Madginford Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Amanda Woolcombe

Madginford Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th November

From the Headteacher – Mrs. A. Woolcombe

A very warm welcome back to Term 2 at Madginford Primary School.

We hope that everyone enjoyed a lovely half-term break and is feeling refreshed and ready for another exciting term. We have plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks, including our much-anticipated pantomime, a wonderful programme of Christmas performances and celebrations, and lots of sporting opportunities for our children to get involved in.

Term 2 is always a such special time in the school calendar, and I am really looking forward to seeing our children embrace the opportunities, experiences and memorable moments ahead.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support. It really does make such a difference to our school community.

Remembrance Day Assembly

This week, our children came together for a special assembly to mark Remembrance Day. We took time to reflect on the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces, past and present, and to remember all those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world.

The children listened thoughtfully and learned about the significance of Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies as a symbol of remembrance. We also observed a respectful two-minute silence, giving everyone an opportunity to pause and reflect.

We are incredibly proud of the respect, thoughtfulness and maturity shown by our children during this important assembly. It was a lovely opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of remembering, showing kindness and valuing peace.

The children made beautiful poppy wreaths in honor of Rembrance Day; we have included photographs of these below, so that you may also see their incredible work.




2P
Rabbit
Class
2S
remember


Robin
Class

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!

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



Lots of children and staff had fun today, dressing up in spots, bright colours and pyjamas! We hope that everyone had a great time and are proud to have supported Children in Need.

Here is a picture of our lovely kitchen staff joining in for a good cause:



Christmas Choir News

Please join us On **Sunday 22nd November on Bearsted Green** for an afternoon of festive song!



Housekeeping

- **No Nuts and Nut Products**: Please may we remind all parents and carers that we are a **nut-free school** and **no nuts or food items containing nuts** should be sent in to school. Thank you in advance for helping to keep everyone at our school safe.
- **Lost Property**: Please ensure that your children's uniform, clothing (including P.E Kits) and water bottles are clearly labelled, as this is the easiest way to ensure we can get these items back to your child, if misplaced.

Save The Date!

Parent Information Session – Understanding Neurodiversity

We are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming **Fin O'Regan MA**, a leading UK specialist in behaviour, learning and neurodiversity, to deliver an informative session for parents and carers.

Wednesday 2nd December | 1:15pm–3:00pm (refreshments will be provided)

Entitled *"No Two Children Are the Same: Navigating Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence"*, the session will explore how parents and schools can work together to support children's learning, behaviour and social development.

Topics will include understanding **Autism, ADHD, ODD and PDA**, the importance of routines and structure, developing positive relationships, managing challenges and supporting children's wellbeing and resilience.

This is a fantastic opportunity to gain a better understanding of neurodiversity and take away practical ideas to support children both at home and in school.

Please save the date! Further details about booking your place have been sent out via email.



Kent Family Hubs



Useful Links:

- Kent's local offer https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/about-the-send-local-offer
- Family hub https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub
- IASSK https://www.iask.org.uk
- Space to be me https://space2beme.org.uk/

Greenfields
03000 412987
Rutland Way, Maidstone , ME15 8DR
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm
Greenfieldsfh @kent.gov.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

This 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!

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.

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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The 5 Bs

Be an independent learner!

TRY THESE STEPS BEFORE YOU ASK THE TEACHER.

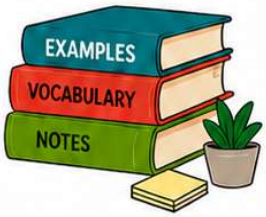
1 BRAIN – TRY FIRST

- 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

- **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)
- **Wednesday 2nd December-** An Introduction to Understanding

Neurodiversity with Fin O'Reagan MA (1:15PM-3PM)

- **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