



Madginford Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Amanda Woolcombe

Madginford Primary School Newsletter

Friday 16th October

From the Headteacher - Mrs. A. Woolcombe

We have had another busy and productive week here at Madginford Primary School.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge congratulations to our girls' football team on their fantastic success in reaching the quarter finals this week. You all represented Madginford so well and we are incredibly proud of your teamwork and determination.

We are also looking forward to sharing some festive cheer as the Christmas Choir continues to excel in the singing practice. Please see the section on the this for further details of performances- we can't wait to see you there!

With Children in Need just around the corner, we are also looking forward to coming together as a school community to support this wonderful cause in pyjamas, spots and bright colours!

For parents and carers of those in Year 5 who would like to know more about the Kent Test for the next Academic Year, we will be holding a meeting to answer any queries around this in Term 2. Please check your emails regularly for an update on this closer to the time.



As always, thank you for your continued support; we hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things happening in our school!



Spotlight on Sport

IMPACT!

PROVISION TEAM

Opportunities that make a difference



MADGINFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL | YEAR 5 & 6 GIRLS FOOTBALL

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2026

MADGINFORD GIRLS REACH THE QUARTER-FINALS

An impressive first outing together saw eight Year 5 & 6 girls battle their way through the tournament before a heartbreaking last-second exit in the quarter-finals.



A day to remember

This tournament marked the first time our Year 5 & 6 girls had played together as a team, but you wouldn't have known it from the way they took to the pitch. From the opening game, the eight-player squad showed real determination, teamwork and resilience.

As the day went on, the girls grew in confidence, communicated brilliantly and developed a strong understanding of each other's games. They competed superbly in the group stage, picking up important results against tough opponents and earning their place in the knockout rounds.

Throughout the tournament the girls represented Madginford with pride, showing excellent sportsmanship and a positive attitude on and off the pitch.

"The girls showed courage, teamwork and belief from the first whistle to the last."

Moments that stood out

There were so many memorable moments throughout the day. The girls defended bravely, worked tirelessly for each other and showed real quality going forward. Their passing, movement and encouragement on the pitch got stronger with every game.

Beige was outstanding, producing some truly special moments. She scored several key goals, including two brilliant finishes from the halfway line that left everyone cheering. Her confidence on the ball and willingness to take on defenders made a huge difference and inspired the team.

Across the pitch, every player played their part – from brave tackles and last-ditch blocks to clever passing and tireless running. The girls supported one another throughout, celebrated each other's success and never gave up, showing real team spirit and a great attitude.

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT **BEIGE**

Recognised for her outstanding goal contributions, confidence on the ball and spectacular finishes from the halfway line.

Plenty to take forward

The quarter-final was an incredibly tight and thrilling match, with both teams giving everything. The girls created chances and defended with real determination, but in the final seconds the opposition scored to win the game.

Although it was a heartbreaking end, there is so much for the team to be proud of. Their effort, attitude and willingness to work together were excellent, especially considering this was their first time playing together.

The experience has given the girls valuable lessons and a huge confidence boost. They now have a strong foundation to build on and can look forward to future tournaments with excitement. If this first outing is anything to go by, there is plenty more to come from this talented group.

A BIG THANK YOU

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and supporters who came to cheer the girls on. Your encouragement and support helped to create a fantastic atmosphere throughout the day.

TOURNAMENT AT A GLANCE

SQUAD

8 Year 5 & 6 girls

TEAM DEBUT

First time playing together

GROUP STAGE

Progressed into the knockout rounds

KNOCKOUT STAGE

Reached the quarter-finals

STANDOUT MOMENT

Beige's long-range goals from halfway

HEARTBREAK MOMENT

Knocked out by a last-second goal

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Beige

A QUARTER-FINAL RUN BUILT ON TEAMWORK, BRAVERY AND POTENTIAL

Madginford's Year 5 & 6 girls can be incredibly proud of how they represented the school. Their determination, positive attitude and growing teamwork made this a fantastic first experience together, and it promises to be the start of many more successful tournaments in the future.

www.impactsportsclubs.co.uk

impactsportsclubs@gmail.com



Christmas Choir News

A message from Miss Simmons about Christmas Choir!



Madginford Christmas Choir

This week Madginford Christmas Choir for years 3-6 has started rehearsals for their Christmas events.

The children had a fantastic first rehearsal and are already sounding amazing!

We have three events lined up this year which anyone is welcome to come along to watch.

-  **Sunday 22nd November**
on **Bearsted Green** at around **4pm**.
-  **Monday 23rd November**
at the **Co-Op** next to Madginford straight after school.
-  **Sunday 29th November**
at the **Orchard Spot** in Downswood.

Full timings for all events to be confirmed.

**We would love to see you there
and cannot wait to get Christmassy!**



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.



Amazing Autumn Arts and Crafts

We are so very proud of the fantastic work which our EYFS children have been focusing on this week. Here are some highlights so far- we think you will agree that these are worth celebrating:

Pumpkin smashing and digging!



Pumpkin Design



Cheeky Pumpkin Colouring



Paper Pumpkin Building



Pumpkin Matching Words to Pictures



Friends of Madginford AGM

Please join us **Thursday 12th November at 17:30** for our Friends of Madginford AGM.

This is a fantastic opportunity to re-establish our school's parent and carer association. Many of you may remember the group in its previous form as the Madginford PTA. We are now looking to bring the group back together under its new name, Friends of Madginford, with a fresh opportunity for parents, carers and members of our school community to get involved.

Friends of Madginford can play a wonderful part in supporting our children and our school. By working together alongside our School Community team, we can raise funds, create additional opportunities and experiences for our children, support school projects and bring families together through enjoyable and memorable events.



Everyone is welcome; you do not need previous experience of being part of a PTA, organising events or fundraising. Whether you were involved with the PTA previously, are completely new to the group, or simply have an idea you would like to share, we would love you to come along.

If you would like more information, please get in touch via our office email:
office@mps.kent.sch.uk

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

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 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

- **Wednesday 21st October**- Year 4 Harvest Festival Performance
- **Wednesday 21st October**- Spooky Disco (KS1- Please check your letter for timings)
- **Thursday 22nd October**- Spooky Disco (KS2- Please check your letter for timings)
- **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

