



Respect, Responsibility, Hope, Courage

Brabourne

CofE Primary School

Friday 16th January 2026

Welcome back!

A warm (if not weather-wise!) welcome back to the Spring term, and a belated Happy New Year to all of our Brabourne families. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break.

A huge thank you for the incredibly kind and generous gifts, along with the lovely messages shared with staff at Christmas; we truly are so very grateful for your kindness.

Baby News!

Some wonderful news to start the year. Mrs Brown-Harris has given birth to a healthy baby girl. We send her love and best wishes from everyone at Brabourne.



We also warmly welcome Mrs Nesbitt, who is covering Mrs Brown-Harris' maternity leave in Venus Class.

Although it is a fairly short term, we have lots happening at school, including trips and a enrichment opportunities. This term we will be placing a strong focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) with pupils beginning the first part of the CREST Award.

Alongside this, we are delighted to be in our final year of working towards the Artsmark Award, with further exciting artistic opportunities planned for the weeks ahead (see diary below).

Letters

Please also find an update letter included with this newsletter from our Chair of Governors, Hester Fenwick and a letter from myself regarding our current parent governor vacancy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 2nd February		Theatre workshop for whole school
Wednesday 3rd February		STEM Day
Wednesday 4th February		Jupiter class Lyceum theatre trip
Friday 6th February		Neptune class to trip to Hawthorn trenches
Wednesday 10th February		Year 6 pupils visiting Bridge Primary as part of Artsmark award
Friday 13th February		Last Day of Term 3 (please note there will be no after school wrap around today)
Monday 23rd February		First Day of Term 4
Sunday 1st March	9.00 am—12.00 pm	Ground Force Day!



Mosque workshop

Neptune and Jupiter Class enjoyed meeting Rana from Canterbury Mosque last week as part of their RE learning on Islam. They greatly enjoyed hearing about Rana's faith and how it has shaped her life.



Thank you!

A massive thank you to Mr Fortescue and his family, who so generously re-laid the car park over the holidays. It has made such a huge difference to parking, and we are all extremely grateful.

We would also like to thank Mr Swayne, who has very kindly provided grit for the winter months. We are so lucky to have such supportive families at Brabourne.



TSC Mini London Marathon

We are excited to have registered for the ballot for the TCS Mini London Marathon, which will take place on Saturday 25 April 2026. If our application is successful, there will be 40 spaces available for Brabourne children to take part in this fantastic event, should parents choose. We will, of course, keep you updated and will let you know if we are fortunate enough to be chosen!

Ecology and Evolution

Evolution is the development of changes that can be passed genetically over the history of an organism.

Ecology is the study of the interactions between an organism and its environment.

Planning

Please find below our topics of study for this term, detailing what the children are learning.

Venus: Key Concept Question - How do we get to the seaside?

Mars: Key Concept Question - How has the seaside changed over time?

Neptune: Key Concept Question - How do rivers and mountains impact on their surrounding environment?

Jupiter: Key Concept Question - How do natural disasters impact on humans and animals?

Wrap Around

May we remind you that places must be booked and paid for in advance for both Early Morning Club and Wrap Around. **To ensure we always have appropriate staffing levels, we cannot accept bookings on the day.** Details can be found here: [Wrap around care - Brabourne Church of England Primary School](#). Please book in advance on [School Money](#).

COLLECTION FROM WRAP AROUND: Please collect your children promptly at the end of the session. Late pick ups may be charged.



With best wishes,
Andrew Stapley
Headteacher

Website: www.brabourne.kent.sch.uk

Twitter: [@brabournecep](https://twitter.com/brabournecep)





Calling all volunteers for our first Ground Force Day of 2026!

Sunday 1st March between 9.00 am—12.00 pm

If you can spare some time during the morning of Sunday 1st March, please do come along to help give our wonderful school grounds some ready for spring TLC!

Refreshments will be provided. Thank you for your support.

Yoga after school club

We still have spaces available for after-school yoga with Coach Simeon on Wednesdays, for children in Years 1–6. The children thoroughly enjoyed their first session this week and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm.

Simeon teaches breathing and self-regulation techniques, helping pupils to develop a sense of calm, focus and control.

If your child would like to join the club, you can book a place using SchoolMoney.

Prayer of the week

Dear God,

Please help us to say sorry when we do wrong, help us to be kind with our words, and brave enough to make things right.

Amen



Message from Mr Graham Lilley

This year is for me a celebration, of 20 years of Teaching the "Wonderful world of watercolour in schools ". It has been both a joy and an amazing privilege to have been allowed in schools to teach pupils many of which have shown remarkable ability in watercolour painting and some gone on to take it as a university subject.

I have been asked to talk at the Brabourne Church Family Service on 1st March, 10.00 am on my "Passion for a Art".

As both a thanksgiving and an acknowledgement of the wonderful times I have enjoyed with the hundreds of children I have worked with over those years, I am inviting any pupil past or present, together with their families to join me at BRABOURNE CHURCH, EAST BRABOURNE, on the 1st March at 10.00 am for this special Service.

If possible please bring along a piece of their artwork (if they still have it) to the service for display. In addition I am arranging for there to be art materials and assistance available at the close of the service, for any of the children to produce a Mothers' Day card to take home (as Mothers' Day is on the 15th March).



Class News



What a fun and exciting week we've had! The Naughty Bus has popped up in our classroom causing all sorts of mischief, Venus have loved discovering what he's been up to. This has inspired lots of brilliant play, from building cities, to writing about the Naughty Bus, and even designing our very own London underground maps. Thank you so much for welcoming me into Venus.



Mars Class have had an amazing start to 2026. We are enjoying reading 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson and have recorded our narration of the start of the story, changing our voices to suit the characters. We have looked at similes and rhyming pairs.

We have also been working hard in Maths to add and subtract 2 digit numbers. We have even been using base 10 to cross the 10 in our calculations which is tricky stuff!

Our COOL time has been particularly impressive. The children have been learning to upload their tasks onto Seesaw, typing in their date and LO themselves and creating a post to be approved. It has been a joy to see the children so engaged in purposeful, independent learning and so proud of their achievements.

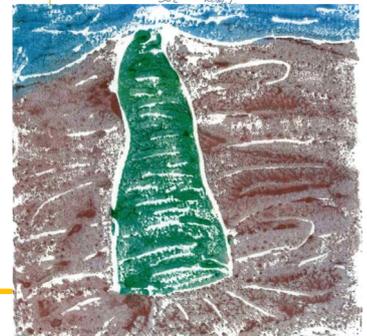
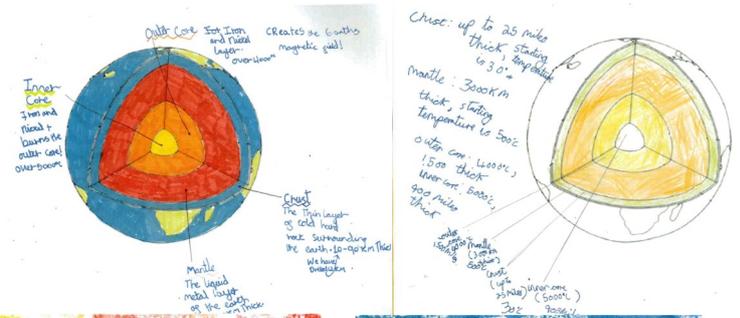
Well done Mars Class! Keep it up!



Jupiter have started a new topic this term: Extreme Earth Natural Disasters. We have started by learning about the different layers of the Earth and how the tectonic plates (the lithosphere), which is made up of the crust and the top section of the mantle, move at about the same speed as a growing fingernail every year (1-10cms). Scientists believe that 250 million years ago the world's land was joined together and called Pangea; the movement of the tectonic plates has created the continents we have today. We have also been finding out about Andy Warhol in art. We used his style of printing to create our own Natural Disaster prints on the Pop Art style.



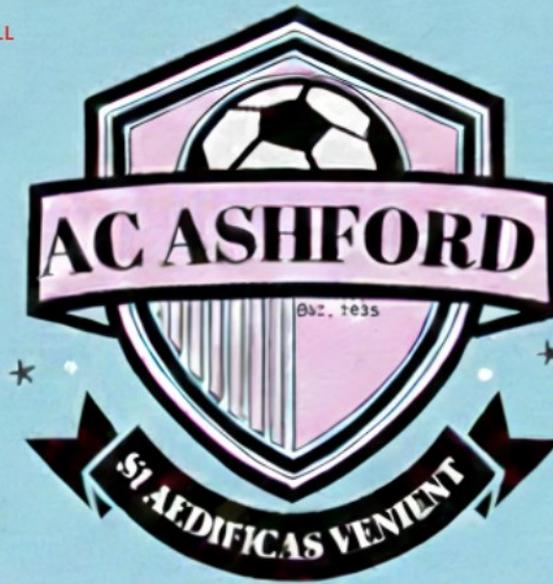
Neptune are exploring rocks and soils in Science this term. This week we explored the properties of different rocks. We tested their hardness, permeability and buoyancy. We had to use our observation skills and record our results carefully.





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CLUB** ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

**KIT SPONSORED BY:
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WHERE EVERY PLAYER SUCCEEDS

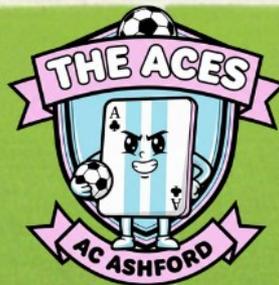
SCHOOL YEARS R & 1

THURSDAY EVENINGS- 17:30-18:30

STARTING DATE TBC

- . QUALIFIED COACH WITH 15+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
- . FULLY SPONSORED KIT (AFTER MEMBERSHIP IS PAYED)
- . OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- . NO EXORBITANT FEES

SCAN ME



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Young people are annually invited to take part in our Young Cooks cookery competition with the winners receiving a share of £600!



In addition, a finalist will be selected for a whole days work experience at The Dog at Wingham, cooking at a showcase lunch for specially invited VIP guests.

Other entrants have the opportunity of being invited to attend a master class with Zoe Gill, food and business development chef for Brakes Foodservice, and Great British Bake-Off finalist Jane Beedle. Or a look behind the scenes in the Cook Kitchens.

This is not just a cooking competition but a way for children to develop an understanding of the importance of food, nutrition and budgeting.

This programme is a way to encourage children to try new things and develop a basic life skill and, for some, a future career choice.

We aren't just looking for the next Master Chef, we want all children to understand that being healthy and cooking is something they can all do.

For full details and to enter visit the Young Cooks website

<https://sekgroup.org.uk/support/sek-schools/young-cooks-competition/>

