Madginford Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Amanda Woolcombe

Madginford Primary School Newsletter

Friday 23rd October

From the Headteacher – Mrs. A. Woolcombe

What an incredible first term back we have had here at Madginford Primary School.

We have celebrated so many fantastic achievements from our boys' and girls' football tournaments, to our Year 4 Harvest Festival Performance and our Certificates of Achievement for reading, which many pupils have received this term.

When we return for Term 2, we have lots to look forward to!
We will be raising money for Children In Need (please see further down the newsletter for more details), as well as hosting our book fair and getting ready for our Christmas performances. Please check the key dates section for more information on these upcoming events.

As always, I would like to thank you, the parents and carers, for your continued support in ensuring that all of our pupils are supported wth their education at home as well as in school.

I hope that you all enjoy a well-deserved half-term break and look forward to welcoming our pupils back on **Monday 9th November**.

Spotlight on Sport

Please see below for the excellent range of sports and clubs on offer!



Year 4 Harvest Festival Performance

This week our Year 4 pupils celebrated nature and all of the wonderful food which we are grateful for in their Harvest Festival Performance.

The children put on a wonderful performance which we are sure was thoroughly enjoyed by all; a particular highlight was the Havest Samba, which had everyone shimmying in their seats.

We hope that you enjoy these pictures which the children drew in preparation for the performance:













Amazing Art Work

This week, Year 2 has been working hard on making colourful collages based on the artwork of Alma Thomas.
What wonderful, original and creative pieces; well done, everyone!



Spooky Dinners!

Today, some of our pupils enjoyed a frightful feast with lots of spooky, healthy fruit and veg, including ghastly banana ghosts and pertifying peppers.

Why not give some of these a go at home over the half term holidays…if you dare!







Housekeeping

Please may we politely remind parents and carers that EYFS and KS1 children should not be allowed to play on the school palying fields once they have been collected at the end of the day. Please ensure that you supervise any children in your care.

Please may we politely remind parents and carers that the parking bays which are marked as library staff should be kept clear for the use only of the staff at Madginford Library.

Thank you for working alongside us to keep all of our pupils safe on our school grounds.

Christmas Choir News

A message from Miss Simmons about Christmas Choir!



Children in Need

We are very excited to be raising money this year for children in need. You can help us by wearing bright colours, spots or even pyjamas to school!

We can't wait to see everybody get in the spirit for a great cause!

The QR code is available below; if you are able to donate any amount, big or small, it all helps.



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.

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 polo top**.

Autumn Reading Challenge

This half term, we are encouraging all our Madginford families to snuggle up with a good book, discover new stories and share the magic of reading together! Our Book Club leaflets have now been handed out, so do take a look and explore the wonderful books available. We also have lots to look forward to after half term, including our exciting Book Fair, arriving from **19th–24th November**, giving

children the opportunity to discover new authors and choose their next favourite read. Every order also helps our school earn free books, allowing us to continue developing our reading resources and sharing even more fantastic stories with our children.
Thank you for supporting our love of reading!

We are also looking forward to launching our National Literacy Trust Autumn Reading Challenge, *Future Voices: Reading Builds Change*. We will introduce the challenge in our whole-school reading assembly during the first week back, with teachers sharing more information with their classes. Children will then be invited to take part at home in their own time.
The challenge celebrates how reading can open our minds, help us explore different perspectives and inspire us to make a positive difference in the world around us. We hope lots of our young readers will get involved as we aim to enter the competition, so watch this space for further details!

For families looking for a reading adventure over half term, author Elisa Peacock will be visiting Madginford Library on **Tuesday 27th October, from 2.15pm–3.15pm,** to read her latest book, *A Whale of a Time*. The reading will be followed by a whale-themed craft inspired by the story — a wonderful opportunity to bring a book to life! No need to book, just show up ready to create!
Whether you are sharing a bedtime story, exploring a comic, enjoying an audiobook or visiting your local library, every reading moment counts. Let's keep turning pages, sparking imaginations and nurturing a lifelong love of reading at Madginford!

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 them 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 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

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Secondary Schools Applications- A Message From MR Roper and the Year 6 Team

IMPORTANT: ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2026.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications – Important Advice for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you prepare to apply for your child's secondary school place for September 2027, we would like to share some important advice to help you make informed decisions and maximise your child's chances of securing a suitable school place.

1. Use all four school preferences

We strongly recommend that you use all four preferences available on the Kent County Council application form. Listing only one school does not increase your child's chances of being offered a place there. By naming four schools, you give yourself more options and help reduce the risk of being allocated a school that you have not chosen, which could be further away.

2. Include a realistic alternative

Please ensure that at least one of your preferences is for a local non-selective school where your child has a strong likelihood of being offered a place, taking into account the school's admissions criteria, distance and any relevant sibling rules. This provides an important alternative should your child not be offered a place at one of your preferred schools.

3. If you are considering a grammar school appeal

If your child did not achieve the Kent Test pass mark but you intend to appeal for a grammar school place, it is essential that you name the relevant grammar school on your secondary school application form. This includes schools such as Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone Grammar School, Invicta Grammar School and Maidstone Grammar School for Girls (MGGS).

Naming the school as a preference is an important step if you wish to pursue an appeal. Please check the relevant school's admissions and appeals guidance carefully to ensure that you understand the process and any additional requirements.

4. Accept the school place offered

National Offer Day is **Monday 1 March 2027**. Once you receive your child's offer, please ensure that you accept the place by **Monday 15 March 2027**, following the instructions provided with your offer.

Accepting the offered place secures a school option for your child while you explore other possibilities, such as waiting lists or an appeal. Please follow the guidance issued by Kent County Council and the school concerned regarding these processes.

5. Apply online before the deadline

Applications should be completed online through the Kent County Council website. **The deadline is midnight on Sunday 1 November 2026.** Please do not leave your application until the last minute, and ensure that you keep a record of your submission.

You can access the application information here:
https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places

Choosing a secondary school is an important decision, and we encourage all families to research their options carefully, consider the admissions criteria for each school and make use of all four preferences available.

We hope this advice is helpful. If you have any questions about the application process, please consult Kent County Council's admissions guidance.

Kind regards,

The Year 6 Team

Madginford Primary School

The 5 Bs

Be an independent learner!

TRY THESE STEPS BEFORE YOU ASK THE TEACHER.

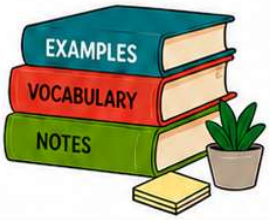
1 BRAIN – TRY FIRST

- 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

GREEN TREE SCHOOL WOODLAND Silver Award

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

✨ 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

- **Friday 23rd October-** Last day of Term 1
- **Monday 9th November-** First Day of Term 2
- **Wednesday 11th November-** Flu Immunisations (all years)
- **Thursday 12th November-** Friends of Madginford AGM 5:30PM
- **Friday 13th November-** Children in Need- pyjamas, bright colours or spots to raise money for Children in Need
- **Tuesday 17th November-** Year 6 Magistrates Visit
- **Tuesday 17th November-** EYFS Stay and Play
- **Wednesday 18th November-** Whole School Pantomime (Cinderella)
- **Thursday 19th November-Friday 20th November-** Book Fair
- **Friday 20th November-** Year 6 Magistrates Visit

- **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 December-** 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 (TimingsTBA)
- **Friday 18th December-** Last Day of Term 1

Warm regards,

Mrs A Woolcombe
Headteacher

Madginford Primary School • Inspiring learning for life