

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Dover



Learning for life with God as our guide

Friday, 19th December 2025



Our Christian Values

Peace; Friendship; Respect; Trust; Perseverance



A Message from Mrs Comfort

It's Christmas!

There has been no let-up in our Christmas celebrations which have continued this week at a pace in this final week of the term!

Key Stage Two Carol Service at St Mary's Church

On Tuesday afternoon, Key Stage 2 families joined us at St Mary's Church for our annual Key Stage 2 Carol Service. The children presented songs and readings all in the re-telling of the Christmas story. The staff and children had worked hard to prepare this and their work paid off as the singing was delightful and the readings and prayers were delivered clearly and with confidence. We were happy to have so many family members join us for this festive event.



Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Our jumper-clad tummies were very nicely filled with our school Christmas lunch on Wednesday! We all looked the part in our festive woollies and were very thankful to Lorna and Corrie for their hard work in preparing such a special lunch for us all.



Party Time!

All classes enjoyed their party time in the hall on Thursday followed by party tea together; a great festive time.

Year 2 Library Visit

Class 2 wrapped up this term's visits to Dover Library. Ms Phengphachanh reports 'This week, Class 2 enjoyed their first visit to the newly refurbished library. The children were excited to explore the lovely new space and took time to look around and discover the wide range of books available. They also had the opportunity to choose books to take back to school and learned how to use the scanner to borrow them. It was a wonderful visit, and everyone is looking forward to returning again soon.'



Singing in our Local Community

This week class 3 and 4 visited two local residential care homes to sing some Christmas Carols and spread some joy! The children were all dressed in Christmas jumpers and sang their hearts out, singing classic carols to the residents. The residents of Laureston Place and Alexandra House care homes joined in with the singing and enjoyed the festivities.



Thank you

As 2025 draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and children for their hard work during 2025, I would also like to thank our families for their ongoing support. I look forward to 2026 and all that will be achieved during the year.

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.

Return to School

The new term starts for children on **Monday, 5th January 2026** – I look forward to seeing you all then and to welcoming in the new year.

On behalf of all of the staff I would like to offer the very best Christmas wishes to you all.

Mrs Helen Comfort – Executive Headteacher

Thought for the Week

“
May the spirit of
Christmas fill your home
with peace and joy.
”



Collective Worship at St Mary's CEP School, Dover

As Term 2 comes to an end, the children continued to engage enthusiastically in our Collective Worships; it really does provide an opportunity for the whole school to come together to have a moment of stillness and reflect.

The week started off superbly well with our children practising for their Christmas Carol Concert and then presenting it - this was an amazing event, and I thank those families who attended at St Mary's Church.

Rev. Melissa explained how Christians remember the birth of Jesus. Christians believe that the journey would have taken Mary and Joseph 4-5 days to travel to Bethlehem; I wonder how they showed perseverance during this long journey? In addition, the pupils spoke about the role that the wise men had. The wise men travelled approximately 800 miles from Persia to Bethlehem to give Jesus gifts and worship him. I wonder how Mary must have felt when the wise men came to adore her child?

Finally, Term 2 was 'wrapped-up' in style as a range of awards were given to the children - well done and congratulations to all!

AMAZING!

Learner of the Week

Congratulations go to the following Learners of the Week:

Class R – ALL OF TURTLES CLASS are our Learners of the Week for an amazing term of learning! You are all superstars and Mrs Tomkinson and Mrs Cassingena are so proud of you! Well done Turtles!

Class 1 – Starfish Class Learner of the Week is **Charlie!** Charlie is always happy in the classroom and is a good friend to others. He has remained calm in a very busy week of festive fun and has tried really hard when completing class tasks and Christmas craft activities. Well done for a super school attitude Charlie!

Class 2 – Our Learner of the Week in Otters Class is **Hannah** as she has demonstrated excellent focus and engagement in her learning; consistently sharing thoughtful and creative ideas. Hannah showed particular strength in literacy, using imaginative language and structure. Keep making us proud Hannah!

Class 3 – Puffins Class Learner of the Week is **Aleena!** Aleena tries her best with everything she does and is a pleasure to have in our class. She comes to school with a smile on her face every day, and is a kind and caring friend. Well done Aleena – a brilliant week!

Class 4 – **Aria** is Penguins Class Learner of the Week as she is a cheerful and positive member of our class, who is enthusiastic about all aspects of school life. Aria presented some really inventive ideas for our recent 'Big Write' and made a fantastic effort when shaping these into persuasive text. She read beautifully in the church service, and should be really proud of herself. Well done Aria!

Class 5 – Our Learner of the Week in Orcas Class is **Jay** as he displayed our school's Christian value of perseverance during our Christmas carol service. It can be easy to give up when things are tough, however, Jay showed trust in the adults and should be as proud of himself as we are! Well done Jay – you are amazing!

Class 6 – **Marley** is our Learner of the week for the wonderful attitude he has demonstrated towards all of his learning. We are extremely proud of Marley's successes since starting Year 6, and his attitude towards school. His vocabulary and sentence structure are impressive and he is now keener to show this on paper. A wonderful attitude Marley – well done!

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 contact the school office for further information.

Mrs Charlotte Burkett - SENCO

HOUSE POINTS

- 1st – **FISHER** – 178 Points
- 2nd – **RAMSEY** – 163 Points
- 3rd – **TEMPLE** – 157 Points
- 4th – **LANG** – 135 Points



GOLDEN MANNER POINTS

- 1st – **Class R** – 125 points
- 2nd – **Class 4** – 120 points
- 3rd – **Class 3** – 117 points

Family Line - Support for your families

The holiday season can be challenging for some families, from childcare pressures to financial worries. FamilyLine is there to help with free emotional support and practical guidance via phone, text, email, or live chat for anyone over 18.

Opening hours:

Mon–Fri: 9:00am – 7:00pm (9:00am – 5:00pm on 24th, 27th & 31st Dec)

Closed: 25th, 26th Dec & 1st Jan

Outside these hours, support is available via SHOUT text crisis line.

Contact: Phone: 0808 802 6666 / **Text:** 07537 404 282

Email: familyline@family-action.org.uk

Website: family-action.org.uk/familyline

Mrs Debbie Morris – Family Liaison Officer

Christmas Eve Service 4:00pm

St Mary’s Church
Cannon Street, Dover

Christingle service and building the crib

A traditional Christmas service for the whole family. Join us for some festive fun as we celebrate Jesus being born and his light shining into the world.



THANK YOU!

For your Harvest Collection for Dover Foodbank

**This Certificate is awarded to
St Mary’s CEP School**

You donated 114.7kg of food
to help support people in the Dover Area

Free craft activity
Make a doll house
Christmas dinner

Saturday 20th December
drop-in 10:00 - 3:00
at Dover Museum

make a clay dinner

paint at home when dry

This workshop is suitable for children over the age of 6. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. If the workshop is busy, you may be required to wait until seats are free or to come back later. As we are using clay, you may wish to bring an apron or old shirt. An alternative colouring activity will also be available for younger children.

Online Courses January 2026

Course Code	Course Title	Start	End	Day	Start Time	End Time
152991	Managing Sleep	09/01/26	09/01/26	Friday	10:00	12:00
152918	Exploring Behaviour Strategies	13/01/26	13/01/26	Tuesday	09:30	11:30
152982	Autism Awareness	13/01/26	03/02/26	Tuesday	09:30	11:30
152985	Strategies to Support Your ADHD Child - Webinar	13/01/26	13/01/26	Tuesday	19:00	20:00
151041	Introduction to Working with Children	15/01/26	12/02/26	Thursday	17:30	19:30
153004	Supporting Your Child's Anxiety	21/01/26	21/01/26	Wednesday	19:00	21:00
153173	Supporting Your family through our Screen Obsessed World	27/01/26	27/01/26	Tuesday	19:00	21:00
153189	Keeping Up with the Children - Maths	13/01/26	3/2/26	Tuesday	9:30	11:30

To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.

To book your place on one of these FREE courses, scan the QR code or go to www.kentadulteducation.co.uk and enter the course code into the search box.

For further information email businesssupport2@kent.gov.uk

Call 03000 41 22 22






kentadulteducation.co.uk
Bringing learning to life

Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills

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>



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%



Term 3 2026

Monday 5th January:
FIRST DAY OF TERM 3

Tuesday 6th January:
Class 3 Local Visit

Wednesday 7th January:

Thursday 8th January:
Class 4 Ukulele

Friday 9th January:
Forest School:
Reception Class – morning
Class 6 - afternoon

We wish you
a Merry
Christmas
&
a very happy
New Year

Lunch Menu – Week One
Week Beginning Monday, 5th January 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

whole school meals					
MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY					
WEEK 1	Vegetable Pasta Bake 1 Garlic Bread 1,4 Mixed Vegetables.	Beef Tacos 1,2 Veggie Burrito 1 Vegetable Rice Carrots & Green Beans.	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy 1 Vegetable & Chickpea Tart 1 Rustic Roasties Cabbage & Sweetcorn.	Pork Meatballs 1 Meatless Meatballs 1 Pasta 1 Broccoli & Carrots. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Fish Fingers 1,7 *Cheese Pizza 1,2 Skin on Fries or Pasta 1 Baked Beans & Sweetcorn. Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.
	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Lemon Cake 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.
	Yoghurt & Fruit Compote 2 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Carrot Cake 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Shortbread 1 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.		Cooks Choice 1,3.
WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Mixed Bean Wrap 1 Pasta 1 Peas & Sweetcorn.	Chicken Tacos 1,2 Sweet Potato & Spinach Dhal 6 Savoury Rice 6 Broccoli & Mixed Veg.	Roast Pork Veggie Meatloaf 1,4 Rustic Roasties Swede & Peas.	Beef Bolognese Veggie Bolognese Pasta 1 Carrots & Sweetcorn.	Fish Bites 1,7 Veggie Nuggets 1 Skin on Fries or Pasta 1 Baked Beans & Peas.
	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.
Yoghurt & Fruit Compote 2 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Chocolate Cake 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Shrewsbury Biscuit 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Chelsea Buns 1,4,12 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Cooks Choice 1,3.	
WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Tomato Pasta 1 Garlic Dough Balls 1,4 Mixed Vegetables.	Mexican Beef Tortilla Bake 1,2 *Veggie Tacos 1 Pasta 1 Carrots & Peas.	Sausages & Gravy 1,12 Quorn Sausage & Gravy 1 Mashed Potato Sweetcorn & Baked Beans.	Curried Chicken Chunks 12 Vegetable Frittata 2,3 Rainbow Rice Cauliflower & Peas.	Fish Fingers 1,7 *Cheese Pizza 1,2 Skin on Fries or Pasta 1 Peas & Sweetcorn.
	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.	Jacket Potato with *Cheese & Beans 2.
Yoghurt & Fruit Compote 2 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	iced Cookie Bun 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Oat Cookie 1 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Marble Sponge 1,3 Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit.	Cooks Choice 1,3.	

DATES:
 Week 1:
 27th Oct, 17th Nov, 8th Dec,
 9th Jan, 28th Jan, 23rd Feb,
 16th March.
 Week 2:
 3rd Nov, 24th Nov,
 12th Jan, 2nd Feb, 2nd
 March, 23rd March.
 Week 3:
 10th Nov, 1st Dec, 19th Jan,
 9th March, 30th March

- Allergens:**
1. Gluten/Wheat
 2. Dairy/Milk
 3. Eggs
 4. Soya/Soyabeans
 5. Mustard
 6. Celery
 7. Fish
 8. Molluscs
 9. Shellfish/Crustaceans
 10. Sesame Seeds
 11. Nuts
 12. Lupins
 13. Sulphur Dioxide
 14. Peanuts

All items with * can be made Vegan.
 All items with ** can be made Dairy Free.

All items are subject to availability.

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.




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.

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

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

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.

