



**Staplehurst School Newsletter No.4 -
Autumn Term 2024**

A message from the Senior Team



Dear Parents and Carers

A slightly shorter week for us all but one full of rich and engaging learning opportunities. Today our Early Years braved the elements for their outdoor learning - it was wonderful to see them engaged and enjoying this learning experience. Please follow us on X so that you can see the learning and fun that your children receive everyday at Staplehurst.

School Improvement:

Staplehurst school is a very good school with areas of exceptional provision. In order for our school to further develop the Senior Leadership Team have identified key learning priorities for 2024-5 [Staplehurst School - SEF | School improvement priorities summary](#)

At our INSET day tomorrow, teachers will begin learning how we further improve our writing provision under the excellent guidance and expertise of Mrs. Knight (writing lead) and Mrs. Johnson (English Lead).

All areas of school development are linked to the very best current evidence and implemented in line with the Education Endowment Foundation principles of best practice to ensure that the quality of education your child receives is the very best.

Pupil Leadership:

This week children have had opportunities to join Eco Committee and School Council. The children who participate will truly uphold our PRIDE values and want to make a difference to their school and the community. Over the next few weeks our Learning Ambassadors will share their voice about what they like about Staplehurst School.

Enjoy your extended weekend and we will see you all on Monday and use this time to enjoy reading with your child.

Miss Davenport and the Senior Leadership Team

Attendance



Well done to 2W the KS1 weekly winners with 99% who will share Attendance Ted.

Well done to 6JS the KS2 weekly winners with 98.6% who will receive the Attendance Cup.

Reception 2025 Open Events



Reception 2025 Open Events

Our open events for reception intake 2025, will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday 13th November 9:30am (a creche will be available for young children)

Monday 18th November 6:00pm

To book, and for more information, please click on the QR code.

Pride Certificates 26th September 2024

1JS	Buddy Adams	Buddy has shown fantastic PRIDE values this week. In English, he has worked hard to think carefully about his sentence and say it out loud before he writes it. He wrote a sentence about what we saw at the Beegu crash site. Buddy has also shown STAR sitting, being a great role model for others. Well done Buddy!
1U	Thomas Vilhelm	Thomas has completed some fantastic independent writing this week. He has taken care writing on the lines, using capital letters, fingers spaces and full stops in his sentences about Beegu's crash landing. Thomas continuously shows our PRIDE values but especially shows great positivity towards all of his learning. What a fantastic week, well done Thomas!
2W	Hallie LawrenceBrigden	Hallie has had another great week. She always shows our PRIDE values by following the class rules, showing respect and listening to instructions. She has also worked hard in maths this week, showing her understanding of place value by compaing and ordering numbers. Well done!
2C	Emily Rose Vincent	EmilyRose has continuously impressed me with her positive attitude within all aspects of the curriculum, especially within phonics where she is always engaged and shows great levels of focus and determination. She is a fantastic role model to the class as she always makes the right choices and follows our class rules. Well done EmilyRose, keep on being a positive superstar!
2K	Arlen Crossley	This week Arlen has shown amazing positivity in his writing lessons. He is beginning to show more focus and wants to impress. This has been lovely to see not only his great sentences, but also Arlen's keenness to answer questions and share his ideas about our text 'Katie in London'. Well done Arlen, keep it up!
3C	Saara Ahmed	This week Saara has shown to be a conscientious member of the class, who has approached every lesson calmly and with determination. She has been positive in all lessons and demonstrated talents in English when writing a setting description, including prepositions and expanded noun phrases. A good week. Well done!
3NS	Oscar Hill	Oscar has had a super positive week, this week! Particularly in his English writing he has excelled. He met all the grammar objectives in his writing and challenged himself by using prepositions in his setting description. Well done Oscar!
4A	Emily Lavis	Emily has had a wonderful week and it has been fantastic to see her positive attitude towards her writing. She has worked incredibly hard to include journalistic phrases in her writing, correct use of commas in a list and using speech marks for direct speech. Emily constantly demonstrates each of the school's STAR behaviours and is a excellent role model to her peers. Well done Emily, keep it up!
4C	Poppy Bourner	Poppy has worked tremendously hard on her newspaper article this week. She has thought carefully about her hand writing and tried hard to remember where to join letters. Her positive attitude helped her to write at length and remember features of newspaper articles. Well Done Poppy
5B	Ayan Hoque	Ayan continuously displays STAR behaviour and has a positive attitude towards learning. He is a great role model to his peers, and is always polite towards others. Ayan is always engaged in English lessons, and this week he has shown a good understanding of the use of inverted commas, and identifying how emotions are displayed through text. Great work, Ayan!
5T	Reilly Hanlon	Reilly has been a fantastic ambassador for positivity this week and indeed throughout the term. She has been a role model for trying her absolute best and has a wonderful can-do attitude to everything she tries. Reilly has not shied away from challenges, she has relished them and tried her hardest in every lesson. She has particularly impressed with her maths. She is often first up with her hand to answer questions, works hard on her answers and clearly explains what is happening and how. Reilly has shown she can do rounding to a million and can also add and subtract with more than one exchange. I am so proud of the hard work she has been putting in which is always completed with a smile. I am learning how to be as positive just by watching Reilly!
6S	Ollie Ashby	This week Ollie has demonstrated real positivity towards his writing. It has been wonderful to see him using writing scaffolds and word mats to construct an informal letter based on our class text 'Holes', he has worked with such independence and, as a result, has produced a well written piece of work. Well done Ollie!
6JS	Riley ColemanReeves	This week, Riley has had a positive learning attitude, particularly in writing where he has planned and written a wonderful informal letter based on 'Holes'. Riley has worked hard in class and small groups each afternoon. Well done Riley!

School Council



Children in years 2 to 6 have been introduced to the School Council; what it involves and what to do to become part of the school council. We would like to invite children who would like to be part of the school council for this academic year to write short (1 paragraph) speech. Their speech should contain what qualities they have and why these would make them a good representative for their class. Children should be ready to read out their paragraphs to their class next week. Each class will vote for their school council representative. –Class teachers will specify the day.

Learning Ambassadors - Pupil Voice



- Hello, my name is Hannah and I like being at Staplehurst School because I really like the lessons we learn. We always have lots of fun. I can't wait for our turn in the new outside learning area. Thank you for listening to me.

- Hi, I am a learning ambassador at Staplehurst School and I like being a pupil here because you never need to be afraid to speak your mind or show your voice. You always are listened to and ideas are taken to heart.
- Hi, I'm Freya and I am a learning ambassador. I like being at Staplehurst school because if you are going through a hard time you always have someone to talk to. I also love the library because it's a nice place to read and you can get lots of different types of books.

Our Harvest Assembly



As conkers fall from the trees and fields are harvested, we celebrate and give thanks for the food we have. Our Harvest Assembly will take place next week, led by Silke. We kindly ask that you bring food donations to school on Monday and Tuesday so they can be presented for the assembly. Suggested items include tinned food, pasta, rice, pasta sauces, cooking sauces, or any non-perishable items with a long shelf life. All donations will be given to the Free Church Community Fridge—our local food bank. Thank you for your support!

EYFS



Our key text this week was 'Winston the Book Wolf' by Marni McGee. In the story, Winston eats words until he is taught to read by his new friend Rosie. We then explored the outside of the school and around our classroom hunting for words for Winston to read, while also getting to know our way around school.

Following our White Rose learning in maths this week we have been comparing amounts using the key words more and fewer, also combining this with our previous weeks learning of sorting objects into sets.

In science we have been identifying different parts of our bodies. This week we focused on the mouth. We discussed the different functions of the mouth such as eating, talking and breathing. We then explored how we can fill a balloon using our breathe and how a balloon deflated when the air leaves.



Year 2



Our year 2 children have continued to work hard this week and enjoyed learning across our subjects. In English we have begun our new book, *Katie in London*, following the adventures of a brother, sister and a magical lion around London landmarks. This ties in with the work we are doing in geography comparing Staplehurst to London. In maths we have been comparing numbers, using place value to work out if numbers are more, less or equal to each other.

Year 1



This week, year 1 discovered a spacecraft had crashed onto the field! The children wrote sentences about what they could see, hear and smell at the crash site. We found out it was the character Beegu from our new text which we have read this week. We are beginning to learn the story so that we can retell it to others before we write our own versions of it.

In maths, we have looked at numberlines and how they can help us count forwards and backwards. We have been matching the numerals on a numberline to an amount of counters on a tens frame, and noticing how the amount changes as we go up in numbers.

During Science this week, the children have looked carefully at the features of a fish. We identified that the gills are how a fish can breathe and that they have scales.





We used maps in geography to investigate landmarks in Staplehurst and were able to locate many features on our aerial maps and create a map of Staplehurst as a class. The children had a lot of fun learning to code in computing, using Purple Mash and were able to make a plane move across the screen using commands.

In science we continued to monitor the growth of our beans and learnt about the parts of a plant we can eat.

Another fantastic and busy week!







Year 3

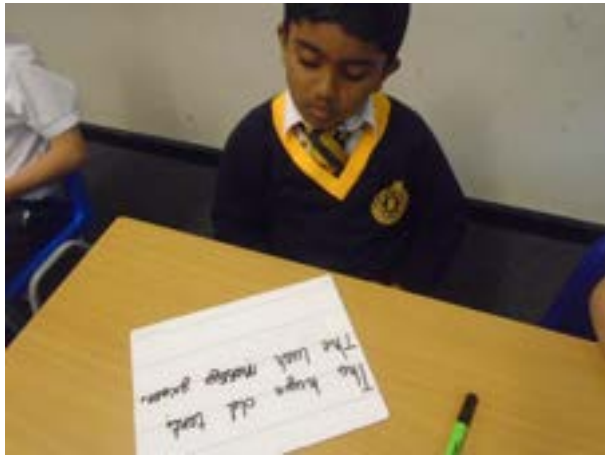


This week Year 3 our pupils have started to design their printing blocks based on the artist Angie Lewin. She is a British printmaker working in linocut, wood engraving, lithography and screen printing. Children have looked at her art work for inspiration before creating their own designs in their sketchbooks.

In music our pupils have been to the music room and were beginning to use the glockenspiels, to follow musical patterns. The children enjoyed working on their musical skills.

In English, children have been writing a setting description, based on this term text 'Leon and the Place Between'. They were writing in the first person to describe the circus scene. Children drafted their sentences on their whiteboards before copying them into their English books.







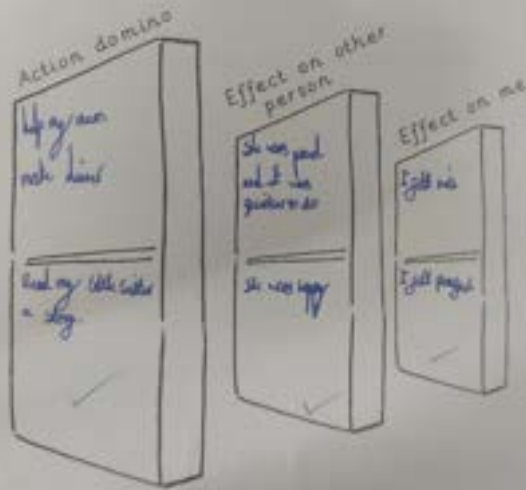
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YEAR 3

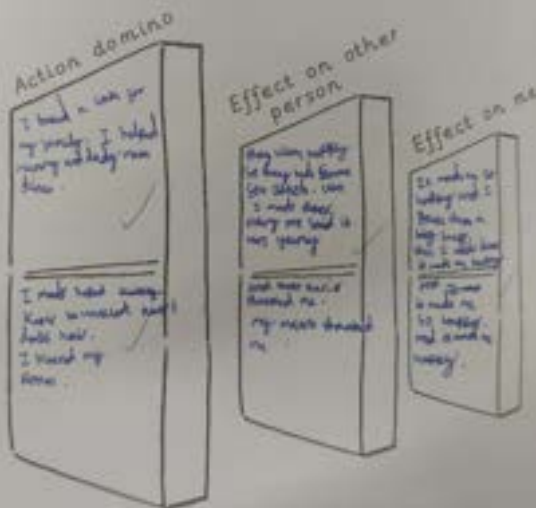
To understand how my behaviour affects others

Dominoes



LO: To understand how my behaviour affects others

Dominoes





This week Year 4 had worked hard writing their first newspaper report, using all the features we have learnt of journalistic writing, about an event in our story 'The Queen's Nose'. We are having fun in PE learning the skills of Handball, such as passing, catching and shooting.

In our PSHE lesson we thought about all the things we can do that are kind actions to others. Then we thought about the affect our kind actions had on others. Many children were able to remember helping out with a job at home and thought how that made their grownup feel and then how it made them feel. We used dominos to show how our actions affect other people. We watched the video <https://video.link/w/2bqad> to see how kindness can spread.

Year 5



YEAR 5

It has been an arty party this week in Year 5! We have been drawing still life items studying the shadows and light to try and get the effect of them being 3-D. It was very challenging, however when it came together it looked wonderful! Working on trying a few times to get it near where we wanted. It was a good lesson in persistence! Our teachers are very proud.





Year 6



This week Year 6 have been developing their Maths skills; focusing on Place Value and solving addition and subtraction. The children worked hard to solve reasoning problems too.

In PSHE, Year 6 have been learning about Families and Relationships - looking at respect and tolerance. This week the children learnt about challenging attitudes.

When it comes to stereotypes it is right to challenge a view, whether it is someone or something stereotyping, even if it is not directed at you.

What are some things that you can do to prevent stereotypes from being spread?

- ✓ Find out more about the issue.
- ✓ Listen to other people and their opinions.
- ✓ Challenge stereotypes when they come up.
- ✓ Have a discussion with people.

Music



**PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL**

2023 - 2024

Once again this year, we have been invited to become a Music Mark School by Kent Music , recognising the value that we place on Music here at Staplehurst and thanking us for the hard work we all do to ensure that our pupils are able to access a high quality music education.

If your child would like to learn to play an instrument, please contact Kelly at andrewparrymusic@gmail.com for details of individual lessons.

Check Your Free School Meals Eligibility and Win a £100 Sainsbury's Voucher!



We are running an exciting competition for **all current Staplehurst School families** to check their eligibility for Free School Meals. Simply follow the steps below, and you could be in with a chance to **win a £100 Sainsbury's voucher!**

How to Enter:

1. Visit the [Kent County Council \(KCC\)](#) website to check your eligibility for Free School Meals (*search 'KCC FSM Check'*)
2. Take a screenshot showing you've checked your eligibility (regardless of the outcome).
3. Email the screenshot to your child's year group email address (one entry per family).
4. All entries must be received by Friday 27th September.

Note: Families already in receipt of Pupil Premium will be automatically entered into the competition.



Community Events



1 - Maidstone Litfest



Festival Highlights

Family Fun Day and Local Writers' Showcase

Join us at our Family Fun Day at Lockmeadow on Sunday 06 October, featuring children's entertainment, arts and crafts, family fun and the return of the Local Writers' Showcase.

The amazing team at One Maidstone and MaidStory are sponsoring a Book Worm Hunt through the town centre with prizes awarded at Lockmeadow during the Fun Day.

Free parking
Barker Road, ME14 6SF

Festival ONE Maidstone

Saturday 12 October

Gyles Brandreth - Prose & Cons: The English Language in Just A Minute

Bestselling author, English language aficionado and celebrity Gogolismist Gyles Brandreth takes us on a whirlwind tour of the English language in his signature style and wit.

At Spinks Church, 460 Street, ME14 6DF £8



Saturday 05 October

9.30-11.30am Maidstone Writers' Group Meet and Greet

Like writing? Looking for a group of like-minded writers? Head down to the Kent History & Library Centre to meet with members of the Maidstone Writers' Group.

Kent History & Library Centre, ME14 5JQ
FREE No Booking Required

10-11.30am Poetry Workshop: Writing the Self with Dorothy Lobb

Join us for an interactive poetry workshop designed to explore the landscapes of personal identity and expression.

Kent History & Library Centre, ME14 5JQ £10

10.30-11.30am Story Time and Craft with Keat Libraries

Enjoy a festival-themed story time featuring books written or illustrated by our festival authors followed by craft activities.

Kent History & Library Centre, ME14 5JQ
All Ages FREE No Booking Required

11.30am-1pm Writing Workshop: Writing for Wellbeing with Lucy Stronge

Award-winning author Lucy Stronge leads this practical and supportive workshop exploring writing as a rewarding creative outlet and benefit to our mental health.

Kent History & Library Centre, ME14 5JQ £10

1.30-3.15pm Ales English - Map Magic: Create Your Own Island of Adventure!

Join children's author Ales English for a FREE and fun-filled story and craft workshop.

Also will guide young explorers through the thrilling process of designing their very own treasure maps.

Maidstone Museum, ME14 5JH
Ages 4+ FREE Booking Required

2.10-3.10pm Story-Themed Lego Club with Keat Libraries

Come along and join our story-themed Lego Club and create your own story!

Kent History & Library Centre, ME14 5JQ
Ages 5+ FREE No Booking Required

3-4pm Eva Wade & Elton James Marsh in conversation with Charlie Brookhurst-Coiff

Join authors Eva Wade (in Bloom) and Elton James Marsh (Small Zigs) as they discuss the themes of love, friendship and family in their seasonal novels.

Maidstone Museum, ME14 5JH £8

4.10-5.10pm Madras Rosie Huslett in conversation with Nicole Everett

Author Rosie Huslett shares some Greek mythology and takes us on a journey of persecution, survival, power and revenge with her Sunday Times Bestseller Madras.

Maidstone Museum, ME14 5JH £8

4-7pm Ross Wilby - The Bookshop Manages: The Unexpected Joy of Heartbreak

Award-winning comedian, author and presenter Ross Wilby explores the science of heartbreak and reveals the truth about how we can turn a breakup into an opportunity for freedom, learning and growth. Tickets are available.

Balchmarsh, Maidstone, ME14 5PL £8

Sunday 06 October



10am-3pm Family Fun Day and Local Writers' Showcase

A day of family fun and entertainment together with our very own Local Writers' Showcase. Lockmeadow Entertainment Centre, ME14 6SF FREE Entry & Parking

Monday 07 October

11-11.30am Rhyme Time with Keat Libraries

A fun and easy way to develop a love of language and a foundation for learning.

Kent History & Library Centre, ME14 5JQ
Ages 4 and under FREE No Booking Required

2-3.45pm Archives Talk and Tour - Teachers and Triangle Girls: Models of WW1 women based on true stories found in the Kent Archives

Join archivist Mark Bateson and author Janyis Thomson for a tour of the archives and discover how the everyday accounts recorded in the Kent Archives helped to build a picture of the lives of women in WW1 on the site of Shapton.

Kent History and Library Centre, ME14 5JQ
FREE Booking Required

7-8pm The Short Straw: Holly Seddon in conversation with Helen Bell

Join internationally bestselling author Holly Seddon as she discusses her latest novel The Short Straw, a deliciously thrilling story sure to prey on your most primal fears.

Waterstones, Maidstone, ME14 1QP £8



Tuesday 08 October

10.30-11.30am AI and the Future: What Lies Ahead? With Tony Boobier

Join AI expert, author and business mentor Tony Boobier to discuss the changing landscape of work in the age of artificial intelligence.

Maidstone Business Terrace, ME15 6DQ
FREE Booking Required

7-8pm The Night Ship: Jess Kidd in conversation with Gianna Pallero

Join award-winning author Jess Kidd as she talks about her most recent book The Night Ship, an epic and imaginative historical novel, based on the true story of the ship, Batavia, wrecked in the Indian Ocean.

Maidstone Museum, ME14 5JH £8

Waterstones Presents | 7-8pm Dan Abnett - Writer of Wrongs

Celebrated comic book writer and novelist Dan Abnett talks about his work with Marvel, DC and the world of Warhammer.

Waterstones, Maidstone, ME14 1QP £8



Wednesday 09 October



7-8pm Bump in the Road Marie McElene in conversation with **Esus Wilby**
Marie McElene's *Bump in the Road* gives us the same honesty and humour Marie brought to the many children's reading advice in her thirteen years as an agency staff with Graham Norton.
Malden Museum, ME14 5LH £8



Waterstones' Power

Author and bookseller Martin Latham talks about *The Bookseller's Tale* about the faculty of books, about margins, page-finders, spine-corners, indelible, reading nooks, book patches and comfort books. If you love books, you'll love this. *Waterstones' Magazines*, ME14 5JF £3



7-8pm Marie Latham - The Bookseller's Tale

Thursday 10 October

10am-10.30pm Joseph Coelho
(*Waterstone's Children's Laureate 2023-24*)
Schools' event sponsored by the Valley Friends Academics Trust.
All Saints Church, 463 Street, ME13 6VE

7-8pm Godmother Park: Gil Hardy
in conversation with **A.J. McDow**
Delve into the gorgeous, beguiling and addictive bestselling author Gil Hardy as she discusses her most recent book at the world of the Author's, this time through the story of Sara's friend, Anne Shary.
Malden Town Hall, ME14 5JF £8

Sale changed to Friday 04 October



Friday 11 October

11-11.30am Rhyme Time with Kaye Liberman
Come along and join our Rhyme Time featuring characters from your favourite books.
West Harty & Library Centre, ME14 5JG
Ages 4 and under **FREE No Booking Required**



7.30-8.30pm The Missing Family: Tom Warren in conversation with Gemma Pullen

Join Tom Warren, the author of the missing person mystery as he discusses his latest *David Saker* thriller and the journey to becoming a million-copy bestselling author.
Waterstones' Magazines, ME14 5JF £8



Saturday 12 October

10.30-11.30am Story Time and Craft with Kaye Liberman
Join Great Heritage, author of the hit book *The Way of Thinking*, for story time and crafting fun.
West Harty & Library Centre, ME14 5JG
All Ages **FREE No Booking Required**



11-11.30am Giles Bronkhorst - Rise & Gave: The English Language in Just 6 Minutes
Join Giles Bronkhorst, author of the hit book *Rise & Gave: The English Language in Just 6 Minutes*. Take us on a condensed tour of the English language with signature style and wit.
All Saints Church, 463 Street, ME13 6VE £8

11am-12pm, 12.30pm-1pm The Bookshop: A Day in the Life of a Bookshop

9-10am Hidden Women, *Hidden Lives* Helen Fry and *Caitlin Davies* in conversation with **Dr Jane Shorrock**
Join historians and authors Helen Fry (*Women in Intelligence*) and Caitlin Davies (*Private Inquiry*) as they discuss the fascinating but often hidden contribution that women have made throughout history.
Malden Museum, ME14 5LH £8



1-2pm Children's author Gemma Pullen and Illustrator Sarah Hane
Join the team behind the *Monster Doughnuts* series in this interactive event focusing on the creation of these fabulous books. Includes children's competition winner presentation and drawing workshop.
All Saints Church, 463 Street, ME13 6VE
Ages 5+ **FREE Booking Required**

1.30-4.30pm The Sleepwalkers

Scarlett Thomas in conversation with **Oliver Tames**
Meet the bestselling author of *The End of Mr T* as he discusses this savage and subversive literary thriller, *The Sleepwalkers*, as a Greek honeymoon detour into chaos.
"The plot structure is ingenious and demanding without being over-the-top" (*The Guardian*)
Malden Museum, ME14 5LH £8

4-5pm Children's author Sam Sedgemoor
Unlock your inner mystery solver and learn the **SECRETS OF TIME** in this fact-packed event from bestselling author and conformationist nerd Sam Sedgemoor. Includes children's competition winner presentation.
All Saints Church, 463 Street, ME13 6VE
Ages 7+ **FREE Booking Required**



4-7.30pm Poetry Event with Christopher Horton, Maggie Harris, Dorothy Lakens and **Jessica Munkherjee**
Listen to award-winning poets share their work in the tranquility of Malden's After-Park.
Malden Town Hall, ME14 5JF £3

7-8pm Bold: Short Heritage in conversation with **Adrian Wills**
Join Short Heritage for a fabulous evening debating the latest book *Bold*.
Private Bar Available.
The Market House, Malden, ME14 5PS £8



www.maldeninfo.org

Staplehurst NEEDS YOU

on Saturday 26th October

It's the return of our Clean-Up morning.

Please come along to the Youth Club in the High Street at 10am. Sign in, collect a litter-picker, a sack and a Hi-Viz vest. We recommend you bring your own gloves, although disposable gloves will be available. You will be given a road to clear of rubbish. Then just return your sack and equipment and enjoy some well-earned refreshments.

Let's be proud of our cleaner village!



STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office
High Street
TN12 0BJ
Tel: 01580 891761
Email: admin@staplehurst-pc.uk

- Help needed for clean-up morning
- Date 26th October 2024
- Meet 10am at the Youth Club in the High Street
- Refreshments provided



Kent Family Hubs Visitor Survey

Kent County Council (KCC) would like to find out about families' experiences of the services available at Family Hubs and/or through Start for Life. Your feedback is essential for us to improve our services moving forward. To take part, please complete our Kent Family Hubs Visitor Survey, by following the link below or scanning the QR code.



Scan the QR code
or visit this link.

survey.kent.gov.uk/s/9exu98



Key Dates

Dates to Remember

April

May

June

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Parents in to read - KS1 - Every Friday - 8:35 - 9:00

27th September - Staff Professional development day - no children

3rd October - Census Day - Theme Day Menu - Pirate Day (We encourage all children to have a school dinner on this day to support our funding.

4th October - PTA Disco

15th October - Sibling and Individual Photographs

23rd October - Parents' Evening

Please see all key dates: [School Calendar](#)