



THE GATEWAY NEWS

Keeping you informed

www.gateway-pri.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01322 220090

NEWSLETTER 5

8th MAY 2026

Welcome

Welcome to our summer term newsletter.

attendance and punctuality across the school.

End of the School Day

Please can we remind families that children **must not enter the shed on the KS2 playground** at any time. The equipment stored inside is for supervised use only during the school day and should not be moved or taken out by pupils. We also ask parents to ensure they are actively supervising their child before and after school to help us keep everyone safe. Thank you for your support.

Term 4 Attendance

Class	
Swans	95%
Hérons	97%
Kingfishers	95%
Swallows	97%
Woodpeckers	97%
Kestrels	97%
Eagles	98%

Well done to those classes who are working hard to exceed that 96% target.

Term Time Holidays

A reminder that I will not authorise any holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances as to why the holiday cannot be taken during the school holidays. All applications must be made in writing at least **two weeks** in advance and a letter will be sent to you with the decision.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Roden who will be working in Year 2 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Attendance

We would like to remind families of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Regular, on time attendance supports children's learning, confidence and overall progress. Arriving promptly at the start of the day ensures pupils are settled and ready for learning, and prevents missed teaching time. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please contact the school office as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain strong

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Hemple on the safe arrival of her baby daughter, Freya, born in March. We send our warmest wishes to the whole family.

Creative Music Programme

We are delighted to share that **Zuri, Tihony, Nadia, Ethan, MaNchung, Martha, Lily, Hughie, Lottie, Charles, Nathan and Emily** were selected to take part in a special pilot programme for ABRSM's brand new *Entry Level Award in Creative Musicianship*—a qualification being delivered for the very first time. Our pupils were among the first in the country to help shape this innovative award

through weekly creative workshops over four Fridays, developing their own musical ideas and building a digital portfolio for assessment.

As part of this exciting opportunity, pupils worked with award-winning teacher and songwriter **Nathan Timothy**, who guided them in composing original pieces and reflecting on their creative process. The qualification is designed to build confidence, imagination and independence, and every child's work will be recognised with digital feedback and a certificate from ABRSM.

Keeping Children Safe with Mobile Phones

The NSPCC reminds families that every child is different, and there's no single "right age" for getting a mobile phone. Instead, parents and carers are encouraged to think about their child's emotional maturity, ability to follow rules, and understanding of what's safe and unsafe online. It can help to consider whether your child can talk to you if something worries them and whether they show responsibility in other areas of life. The NSPCC also provides tools and advice to support families in making the best decision for their child about phone use. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

Screen Use

Research continues to show a strong link between high screen use and reduced attention, emotional regulation, and readiness to learn. Increased screen time—especially for children under 10—has been associated with hyperactivity, poor focus, and disrupted sleep, all of which affect learning and concentration in school. We are increasingly seeing these effects in the classroom, including reduced stamina and difficulties with self regulation.

Supporting children to develop healthier digital habits at home can make a real difference.

For practical guidance on managing screen time, the NHS provides helpful age-specific advice:

<https://www.bedsiltonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/screen-time>

Kent Fire and Rescue

The children thoroughly enjoyed the recent visit from Kent Fire and Rescue on Thursday 26th February. During the



session, they learned about how to keep themselves safe at home, the importance of

having fire alarms, and how these alarms work to warn us of danger. The firefighter also spoke to the children about the important role firefighters play in our community and explained how they keep themselves safe while tackling fires. It was a very informative and engaging experience for everyone.

Kingfishers - Victorian Workshop

At the start of term 4, Kingfishers had another exciting visit from The Freshwater Company who delivered a



workshop on Victorian homes. The children learnt about the roles of different staff working within the home of a Lord

and Lady during the Victorian era and how boys and girls had different responsibilities.

The children had the opportunity to role play some of these jobs such as ironing a Lord's bank notes, beating a rug and delivering post to a



Lady correctly. The children also had the chance to play with a variety of toys which would've been found in a Victorian nursery including yoyos and cup and balls, Happy Families card game, jack stones and illusion cards. As well as learning about different people in Victorian society, we also found out more information about Queen Victoria who reigned during the era and her significance as a queen.

Year 4 & Year 5 Football

A mixed Year 4 and Year 5 team represented the school brilliantly at the recent tournament hosted by Dartford Football Club. The team played a number of hard-fought and competitive games, showing great determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the event.



We were delighted to finish third in our group, with outstanding performances from every member of the squad. A special congratulations goes to Kingly in Year 5, who was recognised by the referees for his superb effort and sportsmanship and was awarded Player of the Day. Well done to the whole team.

Dartford District Squad 2026/27

Congratulations to Kingly in Year 5 for being selected for the Dartford District Squad for the 2026/27 season. Well done on this fantastic achievement!

Sports Hall Athletics

A team of children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Dartford Indoor Athletics competition at Northfleet Secondary School.



The children had the opportunity to complete a range of track and field events that tested their skill and agility. They showed great determination and



unfaltering enthusiasm when competing against children from other

schools. A huge well done to all the children who took part!

Summer Fair

We are pleased to announce that a date has now been set for our **Summer Fair, Friday 5th June**. Further details will follow soon, but in the meantime, the PFA would be delighted to hear from any parents or carers who are able to offer help, whether with planning, running a stall, or supporting on the day. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the PFA—your support makes a huge difference and is greatly appreciated.

Secondary School Places

Our Year 6 children will be going to their 1st or 2nd choice. The children will be going to St Columba's Catholic Boys' School, Leigh UTC Dartford, Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, Dartford Grammar School for Boys, Stone Lodge School, Meopham School, Holcombe Grammar School, Wilmington Grammar School for Girls, Dartford Grammar School for Girls, DSTC and Leigh Academy Ebbsfleet.

Dartford Litter Pick

The children took part in the annual Dartford Litter pick organised by DSTC. About 1600 students from across Dartford were out on Friday 27th March collecting litter to improve the quality of the environment for us all. Reception and Key Stage 1 focused in the school grounds while Key Stage 2 ventured into the school car park and the driveway. Thank you to all those children who took part in the event.

Important Dates

11th-14th May	SATs week
22 nd May	2.30 PGL meeting for parents
22nd May	Last Day of Term 5
1 st June	First Day of Term 5
5th June	Summer Fair
10 th -12 th June	PGL - Eagles
16th June	Sealife Centre - Herons
18 th June	Sports Day
22nd June	Grangewater visit - Kestrels
25 th June	Shorne Woods - Kingfishers
26th June	Lullingstone Country Park - Woodpeckers
6 th -7 th July	Bikeability - Eagles
13th July	KS2 Disco
17 th July	Colour Run
21st July	Last day of Term 6