



End of Term 4 Thursday 28th March 2024

Dear Parents,

In order to be as open as possible and to give parents lots of notice, I thought it would be helpful to share details of the class configuration for next year.

Despite having 65 applications for places in our Reception class for September 2024, we will only be accepting 15 children this year. The birth rate in Ashford has dropped and other KCC local schools are experiencing reduced demand. KCC will not currently support our expansion to a one form entry school and our Multi-academy Trust may face penalties from the Education Skills Funding Agency for us being more than 10% oversubscribed on our official Pupil Allocated Number (PAN). Taking 15 in Year R next year will have a knock on effect on our budget, staffing and proposed building expansion works. Karen Roberts, the CEO of TKAT, told me last week that the decision not to continue to expand the school will be kept on hold for the moment, and may be reconsidered if possible over the coming years.

We have therefore decided to split the current Year 3 class as they move into Year 4 in September 2024, and to combine these children into a Year 3/4 class and a Year 4/5 class. These classes will be smaller than the current Dickens class.

Classes for next year will be as follows:

Year R: 15 in their current classroom

Year 1: 27

Year 2: 26

Year 3/4: 27

Year 4/5: 26

Year 6: 18 in the current Year 6 classroom

The current Year R and 1 will move up the school as 'bulge' classes, which will not be mixed.

The work to alter the configuration of the classrooms due to take place last summer, thus making 4 equal sized classrooms will take place this summer. These classrooms will house year 1,2, 3/4 and 4/5 and will be plenty big enough for the class sizes above.

If anyone would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

There will be some slight staffing changes next term, as Mrs Venter joins us as Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Smith returns from being unwell and Mr Dixon moves to Dickens class.

Please see the staffing plan posted on dojo which explains this visually. Mrs Venter will be teaching Sassoon class one day/week instead of Mrs Leeks, and we have moved this day to Monday so that the children have Ms Coventon from Tuesday - Friday. Mrs Warner has moved her day off to Fridays so will be teaching Austen Class from Mondays - Thursdays, with Mrs Leeks teaching Friday all day and Tuesday afternoons for Mrs Warner's planning time. Dickens class will be taught by Mr Dixon, Ms Edmondson and by Mrs Venter on Friday afternoons, supported throughout the week by Mrs Smith, Mrs Avery and Mrs Leeks.

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in winning a grant for musical instruments at Smarden. The grant of £938.97 will be spent on instruments for all classes, including the Nursery.

Thank you for all your support for our school and I hope everyone has a very happy Easter.

Mrs Miller

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

15th - Year 6 Lancaster Model in school with Mrs Pickering

16th - Reception places for September 2024 confirmations sent to parents by Kent County Council

30th - Ashford School Maths Competition - details will be sent nearer the time for selected children

May

2nd - Year 3 & 4 Living Land at Detling Showground - details will be sent nearer the time (no charge for this event)

2nd - Travelling book fair in the playground after school all week - payments by cash and card

3rd - Year 2 Swimming - towel, swimwear, goggles

23rd - John Atkins Memorial Run revised date

24th - Year 1 Swimming - towel, swimwear, goggles

24th - Last day of term

June

3rd - 7th - Year 6 France PGL Residential

6th - NHS Mental Health Workshop all morning Year R-5

11th - Benenden Science Workshop Years 5 & 6

19th - Safety in Action Year 6

20th - Class photos with Tempest Photography

28th - 30th Bawdsy Manor PGL Residential Year 5

AWARDS THIS WEEK

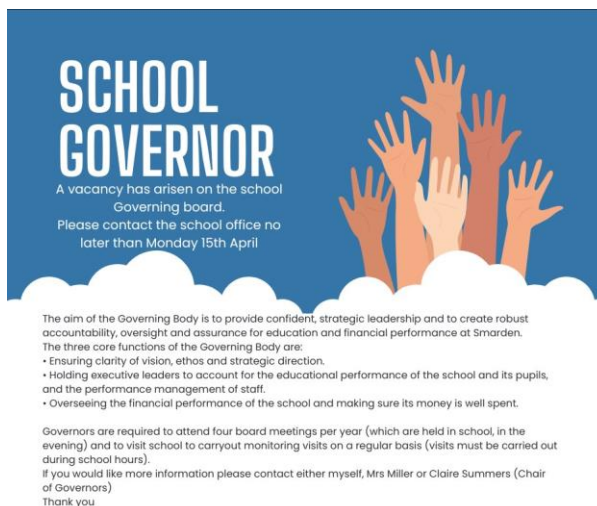
Millie who always says good morning to me and always makes me smile

Cash for always being kind to me in 1-1 situations.

Freddie P for sharing his special exotic fruit treat, which he got for showing kindness and ambition.
Well done both!

Freddie P for coming and showing me his amazing piece of writing this week

Parent Notices

A recruitment poster for a School Governor. The top half has a blue background with the text 'SCHOOL GOVERNOR' in large white letters. Below this, it says 'A vacancy has arisen on the school Governing board. Please contact the school office no later than Monday 15th April'. To the right of the text are several stylized hands of different colors (orange, red, yellow) reaching up. The bottom half of the poster has a white background with a blue border. It contains text about the role of the Governing Body, its core functions, and contact information for the Chair of Governors.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR

A vacancy has arisen on the school Governing board.
Please contact the school office no later than Monday 15th April

The aim of the Governing Body is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for education and financial performance at Smarden.

The three core functions of the Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governors are required to attend four board meetings per year (which are held in school, in the evening) and to visit school to carry out monitoring visits on a regular basis (visits must be carried out during school hours).

If you would like more information please contact either myself, Mrs Miller or Claire Summers (Chair of Governors)

Thank you



We are running a pop up book fair from 2nd - 9th April 2024 to help raise money for books in school. Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help make a difference by supporting literacy at Smarden Primary.

The book fair will be held in the playground each day after school. We will be taking cash and card payments .





Book Fair Competition

Prizes to be awarded Friday 19th April in assembly

We will be holding a competition for 1 child per class to win a £5.00 voucher to spend at the fair.

KS1 - Reception/Year 1 & Year 2
To draw a picture of their favourite book and write a little bit about it

KS2 - Year 3/4/5/6
Children invited to write a review of any book to captivate us to want to read your chosen story book 200 words maximum?



Free School Meal Vouchers For The Easter Break

If your child is in receipt of benefits-related free school meals you will receive 1 x £20 voucher via email before the end of term (per child)

Vouchers are redeemable for food at many of the leading supermarkets

Vouchers cannot be used for Alcohol
or
Tobacco items



freedomleisure
where you matter

FRIDAY 29TH - 31ST
APRIL

FREE EASTER TRAIL 2024




Looking for a fun and exciting way to celebrate Easter? Look no further. Come and join us on our digital Easter Egg Hunt! Using your phone to scan QR codes.


HAVE FUN LOOKING FOR OUR DIGITAL EGGS. ONCE COMPLETED YOU'LL BE ENTERED INTO THE PRIZE DRAW

FREE FOR ALL, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM EACH DAY

Willesborough Road, Kennington, Ashford, TN24 9QX
www.freedom-leisure.co.uk @jullerosestadium Info 01233 613131



Friends of Pluckley Rec



fgsagri



Raising money for the playground
at Pluckley Recreation Ground

Sunday 14 April * 10am to 4pm

CALVING DAY

LOCATION:
STANFORD BRIDGE FARM
STATION ROAD
PLUCKLEY, TN27 0RU

PRICES:
£6 ADULTS
£3 CHILDREN (UNDER 16)
FREE ENTRY UNDER 3s
Online pre-booking only via
Eventbrite

**FOOD, REFRESHMENTS & ICE CREAM
CRAFT STALLS, CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES
TRACTOR & TRAILER RIDES**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
Sorry, no dogs.
Foot dip on entry, please wear sensible footwear.
Pregnant women should avoid contact with cattle.
Parking is limited, Pluckley train station 10-15 min walk

1/1

Sam Carlton Tennis Coaching

Junior Coaching Programmes at
Bethersden, Pluckley &
Woodchurch Tennis Clubs



Sessions running on weekdays and Saturday mornings
All levels welcome from beginner to advanced

Group & individual lessons for all ages

Please contact me if you're
interested in joining
the next term!

PLAY YOUR WAY

Adult coaching
also available
through the
week.

Sam Carlton
LTA Level 3 Licensed Coach
07564 859007
samcarlton777@gmail.com



Ashford Family Hubs

(Formerly Ashford Children's Centres)



Spring Holiday Events - 2nd April 2024 - 12th April 2024

<p>Homewood Farm TN30 6LT 2nd April 2024 or 11th April 2024 9.30am - 2.30pm Bookable slots available Suitable for 0 - 8 years To book call 03000 418600</p>	<p>Outdoor and Explore 3rd April 2024 or 10th April 2024 10.00am - 11.00am Bookable Suitable for Walking to 8 yrs Bluebells School Road, Hothfield Kent, TN26 1HA To book call 03000 418300</p>	<p>Talking Walk In 4th April 2024 9.30am - 11.00am Drop In Pre-school children The Willow Centre Halstow Way, Ashford Kent TN23 4EY</p>	<p>Adult Education Craft Workshop 4th April 2024 2.00pm - 3.30pm Bookable Waterside Turner Close, Willesborough Ashford Kent, TN24 0PQ To book call 03000 418700</p>	<p>Under 25's Group Yoga with Porchlight 5th April 2024 10.00am - 12.30pm Waterside Turner Close, Willesborough Ashford Kent, TN24 0PQ</p>
<p>Stay and Play 8th April 2024 10.00am - 11.30am Drop In Suitable for 0-7 years The Willow Centre Halstow Way Ashford Kent TN23 4EY</p>	<p>Talking Walk In 9th April 2024 12.30pm - 2.30pm Drop In Pre-school children Bluebells School Road, Hothfield Kent, TN26 1HA</p>	<p>Child Health Clinics - Drop In The Willow Centre, Halstow Way, Ashford, Kent TN23 4EY 5th April 2024 and 12th April 2024 - 9.30 - 12.30 Waterside, Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ 8th April 2024 - 12.30pm - 2.30pm Please arrive 15 minutes before the end of the session to be seen by a member of the Health Visiting Team.</p>		
<p>Sensory Tent 9th April 2024 - 12th April 2024 Bookable Waterside, Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ To book call - 03000 418700</p>				

Junior Cricket at Cranbrook Rugby Club

The Tomlin Ground,
Cranbrook Rugby Club
TN17 2PN




- Under 9's for Reception class to Year 4, Sunday's 9-10am, softball cricket
- U11's for Years 5&6, Sunday's 10-11am, Introduction to Hardball cricket
- Boys and girls, all abilities welcome
 - 12th May to 28th July

Contact Lucy at cranbrookcricketers@gmail.com for more information




Term Dates:



TERM DATES 24/25

TERM 1: MONDAY 2.9.24 - 18.10.24

TWO WEEK HALF TERM 18.10.24 - 4.11.24

TERM 2: 4.11.24 - 20.12.24

TERM 3: 6.1.25 - 14.2.25

TERM 4: 24.2.25 - 4.4.25

TERM 5: 22.4.25 - 23.5.25

TERM 6: 2.6.25 - TUESDAY 22.7.25
EVEN THESE TWO LAST DAYS
OF THE YEAR ARE IMPORTANT!

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME
- EVERY DAY COUNTS.

CATERPILLARS - NURSERY

Although this has been a short term, we have certainly managed to cram a lot in!

Our topic has been People Who Help Us and we have looked at Firefighters, Police, Doctors, Dentists, Police and Shop Workers. We have had various parents and friends come in and speak to the children including Ophelia's mum talking about hairdressing and the police who came with uniform to try on,

and even brought a police car too! This was an amazing experience for the children. Thank you so much to all our visitors this term, it really makes the topic come alive.

In the last week of term the children enjoyed a visit to the local community store where they bought some items using coins. The children listened well and were beautifully behaved. We also had a Book Week to coincide with World Book Day so all the children had a turn at the book activities on offer. In addition to all this we also had a focus on being healthy with Jigsaw and looking at healthy eating at lunch and snack times. and of course, our Great 2024 Obstacle Challenge. The children were amazing and attacked the challenge with gusto. We are so grateful to all the families that sponsored the children. We raised a fantastic £325!! Thank you for all your continued support - we wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to welcoming you all back when we return.

BLYTON CLASS

We've had a super term in Blyton Class! The children are making excellent progress in their phonics, writing and maths. We are delighted with how much they are reading at home. This is certainly having a huge impact on their reading ability.

We have been looking at growing plants this term and the children have really enjoyed growing seeds in the classroom- we currently have sweet peas that are germinating and of course their very successful cress growing.

We have continued to enjoy Forest School too. The seasonal changes are beginning to be noticeable so as well as lots of bug spotting, the children have started to recognise some of the wild flowers that we have growing in there such as primroses and bluebells. We have some lovely leaf and bug identification boards, kindly bought by FOSP which the children are beginning to use independently to help their learning outdoors. We will continue to have Forest School on Friday afternoons.

We have been so lucky with our visitors this term with the children learning about the police and also watching some classical music. We have of course also enjoyed visits from the bunnies and the lambs. If any parents would like to come in to talk to the children about their jobs or bring anything of interest in, please do let us know!

Thank you also for your attendance at Book Club. We have been thrilled with how lovely these sessions are. The children really look forward to welcoming you in to the classroom each time. We will continue these throughout the next term and will send dates for these on dojo.

PE will continue on Thursday afternoons. We would like your children to return to getting changed in school for this, in preparation for their transition into Year 1. Therefore, please start sending the children in wearing uniforms on Thursdays, and ensure that their PE Kits are in school. Please practise getting changed and dressed at home over the holidays to aid them with this.

Many thanks and have a lovely Easter Break! Team Blyton

DONALDSON CLASS

Donaldson Class Newsletter

What a lovely term it's been! We have been focusing our learning around our key question and concepts which are, What can we do differently? Consequences, Resilience, Creativity.

English, Writing and Phonics

- We have been creating sentences containing the Year 1 High Frequency words in spelling practice.
- We created a new setting and character for a familiar story and were able to form sentences using the Always Toolkit.
- Working hard in phonics developing our knowledge of sounds and reading words, especially with the Phonics Screen coming up in Term 5.
- We discovered some magic beans in school which engaged us to learn all about Jack and the Beanstalk.
- We've learnt how to put an exclamation mark into sentences to add drama/danger.
- Towards the end of term we have enjoyed writing for purpose focusing on SPaG and Always Toolkit. We wrote what we know about Spring (Science) and Instructions of how to cross the road (Jigsaw).

Maths

- This term's main focus has been adding and subtracting 0-20. The children have worked really hard to represent equations differently using a range of manipulatives, as well as record their thinking in their books.
- We celebrated 100 days of school as a class which was a great retrieval of our knowledge and learning so far.

Science

- This term we have been carrying out an investigation of what plants need to grow. They have all grown differently and it's been great for the children to see. We had 4 plants and have closely monitored them and recorded their growth.

Jigsaw

- We had 2 experts come into school to share their knowledge about being healthy. First a Nurse came into school to discuss the importance of washing our hands and taught us how to put on a bandage. A Physiotherapist came into school next to share all the different ways we can look after our bodies and how important it is.

DT

- In DT the children have made a moving story applying the skills needed to achieve the outcome. We developed our understanding of how to be resilient when things went wrong.

Geography

- We have continued to build on our knowledge of the UK over the last term, focusing on capital cities and finding the UK on the world map.

It was lovely seeing all of you at parent meetings and I hope you can join me in saying how far the children have come since September. I am incredibly proud of them all. **IMPORTANT** Please continue to support your child's phonics with QR codes and phonics booklets for the final push before the Phonics Screen in Term 5.

Have a lovely school holiday and see you ready for Term 5 on Monday 15th April 2024.

AUSTEN CLASS

Term 4 in Austen Class has been very busy!

In English we have enjoyed exploring some classic traditional tales. We have been creating our alternative versions of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, designing our own Three Little Pig comic book strips and writing in the role of Little Red Riding Hood. I have been extremely impressed with the children's writing and have seen a huge progression in their use of vocabulary and punctuation for effect. Next term, we will begin by focusing on writing instructions.

In Maths, we have been learning how to find the fraction of a shape and number, and we have been mastering how to tell the time. Many children find this a particularly tricky skill so I was proud to see their perseverance and determination shining through.

In Geography, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning two very catchy songs to help them with memorising the 7 continents and 5 oceans of the world. It would be lovely if they could share these songs with you at home too!

Finally, in Science, we completed our learning about Animals including Humans, focusing on hygiene, healthy eating and exercise. We have also begun to learn about plants, labelling the parts of a plant and exploring wild and garden plants in our local area. We will continue to look at plants next term, exploring the conditions plants need to grow, sorting and dissecting seeds and recognising the plant life cycle.

Please note that in Term 5, I will be changing my teaching days to Monday – Thursday. Mrs Leeks will be teaching the children every Friday (all day) and Tuesday afternoon.

Swimming will continue throughout Term 5.

Our new inquiry question will be 'What makes a place special?' with a huge focus on the seaside both past and present to see how it has changed from 1950 onwards.

Finally, in Term 5 the children will begin to have a times table test once a week in preparation for Year 3. This will predominantly focus on the 2, 5 and 10 times table.

Thank you for all your continued support and I wish you all a very happy Easter. Enjoy the relaxing break and the large amounts of delicious chocolate we all get to eat!

SASSOON CLASS

I can't quite believe that the Spring term has come to an end already, we've been extremely busy.

In our maths learning we have been continuing with our multiplication and division topic but with much larger numbers. We've used the grid method to multiply and even looked at short division. We've also started to study fractions, in which our multiplication and division knowledge has proved to be extremely useful!

This term the children have written fantastically descriptive stories about defeating villains, which acted as sequels to 'Sheep-pig', our English text, involving personification, an incredibly handy tool in descriptive writing. They've also learnt how to write a set of instructions and have thoroughly enjoyed coming up with their own ideas for their last piece of writing.

Our geography learning this term has been all about rivers and flooding. As well as learning some key features of rivers, the children have learnt the difference between causes and effects of flooding. Our project centred around the idea of building resilience which we showed through creating flood barriers to overcome a flood. The children worked in teams to plan, design and build a flood barrier that would protect a paper house from getting wet. We spent time reflecting on why our flood barriers were successful or unsuccessful.

In our science topic, magnetic forces, we've learnt through practical investigations about magnetic poles, magnetic fields, which materials are magnetic and which materials interfere with magnetism.

Our DT learning this term was cooking, which centred around healthy seasonal eating, which the children absolutely loved! In the very first lesson we followed a recipe to make fruit skewers, which involved cutting similar sized pieces and assembling the fruit into a pattern. Next, we planned and designed our own vegetable tart, carefully selecting which seasonal vegetables would look the most colourful and taste the nicest together. In our final lesson we made our vegetable tarts, and I must say they were brilliant! The children used lots of skills like chopping a variety of vegetables and making sure they were all the same size and spreading the tomato puree evenly for a perfect base.

We have finished our swimming lessons for the year which gave us time to squeeze in one gymnastics lesson last week. We focused on balancing, particularly on the benches in the obstacle course, some children were even walking backwards or channelling their inner flamingo by balancing on one leg!

Have a lovely Easter break and I look forward to welcoming Sassoon back for Term 5.

DICKENS CLASS

This term in Dickens class has been an exciting journey.

We welcomed parents in our open classroom. It was great to see all who could come and the children were very proud of what they have accomplished this term.

In English we looked at writing our own villain stories, using 'Holes' for inspiration. We have now published our stories and can't wait to show parents the finished product.

We have shown great perseverance in Maths with fractions and decimals and year 5 even tackled angles and measuring these.

We have explored nutrition and recipes for an inspired Italian dish in Design technology.

In RE we looked at a variety of religions and how a place of worship can support faith but also how people may worship outside of a specific place of worship.

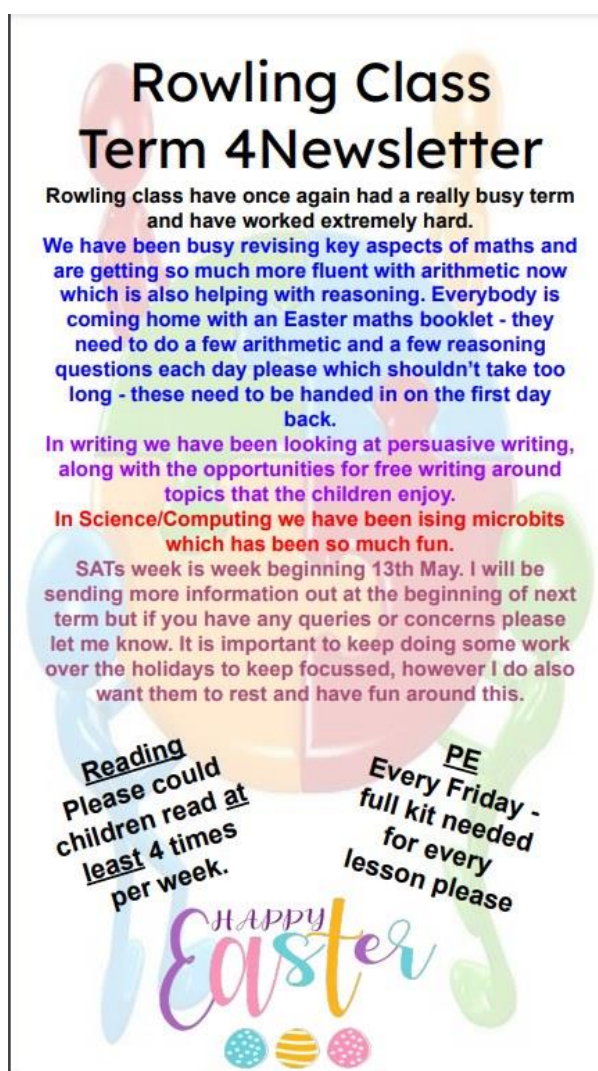
In PE we mastered gymnastics and explored movement through our use of the gym climbing frames. They are incredibly brave and coordinated!

We had lots of fun celebrating science week, neuro diversity and world book day this term.

Next term we look forward to welcoming Mr Dixon into Dickens class and we shall be having our forest school sessions on a Wednesday afternoon.

You do not need to bring in any special clothes for this but the children must have wellington boots named in school. PE will continue to be on a Tuesday.

ROWLING CLASS



Rowling Class Term 4 Newsletter

Rowling class have once again had a really busy term and have worked extremely hard.

We have been busy revising key aspects of maths and are getting so much more fluent with arithmetic now which is also helping with reasoning. Everybody is coming home with an Easter maths booklet - they need to do a few arithmetic and a few reasoning questions each day please which shouldn't take too long - these need to be handed in on the first day back.

In writing we have been looking at persuasive writing, along with the opportunities for free writing around topics that the children enjoy.


In Science/Computing we have been using microbits which has been so much fun.

SATs week is week beginning 13th May. I will be sending more information out at the beginning of next term but if you have any queries or concerns please let me know. It is important to keep doing some work over the holidays to keep focussed, however I do also want them to rest and have fun around this.

Reading
Please could children read at least 4 times per week.

PE
Every Friday - full kit needed for every lesson please

HAPPY
Easter



FOSP

£20.24 Challenge

Thank you again to all those children (with the help of their family and friends) who took part in our £20.24 challenge last month - we are excited to report that this fundraising initiative raised £807!!! The nursery children alone contributed £325 to that total, which is especially impressive! The class with the most participation was Blyton who will be rewarded with a class treat soon, and Freddy & George Stoddart both won a large Easter egg each for employing the most innovative technique of raising money by not repeatedly saying "Mummy"! Given the sum contributed by the nursery children, it has been agreed that funds will be used to make purchases to improve the indoor and outdoor areas of the nursery. Well done everyone and thank you again for your support.

Library Love

Some eagle-eyed parents may have noticed the newly replaced Perspex on the front of the book library, situated out the front of the school. FOSP funded this repair after the original sheet was

unfortunately damaged and posed a safety risk - we hope the repair will invite children to keep swapping books and enjoying good reads!

Boast Post!

Just a reminder of all the wonderful purchases made using the grant obtained by FOSP for the purposes of upgrading and supplying equipment for outdoor learning; we know that the children have enjoyed fires, cooked apple crumbles and s'mores in their forest school sessions using some of the purchases, and there has been no end of enjoyment experienced from using the new trowels and bug pots. We are pleased that such purchases have been encouraging your little ones to explore and learn in the great outdoors!

'Eggstravagant' Gifts

FOSP are delighted to have once gifted every nursery and primary pupil an Easter egg this week! We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter break!

Fine Dining

FOSP are really pleased to be funding approximately £3,500 to purchase some wonderful new dining tables with integrated seats for the school hall! The previous tables were in need of replacing and these new additions will complement the hall with its soon to be refurbished floor! We look forward to seeing the finished look and hope that the purchase will contribute greatly towards creating a more pleasant dining experience for the children and subsequent tidying sessions for the school staff!

Fundraise the Easy Way

Remember the various ways that you can support our wonderful school by signing up to Easyfundraising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-smarden-primary-fosp> playing the school lottery [Support Smarden Primary and Nursery School when you play Your School Lottery - Your School Lottery](#) and ordering your name labels from Stikins and quoting our fundraising number 18126 <https://www.stikins.co.uk/name-labels>

Don't Be a Stranger

Would you like to get more involved with our fundraising activities and subsequently have a say in how profits are spent? You are more than welcome to get in touch with our chair Jo Piper at chair@fosp-pta.org.uk we'd love to hear from you!

And finally,



As ever, I am available to talk about anything you are worried about, no matter how small. Please do not hesitate to ring me on 01233 770316 or email

head@sarden-tkat.org

Have a lovely week!

Mrs Miller