

Charing CE Primary School Weekly Newsletter



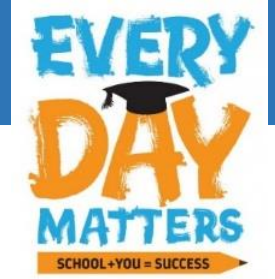
Friday 7th March 2025

Telephone: 01233 712277








Email: office@charing.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.charingschool.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CharingPrimary/>



Attendance

Rabbits	Squirrels	Otters	Woodpeckers	Foxes	Badgers	Owls
						
93%	99.6%	97%	95%	96%	98%	96%
Whole School – 97%		Year to date – 92%			Target – 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

I make no apology for starting by talking about the weather! What a beautiful week it has been with the sun continuously shining on us. It feels like nature is coming back to life and this has made such a difference to school life! Playtimes have been joyous occasions as the children have felt comfortable about going on the field and this in turn has led to happy learning! As always the children have worked hard and produced some great writing - Woodpeckers wouldn't let me leave the classroom on Wednesday as they all wanted to read their work to me.

The great weather has also been timely for Badgers to attend their school residential. Photos of the fun can be found on our Facebook page. It was great to hear that the children showed all our school values on the trip and helped one another when needed. They also had lots and lots of fun and learned resilience and independence. I would like to thank Mrs Golden, Miss Cole and Mrs Ball for giving up their time to ensure the children had a wonderful time. Staff giving up their time to go on school residential shows great dedication towards the children. On a residential visit staff are only off duty when they are asleep (that's if there are not any knocks at their doors from children who have woken up!) and it is important we show our gratitude to the staff for their extra special effort! Thank you again.

It will be Year 4's turn to go on the residential next year; I am currently in the process of booking their trip, so Year 4 parents please keep an eye out for emails regarding it. Mrs Ball has already asked me if she can go again next year!

Around this time last year I wrote to and held meetings with parents about the importance of parents keeping a close eye about what their children are doing online. Unfortunately, I have had recent reports that there have been issues concerning unkind behaviour out of school between children on devices. Please can I ask parents to keep a close eye on what your children are doing online and if necessary restrict their access to the Internet. Some people gain extra confidence, of the wrong sort, behind a screen and act out of character. We do not want people letting themselves down on screens.

Compassion Friendship Forgiveness Resilience Hope

This week we have been celebrating World Book Day. On Wednesday, we arranged a Dance Workshop for all the children. They performed dances to the Ginger Bread Men and the children loved it! On Thursday, children wore their costumes or comfy clothes and shared books with one another across classes. I had the opportunity to read a story to every child which was fantastic! Reading is so important and with the advancement of technology we must not let the love of reading disappear, we all have a job to do to ensure the love of reading continues and I hope our introduction of the online reading record will help us ensure children read books regularly!

We have had two football matches in the last week and the team has shown much improvement. Although the results didn't go our way we took part in two very close games and achieved performances we were all very proud of; so much resilience was shown by our players. There will be a lot more sport taking place in the coming weeks, so please ensure permission slips are returned promptly to help us with the organisation of these events.

Also this week, the PTFA held the annual pancake flip to mark Shrove Tuesday. This was a great success with the children having a great time competing against each other and raising money for the PTFA. When I last heard we had raised over £1,000! This is incredible, I would like to thank you all for supporting the event and the PTFA once again for arranging it.

To acknowledge and experience the Ash Wednesday ceremonies Year 6 went to church and took part in a service with the community. Five of our children read in the service and all the children were praised for the behaviour and attitude. Well done to Owls class for leading the way for our school.

I have been writing to parents over the past few weeks and having conversations with them about the importance of the children coming to school regularly and on time. I am delighted to say that this week our attendance has been so strong and it is over our target of 96% for the whole school, please can we have the same again next week. We have not had a whole school 100% attendance day since Covid. That is everyone's challenge for this term and I would love us to achieve it.

This week I had great joy in observing the children's delight concerning how beautiful the crocuses on the field are. The latter have sprung into life in the last week and we could see the insects feeding off the flowers and aiding their pollination. It was only last week, when sharing their holiday homework with me, the children were saying we need to do more to keep the bees alive. It was great to see the bee's important work in action on our field. Our school 'Environment Day' will take place on Tuesday 18th March - more details will be sent to parents next week.

As can be seen by the length of my newsletter it has been a very exciting and busy week! I want to thank all those once again who have shown dedication to the school and children to ensure all these events could take place. We are blessed to have such a committed staff and PTFA group and I want to share my appreciation for their continued support. Hopefully the sun keeps on shining and you all have a wonderful weekend!

Kind regards,

Thomas Bird
Head teacher



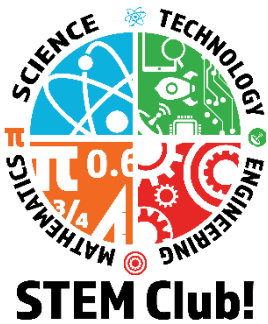
NO GARDENING CLUB ON 13TH March -Thursday



THANK YOU PARENTS!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who donated generously, with your help we were able to raise a total of **£1,015.**

STEM CLUB



Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in joining the club. We've been overwhelmed with demand, and unfortunately, those who didn't receive a letter this term will be considered for a spot later in the year. Below are the dates and days for STEM Club next week. Letters have been sent to parents, outlining which group will meet on which specific day and date.

Monday 10th March

Tuesday 11th March

Wednesday 12th March

PARENTS EVENING

19th MARCH 2025 – WEDNESDAY

The Parents Evening tab went live on 13th February on the MCAS app. Parents are advised to please book a time slot for their child/children.

We have added extended time slots for Squirrels class on the same day, which went live yesterday. Parents who didn't get a time slot for their child please ensure to book these.



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This week in Worship

Our Focus for Worship this week has been Lent...remembering Jesus' temptation. his time spent in the desert and what it means for us. Our Bible passage was Luke 4 v 1 – 12. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, fasting & praying. Jesus is sent into the desert to be tempted he was led by the Holy Spirit, this was part of God's plan, he was led by the Holy Spirit to fast and pray. Jesus was tempted by the Devil, three times: 1) he was told to turn stones into bread. Jesus said 'Man shall not live by bread alone but by the word of God.' 2) The devil took Jesus up a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. He said, 'All this power will I give you if you worship me.'

Jesus answered 'Get thee behind me Satan. It is written that you shall worship the Lord our God and only him will you serve.' 3) He brought Jesus to Jerusalem and set him on the top of the temple, he said 'If you are the Son of God, jump down from here.' Jesus was the Son of God so could he have done these things! I wonder what kind of leader was Jesus showing he was? Jesus resisted temptation, and proved that his heart wanted to follow God's commands. As the Son of God he chose God's way. How did Jesus find strength and the right answers when he was tempted... I wonder how we could copy Jesus when we are next tempted. We discussed times when we had been 'tempted' to do something and how easy was it to do what we knew was right.

The day before Lent begins, is Shrove Tuesday, otherwise known as Pancake day/'Mardi Gras' and is a chance to use up food, to enable Christians to 'fast' and focus on prayer leading up to Easter. On Shrove Tuesday, Christians confess and ask forgiveness for the wrong they have done as they start preparing for the greatest celebration ever: remembering Jesus' resurrection and how it has brought new life, at Easter. Fasting can enable us to focus our senses on worshipping God, rather than on 'bread alone'/treats.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Traditionally at the 'ashing' service, Christians say sorry and may be marked with an ash cross on their foreheads to symbolise repentance (often from the ashes of last year's palm crosses). Ashes in the bible symbolise saying sorry.



Dear Father God

*Please help us to love and serve you with all our heart.
Let us show your love through our kind actions,
concern for others and by being a light shining out to
others.*

*Lord, when we are tempted to do wrong may we feel
your loving presence guiding us to do what we know is
right.*

Amen.



Meet Our Mental Health First Aiders



Mrs. Hebbes
(Mon- Fri)

Mrs. Alexander
(Thru- Fri)

Hello we are Mrs Hebbes and Mrs Alexander, your mental health first aiders. Mrs Hebbes is here Monday to Friday and works within Ducklings preschool. Mrs Alexander works Thursday and Friday as a teaching assistant in Badgers.

We are here to support the children, staff and families of Charing School. If you would ever like to speak to us, feel we can offer support to yourself or someone in your family, please come and find us on the playground or let the office know and we can arrange a time.

SEND SURGERY DROP-IN

Do you have a question about your child's needs or a concern about a Special Education Need?

Pop in to talk to Mrs Hammond at the

SEN surgery drop-in.

No appointment needed.



Upcoming Dates

Friday	17th January	1:30-3:00
Tuesday	28th January	9:00-10:30
Wednesday	12th February	1:30-3:00
Friday	28th February	1:30-3:00
Wednesday	12th March	9:00-10:30
Easter Coffee Afternoon	Wednesday 2nd April	2:00-3:00

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster about is [10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS](#). Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Hammond.



ATTENDANCE



If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ensure that you inform the office via telephone or leave a message on our answer phone. Can we please request that all attendance related emails are sent to the following:

Ms. Nimrah Rehman
attendance@charing.kent.sch.uk

DROP OFF

Can we please remind parents that school gates shut at **8:55am**. If you arrive late, please drop off your child/ children at the school office.

For safeguarding reasons we do not allow parents/carers to drop off their children to their classes.

MAIN ENTRY

**ALL VISITORS
MUST REPORT
TO THE
SCHOOL OFFICE**



We would politely ask all parents/carers to park sensibly when dropping and while picking children off at school. [Please do not park across or on other people's drives including local businesses.](#)



Please also do not move the yellow bollards that are up in front of the school and park in that space. These are in place deliberately to ensure there is access to the school.

Although School Road and Downs Way have limited parking, there is plenty of parking throughout the village. The slightly longer walk will do children good, if you are unable to park legally near the school.

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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 on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting 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 learning difficulties 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 dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, 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. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

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 hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

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 have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, 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 ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, 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 training organisations.



The National College®

REMINDER

MEDICATION SAFETY

We understand that at times children are unwell and need to stay at home to recover, however please remember that we can administer *prescribed medication (IF REQUIRED)*, so if your child is feeling better but needs medicine, this can be brought to the office and managed as necessary. The office would be able to assist in



HEALTHY LUNCHES



We promote healthy eating at Charing CE Primary School and would appreciate parents adhering to the healthy eating guidelines as below:

Sweets: Please do not pack sweets or chocolate bars.

Drinks: children under 5 receive free milk with their snacks and water is available for everyone whenever they want to drink. Please do not send in fizzy drinks with your child's packed lunch.

Nut Free: Please be reminded that we are a nut-free school. We have children in school who have potential life-threatening nut- allergies which can be triggered by direct or indirect contact with nuts in the environment. To keep our children safe, we request that parents please find a nut-free alternative. This also includes NUTELLA or any CHOCOLATE spread.
Thank you for your co-operation.



SCHOOL DINNERS –

Dinner Money cost £2.43

Please be reminded school meals are to be paid for in advance. Our caterers will not allow a debt to build and as of next term, any unpaid accounts will result in your child not receiving a meal and you will need to provide a packed lunch.

WRAPAROUND CARE: Both Breakfast and Afterschool club bookings are placed under this tab and payments need to be made when you book your session for your child. *This is done to avoid any payments not made.*

PARENT CONSENT: Please select the options given to update your child's consent.

If payments have been made otherwise and in advance before booking the sessions, please call or email the office to book your child's space. ***Please be reminded to clear out any outstanding balances under individual accounts of your children.***

Compassion

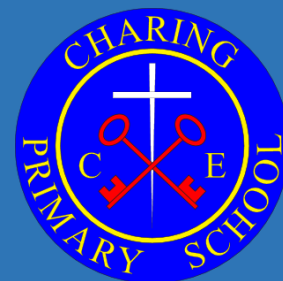
Friendship

Forgiveness

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Dates for your Diary



Date	Event
TERM 4	
18th Mar	Go Green for Environment Day – more details to follow
19th Mar	Parents Evening for all 3:30pm - 7:30pm 
21st Mar	Wear Red on Red Nose Day- donations on the gate
24th Mar	Owls Class event: 2:30pm – 3:00pm
25th Mar	Rabbits Class event -2:30pm - 3:00pm
26th Mar	Badgers class event -2:30pm – 3:00pm
27th Mar	Otters Class event -2:30pm - 3:00pm
31st Mar	Ducklings Class event -2:30pm – 3:00pm
1st Apr	Foxes Class event: 2:30pm – 3:00pm
2nd Apr	Squirrels Class event: 2:30pm – 3:00pm
3rd Apr	Woodpeckers 2:30pm- 3:00pm
8th May	Sports Day Rabbits – 9:15am Ducklings – 1:30pm
20th May	Sports Day for Badgers and Owls- 9:15am
22nd May	Sports Day For Woodpeckers and Foxes- 9:15am Squirrels and Otters: 1:30pm

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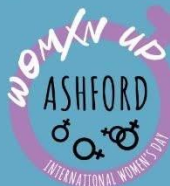
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**Craft Workshops at
Thrive25 @Coachworks Sat 8th March**

- 10 - 11 Knit a small hair bow taster £5
- 11.30 - 12.30 Punch needle workshop £8
- 1.30 - 2.15 3.15 Stamp Carving & 13.50
- 2.30 - 3.15 Brand visioning for small businesses £15
- 3.45 - 4.45 Porcelain Charm making £15
- 5.15 - 7.15 Disco Ball painting before you disco all night £25

All day free doodle table, free make your own banner panel (stitching & drawing) and free colouring sheets too!



For More info
& links scan
the QR code

Book via
www.madeinashford.com/collections/womxn-up-ashford

THE ASHFORD CINEMA



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

ARRIVE FROM 12.15 - FILM COMMENCES AT 1PM

WIZARD THEMED CRAFT & COLOURING - DRESS AS YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTER - HOGWARTS LETTER FOR ALL