



Smarden Newsletter 20th January 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our newsletter - we hope you like it. Scroll down to read more. We would love your feedback: head@smarden-tkat.org. We would particularly welcome any suggestions for what you would like to see in our newsletters every week.

Important Announcements



SO MUCH MORE THAN
fantastic food

Which hat will you wear today?
Become part of our fantastic team
Chartwells are looking for

COMPASS GROUP
WE NEED YOU!
Calling all parents and family

Visit www.jobsonline.com/compass.co.uk

A school cook at Smarden Primary School,
Pluckley Road, Ashford, TN27 8ND

Cook – 27.5hrs, £10.00ph 08.30 – 14.00

Please contact Jessica for more
information should this role interest you.

Contact:
Jessica Church on 07764852575

Chartwells
So much more than Fantastic Food

Kitchen Cook Vacancy - Change of Catering Company - Important please read

We are sad to be saying goodbye to our kitchen cook, Natalie on 27th January after many years of service here at Smarden and the catering at Pluckley School. Natalie is heading off on a new career path and we wish her the very best of luck and she will be missed by us all. In light of this, we have

an immediate vacancy for a school cook to work alongside Lisa, our kitchen assistant, and manage the catering for Smarden and Pluckley Schools. If you would be interested, or know someone who might be, please do let Mrs Miller or Mrs Speight know.

Ideally if you have health and safety and food hygiene qualifications would be an advantage but not essential. All prospective candidates would be subject to a DBS check and be employed by Chartwells catering company and not directly by the school with full training provided.

The attached leaflet provides additional information in regard to the job, hours, pay etc. If we or our current catering company are unable to employ a cook by the 27th January we have been offered a food delivery service from The North School in Ashford. School lunches would be cooked and brought to Smarden in time for lunch service. Unfortunately, this would mean children no longer have the option to choose a meal on the day and parents would need to specify exactly what main meal and pudding their child would like and we would have to honour that choice. It would also be vital that all children are booked for school meals who wish to have one in order that enough food is sent to us daily. We would also like to announce there is to be a change of catering company from 31st March as our current providers Chartwells are leaving all TKAT schools.

We are in consultation with other school catering companies and we should be able to share with you who this will be in a couple of weeks' time via the school newsletter. Please do come forward if you think you could cover the role of cook at Smarden, even if this is only temporary until 31st March. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Coming up



Year 3 Netball match Thursday 26th January v Dulwich Prep. All Year 3 pupils are invited to participate but parents must be able to transport to Dulwich. A letter has gone home to parents in book bags today.

SAVE THE DATE:

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 7th February. Parents are warmly invited to an online safety information session in the hall at 2.30pm. Come and find out all about the safer school app and how to keep your children safe online. Free tea, coffee and cakes.

Open classroom - Thursday 9th February. Please come and look round your child's classroom and see all the children's learning from 2.45pm on Thursday 9th February. If you have more than one child, you are welcome to visit each class in turn.

Parents will be pleased to hear that the work to the tree over the playground will now be completed on Friday next week. The area will be cordoned off and all safety measures adhered to while the work is carried out. Our thanks to the parish council for getting this done so quickly. Meanwhile, Kent County Council will be removing the tree at the front of the Nursery on 13th February.

Caterpillar Class





This week we have introduced a phonics and maths session with our preschoolers in the afternoons. We have looked at the M sound which has the picture of 'Maisie Mountain.' Our number of the week has been number 1. The children have loved these sessions and there has been the option for them to take part in activities linked to their learning too. Well done Caterpillars!

Blyton Class



The children have had a busy week retelling the story "The Man on the Moon" by Simon Bartram. We have listened and moved to a song that describes travelling to the moon and we have started some diary writing as if we are Bob (the man that works on the moon.) In Maths, we have started to use number lines and in some cases hundred squares to support us with solving addition and subtraction calculations. During woodland learning, we began to notice buds appearing on the bare branches of deciduous trees. Due to the bare trees we noticed birds: in particular pigeons and a few crows. We blew bubbles into the woods and the cold air made them move slowly and easy to catch! Please see the photo.

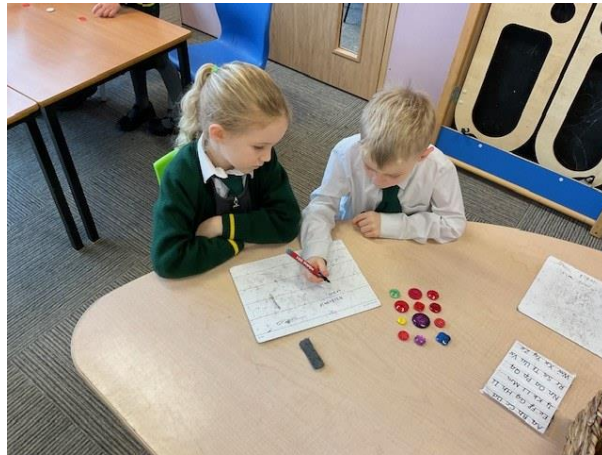


Donaldson Class



Austen Class

This week in Austen Class we have been delving into our enquiry question 'Can you overcome adversity?'. We began learning about the Titanic, in particular, exploring the different types of passengers who boarded the ship and their reasons for making the trip to New York. We then explored the different types of accommodation and facilities on board the ship for the first-, second- and third-class passengers and looked at the menus and types of food that would have been served.







Sassoon Class



In English, we have continued to draft our newspapers about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and destruction of Pompeii. We are very much looking forward to publishing them as final copies next week. For maths, Year 4 have continued to develop knowledge on fractions including equivalents and mixed numbers, while Year 3 have been working on multiplication. It has really been testing our times table knowledge! In history, we explored a range of mysterious artefacts from Roman times that were found in Kent. We needed to use careful observations to work out what they were and what their purpose may have been. In PE, we have been exploring street dance and 'Tutting' which we are using to create a dance. We were extremely lucky this week as we welcomed our dance specialist into our lessons in which we learnt dance moves and created the first part of our dance.



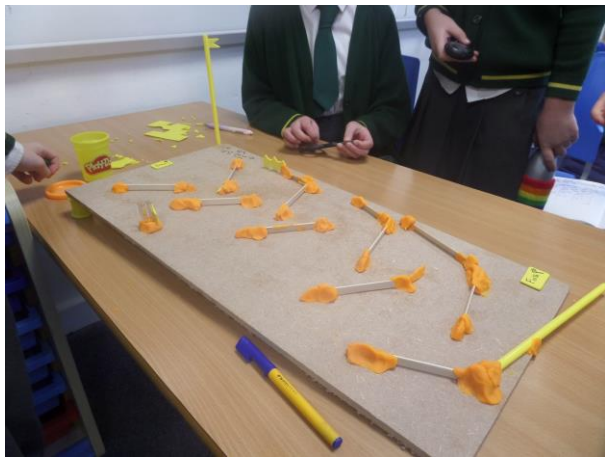
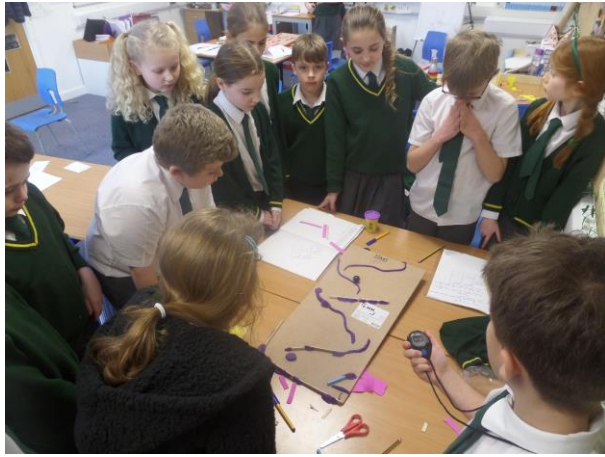


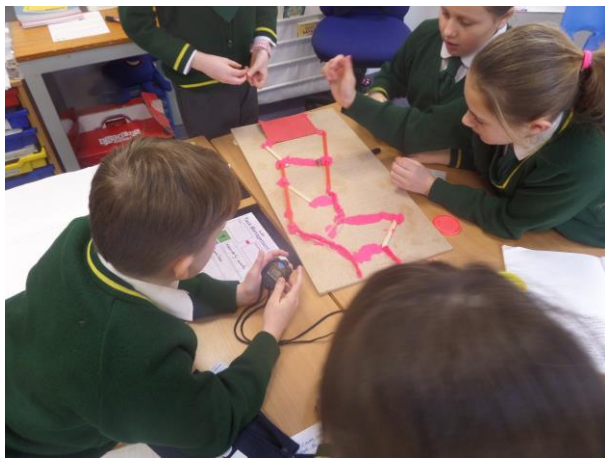
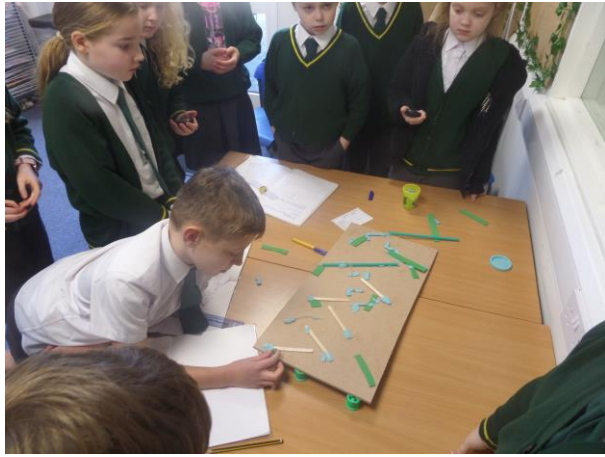


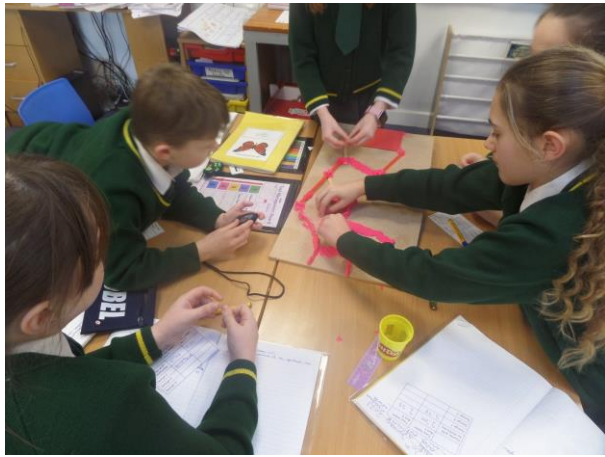
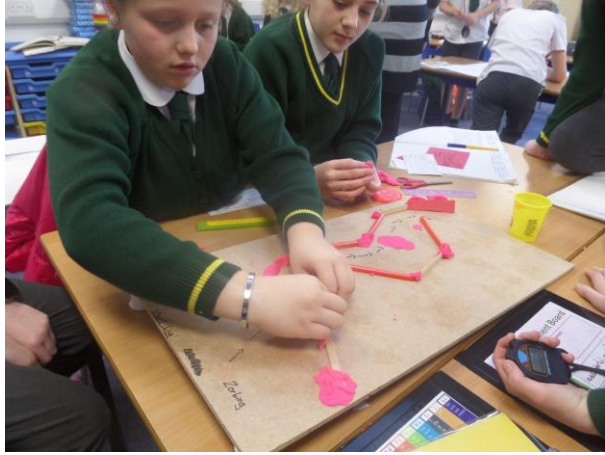


Dickens Class









Rowling Class





This week we had the hook session for our new Talk for Writing unit which is suspense writing. We made camps under the table and read some spooky stories. Then Mrs Taylor became Dragon Deborah Meadon (message from the editor - Mrs Taylor is much more of a force to be reckoned with!) and introduced our science challenge to us. We will pitch our prototypes at the end of the term!

Headteachers' Awards



Headteacher's Awards:

Nursery:

Monty Taylor-Smith for being a wonderful example to the younger children and playing cooperatively with his friends.

Blyton:

Ella Turner - For amazing listening and interaction in lessons. Edith Piper - For trying so hard with her reading this term.

Austen:

Albert Brown - For his brilliant attitude towards his learning. He is always persevering and pushing himself to achieve his best.

Adaline Arlott - For her fantastic understanding of multiplication and division and showing great ambition to challenge herself further.

Sassoon:

Chloe - using fantastic observational skills and inference in history

Oscar - aiming to always improve his work

Rowling:

Joseph for excellent attitude towards learning

Laurie for a great suspense writing this week

Jigsaw Awards



This week we are celebrating children that **'work well with a partner or in a group'**!

Austen - Well done India for working well in a pair or group. She takes turns and listens to others.

Sassoon- Freddie for showing kindness when working or talking with others.

Rowling - Charlie who will work with any of his peers in a positive way, even if it's someone he wouldn't usually choose to work with,

Nominations from staff for children demonstrating our values this week



George Etheridge for showing compassion to another child when they were upset.

Willoe Thomas for managing her emotions well.

Lily-May Cosier for always being exceptionally behaved in breakfast club, always using her manners and beginning the day with a positive attitude.

Parker, for cleaning up the Library after many books were left lying around. He then helped other children to pack up their stuff and be ready to go home.

Olivia Leech for always having a smile on her face and asking me how I am.

Adeline for her ambition to do well in her comprehension session with me on Wednesday.

Willoe for always saying good morning and asking how I am.

The whole of Sassoon class for being respectful and showing ambition when we had our visitor into school.

Harriet Wilks for always coming into school keenly with a smile on her face, and trying hard with her learning.

Thomas Demery for being such a big help tidying up in after school club without being asked.

All of Rowling class for being the kindest, most polite bunch of children their age I've ever met!

Jasmine from Austen class for her reading in our off programme Phonics group. She reads with such enthusiasm it's a genuine joy to listen to!

Joseph Gibbs for showing kindness and respect by waiting for me and holding the door.

Parker for showing respect by going out of his way to help tidy up behind his class mates, even missing some of his break.

George Stoddart for showing such perseverance and resilience all week with a very poorly eye.

Adaline Arlott and Jasmine Dilley for always being so kind, respectful, polite and hardworking..

Isabella in Donaldson for working with me gathering ice and being so positive and kind to other children when playing with them.

Will in Rowling and George in Dickens for always being kind and polite in Haven.

Attendance



Our target for attendance is 98%. This week five out of 6 classes have reached that target! Well done!

Attendance this week:

Blyton. 98.4%
Donaldson. 85%
Austen. 99.5%
Sassoon. 98.1%
Dickens. 100%. WOW!!!
Rowling. 99.3%

Overall, whole school attendance was 96.9% which is above the national average. Well done, everyone!

Woodland Warriors



This term our theme for Woodland Warriors is "Empowerment" We are using different sources to find out more to support us in our eco journey. We are very grateful to Smarden Stores who have provided us with some Science and National Geographic magazines that we are placing in the library. We have also found out how to create "Eco bricks" from pupils at another school. We are making some at school but if you would like to make one at home we would happily take it off you once full. To make an eco brick -wash out a 2 litre drinks bottle, push in any "soft plastic" such as film lids, crisp packets, plastic bags etc. Push down with a wooden spoon handle until your brick is really solid. Each brick apparently holds 8 plastic bags full of plastic litter and prevents it going into landfill. With thanks Miss Judge



This week's focus on the Curriculum



Each week, we will bring you a different feature on the curriculum. This week, we invite you to take a look at the curriculum page of our new website:

[Our Curriculum](#)

History at Smarden:

The first key dimension of history at Smarden is that of creating a framework of knowledge and understanding into which pupils can place new information. This applies particularly to chronological understanding. We believe that cementing this chronological understanding by the end of Key Stage two will set pupils up for Secondary education.

The second key dimension of history at Smarden is to promote higher order historical skills, for example skills such as understanding of source materials and the complexity of historical perspective. Pupils need to *make their own meaning*. They need to work things out for themselves and think about how they did it. Pupils need to know that the story of the past is told

differently. They need to grasp that history is created from the evidence that remains. Sometimes this evidence is fragmentary or contradictory so we have to weight it and test it for reliability. Historians have to find ways of making sense of this incomplete picture. They also have to make judgments about the accuracy of evidence from the past. If children are to make sense of their own world where social media regularly tells different stories about the same events, using different evidence and for different audiences, they need practice at handling these contradictions. They need to know which questions to ask. If they are taught history well they will be given the necessary training to be open-minded and respectful of evidence in later life.

Online Safety



[Safer Schools - Screen Time - What you need to know](#)

[Screen Time - Everything you need to know - Are there risks in too much screen time?](#)

You may be interested in...



The Willow Children's Centre

Day	Name of Group	Time	Information
Monday 9th January to 27th March No group on 13th February	Stay and Play <i>Drop in</i> <i>Term time only</i>	10:00am - 11:30am	This group is to play with your child and enable them to socialise with others, engage in experiences like active movement and singing time. Activities will support your child's development.
Monday Booking only	Baby Signing 6 months - 3 years <i>5 week course</i>	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Baby signing encourages communication and language skills development in babies and toddlers. If used regularly it allows children to let others know what they want, make choices and be understood. *Call 03000 418800 or email ashfordopenaccess@kent.gov.uk*
Tuesday 10th January to 28th March No group on 14th February	Messy Play <i>Drop in</i> <i>Term time only</i>	10:00am - 11:00am	For children aged 1-4 years, provides an opportunity to make their first marks in messy materials. It enables children to practise fine motor skills, important for getting ready to write and encourages speech describing sensory textures.
Tuesday 10th January to 28th March No group on 14th February	Baby Play <i>Drop in</i> <i>Term time only</i>	1:00pm - 2:30pm	A group for pre-walkers, supporting your baby to make independent choices and respond to new experiences. It provides messy play, sensory experiences and new textures to investigate. We will introduce different themes and ideas to support adult and child interaction.
Tuesday Booking only	Preparing for Baby & Parenthood <i>Call or email to register interest</i>	4:15pm - 5:45pm	This is a friendly, relaxed 5 week group for expectant parents. It provides advice around child development, attachment and bonding. Find out what is happening in your local Children's Centre and surrounding area to support you and your baby. *Call 03000 418800 or email ashfordopenaccess@kent.gov.uk*
Wednesday Booking only	Introducing Solids <i>Call or email to register interest</i>	9:45am - 11:30am 1st February 1st March 28th March 29th April 24th May	These face-to-face sessions are aimed to support you in preparation for starting solid food from around 6 months old. Run jointly with the Health Visiting and Children's Centre teams. (one date only required) We also offer virtual sessions so if you are unable to attend in person. Please no siblings attending only babies. *Call 03000 418800 or email ashfordopenaccess@kent.gov.uk*
Wednesday Booking only	Bookstart <i>Call or email to register interest</i>	9:30am - 10:30am	Bookstart 3 week course, supporting children aged 1 - 4 years on their reading journey. Sharing books, stories and rhymes with your child from an early age can help create a lifelong reader. Families will receive resources on the final week to support their learning. *Call 03000 418800 or email ashfordopenaccess@kent.gov.uk*
Thursday 12th January to 30th March No group on 16th February	Craft and Play <i>Drop in</i> <i>Term time only</i>	10:00am - 11:30am	Join us in having some fun doing craft activities, using a range of ideas, resources and themes, suitable for all ages and stages of your child's development.
Friday 13th January to 31st March No group on 17th February	Child Health Clinic <i>Drop in</i>	9:30am - 12:30pm	Access information and advice from our Health Professionals at this Child Health Clinic. Baby weighing is available. *Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the end of the session to see a Health Visitor*

Friday Booking only 2 day course Feb: 3rd and 10th	First Aid Booking only	9:30am - 11:30am	Adult Education First Aid for Families - Would you like to know: The emergency procedure and making an emergency call? How to place a 'casualty' into the recovery position? How to use the primary survey? How to recognise and treat choking? How to treat and monitor bleeding, minor bruising and burns? How to practise Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)? Then this 2 week course is for you. *Call 03000 418700 or email ashfordopenaccess@kent.gov.uk*
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Ashford Children's Centres Bulletin January-March 2023



We actively review the number of people attending our groups and courses and if we are oversubscribed or guidance changes, we will take necessary action. We will only be able to welcome you into our centre during the set group time. For further information on any of our groups, please contact ashfordopenaccess@kent.gov.uk

Like us on Facebook at: Ashford Children's Centres and Ashford Youth Hub

Day	Name of Group	Time	Information	Thursday	Messy Play	1:30pm - 2:30pm	For children aged 1-4 years
Wednesday 11th January to 29th March No group on 15th February	Stay & Play <i>Drop in</i> <i>Term time only</i>	10:00am - 11:30am	This group is to play with others, engage singing time. Activities	Thursday 12th January to 30th March No group on 16th February	<i>Drop in</i> <i>Term time only</i>		first marks in messy materials, important for speech describing sensory
Thursday 12th January to 30th March No group on 16th February	Baby Play <i>Drop in</i> <i>Term time only</i>	10:00am - 11:30am	A group for pre-walkers, supporting your baby to make independent choices and respond to new experiences. It provides messy play, sensory experiences and new textures to investigate. We will introduce different themes and ideas to support adult and child interaction.				

Little Explorers Children's Centre

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2023

CHEERLEADING CAMP

DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF CHEERLEADING WITH THE BEST CHEER CAMP IN TOWN! LEARN NEW SKILLS, STUNTS AND DRILLS.

VENUE: TENTERDEN LEISURE CENTRE SPORTS HALL

SESSION ONE: 09:00AM - 11:00AM: AGE 4 - 9

SESSION TWO: 11:30AM - 1:30PM: AGE 10 - 17

£10 CASH ON ARRIVAL

SCAN ME TO SIGN UP :

Or use the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/qwDgP0pfAr>

And finally,



Thank you to FOSP for the wonderful landscaping in the kitchen garden this week. It looks beautiful.

Thank you to Hayley Tucker for all her work on lost property last week.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help out so much - in particular those who run clubs - Sian Thomas, Hayley, Rose Pullar and Ananda DW. We think you are wonderful.

Don't forget to rate us on Ofsted's parent view site:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We are always here to listen

01233 770316

head@sarden-tkat.org

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Miller