

**Saplings Class Improvements**

A HUGE THANK YOU to the Saplings' parents who very kindly helped paint our Wendy House and story reading chair ready for the winter weather last weekend. We are extremely grateful to you for giving up your time.



A special THANK YOU also to Mr Norris who has built an entire new mud kitchen for the children, complete with new equipment and tarpaulin to keep it all dry when not in use. The children have absolutely loved trying it out and have been busy making mud pies and potions! How lucky are we in Saplings! Thank you to everyone who helped get these done for us.  
Mrs Daniels

**A Busy Bee...**

Harrison has been extremely busy in his dad's office, printing, weaving, sticking and heat pressing some new School Bibs in time for our first rugby tournament. Many thanks to Mrs Coles for donating the bibs and to Harrison and his family for working so hard to personalize them.



**Sporting Achievements**

On Wednesday 27th September our A & B Tag Rugby team represented the school in the Tonbridge Judians Rugby Championship (Replacing the EDSA event that we took part in last year).



The children played fantastically well and showed great team spirit. Ide Hill managed to retain the title with some outstanding rugby. The results were as follows:

- Ide Hill B 3-3 Weald A
- Ide Hill B 3-4 Chiddingstone A
- Ide Hill B 3-4 Hever
- Ide Hill B 6-1 Leigh
- Ide Hill B 5-1 Fordcombe
- 🏆 Ide Hill B finished 7th 🏆

- Ide Hill A V Crockham Hill 5-0
- Ide Hill A V Fordcombe 5-1
- Ide Hill A V Leigh (A) 6-1
- Ide Hill A V Chiddingstone A 4-3
- Ide Hill A V Chiddingstone B 3-1
- 🏆 Ide Hill Champions 🏆

A fantastic start to the 2023/24 season to add to last year's quadruple. Well done to all the children who took part and thank you to all the families who came along to support the school.



Congratulations to Sienna, who achieved her first podium place in the South East Gymnastics Challenge, placing 3rd out of 124 competitors and coming 3rd in her floor routine. What a fantastic achievement! You must be extremely proud.

Congratulations to Toby & Sophie, who took part in Kent Ride & Stride earlier this month, to raise funds for St Mary's Church, Ide Hill and the Friends of Kent Churches, a volunteer-run charity which helps to preserve the 1,400-year heritage of historic Kent churches.



It was a hot day (30 C) but the children showed great enthusiasm and walked from St Mary's in Sundridge to St Mary's in Ide Hill, then over to St Thomas and St John's in Sevenoaks- a total of 10 miles! This is a fantastic achievement and the children should both be commended for their dedication to our community and their eagerness to complete the walk in extreme weather! The children have raised over £700, half of which will go to the village church, and half to the countywide charity.

#### Emmetts New Play Area



Emmetts Garden opened their new adventure playground last Sunday. Our Year 6 children were invited to come along and cut the ribbon for the grand opening. Please do go along and try it out!

#### Parent Events

Over the last few weeks we have hosted our "Meet the Teacher" KS1 and KS2 events, SENCO coffee morning and Phonics workshops for parents. It is always our aim to keep you as informed as possible about your children's learning so thank you for attending these events.

#### KS1 and KS2 Meet the Teacher Event

If you were unable to attend these meetings, the information that was presented is available for you to download and read. This has been sent to all parents via email, but is also available here [KS1](#) [KS2](#).

#### Mrs Daniel's Phonics Workshop

The workshop was whistle-stop tour to explain teach phonics is taught for reading and writing from Reception using the Rocket Phonics scheme.

Learning to read is a complicated process and is not a sprint, so it is vital that children get the opportunity to read regularly and read about their passions too! We have started our Dough Disco and Wiggle and Squiggle sessions in Saplings to help strengthen those muscles for writing too.

We are starting our phonics scheme, introducing the children to the first set of sounds, which is very exciting. Thank you to all the parents who came to the workshop. A phonics pack will be on its way to you in due course so you can support your child at home - Mrs Daniels

#### SENCO Coffee Morning

Mrs Rees hosted her first coffee morning this week to introduce herself to KS1 parents as our new SENCO and talk about her role, supporting SEN children across the school. It was a really lovely, supportive event. If you were not able to attend this one, the fear not, Mrs Rees will be holding further events on the following days:

KS2 parents – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 8:50

KS1 parents – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 8:50

KS2 parents – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 8:50

## BBC 500 words competition

500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition has now opened for submissions and will run till Friday 10 November. Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK. This year, the two age categories will be 5-7 year-olds and 8-11 year-olds.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The brilliant 500 Word judges are back; award-winning and best-selling authors Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson, and former children's laureate, Malorie Blackman. This year there will be a new addition to the panel, TV legend and children's author, Sir Lenny Henry. The judges will be casting their expert eyes over the final 50 stories. Once again, the competition has been given the royal seal of approval and has the support of Her Majesty, Queen Camilla.

This year, BBC Breakfast will be hosting the competition supported by BBC Teach. The winners will be featured in a special 500 Word programme with The One Show, on World Book Day on 7 March 2024.

In previous years, children from Ide Hill School have really enjoyed entering this competition, so why not give it a go!



## Healthy Lunch boxes

At Ide Hill School we hold a Healthy School status. This means that we try to promote healthy choices as much as possible.

This term, staff have noticed a real range of packed lunches in school. We are therefore reaching out to all parents to ask that you please try to make healthy choices about the food choices you make for your children – not too much processed or unhealthy foods like sausage rolls, crisps or chocolate as these can make your child feel sluggish in the afternoon and have a real impact on their learning.

As a school we will continue to keep an eye on food at lunchtimes so please don't be offended if we ask to speak with you about this. We will always aim to work in partnership with families so that children are able to reach their full potential.

For healthy lunch box ideas, take a look at the webpages below

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/lunchbox-recipes>

<https://www.healthylittlefoodies.com/healthy-lunchbox-ideas/>

## Willows Class News

Willows class have been studying and exploring instructions through recipes. We thought one of the best ways to do this was to follow a recipe ourselves. So, on Monday we made Fruit Cookie delight as a class. There was lots of fun, mess and yummy ingredients to taste. The cookies were gone in a flash, not even touching the sides and we learnt a lot about how detailed we have to be when writing recipe instructions. We even had to add some more detail half way through.



Happy Birthday!

Nathan Jack

**Forest Church News- October 2023**

St Mary's, Sundridge with Ide Hill & Toys Hill, PCC  
 "Change, Grow, Serve "

Sunday 1st October 10.30 - Sundridge Church Harvest Festival. We will be busy in the churchyard thinking about the harvest of leaves! Donations of tins or dried food, for those locally in need, may be made.

Sunday 5th November 3pm – Toys Hill Triangle.  
 Sunday 10th December 10.30 – Ide Hill Church for the Christmas Tree Festival.  
 Sunday 4th February 4pm - Toys Hill Triangle or Village Hall.

All are welcome whatever your age, however noisy or wriggly! Wear suitable outdoor clothing.

For more details please contact: Diana Pickard  
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[hixmix@btopenworld.com](mailto:hixmix@btopenworld.com)



<b>Elms</b>	<b>Jo Jo</b> - For settling so well into Elms and making an effort to get to know the children in the class <b>Frankie</b> - For making a huge effort in phonics this week and for trying hard to remember your sounds
<b>Beech</b>	<b>Violet</b> - For super resilience with her maths. <b>Matthew</b> - For great determination in his independent uniting.
<b>Willows</b>	<b>Imogen P</b> - For her lovely ideas for horrible recipes in English and her great attitude towards her learning. <b>Teddie</b> - For his excellent contributions to our discussions on how to resolve conflicts in PSHE.
<b>Hazel</b>	<b>Matilda</b> - For her excellent effort across the curriculum and for overcoming challenges with a positive mindset. <b>Treyon</b> - For his positive attitude to learning and excellent passes in tag rugby.
<b>Ash</b>	<b>Willow</b> - For her fantastic home learning clay sculpture of Medusa. <b>Winston</b> - For his brilliant maths work this week, rounding numbers up to 1 million.
<b>Oaks</b>	<b>Hannah</b> - For her excellent fact file on Anne Boleyn <b>Sophia</b> - For her detailed description of the witches in Macbeth.

**The Great Ide Hill Bake Off**  
**Saturday 14th October**

Enter one or more of your bakes into one of our Judged categories  
 £2.00 per entry

Bakes for judging to be delivered to hall 10-11am  
 Doors open at 1pm for tea and cake, raffle and prize giving

Adult: Cakes and Gateaux Small cakes, Traybakes and Fancies  
 Biscuits and Scones Savoury Bakes  
 Free From bakes (vegan or sugar, gluten or dairy free)

Showstopper (a cake no larger than an 8-inch cake decorated in your own style/theme)  
 Teen bakes - 7 inch cake iced with sporting theme and/or cookies and biscuits  
 Children's bakes - 6 decorated cupcakes and/or cookies and biscuits

Entry forms available from village shop

Friends of Ide Hill Church

**Woodland Skills Club**  
 Ide Hill School

Come and join us on Tuesdays at this fun after school club for campfire cooking, whittling, seasonal nature crafting and good times outdoors.

Every Tuesday during term time  
 3.20pm - 4.30pm  
 Y3 - Y6  
 £8 per session - £30 for 4 sessions to the end of term  
 Pre-booking essential

Book at - [info@naturenatives.co.uk](mailto:info@naturenatives.co.uk)  
 Nature Natives For more information call 07817 028314