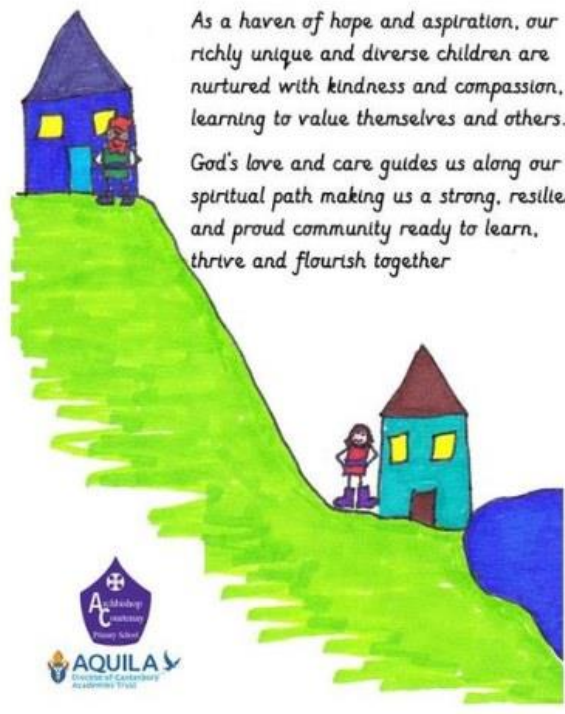




Archbishop Courtenay Primary School -  
Friday 27th March FB



*As a haven of hope and aspiration, our richly unique and diverse children are nurtured with kindness and compassion, learning to value themselves and others.*

*God's love and care guides us along our spiritual path making us a strong, resilient and proud community ready to learn, thrive and flourish together*

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[Headteacher Welcome](#)



Dear Families,

This week, I had the opportunity to visit several other schools and see first-hand how they support their children. It was wonderful to observe their approaches and dedication.

However, returning to ABC, I am reminded just how fortunate we are.

Unlike some schools that have very limited teaching assistant support, we are privileged to have at least one TA in every class—and often more. This level of support makes a significant difference to our pupils' learning and wellbeing.

Our school grounds are also a real treasure, especially for a town school, providing an enriching environment for our children to explore and grow. And of course, we have the best children in the world—our richly unique and diverse community is truly special.

I'm reminded of a time years ago when I used to moan about one of my daughter's schools in London. It was only after moving to Kent that I could truly appreciate how much that school did for its community. The same is true in our professional lives; sometimes the grass looks greener elsewhere, but often, it's not.

I feel incredibly proud to be part of ABC, a haven of hope and aspiration where our children are nurtured with kindness, compassion, and a sense of belonging.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Warm wishes

Sue Heather

Headteacher

The ABC Archie Awards





1 - This week our Archies have been awarded to the following students from across the school:

*EYFS: Neveah for always being so thoughtful and caring towards others*

*KS1: Abigail for always showing the school values and especially resilience and friendship*

*LKS2: Eleazar for always showing the school values and working hard in all subjects*

*UKS2: Antonia for always having a kind word to share with her partners when working as a pair and being very positive when mistakes are made.*

Well done to all our weekly winners and I wonder who will win the Archie's next week?

## Wrap Around Information



### Wraparound:

<https://archbishop-courtenay.cbfs.uk>

**Breakfast** (7:30am-8:30am) £4

**Social Club** (3:15pm-4:15pm) £3

**Wraparound** (3:15pm-6pm) £12

Tax-free childcare vouchers = 20% off

Universal credits = claim up to 85% back

FOR SUPPORT CONTACT:

archbishop-courtenay@cbfs.uk

01444 523 335

## Dates for Diary



- Monday 30th March - Easter Raffle
- Tuesday 31st March - Easter Service - All Saints Church
- **Thursday 2nd April - End of term 4 - 1:30pm Finish**
- **Monday 20th April - Start of Term 5**

## OPAL Play



We still have many new areas we want to set up for the children from a new woodland walk, to sandpits and water play!

### **How can you still help? Things we would still love to have...**

- cable reels
- tractor tyres
- lorry tarpaulin
- wooden hat rack
- microphones
- Sandpit toys (shovels, spades and buckets)





We are incredibly grateful for the generous donation from the Maidstone Rotary Club, which has enabled us to purchase these jumbo funblocks for everyone to enjoy. The Rotary Club plays a vital role in supporting the Maidstone community through fundraising, charitable projects and initiatives that help local schools, families and those in need.

## Collective Worship



### **Heroes of Hope and the Power of Change**

This week in collective worship, we continued our exploration of heroes of hope and were inspired by the story of Abba Moses. We learned that “Abba” means father, reminding us of the close, caring relationship Moses had with God. His life teaches us an important lesson: people can change. Moses faced many challenges, yet through faith, patience, and courage, he transformed into a leader who guided others with wisdom and hope. His story

encourages us to reflect on our own lives and remember that, no matter our mistakes or struggles, we always have the opportunity to grow and make positive changes.

We were especially proud of Simmonds Class, who led our collective worship this week. They spoke confidently and clearly, sharing with us the story of Jesus praying in Gethsemane. The class invited us to pause and reflect: *“Can you remember a time when you felt lonely or completely on your own?”* and *“I wonder what it feels like to hear Jesus praying about the difficult time he knows is coming?”* These thoughtful questions helped us connect with the emotions of the story and encouraged us to think about our own experiences of hope, courage, and perseverance.

Well done to Simmonds Class for showing such bravery in speaking in front of everyone and for leading us in meaningful reflection. Their example reminds us that, just like Abba Moses and Jesus, we can all face challenges with faith, hope, and the courage to change.

## EYFS: Darling and Rashford



What a week of changing weather we've had! From bright sunshine to windy, cold days, and even a little snow, the children have been amazing at embracing it all while learning and exploring.

In phonics, we've been continuing to read longer words and exploring words with different endings, such as *'es'* making the *'s'* sound and *'z'* making the *'s'* sound. The children are becoming more confident readers every day and loved spotting these patterns in the words they read.

Drawing Club has been a real treat this week! We read the story of The Little Red Hen and felt for the hardworking hen whose friends wouldn't help her. The children enjoyed drawing the hen and describing her, then moved on to drawing the farmyard setting. They thought carefully about what they might see and hear on a farm—from clucking hens to mooing cows—and added their ideas to their writing.

Inspired by the story, we also had a bread-making adventure! The smell of fresh, warm bread coming from the bread maker at lunchtime was simply delicious. It was such a wonderful experience for the children to link their learning about the story to a real-life activity.

We have also been learning where our food comes from, exploring plants, trees, and animals. The children enjoyed comparing fruits grown locally with those grown in other countries with different climates, noticing how food can be so different depending on where it comes from.

In Maths, we continued exploring number bonds to 10, but this week we challenged ourselves to use three numbers that add up to 10. The children were so excited to find all the different combinations and loved sharing their ideas with each other.

It's been a week full of learning, creativity, and yummy treats, and the children have shown so much curiosity and enthusiasm. We can't wait to see what next week brings!

Year 1 & 2 Rowling, Attenborough and Frank



What a busy week of learning we've had! The children have approached their studies with such enthusiasm and curiosity, making it a joy to witness their growth and engagement across various subjects.

In our Religious Education (RE) lessons, the children have been exploring the significance of Holy Week in the Christian calendar. They have been particularly fascinated by the different ways Christians celebrate this important time. We discussed various items associated with Easter, such as the cross, which represents the crucifixion of Jesus, and the Easter egg, symbolising new life and resurrection. The children shared their own experiences and traditions, which added a personal touch to our discussions. It was heartwarming to see them connect these concepts with their own lives and understand the deeper meanings behind the celebrations.

Moving on to Science, the children have been busy predicting what will happen to a seed over time. They engaged in a hands-on activity where they planted seeds and made diagrams to illustrate their predictions. This exercise not only sparked their imagination but also encouraged them to think critically about the life cycle of plants. They were eager to discuss what conditions seeds need to grow and how they will change as they develop. Their diagrams were filled with colourful illustrations and thoughtful annotations, showcasing their understanding of the process. It's wonderful to see their scientific inquiry in action!

In Design Technology (DT), the focus was on evaluating their moving monsters. The children had a fantastic time creating their own designs, incorporating various moving parts. They took the time to assess whether their monsters functioned as intended, discussing what worked well and what could be improved. This reflective practice is essential in the design process, and it was impressive to see how they embraced feedback and made adjustments to enhance their creations. Their creativity and problem-solving skills shone through as they collaborated with their peers, sharing ideas and suggestions.

As we look forward to the last week of term next week, I encourage you to ask your children about their learning experiences. Engaging them in conversation about what they've been studying can reinforce their understanding and spark further interest. It's always a delight to hear their excitement as they recount their favourite activities and discoveries.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of learning in our classroom. Together, we are nurturing inquisitive minds and encouraging a lifelong passion for knowledge. Here's to more weeks filled with exploration, creativity, and joy in learning!







Year 3 & 4 Jobs, Shakespeare and Pankhurst



LKS2 have had a really busy week. Activities have included: finalising their writing for the term and taking part in the Aquila Trust MTC cup challenge! Here's a snapshot of our learning:

📖 English: All 3 classes have been busy researching Whales and collecting together ideas from their research. The children have been tasked with changing notes into well structured sentences based around different themes to create paragraphs. The children have had to select which information to include and what to edit out of their final writes. It's been a tricky process, but we have some wonderful writing.

1 2  
3 4  
📊 Maths: The children have been completing their Fractions units and moving onto measures. It would be wonderful if the children could practise using and applying their mass and capacity measurement skills at home and backing is a wonderful way of doing this! They could also look at ordering how much different foods weigh by looking at labels on different packets and tins found at home. They could replicated this idea with capacity looking at different liquids and ordering these.

📖 History: The children have furthered their knowledge of the Roman Empire and the occupation of Britain, by exploring and investigating the big question: "What have the Roman's ever done for us?" We have discovered that they build roads, invented underfloor heating and public baths - a bit like our modern day swimming pools.

✝️ RE: we have completed our studies on Sikhism by considering our learning from across the terms 3 and 4. We used a Diamond 9 discussion structure to consider which factors are most important to the Sikh faith and why.

### Reminders:

Next week we finish for our Easter Break on **Thursday 2nd April at 1.30pm** and will return to school on **Monday 20th April 2026**

- Year 3 and 4 will have PE on **WEDNESDAYS** in term 5
- Year 4 will be swimming in Term 5

## Year 5 & 6 Simmonds, Curie and Luther-King



We have had another fantastic and busy week in UKS2, with the children showing great enthusiasm, creativity and pride in their learning across the curriculum.

### English

This week in English, we explored a range of autobiographies to better understand their key features and structure. The children identified how autobiographies are written in the first person, follow a chronological order, and include important life events, thoughts and feelings.

Using this knowledge, the children then began planning and writing their own autobiography in the voice of Malala Yousafzai. They have worked incredibly hard to put themselves in her position, carefully considering her experiences and emotions. It has been wonderful to see the children using ambitious vocabulary and thoughtful ideas to make their writing engaging and realistic. We are looking forward to seeing their final pieces develop.

### Science

In Science, we continued our learning about life cycles by focusing on animal life cycles. The children explored the different stages of development in a range of animals and compared similarities and differences between them. They then created some beautiful pieces of work to present their understanding, including clear diagrams and detailed explanations. We were very impressed with both the effort and presentation.

### Year 5 Visit to St Augustine Academy

On Tuesday afternoon, our Year 5 children had the exciting opportunity to visit St Augustine Academy, where they were welcomed by the wonderful DT department. During their visit, they took part in a “party planning” activity, which involved a range of creative and practical tasks.

The children designed their own party bags, created badges and even made some delicious cookies. This gave them a fantastic opportunity to develop their design and technology skills, as well as work collaboratively and think creatively.

The children had an amazing time and returned to school buzzing with excitement, eager to share their experiences. They represented our school beautifully throughout the visit, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and maturity. We could not be prouder of them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support

## The Oracy Cup with Charlton Athletic and E-Qualitas

Last week, our two Oracy Cup winners, Lena and Finley, enjoyed an unforgettable experience at Charlton Athletic’s stadium and training ground. The day was packed with exciting opportunities that really brought their speaking and listening skills to life.

Lena had the chance to meet a sports journalist, observe a live interview being filmed for Charlton TV, and take part in a behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium. Meanwhile, Finley stepped into the role of a journalist himself, joining a press conference alongside professionals where he confidently asked questions to players and the manager.

We are incredibly proud of how both pupils represented our school. Their confidence, clarity, and articulation were outstanding, and they truly demonstrated the impact of our focus on oracy. It is wonderful to see our pupils growing into confident, thoughtful communicators—we are proud of them all.





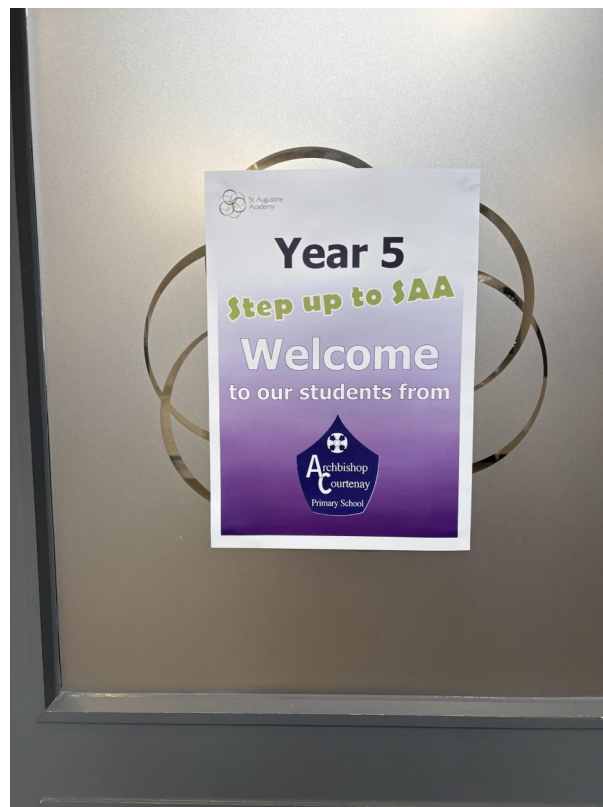




## Year 5 Taster Session- St Augustine's Academy



On Tuesday, our Year 5 pupils visited **St Augustine's Academy** for a fun-filled Design & Technology taster afternoon, where they stepped into the shoes of party planners! Divided into two groups, they completed exciting tasks in the D&T workshop and the food technology kitchen. The children explored tools and machinery, asked thoughtful questions, designed their own party bags, and even created a personalized badge. They also baked a delicious batch of chocolate chip cookies to include in their party bags! The pupils had a fantastic time experiencing secondary school life and showed exemplary behaviour throughout the afternoon. Well done Year 5!





Contact Us



**We are here to help you so please never be afraid to get in touch**

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