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Dear Parents,

I cannot believe we have only been back at school for three weeks – so much has happened! Years 5 and 6 had an amazing time on Monday singing as part of the Young Voices choir. We were so proud of all of them! It was a long day but they were all amazing! Thank you so much to the adults who gave up their evening to come with us (Mrs Grinstead, Mrs Spratt, Miss Reddick, Mrs Siverland-Bishop, Mrs Ward, Mrs Brown and Mrs Smith), and who joined in so enthusiastically!

Entering through the school office / Interventions

Some children benefit from early morning interventions, with teachers and teaching assistants. We do appreciate your support with this, and for ensuring the children are here on time for a prompt start. Please can I ask, however, that your children do not arrive more than 5 minutes before the stated time of the intervention we simply cannot guarantee having staff available to supervise them, or sufficient space for them to wait, if they arrive too early.

Similarly, if your child arrives through the front door, rather than the playground gate, please can we ask that they arrive between 8:40am and 8:50am? Again, we do not have staff available to greet them before this time. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Illness...

Unfortunately, it is that time of year when horrible bugs and viruses are prevalent. This year we seem to have some extremely nasty sickness bugs doing the rounds. *Please, please keep your children home from school for a full 48 hours from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.* I know 48 hours seems like a long time, especially if your child feels better, or if you need to get back to work, but please do think of others and keep your child off until 48 hours have passed. The viruses that are around at the moment are very contagious, and last week we really struggled to staff the school sufficiently to remain open, as so many staff members were affected.

Nurturing the spark of God within

“Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles” Isaiah 40:31



This is also the time when we may need to contact you to ask you to collect your child from school. We only send children home from school if they are genuinely unwell, in which case it is important both that we are able to contact you quickly, and also that there is someone nearby who is able to collect your child quickly. We quite understand that it is not easy to juggle childcare when parents work, but would really appreciate having sufficient emergency contacts to call on when a child needs to go home. Poorly children really do not want to sitting outside the school office whilst we try to get hold of someone for them. If you would like to check, update or add to your child's emergency contacts, you can do this on the Arbor app, and let us know of any changes you would like to make. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Reviews

As some of you may know, Mark Cole was appointed as the new CEO of Tenax Schools' Trust in September 2024. To support Mark as he works to get to know all of the schools in the Trust, a number of reviews have been commissioned for this year, each looking at a different aspect of school life. To date we have had reviews looking at Inclusion and our support of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding. These reviews are both thorough and collaborative, and offer our staff and children the opportunity to share what we do here at Leybourne. I am delighted to share with you just a few of the comments that have been made following these reviews:

-School is calm and settled. Behaviours for learning are positive and underpinned by warm and nurturing relationships between staff and pupils.

-Impact of Speech & Language provision on younger pupils' reading is a strength e.g. PP pupils in Year 1 who are clearly developing their vocabularies and able to decode more speedily as mapping between known phonemes and known vocabulary quickly and effectively.

-A clear and consistent approach to the teaching of phonics was seen during the visit. This included providing effective 1:1 teaching right from the start for particular children, which has meant that some children with complex SEND needs have effectively been prevented from falling behind in the first place.

-(I saw) a very strong sense of inclusion within the school, with individual pupils known extremely well, and clear curriculum adaptation for those with pronounced SEND.

It is lovely to see the hard work of the staff, and their commitment to the children, being recognised in this way.

Thank you

We have received the following emails which I would like to share with you all.

On behalf of the whole THB Medway team, we wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible donations, totally a massive 110kg, you collected on our behalf. Your generosity and commitment to our cause is truly inspiring, and we cannot thank you enough for your support.

These donations will go directly towards helping local families and individuals in need, providing them with essential hygiene and cleaning items that they may otherwise struggle to afford. Your support means the world to us, and to the people we serve, as it

enables us to continue our vital work of addressing hygiene poverty in Medway and beyond.

We're thrilled to see the tangible impact of your donations making a difference in our community. From families experiencing an unexpected boost in confidence and self-worth, to individuals who have access to essential health and hygiene products, your support is having a lasting effect on the lives of those we serve.

The Hygiene Bank

and

Thank you for your very kind donation to Homeless Care.

We solely rely on the kindness and generosity of our community, so we can improve the lives and prospects of our homeless and vulnerable clients in our Borough.

In these difficult times, it is heart-warming to know that there are people, such as yourselves, on whom we can rely on to keep our services operational, which allows us to provide the right support to those who need it.

On behalf of Homeless Care, we thank you.

Young Voices 2025 by Year 5

“The evening of Monday 20th January 2025 was one of the best times of our lives. After months of practice, the children in Year 5 and Year 6 were in the O2 Arena, full of excitement, ready to take part in the Young Voices concert. The excited parents started to gradually fill up the empty seats of the enormous O2 arena. Suddenly, in a blink of an eye, the whole stadium was plunged into darkness and the only lights you could see were the tiny torches, which all 8000 children were holding. It looked like miniature stars in the night sky. The crowd went wild! Immediately, we all knew that it was time for the concert to begin.

As the breathtaking band took their places on the stage, the first song began to play. This marvellous moment filled us with happiness, pleasure and delight, as the incredible sound of over 8000 children singing in unison filled the vast space. ‘Try Everything’ was the first song; it really opened up our hearts and lifted up our hopes and dreams. As we were singing, there were six spectacular street dancers called the Urban Strides. They had choreographed a dazzling performance for all to see – they were awesome!



As the show continued, there were individuals who demonstrated to us their amazing singing talents. One of the incredible singers was known as MC Grammar and he showed us his immense rapping skills and everyone adored his fashionable shoes! Another talented singer was Souparnika Nair; she sang an AMAZING solo song, called ‘Speechless’ from the Disney movie Aladdin. It was an incredible moment when she hit that first note (it gave us goose-bumps.) Also, we all sang ‘Brighter Days’ with her and it sounded phenomenal with all the harmonies.

Tommy Blaize was our next super singer and you may know him from the lead singer of Strictly Come Dancing. The very first time he came out onto the stage, there was a colossal cheer and all through the arena there were smiley faces everywhere to be seen. Finally, we got to meet a man called Andy Instone, who was the creative director of all of the incredible music numbers, because he is the leader of the Urban Strides street dance group. 'GET LOUD!' was one of the most active dance songs, directed by Andy. When he stepped on to the stage, the who choir went crazy, because he had some epic moves!

As the show came to an end, we thought to ourselves, "What an incredible experience that was!" Taking part in the Young Voices concert was simply wonderful and we will never forget it, never ever.

Sophie N and Grace G, Year 5"



Reverend Kelly's Thought for the Week

This week we thought about Jesus as the water of life. Jesus breaks down walls and meets with those who society has judged and cast out. He listens and helps them to reimagine their life differently. I wonder how we can be life giving to those around us? To break down our own walls and reimagine life in our communities in a different way.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and the weather is not too unkind to us.

Best wishes
Tina Holditch
Headteacher