.00 p.m.	Unicorns Production – We Will Rock You!
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Unicorns Leavers Mass – OLHOC Church 10.00 a.m.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Imps/Unicorns Dymchurch end of year trip
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Assembly – Unicorns at 10.00 a.m.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up – 2.30p.m. No Clubs No After School Provision

## Bikeability

Last week, 24 Unicorns took part in the KCC Bikeability scheme. This is a National Standard Cycle Training Course comprising of 3

levels to give the children confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. We are proud that all children passed this scheme – apparently it is rare to have 100% pass rate! Well done Unicorns – keep safely enjoying cycling.



## Dentist

A recent survey carried out with our own Year 6 children found that a high number of children do not regularly visit the dentist for their check-ups. This is very concerning as frequent check-ups will ensure best preventive tooth health for our children as well as elevate any 'fear' of the dentist. Remember to book appointments for after school!



## Griffins' International Day

Year 5 had a wonderful time at the FESI International Day. We learnt in school all about Poland, focusing on festivals and food as well as learning some Polish songs with Duncan. We performed songs to over 200 people and all of our learning was made into a display for other schools to investigate.

During the day we enjoyed learning songs from different parts of the world and even had a dance too.

## Getting Ready for Year 6 Meeting – GRIFFIN CLASS

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Mrs Huotari will be holding a meeting for all parents of children in the Griffins class. This is a very important date whereby the school will share key information and dates regarding applying for your child's secondary

school place. Kent Grammar School Tests will also be discussed at this meeting. Meanwhile, registration is now open for putting your child forward to take the Kent Test. You have until 3<sup>rd</sup> July to register (see the various leaflets/ParentPay communications that have been sent out to you). If you are unsure about registering your child to take this test, please see Mrs Huotari.

## Charvari Carnival – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Baker and the Dragon class are busy preparing for the annual Charivari Carnival taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Please hold the date in your diary now – especially if you are a parent from Dragons. Miss Baker will be in touch via the Class Newsletter with more details of how you can get involved with this event.

## PA Summer Fair – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July, the PA will hold their annual Summer Fair on the school field. This will run between 12 noon and 3.00 p.m. As you can imagine, preparation for this event is key and Martin Cheek and the PA team are always looking for new, dedicated team members. If you can offer Martin support, please do make yourself known!

## Residential Trip for September

Griffins parents are reminded that the outstanding balance for the residential trip is due on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

## Summer Workshop



