



Madginford Primary School

Egremont Road, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 8LH

Telephone: 01622 734539

email: office@mps.kent.sch.uk

www.madginfordprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Amanda Woolcombe

Madginford Primary School Newsletter

Friday 2nd November

From the Headteacher - Mrs. A. Woolcombe

It has been another busy and exciting week at Madginford! Our children have enjoyed a fantastic **Mickey Mouse-themed lunch**, bringing lots of smiles and excitement to lunchtime. We were also incredibly proud of our **Year 6 footballers**, who represented the school brilliantly at the Maidstone United Tournament. They showed great teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship; very well done!

We have also been celebrating the importance of **reading** as part of National Literacy Trust Autumn Challenge. We are continuing to develop a real love of reading across the school, with children enjoying opportunities to discover new books, share their recommendations and explore the many different ways that reading can enrich our lives.

It is lovely to see our children embracing all that school has to offer, both in and out of the classroom. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us make learning enjoyable, memorable and meaningful for every child.



Mickey's Diner

On Thursday 1st October, our KS2 Hall turned in Mickey's Diner and lots of our children enjoyed a special Mickey Mouse-themed hot school dinner.

They enjoyed 'Hot-Diggity Dogs' with a range of tasty sides available and for pudding, there were very special Mickey Mouse-shaped biscuits, as well as fruit and yoghurt. As always, we had delicious vegetarian options available as well.



A massive thank-you to our brilliant Kitchen Staff for all of their hard work in making this lunch really special.

IMPACT!

PROVISION TEAM

Opportunities that make a difference



MADGINFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL | YEAR 6 FOOTBALL

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

MADGINFORD MARCH INTO THE SEMI-FINALS

A brilliant team performance at Maidstone United saw nine Year 6 boys battle through the group stage and go all the way to the last four.



A day to remember

Madginford's Year 6 football team produced a performance full of determination, teamwork and character at the Maidstone United tournament. The nine-player squad were tested from the very start in a competitive group stage, but they kept themselves in the competition and earned a place in the knockout rounds as the best third-placed team.

From that point, the boys grew into the tournament. They defended with commitment, worked for one another across the pitch and showed the composure needed in close games. Their reward was a superb run through the knockout stage and a place in the semi-finals, giving them plenty to be proud of.

"The boys kept finding a way to compete, improve and stay in the tournament."

Moments that stood out

The tournament produced plenty of memorable moments. One of the biggest came from an unlikely source when Madginford's goalkeeper stepped up and scored the winning goal in one of the matches – a moment that lifted the whole team and showed the belief and spirit within the squad.

There was also a late winner that owed a great deal to Finn's reading of the game. His tactical awareness helped the team create the opening they needed, and the boys made the most of it to secure another important victory.

At the other end of the pitch, Charlie's defending was a major feature throughout the day. His bravery in blocking the ball, willingness to make challenges and consistency under pressure earned him the Manager's Player of the Tournament award.

MANAGER'S PLAYER CHARLIE

Recognised for superb defensive work, brave blocks and committed challenges.

Plenty to take forward

Although there was understandable disappointment when the semi-final brought the run to an end, the overall performance gave the team plenty to be proud of. Every player represented Madginford brilliantly, playing with respect, a positive attitude and great sportsmanship throughout the event. They worked hard for each other, encouraged one another and conducted themselves extremely well both on and off the pitch.

The day gave the boys valuable tournament experience. They learned how important it is to stay focused after difficult moments, to adapt to different opponents and to keep believing in tight matches. Those lessons can now be carried into future school tournaments and fixtures.

A BIG THANK YOU

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who came to support the team at Maidstone United. Your encouragement, positive cheering and kind words meant a great deal to the boys and helped create a fantastic atmosphere throughout the day.

TOURNAMENT AT A GLANCE

SQUAD

9 Year 6 boys

GROUP STAGE

Qualified as best
3rd-placed team

KNOCKOUT STAGE

Reached the
semi-finals

STANDOUT MOMENT

Goalkeeper scored
a winning goal

TACTICAL IMPACT

Finn's tactical
awareness led
to a late winning goal

MANAGER'S PLAYER

Charlie
For superb defensive
work, brave blocks
and committed
challenges.

A SEMI-FINAL RUN BUILT ON TEAMWORK, BRAVERY AND BELIEF

Madginford may not have gone all the way on this occasion, but the boys left Maidstone United with a performance to remember and a strong platform to build on. They showed what can be achieved through teamwork, determination and a positive attitude, and they represented the school superbly in every sense.

www.impactsportsclubs.co.uk

impactsportsclubs@gmail.com



PSHE

What is PSHE?

PSHE stands for **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education**. It is an important part of our curriculum at Madginford Primary School and helps children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to stay healthy, safe and happy as they grow.

Through age-appropriate lessons and discussions, children learn about topics such as friendships and relationships, emotions and wellbeing, staying safe, healthy lifestyles, making positive choices, and understanding the wider world around them.

PSHE also helps children develop important life skills, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges they will experience as they grow up.

Help Us Shape Our PSHE Curriculum

We would love to hear your views as parents and carers to help us make our PSHE curriculum as relevant and meaningful as possible for the children at Madginford.

We have created a short parent and carer survey to find out your thoughts about the topics we currently teach as part of PSHE, as well as any areas you feel would benefit our children as they grow and develop.

Your feedback will help us to tailor our curriculum to the needs of our pupils and ensure that we are covering topics that are useful, appropriate and relevant to their lives.

Please follow the link below to complete the short survey. Your feedback is greatly valued and will help us to continue developing our PSHE curriculum.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWcpY1-xw5PzxpzmAjozEtXq8TrD1MLmdgknJjvn7hVTMS_Q/viewform

Please note that the deadline for submitting your responses is **Tuesday 13th October**.

We will be hosting an information session in our KS2 Hall on **Monday 5th October from 2:15pm-3:15pm**. This will be an opportunity to see the changes to the PSHE



and RSHE curriculum, to see resource materials and to ask any questions which you may have.

Please come along if you are able to; we would love to see you there.

Millionaire Readers Challenge!

Have you heard about our **Millionaire Readers Challenge**? This exciting reading incentive encourages children to enjoy books at home while building their confidence and love of reading.

Children can work towards reading one million words by reading books in their own time and successfully completing their Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes. Every word counts, and as their total grows, they move closer to becoming an official Millionaire Reader!

When children reach the incredible milestone of one million words, they will earn a place on our **Millionaire Readers Celebration Board** and will proudly receive a **special purple**

Our School Strengths and Priorities 2026-2027

"Where magical experiences create endless opportunities"

At Madginford, we want every child to be happy, safe, included and able to achieve their very best. We are proud of what makes our school special and are always looking for ways to improve further.

What we are proud of:

A strong values-led culture: Children and staff live our values through learning, relationships and everyday school life.

Excellent attitudes and relationships: Children are enthusiastic, engaged and supported by strong relationships and high expectations.

Strong teaching and outcomes: Writing and mathematics are strengths, alongside improving phonics and a strong focus on reading.

A rich curriculum: Reading, vocabulary, oracy and memorable experiences help children become curious and confident learners.



Committed staff and leaders: We have a stable, dedicated staff team, passionate subject leaders and staff who continue to develop through training and coaching.

Preparing children for the future: We build strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, alongside self-belief, independence and adaptability.

Our 7 priorities this year

1. Reading

Help every child become a confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader, with strong phonics and extra support when needed.

2. Great teaching

Make sure every child receives high-quality teaching, support and challenge so that they can achieve their best.

3. Early support

Identify children's needs as early as possible and bring support together when children face more than one barrier.

4. Every child achieving

Secure higher achievement for children with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, while continuing to challenge all children to achieve highly.

5. Attendance

Work with children and families to improve attendance, understand barriers and provide support early.

6. Keeping children safe

Continue to strengthen safeguarding, with a particular focus on online safety, child-on-child concerns and allergy safety.

7. Belonging and opportunity

Make sure every child feels they belong at Madginford and can take part in the exciting experiences, clubs, sport, trips and opportunities our school provides.

What success will look like

By the end of the year, we want to see stronger reading, improved attendance, excellent teaching and higher achievement for children who need additional support, while continuing our strengths in writing and mathematics.

Our aim

We want every child to leave Madginford with strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, confident communication skills, self-belief and the independence to become a flexible and adaptable learner.

Most importantly, we want every child to enjoy school, achieve highly and experience the magical opportunities that make Madginford special.



Autumn Reading Challenge

Following on with the topic of reading, please may we encourage you to help your children with their reading as much as possible and as often as possible, when at home.

In line with this, we are excited to be taking part in the **National Literacy Trust's Autumn Reading Challenge - Future Voices**. This fantastic challenge links closely with our English and PSHE learning and encourages children to think about the world around them, the people and communities they care about, and how their own voice can make a positive difference.

Through the challenge, children will explore themes such as **kindness, fairness and taking action**, while developing their empathy, critical thinking, reflection, self-expression and oracy skills.

Children can enter by creating an **audio recording, poster, poem or speech**, and all entries will remain anonymous. There are lots of ways for children to get involved, both in school and at home.

We are particularly excited that the winning school will receive **£600 towards its school library!**

Stay tuned for the announcement of the winner of the challenge in January!

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading, creativity and the power of children's voices as part of our **National Year of Reading**; we can't wait to share more information with you over the next few weeks.

Pop-Up Library

We are pleased to let you know that our pop-up library will be re-instated very soon. We hope that this will give everyone the opportunity to donate any books (in good condition) which they no longer wish to read, and allow for the chance to pick up something new and exciting.

The books will be kept in the Reception area of our main office, so that they are kept safe and dry. If you are able to donate any books which your children have outgrown, please bring these to our main office. Thank you, as always, for your support.



Reading Assemblies

Here at Madginford, we are committed to improving our reading and encouraging a love of books; we even have dedicated reading assemblies each Thursday. During these assemblies, reading achievements and efforts are recognised and celebrated with reading certificates, which your children can bring home to share their success with you.

Each week, our reading assemblies will explore a different theme and area of interest so that there is something for everyone.

For our KS2 pupils, here is what your child can expect to enjoy over the next few weeks:

Week 5 – National Poetry Day: Wonder

1 October

We will celebrate **National Poetry Day** and this year's theme of **Wonder**. Children will explore what makes them say "Wow!" and share something they wonder about. Their ideas will become part of our very own **Wonder Wall**.

Week 6 – Welcome to Reading

8 October

We will introduce our **whole-school reading journey**, sharing our plans, reading challenges and what children can look forward to throughout the year. We will also explore the question, "**What counts as reading?**" Children will have the opportunity to share the books and texts they enjoy and help create a whole-school reading recommendation list.

Week 7 – Read Into It: Find Your Book

15 October

Children will explore the question, "**What kind of reader are you?**" and discover how to choose books that connect with their interests and feelings. Whether they enjoy adventure, mystery, humour, spooky stories or beautiful illustrations, we will encourage everyone to find a book that is right for them. We will finish by creating a **recommendation board** with suggestions such as, "If you like..., you might like..."

Week 8 – Sportspeople Read Too!

22 October

We will explore how reading is part of life beyond the classroom and challenge some common ideas about what sportspeople and other professionals read. We are



also hoping to hear from some professional football clubs about the books they enjoy and why reading matters to them. Children will be encouraged to think about their own interests and choose a book to match: **"My interest... my book!"**

Throughout the term, we will use resources from organisations including the **National Literacy Trust, National Poetry Day and BookTrust** to help inspire our children and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Uniform Reminder

School Uniform Expectations

We would like to remind parents and carers of the school's expectations regarding uniform. We have noticed that a number of children are not currently wearing the recommended school uniform. We kindly ask that all children come to school wearing the correct school uniform in accordance with our **School Uniform Policy**, which can be found on the school website.

PE Kit Expectations

On the days when your child has PE, they are expected to come to school wearing:

- A white T-shirt
- Black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- A black jumper, hoodie or fleece, or the school jumper, cardigan or fleece

We have noticed that some children are not wearing appropriate PE shorts and T-shirts. To ensure that children are suitably dressed for PE and comfortable when participating in physical activities, please ensure that:

- Shorts are an appropriate length, sitting just above the knee.
- T-shirts are long enough to fully cover the waistband.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that all children adhere to the school's uniform expectations. Thank you for helping us to maintain a consistent and smart school uniform standard



Secondary Schools Admisison Process

For all parents and carers of Year 6 students, admissions for secondary schools in Kent for September 2027 can be made apply online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

The application opened on Tuesday 1 September 2026 and closes at midnight on Monday 2 November 2026.

Key dates:

Tuesday 1st September 2026: Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to register and apply.

Monday 2nd November 2026: Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Monday 1st March 2027: Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.

Monday 15th March 2027: Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of eligible schools named on the original application.

Tuesday 13th April 2027: Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September - appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals. You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help? Email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team. The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email - please check here before contacting our team for confirmation. Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council (KCC) if the child resides at a KCC address. If your child does not reside at a KCC address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.



The 5 Bs

Be an independent learner!

TRY THESE STEPS **BEFORE** YOU ASK THE TEACHER. ❤️

1



BRAIN – TRY FIRST

- What do I already know?
- What strategies can I try?
- Can I break it down?
- What worked before?



2



BOOK – USE YOUR TOOLS

- Check books, notes or examples
- Use vocabulary, models and success criteria
- Find something similar



3



BUDDY – LEARN TOGETHER

- Explain your thinking
- Ask and answer questions
- Listen carefully and respect ideas



4



BOARD – NOTICE & CONNECT

- Check displays and working walls
- Look for patterns, clues and key words
- Make connections in your learning



5



BOSS – ASK WHEN READY

- I've tried different strategies
- I can explain what I've done
- I ask a clear, focused question



POWERFUL LEARNERS SHOW:



CHALLENGE

I embrace challenge.
I step out of my comfort zone and keep pushing myself.



RESILIENCE

I keep trying when things get tough.
I learn from mistakes and try a different strategy.



PRIDE IN LEARNING

I take pride in my effort, progress and achievements.
I celebrate my learning and that of others.

INDEPENDENT LEARNERS...



think



take responsibility



challenge themselves



keep going



value their learning



support others

Be Curious 🔍 Be Brave ⭐ Be Kind 💜 Be Your Best! ☆

TRY IT • USE IT • OWN IT • KEEP GROWING



✦ Attendance Matters - Let the Magic Happen at Madginford! ✦

At **Madginford**, we believe every child deserves **magical learning experiences** — and those moments happen when children are **in school, on time, everyday**.

Regular attendance helps children feel confident, settled, and ready to enjoy everything school life has to offer.

Every Day Counts

Our expectation is simple: **every child in school, on time, every day**, unless there is a genuine reason for absence. Regular attendance helps children keep up with their learning, maintain friendships and make the most of every opportunity at school.

Please remember:

- **Registration: 8.50am** | Registers close: **9.00am**
- Arrival after **9.00am** is recorded as an **unauthorised absence for the morning session**.
- We encourage all pupils to achieve **96% attendance or above**.
- **90% attendance or below is classed as persistent absence** - this is approximately 19 school days, or nearly four weeks of education, missed over a school year.
- **Term-time holidays will not be authorised** unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- **10 sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks** will result in a Penalty Notice being considered.
- **What is a session?** Each school day has **two attendance sessions** - **one morning session and one afternoon session**. Therefore, **10 sessions are equivalent to 5 full school days**. The 10 sessions do not have to be consecutive.
- Penalty Notices can be issued **per parent, per child**, and continued unauthorised absence may lead to further legal action.



This Week's Attendance Action

Please check your child's attendance and punctuality. Aim for a full week in school and make sure your child arrives **before 8.50am every day**. Please arrange routine appointments and other non-essential activities outside school hours wherever possible.

If your child's attendance is beginning to fall, or there is a genuine barrier making it difficult for them to attend, **please don't wait for it to become a bigger problem – contact us early so we can work together.**

EYFS/KS1: Miss Allen, Head of School

KS2: Miss Stamp, Head of School

School Office: 01622 734539

This week's goal: 5 days in school + 5 days on time = a full week of learning.

Every child. Every day. On time. Every school day matters.



Did you know?

- Missing school regularly can make it harder for children to **keep up with learning** and friendships.
- Being **late** can be just as disruptive as being absent. Lateness **after the registers close** becomes an unauthorised absence.
- Missing **10% of school** (around **2 days each month**) can impact progress in **reading, writing, and maths.**

Small absences can quickly add up — and we don't want anyone to miss all the important learning and experiences!



Why being here matters

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- **Feel happy, confident, and secure**



- Build strong **friendships**
- Enjoy learning and reach their full potential

Every school day brings new opportunities for **magical moments of learning**.

How families can help

You can support great attendance by:

-  Keeping a **regular bedtime and morning routine**
-  Preparing **uniforms, book bags, and PE kits** the night before
-  Having a **backup plan** for getting to school if something unexpected happens
-  Booking **medical and dental appointments outside school hours** where possible
-  Keeping an eye on your child's **attendance**
-  Talking to the **class teacher or school staff** if your child feels worried or anxious; we're always here to help

Working together

If your child is unwell or you're unsure whether they should attend, please **contact the school office**. By working together, we can make sure every child feels supported and ready to enjoy the magic of learning at Madginford.

Be here. Be ready. Be part of the magic.  



Communication Reminder

From September 2026, if you have any concerns, please first contact your child's class teacher. If needed, you may then reach out to the Head of Year:

- **EYFS:** Mrs. South
- **Year 1:** Mrs. Cross
- **Year 2:** Mr. Bevan & Miss Perkins
- **Year 3:** Miss Stamp
- **Year 4:** Mrs. Ralph & Mr. Day
- **Year 5:** Mr. Hollamby
- **Year 6:** Mr. Roper

For ongoing concerns, please contact:

- **Miss Allen** - Head of School (EYFS/KS1)
- **Miss Stamp** - Head of School (KS2)
- **Mrs. Woolcombe** - Headteacher

We are always here to help.

Key Dates for Your Diary

- **Monday 5th October**- Year 5 and 6 Cressida Cowell Author visit to Invicta Grammar School
- **Tuesday 6th October**- Parent and Carer Consultation Evening
- **Wednesday 7th October**- Parent and Carer Consultation Evening
- **Thursday 8th October**- Parent and Carer Consultation Evening (Class 2P ONLY)
- **Thursday 15th October**- Individual and Sibling Photographs (Whole School)
- **Friday 16th October**- Individual and Sibling Photographs (Whole School)
- **Wednesday 21st October**- Year 4 Harvest Festival Performance
- **Friday 23rd October**- Last day of Term 1
- **Wednesday 11th November**- Flu Immunisations (all years)



- **Thursday 12th November-** Friends of Madginford AGM 5:30PM
- **Friday 13th November-** Children in Need- More Information to Follow
- **Tuesday 17th November-** Year 6 Magistrates Visit
- **Tuesday 17th November-** EYFS Stay and Play
- **Wednesday 18th November-** Year 6 Magistrates Visit
- **Wednesday 18th November-** Whole School Pantomime
- **Thursday 19th November-Friday 20th November-** Book Fair
- **Tuesday 24th November-** EYFS Stay and Play
- **Wednesday 25th November-** Year 4 Bikeability
- **Thursday 26th November-** Year 4 Bikeability
- **Tuesday 1st December-** EYFS Christmas Performance (PM)
- **Wednesday 2nd Decemeber-** EYFS Christmas Performance (AM)
- **Tuesday 8th December-** Year 3 Christmas Performance (AM)
- **Wednesday 9th December-** Year 1 Christmas Performance (PM)
- **Thursday 10th December-** Year 1 Christmas Performance (AM)
- **Thursday 10th December-** Year 2 Christmas Performance (PM)
- **Friday 11th December-** Year 2 Christmas Performance (AM)
- **Friday 11th December-** Year 3 Christmas Performance (PM)
- **Wednesday 16th December-** Rocksteady Performance to Parents (Timings TBA)

Warm regards,

Mrs A Woolcombe
Headteacher

Madginford Primary School • Inspiring learning for life

