



THE GATEWAY NEWS

Keeping you informed

www.gateway-pri.kent.sch.uk

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NEWSLETTER 4

23rd February 2026

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026.

School Uniform Reminder

Please remember that our school uniform policy is for children to wear shoes only in school, **no boots**. If your child needs to wear wellies due to bad weather then please ensure they bring their shoes to school in a named carrier bag to change into. **Please clearly label all uniform.**

Term Time Holidays

Just a reminder that it is school policy not to authorise any holiday in term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances as to why the holiday cannot be taken during the school holidays. All children's absence is monitored closely and **no holidays will be granted if a child's attendance level is under 95%**, and/or the reason for absence is not considered to be exceptional. All applications must be made in writing to Mr Cassem **at least two weeks** in advance and a letter will be sent to you with the decision.



SPORTING EVENTS

Benchball

Our Year 6 pupils recently attended their first ever benchball festival at Hextable School, where they took on teams from four other schools. The mixed squad worked brilliantly together, experimenting with different strategies to get their players onto the bench before their

opponents. Their strong defending and accurate throwing helped them win nearly all their matches. Throughout the festival, the children showed fantastic teamwork, encouraging one another and supporting the other teams—a wonderful example of sportsmanship in action.

Handball

Some of our Eagles were lucky enough to attend a local handball tournament and put on a fantastic display throughout, winning



all their early games with excellent teamwork, smart tactics and some truly brilliant goalkeeping.

Their hard work carried them all the way to the semi-finals, where they narrowly missed out on a place in the final. Undeterred, the team continued to play friendly matches afterwards, using the opportunity to refine their techniques and showcase the same determination and positivity that defined their tournament run. Well done to all those involved!

Heron's Magical Toy Museum Workshop

As part of Heron's Terrific Toys topic the



Magical Toy Museum workshop came into school. They learnt about old toys and how they were made, what

they were made of and the History of the Teddy Bear.

Kingfishers The Great Fire of London Workshop

Kingfishers enjoyed a visit from Freshwater Company and were transported



back to 1666 to experience the Great Fire of London and meet significant figures from the event. The scene was set with

the children imagining they were bakers, market traders and factory workers chanting on the streets of London. Following this we met Thomas Farriner, the baker who started the fire, and discovered how it began and what caused the fire to spread so quickly. We imagined how people fleeing the fire would have felt and what the people of London had to do in order to stop the fire from spreading further. As well as learning about the event, we met Samuel Pepys and King Charles II who were important figures during the event.



Kestrels Ancient Greeks

Kestrels have been channelling their inner Ancient Greeks this half term as they designed and created their very own



Olympic-themed clay pots. After weeks of researching Greek pottery, analysing real artefacts and exploring the origins

of the Olympic Games, the children put their knowledge into practice. They skilfully moulded their pots using a range of hand-building techniques, before painting them in traditional colours and adding intricate patterns and designs inspired by ancient Olympic events. The finished pieces are absolutely stunning and

reflect both their creativity and their growing understanding of this fascinating period in history.

Eagles - Historian Visitors

Eagles Class have continued to learn about the Second World War. We have been extremely grateful to have had Mrs Hatherly speak to us all about the experiences of her grandparents - she shared her family photo album, an heirloom full of information about how her young grandparents spent their time during and after the war. One of our Eagles invited her great grandparents into school. Her great grandma gave us a very special insight into her



experience of the war as a child having been evacuated. In addition to these guests, Mrs Taylor made her annual visit to Eagles Class to speak about her grandfather and shared his life as a paratrooper during the war. We would like to thank all of our speakers for dedicating their time to our school community and enriching our history curriculum with both primary and great quality secondary sources of information.

Safeguarding

Operation Encompass is a police and education partnership



that ensures schools are notified before 9 a.m. the next school day about any domestic abuse incident attended by police where children were present. It enables immediate, tailored support for children, helping schools understand their needs, and is statutory across all police forces in England and Wales.

Reporting a concern

Children who face abuse may feel scared to share what's happening to them. They may not know or understand that what is happening is not okay.

It can be difficult to know what to do if you are worried about the safety and welfare of a child. If you think that someone is in immediate danger then contact the emergency services.

If you are concerned about a child being abused then contact Kent social services using the details below.

Email: social.services@kent.gov.uk

Phone: [03000 41 11 11](tel:03000411111)

Emergency and out of hours calls: [03000 41 91 91](tel:03000419191) if you need to contact an advisor outside of normal office hours, for example during the night or at the weekend.

Online Safety Day

On Tuesday 10th February, we marked Safer Internet Day across the school. This year's theme, "*Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,*" encouraged children to think carefully about how technology, including artificial intelligence, can be used positively and responsibly.

Pupils in every class took part in activities linked to the theme and joined a whole-school assembly to explore the importance of staying safe online. Each class also discussed practical ways to keep themselves safe on the internet and worked together to create their own class agreements for responsible online behaviour.

If you would like any further information or support about this topic, then please have a look at this link: [Top Tips for](#)

[parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

23rd February	Term 4 starts
4 th March	Kent Test Meeting - Kestrels
23rd March	SATS Meeting - Eagles
2 nd April	Last day of term 4
20th April	Training Day
21 st April	First day of term 5