



# Headteacher Newsletter

## Thursday 18th December 2025

What an incredible term we have shared together. Term 2 is always a busy one, filled with excitement, celebration, and special moments, and this year has been no exception. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Christmas activities across the school, and today was made even more memorable by the excitement of welcoming a very special (Christmas) visitor.

The Christmas performances from our Nursery, Year R, and Year 1 and 2 children have been truly magical. Seeing the children's smiling faces, growing confidence, and ability to be on stage was incredibly special. These moments will be cherished by families and staff for many years to come.

In assembly today, I announced the winners of the Christmas Tree colouring competition. The children have received a prize which they will bring home today.

Today we say a heartfelt goodbye to Mrs Burtwell, Mrs Kelly, Mr Sloane, and Miss Tagg. Each of them has played an important role in our school community, and they will all be greatly missed. We wish them every happiness and success as they begin their next chapter.

In particular, I want to express my deep gratitude to Mrs Burtwell for the care, compassion, and unwavering commitment that she has shown to our staff, children and thier families

over the years. Her kindness, dedication, and support have touched countless lives and she has left a lasting legacy within our school. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her, and I wish her a very happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement.

Please remember that tomorrow (Friday) school will be closed to all pupils as we have an INSET Day.

I wish you all a very 'Happy Christmas' and hope that you are able to share some quality time with your families.

**Mrs Jury-Sofi**



## Message from Mrs Burtwell

Dear Parents/Carers

After 23 years of service at West Borough Primary School I am leaving to commence my retirement as of yesterday, 17th December 2025.

I would like to say what a privilege it has been to meet and work with so many lovely parents and children over so many years.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and my very best wishes for a very happy and healthy new year. To anyone that may not celebrate Christmas I hope you have a lovely holiday, and a very happy and healthy new year.

If anyone needs support over the Christmas period and beyond, please given the numbers a call below for help and support.

1. **Citizens Advice** (Free advice line) - 0808 223 1133
2. **National Debt line** (Free advice line) - 0808 808 4000
3. **Christians against Poverty Debt** (Free advice line) – 0800 328 0006 <https://capuk.org>  
(you don't have to be a Christian to access)
4. **Food parcels** – If you need a food parcel over the holidays please speak with your GP for a referral to the following:-

**Salvation Army** 74-80 Union Street Maidstone ME14 1ED.

Tel 01622 681808

Or **Food for Thought**, Knightrider Street, Maidstone. Kent.

5. **Domestic Abuse** – 24-hour National Helpline 0808 2000 247

6. **Cruse Bereavement Care** (Free advice line) Tel – 0808 808 1677

7. **MIND – (leading UK Mental health charity) 24-hour support line** (free advice line) 0300 123 3393

8. **Samaritans UK Helpline** Tel - 116 123

With warmest wishes

**Sara Burtwell**

Family Liaison Officer

West Borough Primary School

## **Dates for the Diary**

**Friday 19th December** - INSET DAY (School Closed)

**Monday 5th January** - INSET Day (School Closed)

**Tuesday 6th January** - School Starts

**Friday 23rd January** - Young Voices Choir visit to the O2.

**Monday 2nd February - Friday 6th February** - Safety Week

**Thursday 12th February** - Year 5 Celebration Assembly (Time TBC)

**Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March** - Wick Court/Activity Week (Year 6)

**Tuesday 24th March** - Year 3 & 4 Performance (Time TBC)

**Monday 30th March** - Parents Evening

**Tuesday 31st March** - Parents Evening



## Staff Update

I am very excited to share that this week we were successful in appointing a new Deputy Headteacher.

Mrs Anna Fowler will be joining us after Easter, and I am delighted to welcome her to our school community.

Mrs Fowler brings with her many years of experience, having worked across a range of schools. I am sure that she will be a wonderful asset to our team and I am very much looking forward to her joining the West Borough family and also to the positive contribution she will make to our children, staff, and wider community.

## Attendance & Punctuality

A reminder that good attendance is crucial for your child's progress. Please ensure your child arrives on time and attends school regularly unless unwell. Every minute of learning counts.

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
Cause for Concern	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious cause for concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

## Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## Safety Before School

It has been reported on more than one occasion over the past couple of weeks, that children are climbing dangerously high in a tree at the lower end of Cherry Orchard Way and Tonbridge Road. Please could you remind your children how unsafe this is, particularly if they are walking by themselves.

We would hate for any accidents to occur as a result, and appreciate your support in helping to keep all of our children safe.

## Christmas Hamper Winners!

### **Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Hampers!**

APPLE- Oliver & Melissa

SILVER BIRCH- Jasmin & Alexander

BONSAI-Antonio & Zac

CEDAR-Nolan & Maeve

CHERRY-Lloyd & Ella

EBONY-Harry & Wren

ELM-Jacob & Mikee

HAWTHORN-George & Oliver

HORNBEAM- Joshua & Elvin

LARCH- Kojo & Oscar

LIME- Frankie & Sebastian

MAPLE-Teddy & Jasmine



MAGNOLIA-Aaron & Elijah

WALNUT-Rookley & Megan

**Thank you for your generous donations. The school raised £617 in total.**



## Parent Workshop: Supporting your child with worries and fears



### Parent Workshop

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

#### Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears

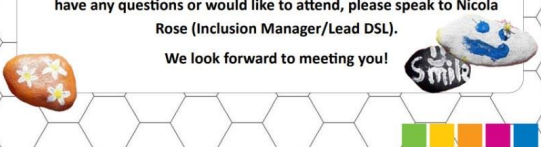
Friday 23rd January 9:45—11:15am

Are your child's worries and fears starting to impact their day to day life? Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **support your children so they can manage their concerns and enjoy themselves more?**

You are invited to a workshop which focuses on **understanding what anxiety is, the symptoms you may notice in your child and some techniques to help manage this anxiety.**

This workshop will be held at Snodland CE Primary School. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please speak to Nicola Rose (Inclusion Manager/Lead DSL).

We look forward to meeting you!





## Winter Mini Reading Challenge



The poster is for 'The Reading Agency Winter Mini Challenge' in partnership with 'Kent Libraries' and 'Story Garden'. It features a blue sky background with white clouds and snowflakes. At the top left is 'THE READING AGENCY' logo, and at the top right is the 'Kent Libraries' logo with a red horse head. The 'Story Garden' logo is in green. The main title 'Join in with this year's Winter Mini Challenge!' is in large blue font. Below it, text describes a free challenge from 1 December to 20 February 2026, where children can earn digital rewards and a certificate. A QR code with 'SCAN ME' is on the left. At the bottom, there are social media icons (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube), the website 'kent.gov.uk/libraries', and logos for 'Kent County Council' and 'Kent.gov.uk'. A small illustration of a snow-covered mountain with books and a plant is at the bottom center.

**Join in with this year's Winter Mini Challenge!**

A fun **free** Challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading from 1 December to 20 February 2026.

It's free to take part online, where children can unlock special digital rewards and earn a printable certificate once they meet their reading goal!

For more information, speak to your local library team, scan the QR code or head to [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk)

SCAN ME

[kent.gov.uk/libraries](http://kent.gov.uk/libraries)

Story Garden Illustrations by Dapo Adelola, and logo artwork © The Reading Agency 2025

Kent County Council  
[kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)

## Reminder! Free 11+ Preparation and KS2 learning support for children who are eligible for Pupil Premium

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We're pleased to let you know that West Borough Primary School has partnered with [Atom Learning](https://www.atomlearning.com), the leading Key Stage 2 learning and 11+ preparation website, to provide free KS2 learning to primary school children who are eligible for Pupil Premium. **Eligible students will receive access to Atom Home for free (normally £575.90 a year).**

There is a 5-day free trial of Atom available for non-PP families. Atom Learning is a viable, more child-centric alternative to private tuition that we believe is a non-stressful and enjoyable way of making progress at KS2 and, when relevant, preparing for exams.

### What is Atom Home?

Atom Home is an online learning and exam preparation platform for ages 7-11.

Covering English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning, children can practise 11+ questions and explore learning resources, mock tests, video tutorials, and exam preparation materials.

## Do you know someone who is eligible?

If you know someone whose child is preparing for the 11+, or is in need of extra Key Stage 2 learning support (they do not need to be attending West Borough Primary School), please share this link with them:

<https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/primary-schools>

After completing the form on this page, their primary school will receive a notification to verify their pupil premium eligibility. Once confirmed by their school, their Atom Home account will be created.

Mrs Gemma Jury-Sofi

**West Borough Primary School**



The graphic features the Atom Learning logo at the top, with a blue semi-circle to the left of the text. Below the logo is a central laptop displaying the Atom Learning interface. The interface shows a user profile for 'Hi Georgie!', a 'Georgie's exam prep plan' with subjects like English, Maths, and Science, and various educational cards for topics like 'Triangles', 'Equations', 'Sequences', and 'Match to a pair'. The background is a solid blue color. At the bottom, the text 'Free 11+ preparation and KS2 support' is displayed in white, followed by a Trustpilot logo and five green stars.

**Free 11+ preparation and KS2 support**

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★