

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Dover



Learning for life with God as our guide

Friday, 12th December 2025



Our Christian Values

Peace; Friendship; Respect; Trust; Perseverance



A Message from Mrs Comfort

This time of the year in school is truly magical, and this week has been no exception.

Celebrating Christmas Together

We have enjoyed welcoming the families of our youngest children into school this week. The Reception Class team hosted a 'stay and play' session for their grown-ups on Wednesday. The children and their families enjoyed taking part in a range of Christmas crafts together, from sparkly decorations to seasonal creations. They ended the session with some joyful Christmas singing, bringing everyone together to share the festive spirit!

On Thursday afternoon the hall was packed with families of our Class 1 and Class 2 children who had come to enjoy the children's performance of Baarmy Bethlehem. Mrs Wallis reports '*Our Key Stage 1 children performed an amazing nativity to the school, parents and visitors from Laureston Place Care Home this week. They delighted the audience with their re-telling of the nativity story through the eyes of three 'party sheep' - Cheeky, Rascal and Scamp! The children were brilliant at remembering their lines and sang with great enthusiasm.*'



'It's behind you!'

Key Stage two loaded up the coaches and headed over to Canterbury on Tuesday afternoon for our annual Christmas pantomime trip. The children had a super time, enjoying the production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. The costumes dazzled, the songs provided great opportunity for audience participation and the jokes were as cheesy as ever! A great time had by all.



Christingle Service

Earlier this week the children all made Christingles at school in preparation for our Christingle Service which was held at school yesterday. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning. The orange represents the world, the red tape represents the love and blood of Christ, the dried fruit represent all of God's creations and the lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness. This is always a super and memorable event in our calendar.



Reception Class 2026

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022? If so they will be eligible to start school in September 2026.

Primary applications are now open, and close at midnight on Thursday, 15th January 2026
Information regarding the application process can be found in this newsletter

We invite families to book an appointment to come and have a look around our school at a time to suit. We have been overwhelmed with the number of New Intake Tours that Mr Lamprell has carried out already and are really pleased to meet with these families. Please remember to contact the office on 01304 206887 / office@stmarysprimary.net if you, or anyone you know, has a child due to start school.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Mrs Helen Comfort – Executive Headteacher



Go with the Flo...

Attendance Guide for Parents/Carers

Attendance

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings with Mrs Morris (FLO) and/or Mr Lamprell (Headteacher) if we are concerned.
- Seek advice from the Local Authority if your child's attendance continues to be a cause for concern.

Mrs Debbie Morris – Family Liaison Officer

Learner of the Week

Congratulations go to the following Learners of the Week:

Class R – Turtles Class Learner of the Week is **Madison** for showing a really positive attitude towards all of her learning! Madison is a kind friend to others and loves to help around the classroom. She has amazed us with her super writing and enjoys sharing her ideas. Well done Madison!

Class 1 – EVERYONE in Starfish Class are our Learners of the Week for their AMAZING nativity performance! We are all so very proud of you for remembering when to go on stage, your lines and passing the microphone. Your singing was brilliant and we know that your grown-ups all loved seeing you perform! Well done Starfish Class!

Class 2 – Our Learner of the Week in Otters Class is **EVERYONE** for their incredible effort and enthusiasm whilst performing the nativity! They all worked so hard during rehearsals, showing dedication, teamwork and resilience as they learned their lines, songs and stage directions. Well done to each and every one of you – you truly shone on stage!

Class 3 – Winter is our Learner of the Week in Puffins Class for her kind nature and fantastic work! She tries hard in every lesson and really thinks about the work she is producing to make sure it is the best it can be. She has impressed adults in the class with her times tables knowledge, and made great progress with her addition and subtraction skills. Keep up the great work Winter!

Class 4 – Penguins Class Learner of the Week is **Amelia** as she is a reliable, kind and respectful member of the class; she makes an excellent effort in all areas of learning. Amelia completed a great piece of persuasive writing in English, and has shown real determination when attempting to improve her speed and accuracy with multiplication tables. Well done Amelia!

Class 5 – Anfroi is our Learner of the Week in Orcas Class for his hard work and perseverance! Anfroi tried his very best during our maths tests, which produced results to be proud of! He is a pleasure to have in our class and we are all so very proud of him. Well done Anfroi!

Class 6 – Our Learner of the Week in Seahorses Class is **Harley** for the wonderful attitude and effort he has made this week. Harley has impressed us in maths, and worked exceptionally hard to improve his handwriting in English. He has been positive, focussed and on task all week. Well done Harley!

YOU'RE SO
FABULOUS

Spotlight on SEND...

Is English your second language? We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming Kent Adult Education course, 'Family Language'.

This course is for parents and carers whose first language is not English to practise speaking, listening, reading and writing. Improve your English to cope with everyday situations and find out how English is taught in schools in the UK.

Join our fun and practical course to improve your English, make daily tasks easier, build confidence and make new friends.

The course is open to all parents/carers and will be hosted at St Mary's CEP between 1:00pm and 3:00pm each Wednesday between 14th January and 4th February 2026.

Please confirm your attendance via the ParentMail form no later than Friday, 19th December 2025.

Mrs Charlotte Burkett - SENCO

HOUSE POINTS

- 1st – **TEMPLE** – 285 points
- 2nd – **LANG** – 281 points
- 3rd – **RAMSEY** – 234 points
- 4th – **FISHER** – 215 points



GOLDEN MANNER POINTS

- 1st – **Class 5** – 155 points
- 2nd – **Class 4** – 135 points
- 3rd – **Class 1** – 132 points

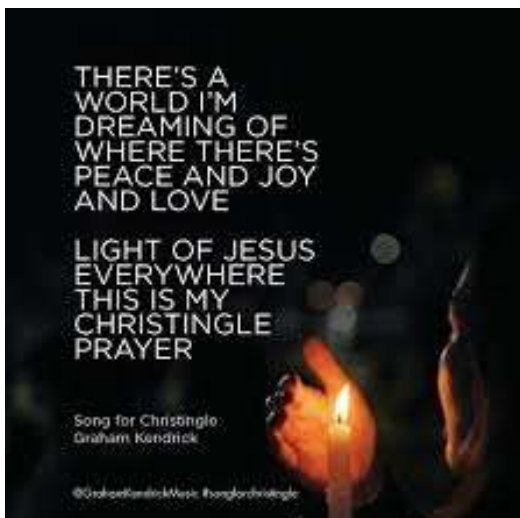
Collective Worship at St Mary's CEP School, Dover

A wonderful festive week had as the children enjoyed discussing the meaning of Christmas and the importance of 'listening'. Christians believe that advent reminds us that Jesus is coming - amazing news, part of the plan of the Creator God, and even nature can't help but sing!

Revd, Melissa shared Isaiah 44:23 which focused on the prophet Isaiah's message that Creation is singing, not only to celebrate God the Creator, but also the coming of the redeemer. I wonder if you can listen to the 'festive nature' around you at this time of year? How does listening help you to prepare and/or get excited about Christmas Day?

From 'Learners of the Week' to TTRS trophies to Presentation Awards, the school celebrated another fantastic week of learning and progress - well done.

Thought for the Week



A polite reminder that, for the health and safety of our children, we kindly request that hot food and drinks are **not permitted** in pupils' lunchboxes. If you have any questions regarding this, please do contact the school office. Thank you for your understanding.



Term 2 2025

Monday 15th December:

Tuesday 16th December:

Class 2 Local Visit

KS2 Carol Concert – 1:30pm

Wednesday 17th December:

Class 3 Local Visit

Class 4 Local Visit

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 18th December:

Christmas Party Day

Friday 19th December:

LAST DAY OF TERM 2

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING
THE CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL ON
MONDAY, 5th JANUARY 2026**

Medication in School






If your child requires medication throughout the school day, please hand this in at the office and complete a Parental Agreement for the Administration of Medicines form. Please do not send any medication to school with your child, or in their school bag.

Please also be advised, antibiotics can only be administered by the office if they are to be taken four times a day.

Breakfast Club at St Mary's CEP, Dover

Breakfast Club starts at 8:00am and breakfast is served until 8:25am, and all children are then supervised in the hall until 8:40am.

Bookings can be made termly or weekly as required. We will try to be as flexible as we can where places are available, but bookings should be with us 24 hours in advance of when you require the service.

Monday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal • Toast or crumpet with reduced sugar jam or reduced salt marmite • Squash or milk • Selection of fresh and dried fruit
Tuesday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal • Beans on Toast or toast with reduced sugar jam or reduced salt marmite • Squash or milk • Selection of fresh and dried fruit
Wednesday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal • Toast or Scotch pancakes with reduced sugar Jam or reduced salt marmite • Squash or milk • Selection of fresh and dried fruit
Thursday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal • Toast or Waffles with reduced sugar Jam or reduced salt marmite • Squash or milk • Selection of fresh and dried fruit
Friday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal or Porridge • Toast or children's choice served with reduced sugar jam or reduced salt marmite • Squash or milk or hot chocolate • Selection of fresh and dried fruit

Wraparound Care

To register or book, please use the link below:

<https://jackinabox.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>



FOUNDED 1789



AFTERSCHOOL CARE

OFSTED Registered

Arts & Crafts Forest School
LEGO Baking Sports

Manage all bookings online

3 Sessions to choose from
Monday-Friday

15:10 -16:15	£5.50
15:10 -17:00 (Hot snack included)	£10.00
15:10 -17:45 (Hot snack included)	£14.00

Tax Free Childcare Save 20%





Dover Foodbank
Together with Trussard

Christmas Opening Hours

We will be closed from 12pm Christmas Eve until 1st January 2026

Normal service will resume from Friday 2nd January 2026.



New Year, New Hobby

17 January 2026 10am-4pm
The Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall), Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1DL

FREE EVENT

More than 30 groups taking part!

Have a go at:

● Knitting	● Acting	● Local radio
● Card making	● Crafts	● Jive, ballroom and line dancing
● History and wildlife volunteering	● Singing	
● Writing	● Flower arranging	
	● Volunteering	

FREE

Percussion sessions run by the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Performances from local groups, including:

● Sound Waves Community Choir	● Temple Ewell Players
● Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society	● Fuddlers



www.dover.gov.uk/newhobby




Christmas Week Lunch Menu
Week Beginning Monday, 15th December 2026

If you pay for your child's cooked lunch, the cost will be **£2.75** a day. **This payment will be made directly to the school and must be paid for in advance.** Please note payment details below:

Name of Account - KCC RE DOVER ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sort Code - 60-60-08

Account Number - 83294082

Reference – [Child's Name] Lunch

CHRISTMAS WEEK MENU 2025

Monday 15th December
pizza (v)*
sauté potatoes
baked beans & sweetcorn
cooks choice of Christmas dessert
~ ~ ~

Tuesday 16th December
breaded chicken steak
veggie nuggets
rainbow pasta
peas & mixed veg
cooks choice of Christmas dessert
~ ~ ~

Wednesday 17th December
roast turkey, pig in blanket, stuffing ball & gravy
with rustic roasties, brussel sprouts,
peas & carrot medley
veggie meatloaf, quorn sausage, stuffing ball & gravy (v)*
with rustic roasties, brussel sprouts
peas & carrots medley
Christmas ice cream tub
~ ~ ~

Thursday 18th December
sausages, herby diced potatoes with baked beans & sweetcorn
quorn sausage, herby diced potatoes with baked beans &
sweetcorn
(vg)
cooks choice of Christmas dessert
~ ~ ~

Friday 19th December
fish fingers, skin on fries & Peas
veggie nuggets & skin on fries & peas (Vg)
cooks choice of Christmas dessert
~ ~ ~

Allergy/Vegan options available on request
Please note that a jacket potato option will not be available on Christmas Dinner day.

WSM CIC - Company no. 5721609 - Registered Address. Almond House, Betteshanger Road,
Betteshanger, Deal CT14 0EN.

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2026

Apply online at

[kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Opens Friday 7 November 2025 and closes at
midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026

For children born between
1 September 2021
and 31 August 2022,
Transferring to Primary school
in September 2026

What to do

Choose a school

It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.

Read the guide to Primary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

You can name up to three Primary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.

Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Friday 7 November 2025** and closes at midnight on **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been correctly submitted.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

Receiving your offer

On offer day (**Thursday 16 April 2026**) an email will be sent after 4pm informing you of your offer.

You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Thursday 30 April 2026**.

A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.

If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.

Key dates

Friday 7 November 2025	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.
Thursday 15 January 2026	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Thursday 16 April 2026	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
Thursday 30 April 2026	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Wednesday 13 May 2026	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals . You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Full information booklet can also be viewed online at [kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.

The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.

Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council if the child resides at a Kent address. If your child does **not** reside at a Kent address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.



Follow these links to our website and social media

<https://www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-C-of-E-Primary-School-820857021275490/>

As always, please don't hesitate to make contact via email or telephone with any queries, comments or concerns you may have.

Helen Comfort - Executive Headteacher

Matthew Lamprell – Headteacher

office@stmarysprimary.net - 01304 206887