



St Mary of Charity Primary

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2026

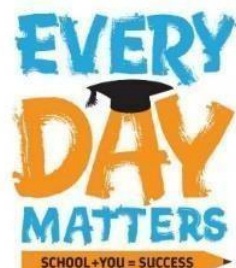
Telephone: 01795 532496

Email: office@smcs.aquilatrust.co.uk

Website: www.smcschool.co.uk



Attendance



EYFS Hamilton	Year 1 Donaldson	Year 2 Anning	Year 3 Malala	Year 4 Hockney	Year 5 Rosen	Year 6 Attenborough
98%	99%	96%	98%	99%	97%	95%
Year to date: 97.6%		This Term: 97.6%			Target 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

Photograph and Video Permissions Update

We have recently updated the way we record and manage the permissions we hold on file for pupils' photographs and video images. Permissions are now organised into two categories:

1. Internal Educational and Celebratory Use

This give permission for your child's photograph and/or video image to be used for educational and celebratory purposes within the school environment and in secure communications with parents and carers. Examples include: Classroom displays, Corridor displays, Exercise books, Internal presentations, Class Dojo

2. Public School Communications

This gives permission for your child's photograph and/or video image to be used in publicly available school communications. Examples include: The school website, School social media channels, School prospectus and promotional materials, Local media.

Your child's permissions have been transferred into one of these categories based on the permissions you had previously provided. If you would like to check or discuss the permissions we currently hold on file for your child, please contact the school office.

Swale Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all of the children who successfully completed the Summer Reading Challenge. We received the results last week and are delighted that we came 4th out of 48 other primary schools in Swale. We are incredibly proud of the children's commitment to reading and the enthusiasm they have shown by taking part in the challenge. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to parents and carers for your support in encouraging reading at home.

Faversham Writing Competition

Does your child enjoy writing?

We are encouraging children in Years 3 to 6 to enter the Faversham Writing Competition this year. Winning entries will receive a book token, and the winning school will receive £100 worth of books.

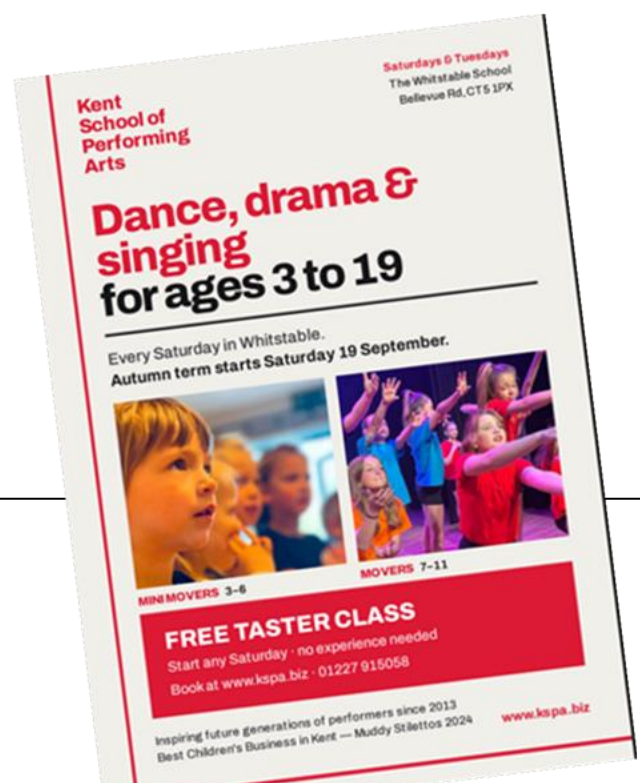
Children can submit either a story or a poem of no more than 500 words. If your child would like to take part, please support them in writing their entry and send it into school. We will then submit it on their behalf.

We look forward to reading lots of creative and imaginative entries!

And finally, please see below information regarding an Arts club during the October half term

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rowley-Jones



Suitable for
Primary aged
children

Arts Holiday Club Faversham

27th, 28th October

St Mary of Charity Primary School

10am – 4pm | £35 per day*

(or £40 with
wraparound care,
9am – 5pm)



What's On - Faversham 27th, 28th October

Tuesday's Theme Farmers and Scientists	Wednesday's Theme SPIES AND FILMMAKERS
Pumpkin Painting	Secret Codes
Frog Puppets	Detective Costumes
Wind Chimes	Moving Camera Storyboards
Paper Chromatography Craft	Popcorn Collages

WRITING COMPETITIONS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

SUBMIT A STORY OR POEM
UP TO 500 WORDS

THREE ENTRY LEVELS:

- YEARS 3-6
- YEARS 7-10
- YEARS 11-13

1ST PRIZE: £30 BOOK TOKEN

2ND PRIZE: £20 BOOK TOKEN

Plus the winning entry from each group will
win £100 worth of books for your school
library or a nominated book charity



FAVERSHAM
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

Deadline for entries: 15 January 2027

Entry to the competition is free.
To enter you must be living within or
attending a school within the
Faversham postcode area.

Entries can be submitted
through participating schools
or sent direct to Faversham Literary
Festival:
info@favershamliteraryfestival.com

All entries must include the entrant's
name, age, and your school or your
home postcode

www.favershamliteraryfestival.org

**PLEASE
NOTE..**



We run our own **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club**; spaces for these need to be pre-booked at least 24 hrs in advance using the MCAS App. Please contact the school office if you need support booking a place for your child.

Breakfast Club: 7:30am-8:35am

After School Club: 3:15pm- 6pm (with a 4pm, 5pm & 6pm collection option)

Please note: If you wish to collect after 5pm, we require 7 days' notice. Contact the office via email or phone to book a 6pm slot.



Caution

Please take care on school site, no parking or driving in pedestrian areas and ensure that groups of parents do not block entrances/pathways into the school.

We have had to make the decision to ban the use of school bikes after school and these were not being cared for or supervised adequately. Children are not allowed to ride bikes on the playground after school. Please ensure that your child does not do this.

**Don't
Forget!**

Children need to bring a water bottle into school daily. This should be filled with plain water only unless your child has a medical condition that necessitates a different type of fluid. The children have opportunities to refill their bottles throughout the day and are reminded to do so.

Due to the changing nature of the weather children are required to have a waterproof coat with them each day. We always try to get outside regardless of the weather. We also recommend your child having wellington boots in school for access to the grass and mud kitchen areas when it is wet.

This week in Worship

This week we have been exploring the theme of flourishing together, we explored the story of the Good Shepherd and how we can ensure that each sheep is supported and flourishes.





This week's poster is about **DISCORD** Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Ling.

ATTENDANCE



If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ensure that you inform the office via telephone or leave a message on our answer phone.

You **MUST** phone in before 9.10am.

DROP OFF

Can we please remind parents that school gates shut at **8:45am**. If you arrive late, please drop off your child/ children at the school office.

For safeguarding reasons we do not allow parents/carers to drop off their children to their classes.



We would politely ask all parents/carers to supervise your child carefully during drop off and pick up. Ball games are not permitted before school as this poses a risk to other children, please do not allow your child to play with a ball anywhere on the school site before the start of the school day.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(with a few more things to know)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like *Minecraft* or *Fortnite*, but many are general. Unlike only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation, in these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people 'find their tribe', especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming, if Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of *Wired*, *Technodon*, *Tom's Guide*, *The Evening Standard*, and *The New Statesman*.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full references on nationalcollege.com

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.06.2020

REMINDER

The School Gate

Please be mindful of other children and parents at the school gates. The front of the gates can become a very crowded place and we want children to have ease entering the school in the morning. Please encourage your child to walk through the gates on their own and do not stand in groups talking where you potentially block the entrance. It is intimidating for children to walk through adults into school.

HEALTHY LUNCHES



We promote healthy eating at St Mary of Charity Primary School and would appreciate parents adhering to the healthy eating guidelines as below:

Sweets: Please do not pack sweets or chocolate bars.

Drinks: children under 5 receive free milk with their snacks and water is available for everyone whenever they want to drink. Please do not send in fizzy drinks with your child's packed lunch.

Nut Free: Please be aware that we are becoming a nut-free school. We now have children in school who have potential life-threatening nut- allergies which can be triggered by direct or indirect contact with nuts in the environment. To keep our children safe, we request that parents please find a nut-free alternative. This also includes NUTELLA or any CHOCOLATE spread.

Thank you for your co-operation.



SCHOOL DINNERS –

Dinner Money cost £3.10

Please be reminded school meals are to be paid for in advance.

WRAPAROUND CARE: Both Breakfast and Afterschool club bookings are placed under this tab and payments need to be made when you book your session for your child. *This is done to avoid any payments not made.*

Please be reminded to clear out any outstanding balances under individual accounts of your children.

**NO NUTS OR NUT
PRODUCTS ALLOWED
IN SCHOOL**





Faversham
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

HARVEST SCHOOL COLLECTION

— HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN FAVERSHAM & VILLAGES —

Please donate the following items to support
individuals and families in our community.



Tinned fruit



Cartons of
fruit juice



Jars of Jam



Tinned Carrots



Brown/BBQ
sauce



Unisex
Deodorant



Household
cleaning products

Dates for your Diary



Date	Event
28 th September – 2 nd October	Year 6 Residential
29 th September	Year 5 Cathedral Trip
1 st October	Pirate Day Lunch
6 th October	Year 2 TTRS Parent Workshop at 2.45pm
7 th October	Year 4 TTRS Parent Workshop at 2.45pm
8 th October	Year 4 Trip to Otterden Woods Year 3 TTRS Parent Workshop at 2.45pm
9 th October	Hello Yellow Mental Health Day – wear something yellow to school
14 th October	PTFA GLOW Disco
15 th October	Yr R Phonic/Reading parent workshop at 2.30pm
19 th October	Creepy Claws Assembly 2.45pm
20 th October	Year 6 Golden Ticket reward pm
22 nd October	2.30pm Year 3 Class Assembly – parents welcome
23 rd October	9.30am Harvest Festival at St Mary of Charity Church – all families welcome

