



Term One Celebrations at Tenterden Primary Federation

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to our Term 1 newsletter. It was lovely to see yourselves and the children returning to school. The children have settled well into their new classes and routines. The artwork your children produced during transition week welcomed them into their rooms. Thank you for attending our celebration assemblies and we are looking forward to some of the class assemblies which will be happening at the Junior school and will try not to mention all the Christmas preparations which are being planned! Thank you also for meeting with the teacher and sharing important information so we can work together to help each child succeed. We also warmly welcome Mr Rogers our new caretaker, who has been working hard already to complete many site jobs and who you would have met on the school gates.

We have a few exciting projects that we are involved with as we begin the new academic year. Mrs Hood and Mr Rogers are leading the maths development in our schools. We are part of the Mastering Number project, in collaboration with the local authority maths lead. This initiative will enhance our teaching and learning and take it to the next level, building on our already strong maths practice. Next term, we are also joining the National Numeracy Schools and Family Programme giving you and your children more opportunities to be involved in TPF maths learning.

We are also proud to be part of the local Reading Charter initiative, led by Kingsnorth English Hub and funded by the DFE. We have invested in our libraries and promote the love of reading across all curriculum areas. Our Little Wandle phonics continues to grow and Year 2 are enjoying the fluency books which initiates lots of interesting book talk. Your children have lots to say about their reading, which is delightful. *"Reading is the key that opens doors."* R Bader Ginsburg. Our English work and subjects are based on high quality texts and books. Your children have chosen the books in their book corner which they have been reading this term. Mrs Ketteringham will be soon sharing the genre badges that were designed by the children for the Junior Genre Reading Challenge. This was a great success last year and aims to provide children with a wide range of reading material. Our reading patron, Ann Bryant gave an enthusiastic workshop to the Juniors about being an author and sharing her latest novels. Next term there will be a couple of reading surveys to help us begin our journey to achieving the Bronze Reading Award.

Continued overleaf...

Together, We Learn, Grow and Flourish.
Love, Respect, Perseverance and Faithfulness





As a Nurture UK school, we are very proud of your children, who continue to share with us what emotional zone they are in and use strategies displayed to help their self-regulation if required. There is always an adult on hand to spend time to discuss worries and share successes as we work as a team to enjoy our days in school. Your children are very kind helping each other and demonstrate thoughtfulness and empathy through their actions and comments.

Early Years children have already become fantastic members of our school family. I thoroughly enjoy sharing time with them to hear their news and seeing their confidence grow. I have also enjoyed welcoming new and returning parents/carers on our EYFS tours for September 2026. Every person has important news and ideas. Please do contact us if you would like a tour!

I personally thank all the children, parents, staff, TeTPA and governors for their dedication and hard work, which make our schools such a special and happy place to learn. We are already looking forward to next term and we wish you all a very happy and restful break. Please enjoy reading the following celebrations.

Kind regards

Mrs McIntosh
Executive Head Teacher

The Acorn Grows into the Mighty Oak The parable of The Mustard Seed

and

**Together, We Learn, Grow and Flourish with
Love, Respect, Perseverance and Faithfulness**



Tapir and Snow Leopard, Foundation Classes Celebrations

This term we have welcomed the children into Tenterden Infant School to begin their school journey. We have been so impressed with how all of the children have settled into their new routines and expectations.

We have been focussing on social skills and daily routines, developing lots of different skills including sharing, turn taking, listening, and following instructions. For some children coming to school means sharing a classroom with lots more children than they have encountered at Nursery or Pre-School. Navigating this can be both exciting and challenging in different ways and we have been supporting the children to identify, understand and express their emotions. We are practising using this understanding when talking about disagreements or problems that may arise during the day. We have been talking about ourselves and our families celebrating what makes everyone unique.

The children have enjoyed sharing the things they love and the things that they are good at, helping them to see how special we all are. We have been learning about how the seasons change and thinking about Autumn. This has sparked lots of curiosity: what happens during Autumn, and the changes in the environment and weather.

The changing environment has led us to talk about how different plants and animals get ready for the colder months and we've compared animals who hibernate to animals that don't. We've celebrated harvest, learnt about how our food gets from farm to table, made our own bread while learning the story of 'The Little Red Hen'.

This term we've begun our weekly trip 'Into the Woods' where we use our lovely woodland environment to practise exploration, collaboration and learn about the world around us. This term we've made woodland art, collected autumnal objects, and completed a scavenger hunt. We can't wait to see what the woods have to offer us in the coming months!

Next term, we will be looking forward to our Celebrations topic, thinking about different celebrations around the world as well as Christmas. We will be looking at how the weather changes as we move in to Winter and will be investigating the properties of ice and how it is made.



Key Stage One

Our three Key Stage One classes have been working together on the same topics. Each class has chosen aspects of their work to share with you.

Lemurs Year 1 Celebrations

We've had a busy and exciting term in Lemur class. The children have been working hard on their sentence writing. We've been focusing on forming letters correctly and remembering those all-important capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. We've also been learning some tricky words – it's been great to see the children's confidence grow in using these in their writing!

In Maths, we've been deepening our understanding of place value and learning to use a number line. We are now moving on to addition and subtraction, using the part-part-whole method and starting to explore fact families – a great way to see how numbers are connected!

We've taken inspiration from the sculptor Barbara Hepworth and created our own sculptures. The children loved using a variety of materials from around the classroom to experiment with texture and form – lots of creativity on display!

Our Science topic has been all about seasons and weather. We've also been learning the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees. This is when all our trees on the school ground take centre stage! The children really enjoyed heading outside to label the trees in the playground and explore the signs of seasonal change. We noticed all the different colours and shapes and saw how quickly our playground can be covered in leaves! We look forward to learning more next term.



Jaguars Year 1 and 2 Celebrations

This term Jaguar class have been learning about Tenterden through our topic 'We live here.' We focused on the story 'Voices in the Park' and wrote diary entries in English about each character's experience. We designed our own parks and wrote descriptions. We even wrote a letter to the Mayor of Tenterden to suggest some new ideas for our local park!

In Maths we have learnt about the place value of numbers to 20. We have partitioned numbers into tens and ones. We are learning number bonds to 10 and 20 and using simple number facts to add and subtract much bigger numbers.

We enjoyed drawing maps of our classroom and the playground in Geography. We used an Atlas to find the countries in the UK and we used compasses to follow directions in the playground. We were inspired by the work of Barbara Hepworth in Art and we had great fun creating our own sculptures. We explored different house designs and made our own clay house tile.

In Science we have learnt about the weather and seasons. We have learnt how to represent and read data on a block graph.

Next term we look forward to learning about Tenterden in the past and our new story which will be 'Little Red Riding Hood.'



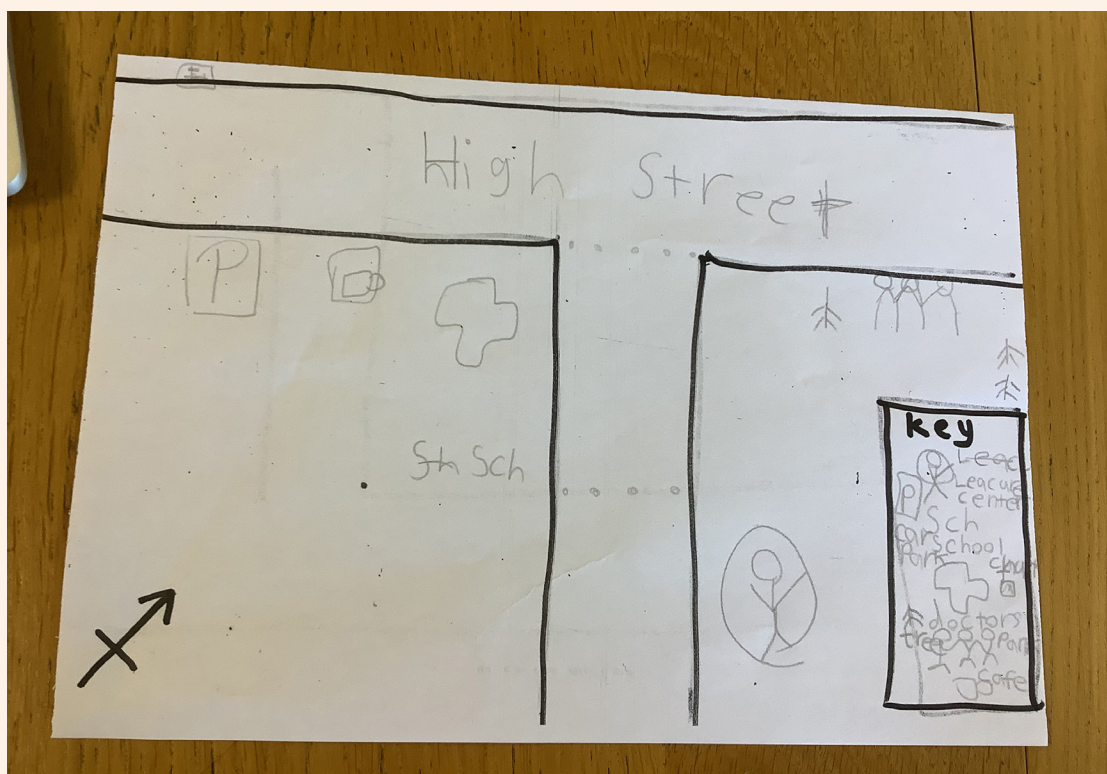
Polar Bears Year 2 Celebrations

This term, Polar Bears have been focusing on Tenterden and our local environment. We have learnt how to draw maps and ventured out along Recreation Ground Road to put our new skills into practice. We also designed a new park for Tenterden and sent our ideas to the mayor, inspired by our English text *Voices in the Park* by Anthony Browne. We had a visit from the Kent Wildlife Trust, who taught us about habitats and how we can care for the wildlife in Tenterden. This linked nicely to our RE learning about the Christian Creation story and how Christians care for God's world.

In Art, we learnt about Barbara Hepworth and how she used texture and space in her sculptures. We used her ideas to help us design and create our own clay houses, inspired by the buildings we see around Tenterden.

In Science, we have explored the four seasons of the year. We investigated the length of days, weather patterns, seasonal activities, and how deciduous trees change throughout the year. We are so proud of how hard the children have worked this term – well done, everyone!

Next term, our History question is "How has Tenterden changed in the last 100 years?" We will explore a range of images, maps, and texts to discover what life was like a century ago and what has triggered changes in Tenterden over time. We will also be moving on to materials in Science, sewing in DT, and of course, producing a fantastic Christmas nativity show!



Rhino and Orangutan, Year 3 Celebrations

Wow! What a brilliant start to year 3. The children have settled in beautifully and they should be extremely proud of themselves.

This term, our overarching topic has been the Stone Age to the Iron Age and the children have loved learning about all aspects of this time period. In English, we got to know the character of Grug, a stone age man who became a hero. We created our own stone age characters and wrote brilliant descriptions of them.

In maths we have worked extremely hard. We have deepened our knowledge of place value and now we are using this knowledge to work on our addition and subtraction. The children's perseverance has been unmatched when learning new techniques to add and subtract.

In History we have entered into the fascinating world of pre-history. We used toilet rolls by unwinding them to represent passing time to learn just how long-ago pre-history occurred! We have thought about and designed our own Stone Age dwelling in DT. We have compared the Stone Age and Iron Age and seen how there were many changes from the way they gathered food to the tools that they used. It is safe to say that we definitely have a few budding historians on our hands!

In RE we have looked closely at the idea of covenant. The children have learnt that a covenant is a promise and that promises are very important and powerful. We have spoken about our own promises and also explored the links between the covenant and the story of Noah and the Ark. As you can imagine, this has been extremely thought provoking for the children and has led to some amazing conversations.

Finally, in art the children have followed the theme of the stone age and produced some incredible cave paintings. They started by exploring the different mediums that would have been used in the stone age (this included some fun with flour) and then progressed into making their own section of cave wall and painting their own cave art onto it. The classrooms look like a real-life stone age cave dwelling with all of their masterpieces displayed!

Next term, we will be adventuring into the magical world of fairy tales in English and exploring the exciting topic of volcanoes in Geography. We absolutely cannot wait to venture into our new learning next term and we hope the children have a restful two weeks.

The Year 3 Team



Hippos and Lion, Year 4 Celebrations

What a term it's been! Year 4 Hippo and Lion Class have dived straight back into learning like smugglers diving for treasure (and yes, there may have been a few imaginary gold coins involved...).

This term in English, we've been smuggling... We looked at a model text on How to be a Smuggler, which included sneaky strategies, clever disguises, and, of course, a few "don't-get-caught" tips. This aided the children in writing their own fantastic instructions, there were many good ideas and a few chuckles as we marked them. A fascinating visit from Tenterden Museum brought history to life with a Smugglers Workshop. We even got to handle real life artefacts. We also read extracts from Five go to Smuggler's Top, which had us tiptoeing along with the Famous Five. Inspired by Wind in the Willows, we also created setting descriptions that made rivers sound so good you'd want to jump in (safely, of course) - though the upper course with rapids and waterfalls had us feeling a bit nauseous at the thought.

This term there have been rivers, rivers everywhere! In Geography we learned all the ways rivers help people, wildlife, and trade routes. We also thought about how to protect these watery wonders. Our trip to Rye Harbour turned our river talk into real-life action - the children spotted wildlife, learned about habitats, and created lovely observational drawings. Some children also got to visit the RNLI station and see how it operated.

From smugglers and redcoats dance-offs to netball with Mr Fraser, PE this term has been full of energy and laughter. Who knew spying on your partner in a dance could be so good for coordination! There has also been a lot of improvement in our team work with us positioning ourselves in netball and communicating effectively as a team.

Matter really matters! Science saw us explore solids, liquids, and gases, and the highlight? Well we didn't quite 'hokey-cokey' but we did shake it all about, finally being able to taste our very own homemade butter. Sore arms but lots of fun! We carried out numerous experiments investigating different states of matter - the melting experiment was fun but not pretty!!

Using Understanding Christianity, we explored Creation. We listened to stories of how the world came to be and discussed how we can look after it. Turns out, caring for our planet is a full-time adventure (and a shared responsibility).

In Art, we had our pencils at the ready! We practised shading, hatching, and blending techniques, turning simple sketches into masterpieces. Some of the results were so good we considered framing them... showing them off proudly in the classroom! We did show a selection of our pumpkins off at our Harvest Festival.

Continued overleaf...



Year 4 Celebrations continued

In PSHE we have explored friendships, boundaries, and brains full of empathy! We explored manners in different situations, the impact of our words and actions, and the tricky world of bullying and bystanders. We also tackled stereotypes, celebrated diverse families, and had thoughtful discussions about bereavement and supporting each other.

All in all, it's been a term packed with curiosity and creativity. The children have thrown themselves into every challenge, learned a river load and impressed us all. Here's to next term and the adventures that await Hippos and Lions.



Sharks and Whales, Year 5 Celebrations

What a great start to a new school year! The children have settled in well to their new pods (Whales) and shivers (Sharks), returning to school full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. This term saw Year 5 get to grips with writing setting descriptions for Conquering the Monster stories, as well as some terrifically detailed instruction writing. Their final instruction texts focused on taming or caring for an interesting creature, and they were brilliant fun to read. They have also been focusing on their handwriting, which has improved vastly. Well done Year 5!

We have been refining our understanding of place value and calculation methods in Maths, applying our learning and knowledge to solve multi-step problems. Our investigations in Science have ranged from experimenting with different materials to complete an electrical circuit to inflating balloons with a chemical reaction.

In our Geography lessons, we have been exploring our learning question: 'What Life is Like in the Alps?' We researched the countries that Alps go through, what the climate is like around the Alps, and the different human and physical features of the area. We then researched the different leisure activities that are on offer in Tenterden, and then compared Tenterden with Innsbruck in Austria.

After their comparisons, the children decided that they would prefer to live in Tenterden as their friends are here and they felt it had lots to offer. However, some mentioned they'd love to visit Innsbruck for a holiday...

Our Design and Technology sessions have involved the learning of many food hygiene and preparation techniques, including peeling and chopping celery, tomatoes and courgettes. We adapted a recipe from Italy and made healthy, vegetarian Bolognese sauce which the children took home to share with their families. They reported that it was scrumptious!

We are already looking forward to next term, and preparing for more creative ways to enhance our learning. Ancient Greece will be our focus in History, using the Athenian and Spartan city states as our gateway to learn about democracy and beliefs. Our English work will be further honing our technical writing skills using our model text, 'The Seven Ancient Wonders of the World' as inspiration for a Non-Chronological Report. We will also be exploring biographies, using our model text 'Archimedes' as a starting point.

In Maths we will continue to refine and extend our understanding and application of the four operations, particularly multiplication and division, as well as starting our first fractions unit of the year. In Science we will be continuing to explore materials and their properties, with a focus on mixtures and separation. We will also be moving our DT focus next term to structures and bridges. We are looking forward to the children having more opportunities to express their creativity.

It has been a fantastic term to kick start Year 5, and we have another exciting term to come. As always, thanks for your support!



Penguin and Pangolin, Year 6 Celebrations

This term, we have enjoyed exploring our topic on World War 2. A particular highlight was our trip to Tenterden Station for a Second World War Evacuation Day. The children stepped back in time, hearing first-hand stories from real evacuees, learning about wartime rationing, and even experiencing a short train journey just as evacuees would have done.

Back in the classroom, we are preparing to build our own model Spitfires and have investigated the aircraft's crucial role in the Battle of Britain. In History, we have explored the events leading up to the declaration of war on Germany and learnt about the leaders of the key nations involved.

Our English work has been closely linked to our topic. The children have written excellent setting descriptions inspired by the Blitz, and we have studied the life of Anne Frank, producing thoughtful diary entries from her perspective. We have been so impressed by the children's empathy and the high quality of their writing.

In Maths, the pupils have worked extremely hard revisiting key areas such as place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of large numbers using formal written methods.

In Science, we have explored evolution and the work of Charles Darwin, investigating how animals and plants adapt to their environments. We linked

this learning to RE, where we considered whether science and religion can coexist. Next term, our Science focus will move to living things and the human body, looking at major systems such as the respiratory, skeletal, and circulatory systems. This will also connect with PSHE, as we learn about maintaining our physical and mental wellbeing.

In French, we will continue building our sports vocabulary, moving on to a unit focused on football, while in Geography we will link back to History by exploring the changing political landscape of Europe in the 1940s.

In English next term, we will begin new units on poetry linked to Remembrance, a study of character, and an emotional narrative unit inspired by the short film *The Alchemist's Letter*. In Maths, we will be diving into fractions—including adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and ordering them—as well as working on measurement, including conversions between metric and imperial units.

As we look ahead to Term 2, we are excited for the festive season and all the creative activities it brings, including making decorations, cards, and seasonal artwork.

Have a lovely half-term break, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for another exciting term!



**Best wishes and have a lovely half term.
From all the staff at Tenterden Primary
Federation.**

