St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Dover

Learning for life with God as our guide

Friday, 13th November 2026

Our Christian Values

Peace; Friendship; Respect; Trust; Perseverance








A Message from Mr Lamprell

The October half term break is now a distant memory as the children continue to engage positively and energetically in the vast learning opportunities provided this week. As families will be aware, we aim to take learning beyond the classroom by providing enriching experiences – it has certainly continued this week.

I thank you all in advance for your co-operation as we prepare for our planned activities. If you are unsure about the upcoming events, please do refer to the 'Welcome Back' letter containing the key dates/events for the academic year, as well as our calendar on our school website. In addition, please do always speak to your child's Class Teacher or the office team.

Supporting Children in Need

We were very happy to support this national fundraiser at school; huge thanks to you all for your kind donations. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up in yellow/spotty/Pudsey-themed clothing and had a fun-packed day which included participating in a range of Children in Need-themed activities; learning about the importance of the charity; and performing the 'Strictly 26 Step Challenge' (click on the link for more detail: https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/schools/strictly/)



Your kindness and enthusiasm made it a truly 'spotacular' day for the children!









Dover Winter Lantern Festival Workshop

Class 5 have been getting creative this week by taking part in making beautiful star lanterns for **Dover's Winter Lantern Festival**! Every year, more than 600 children in Dover make their own star-shaped lanterns. Families walk through the streets of Dover with drumming bands and impressive lanterns. This festival celebrates Dover's nature, history, creativity and community pride. Local artists from the organisation 'Future Foundry' came into school and worked with our children – this helped Orcas Class to learn new skills, be creative, and do something positive for their town!

Ms Race reports, *"This special event has become a much-loved local tradition for the school and town, bringing light, warmth and creativity to the community. Through their artistic contributions, the children have enjoyed being part of something bigger, celebrating the magic of the season and helping to brighten up Dover on the 5th December. We are looking forward to seeing their wonderful creations shine as part of this magical community celebration!"*

Families are more than welcome to take their child/children to the Festival – details are below:

Dover's Winter Lantern Festival 2026
Saturday, 5th December, Pencester Gardens (3:00pm – 7:00pm)








Parent/Carer Teacher Consultation Meetings

We are all really looking forward to seeing you at our parent/carer teacher meetings next week. Meetings will be held in the hall, so please come to the main office. You child's workbooks will be available for you to look at and you will each have a 10-minute appointment with your child's class teacher. Mrs Wallis and I will also be present, so do take the opportunity to speak to us too if you wish.

If you have children with you they should sit with you whilst you are waiting for your appointment and either join you at the teacher's table or continue to sit quietly on the waiting chairs; thank you for your support with this. Your child will benefit from you attending this meeting with the class teacher.

Reception Class 2027

Primary School Applications for parents to complete are **open** for children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023.

Apply online in 5 Easy Steps at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

- Register to use the site
- Enter your contact details
- Enter your child's details
- Add school preferences
- Submit your application

Important Dates to remember:
Applications open on 6th November 2026
and close on 15th January 2027

If you need help applying, please let us know and we will be happy to assist.

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 2027.

We invite families to book an appointment to come and have a look around our school at a time to suit.

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.



Finally, I am delighted to share with families that Mrs Tomkinson gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby boy. A huge congratulations to Mrs Tomkinson and her family, as we send them all our love and best wishes as they enjoy this very special time together; we look forward to hearing all about their new arrival!

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend; I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mr Matthew Lamprell - Headteacher

Go with the FLO…

Breakfast Club Update: Thank You for a Record-Breaking Week!

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your fantastic support at Breakfast Club this week. We are thrilled to share that we have reached our highest attendance numbers of the year so far! It has been wonderful welcoming so many bright and cheerful faces each morning to start the school day together.

The children have been very busy and had a brilliant time getting creative with our special activities. Everyone loved making their own Pudsey Bear crafts for Children in Need, and the enthusiasm for our Morrisons competition has been amazing to see.

Thank you once again for helping to make our Breakfast Club such a warm, lively, and welcoming space. We look forward to another great week ahead!



Miss Lisa Graham – Family Liaison Officer



St Mary's Church of England (VA) Primary School, Dover

Learning for Life with God as our Guide

New Intake Tours

Is your child due to start Primary School in September 2027?

Is your child born between September 2022 and August 2023?

We warmly invite parents and their children to come for a tour of our wonderful school





Please contact the school office to request an appointment –

01304 206887

Collective Worship
at St Mary's CEP School, Dover



This week in Collective Worship we have spent time thinking about remembrance and peace. The red poppy is worn as a symbol of remembrance for those that have sacrificed their lives for others in the Nation's wars. The poppy is also a symbol of hope for a peaceful future. The children reflected about what 'peace' means and why it is important to them in their world. On Friday we hosted a 'spot-tacular' Collective Worship to celebrate Children in Need Day 2026. The children learnt about why they were helping to raise money for this very worthy charity.

Congratulations go to the following Learners of the Week:



Class R – Arlo is our Learner of the Week in Turtles Class as he is always ready to learn and tries his best. Arlo listens carefully to instructions and concentrates well. He has wowed us this week with his hard work in phonics and reading. Well done Arlo!

Class 1 – Starfish Class Learner of the Week is **Owethu**! Owethu has been showing all our school values, especially friendship and respect. She has settled in wonderfully in her first week at school, being a friend to all and working hard in all of her lessons. It has been wonderful getting to know you. Well done Owethu – you are a star!

Class 2 – Otters Class Learner of the Week is **Natalia** as she is always so helpful and consistently demonstrates our school values. Natalia is kind and hardworking. She is a pleasure to have in the class and has really enjoyed practising for the Children in Need Dance Challenge. Natalia has shown some fantastic dance moves and always has a lovely smile on her face. She is a cheerful, positive member of the class and a very deserving Learner of the Week! Well done Natalia!

Class 3 – Our Learner of the Week in Puffins Class is **Tobias** as he has worked incredibly hard with his writing; creating a new version of our class text 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. He showed great concentration when making sure his handwriting was neat, and took the time to listen to the ideas of others in his group. Tobias has also thoroughly enjoyed learning the new dance moves each day for Children in Need! Well done Tobias – we are very proud of you!

Class 4 – **Bethel** is our Learner of the Week in Penguins Class as he has been focusing well on individual tasks. In English, he has made a promising start with retelling the story of The Pied Piper of Hamelin, using paragraphs appropriately when organising the text. His maths work on multiplication has been extremely accurate and he has often undertaken 'challenge' activities to further deepen his understanding. He also enjoyed sampling the different biscuits in DT this week. Bethel's behaviour in school is of a high standard and he is always willing to support his peers with their learning in a helpful way. Well done Bethel - we are proud of you!

Class 5 – **Liccy** is our Learner of the Week in Orcas Class as she is a true role model to her peers. Liccy consistently shows kindness, respect and consideration towards others, and is always willing to offer help and support whenever needed. Her superb work ethic, positive attitude and dedication to her learning is an example to everyone around her. She should be incredibly proud of the fantastic example she sets each day, displaying all of our Christian values. Keep being the superstar you are, Liccy!

Class 6 – **Zante** is our Learner of the Week in Seahorses Class for the wonderful effort he has demonstrated towards all of his work! He has amazed us with his independence; he has successfully completed work on his own and has also approached adults when he has a problem. Zante also 'wowed' us in maths, and is working extremely hard during writing tasks in English despite finding tasks challenging. A wonderful week! Well done Zante! We are very proud of you.

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2027

KCC residents apply online at *kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions*

Opens Friday 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027

For children born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023,** Transferring to Primary school in **September 2027**

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 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027.** Other LA deadlines may differ.

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 **(Friday 16 April 2027)** an email will be sent to you informing you of your offer.

You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Friday 30 April 2027.** 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 are moving, please email the team on one of the email addresses below for advice.

Key dates

Friday 6 November 2026	Online application process opens. Go to ***www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions*** to register and apply.
Friday 15 January 2027	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to ***kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk***
Friday 16 April 2027	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after **4pm.**
Friday 30 April 2027	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.
Monday 17 May 2027	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 (KCC) if the child resides at a KCC address. If your child does **not** reside at a KCC address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2027

Common misconceptions

For children born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023,** Transferring to Primary school in **September 2027.**

MYTH #1

Attending a nursery or pre-school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the associated school.

TRUTH

You must still apply using the online application portal at:

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

★ Nurseries and primary schools are not linked for admissions purposes.

MYTH #2

A sibling attending the school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the same school.

TRUTH

You must still apply using the online application portal at:

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

★ If eligible, your application may be considered under a school's 'sibling' oversubscription criteria.

MYTH #3

Attending an infant school will automatically guarantee a space for your child at the linked junior school.

TRUTH

You must still apply using the online application portal at:

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

★ Children do not automatically transfer to a junior school. Admissions are ranked according to the school's admission criteria, including any linked school arrangements.

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Need help?

Email ***primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk***
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at ***kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions***

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk



Thought for the Week





After School Wraparound Care

A message from Olympus Learning Collective

We offer our wrap-around care with flexible collection times and pricing:

- **Until 4:15pm** – £5.50
- **Until 5:00pm** – £10.00 *(includes a hot snack)*
- **Until 5:45pm** – £14.00 *(includes a hot snack)*

To help us manage places effectively, all sessions should be booked in advance using our online booking system (Olympuslc.magicbooking.co.uk).

This can be accessed by following the link below, and we will also provide a simple step-by-step guide to support you.

Same-day bookings online can be made up until 11:00am. After this time, availability cannot be guaranteed.

If you need to request a booking after this time, please contact us on:

07879 755588

stmarys@olympuslearningcollective.co.uk

Please note that responses may not be immediate, as messages can take time to be received and processed.

We continue to accept **Tax-Free Childcare**, which can save you up to 20% on fees. We also work alongside **Universal Credit**, allowing eligible families to claim back a portion of childcare costs.

FOUNDED 1789

OLYMPUS
LEARNING COLLECTIVE



Please visit

http://olympuslc.magicbooking.co.uk/

to register your child and book your sessions

Lunch Menu – Week Three
Week Beginning Monday, 16th November 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



HOUSE POINTS

1st – LANG – 308 points
2nd – TEMPLE – 182 points
3rd – RAMSEY – 178 points
4th – FISHER – 168 points

GOLDEN MANNER POINTS

1st – Class R – 110 points
2nd – Class 6 – 96 points
3rd – Class 3 – 95 points

PE Days - Term 2 2026

- Year R - Thursday
- Year 1 – Tuesday & Friday
- Year 2 – Thursday & Friday
- Year 3 – Tuesday & Wednesday
- Year 4 – Monday & Wednesday
- Year 5 – Wednesday (P.E.) & Friday (Swimming)
- Year 6 – Monday & Thursday

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.

Matthew Lamprell – Headteacher
office@stmarysprimary.net - 01304 206887

If your child would like a Christmas lunch on Wednesday, 16th December, please remember to order this by completing the recent ParentMail form by Wednesday, 25th November

CHRISTMAS WEEK MENU 2026

Monday 14th December
Pizza (v)*
Pasta Provencale (v)
with
Baked Beans & Sweetcorn
Cook's choice of Christmas Dessert

~ ~ ~

Tuesday 15th December
Breaded Chicken Steak
Veggie Nuggets
with
Rainbow Pasta
Peas & Mixed Veg
Cook's choice of Christmas Dessert

~ ~ ~

Wednesday 16th December
Roast Turkey, Pig in Blanket, Stuffing Ball & Gravy
Veggie Meatloaf, Quorn Sausage, Stuffing Ball & Gravy (v)*
with
Rustic Roasties, Brussel Sprouts, Peas & Carrots Medley
Christmas Ice Cream tub

~ ~ ~

Thursday 17th December
Sausages
Quorn Sausage (vg)
with
Herby Diced Potatoes, Baked Beans & Sweetcorn
Cook's choice of Christmas Dessert

~ ~ ~

Friday 18th December
Fish Fingers
Veggie Nuggets (vg)
with
Skin on Fries & Peas
Cook's 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.

In Aid of Alzheimer's Society – World Record Attempt

The official Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Santa's elves is 1,762 people, set in Bangkok, Thailand at the Siam Paragon shopping mall on November 25, 2014. To be officially counted for the largest gathering of Santa's elves, participants cannot just wear a generic holiday outfit.

They must strictly meet **four specific costume requirements**:

Elf Hat: A pointed red and green festive hat.
Pointy Elf Ears: Distinct, pointed ears
Red and Green Clothing: A top/shirt that features both red and green colours.
Red Cheeks: Face paint or makeup to give the appearance of rosy, bright red elf cheeks.





