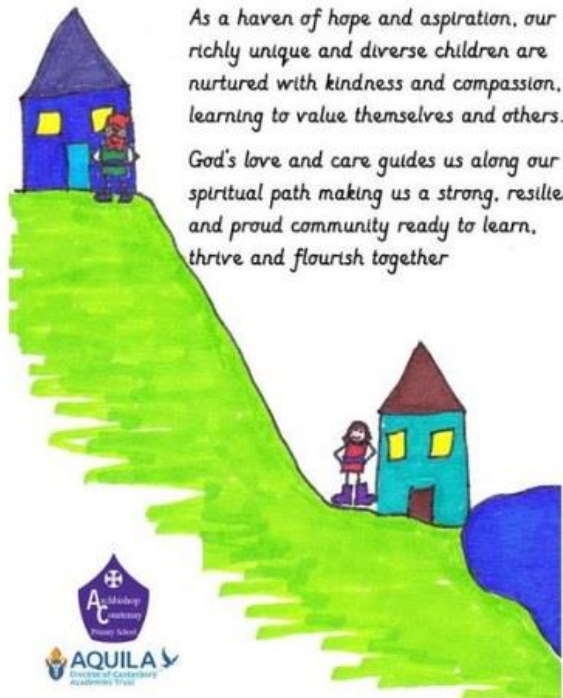




Archbishop Courtenay Primary School -  
Friday 9th January FB

happy  
New Year



*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*



**AQUILA**  
College of Gateway  
Academics Trust



Happy New Year!



Dear families,

I would like to start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

Clearly, we have come back to school during a particularly cold spell and after weeks indoors being cosy this is a bit of a shock. Because our weather is so unpredictable this can cause problems for the school site, however our aim as always is to make it safe for our children.

Mr O'Connell (Chair of Governors) and I have spoken to Kent County Council and they have agreed to grit both Eccleston, Beaconsfield and Church Road. We have it on good authority this was done on Wednesday, and these roads have now been added to the gritting route going forward - fingers crossed.

Last term we partnership with Maidstone United Football Club to bring a holiday club to our school. This was very successful and those who sponsor the event were very impressed with the facilities we have at ABC. Therefore the intention is for the 'School's Out' club to be an ongoing opportunity for our children and those in the local area. This is wonderful news as it will offer new experiences, chance to make new friends and also support for parents. Once we receive further details for the February club I will let you know, until then if you would like more information visit <https://stonesinthecommunity.org/programme/schools-out-holiday-club/>

By now you should all have received our consultation letter regarding our proposal to reinstate the nursery under the wing of our school. We have enjoyed a productive and

professional relationship with 'Buttons' but the time has now come to develop the links between the school and preschool even further. The consultation opens Monday 9th January until 30th January - we really welcome your feedback. You can access using the following link, QR code or by emailing:

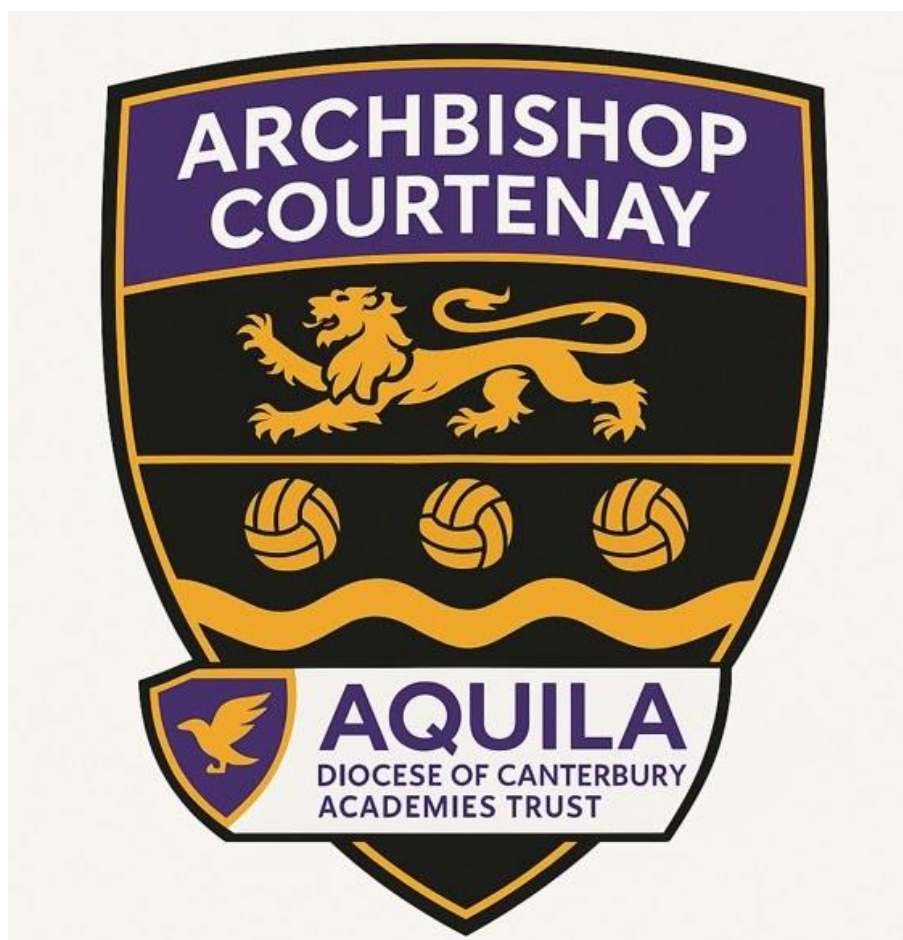
- [headteacher@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk)
- [Consultation on a Proposed Change to the School's Age Range – Fill in form](#)

Thank you to those families who have already emailed.



*1 - Nursery Consultation*

## Girls' Football Training



Exciting News!

We are thrilled to announce that Maidstone United will be running a Girls' Football Club right here at school! This is a fantastic opportunity for our KS2 Girls (Year 3 -Year 6). Joining this club will help them develop their skills, stay active, and have fun. Spaces are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't miss out!

We'd love to hear your thoughts—please share your feedback so we can organise this in the best way possible.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WzWzQNkDtkedd02blxstbMADv1g5gqNEIKHldPLuK2JUMVJCMIIIRRTAwR1VUVFIDQ1g3QVRGQUZYSy4u>

## What the Leaked SEND Reforms Mean for Your Child and Our School



You may have heard about some changes being planned for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system. These changes aim to make sure children with SEND get the right support as quickly and smoothly as possible. Here's what the proposed reforms mean for families and mainstream schools like ours.

### **What Are the SEND Reforms About?**

The government is looking to improve how children with SEND are supported in education. Some of the key ideas include:

- **Making Plans Faster and Clearer:** When a child needs extra support, an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is created. The new reforms want to speed up this process and make sure schools are properly consulted before being named in these plans.
- **Working Together More:** Schools, local authorities, and families will work more closely to make sure the support fits each child's needs and helps them achieve their goals.
- **More Flexibility:** Some children will be able to attend both a mainstream school and a special school if that's best for them. This helps children get the right mix of support and inclusion.
- **Clearer Ways to Raise Concerns:** If families are unhappy with the support their child is getting, the reforms make sure there are clear, fair ways to raise concerns and get help.

### **What Does This Mean for Our School and Your Child?**

- **Better Communication:** We will work closely with families and local authorities to make sure everyone understands the support your child needs and how we can provide it.
- **More Support in School:** As more children with different needs join mainstream schools, we will continue to improve our staff training and resources to support every child well.
- **Focusing on Inclusion:** Our school is committed to making sure all children feel included and valued, and these reforms support that aim.
- **Protecting Your Child's Rights:** We will follow all legal rules to make sure your child's education and wellbeing are protected, including how we handle any concerns or complaints.

### **How We Are Preparing**

We are reviewing our current SEND support and policies to be ready for these changes. This means:

- Strengthening how we work with local SEND services
- Training staff to better understand and support SEND needs
- Making sure communication with families is clear and helpful
- Updating how we handle concerns to make it easier for families to get support

### **What You Can Do**

Your voice is important! If your child has SEND or you think they might need extra support, please keep in touch with us. We want to work with you to make sure your child thrives.

### **In Summary**

The SEND reforms aim to make education better and fairer for children with special needs. Our school is ready to embrace these changes to provide the best support possible for your child. If you have any questions or want to know more about SEND support at our school, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## 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



## Collective Worship



This week in Collective Worship, we began by thinking about the idea of doors and what they can represent in our lives. We discussed how opening doors can symbolise making positive changes, choosing kindness, and taking action to support causes that are close to our hearts. The children reflected on how their own choices can help make school a happier and safer place for everyone.

As part of this, each class has been working together to come up with ideas for a whole-school pledge focused on kindness. We talked about using kind words, kind hands and kind feet, and made it very clear that unkind behaviour and bullying are unacceptable. The children explored what bullying means and discussed how, as individuals and as a school community, we can stand up for others, make good choices, and ask for help when needed.

Miss Copley also introduced our new My Happy Minds theme for this term, which is "Appreciation." The children learned about gratitude and spent time thinking about who and what they are thankful for in their lives.

Later in the week, we welcomed our visitor Jen, who continued this theme by talking about gratitude in more depth. She encouraged the children to consider how different people may show gratitude in different ways, and how our own perspectives and choices can reflect appreciation (or sometimes a lack of it). The children also enjoyed sharing who they are grateful for within their families.

It has been a thoughtful and reflective week, helping the children to think about kindness, gratitude, and the positive choices we can all make every day.

## EYFS: Darling and Rashford



What a chilly week it has been! ❄️ Although the cold weather arrived, it gave us a wonderful opportunity to explore seasonal changes. The children have loved being ice explorers, investigating ice outdoors and experimenting with different ways to make it melt. We also had great fun trying to build igloos using different ice shapes, talking about which shapes worked best and why.

In Drawing Club, we have been reading the story *One Snowy Night*. The children really enjoyed drawing Percy the Park Keeper and describing what he looks like. We then used our imaginations to draw Percy's cosy hut, where he let all the animals come inside to be warm and safe. There was lots of fantastic discussion and descriptive language shared.

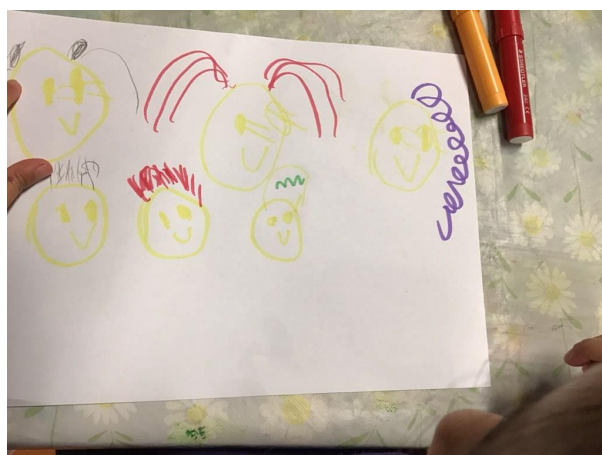
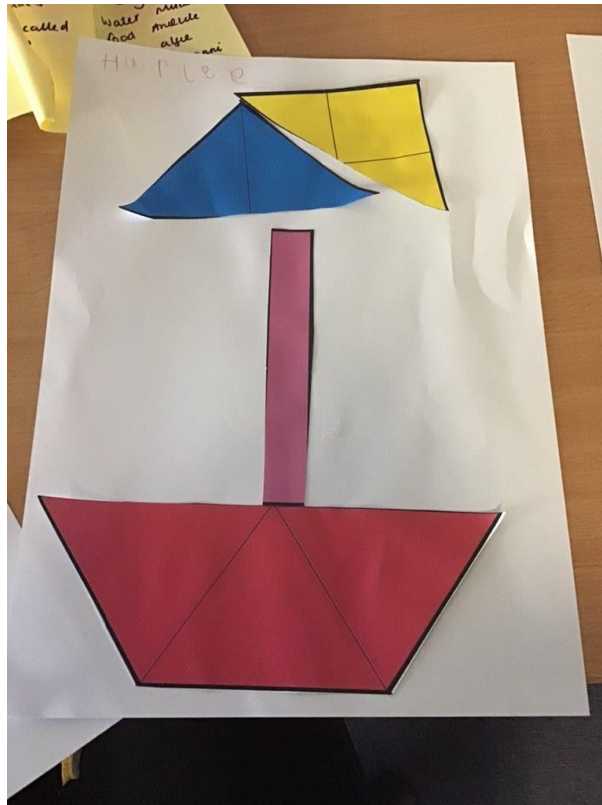
In Maths, we have been finding and representing numbers to 5. The children went on number hunts, named the number they found, and then used objects or drawings to represent that number in any way they chose. It was lovely to see the children explaining their thinking and choosing their own representations.

Phonics has been very exciting this week! We have learned three new digraphs and even a trigraph (three letters that make one sound!!). The children have been practising reading words using these new phonemes. Please keep practising those tricky words at home, as they are still tricking some of us!

We also had our very first P.E. lesson, which was extremely exciting! The children took part in gymnastics, where they explored high movements such as stretching tall, reaching up, balancing, and jumping. Everyone showed great enthusiasm and confidence, and it was wonderful to see the children trying new movements and enjoying being active together.

We have also been very creative this week, using oil pastels to create beautiful winter scene pictures. The children explored different techniques such as blending and smudging the pastels to create different shades and effects in the sky and snow. Once their backgrounds were complete, they drew silhouettes of trees, animals, and buildings to turn their pictures into a night-time winter scene. The results were fantastic and the children were very proud of their artwork.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Year 1 & 2 Rowling, Attenborough and Frank



What a wintery beginning to Term 3 it has been! The children were thrilled to experience an unexpected snowfall, which provided the perfect opportunity for some fun in the light snow shower. Laughter filled the air as they enjoyed the winter weather, creating memories that will surely last a lifetime.

In Maths, our learners have been busy exploring various topics. The Attenborough class has been focusing on shapes, diligently counting vertices, faces, and edges on 3D shapes. Their enthusiasm for learning has been wonderful to see, as they discover the different properties of shapes in a hands-on manner. Meanwhile, the Rowling class has been delving into the world of teen numbers, exploring the relationship between tens and ones. Their understanding of these concepts is growing, and it's delightful to witness their progress. Frank class have been recognising the differences between coins and notes, as well as learning to identify various money amounts. This practical knowledge is essential, and they are becoming more confident in handling money.

In Geography, we have embarked on an exciting journey exploring hot and cold countries. The children have been learning about the equator and its significance in understanding climate zones. Using atlases, they have located different countries on a world map, which has sparked their curiosity about diverse cultures and environments. It's fantastic to see them engaged in discussions about the differences between various regions.

In Art, we have begun our exploration of the renowned artist Pablo Picasso and the fascinating world of Cubism. The children are learning about the unique style and techniques that Picasso employed, and they are eager to create their own Cubist-inspired

artwork. This creative venture not only enhances their artistic skills but also encourages them to think outside the box.

As we continue through this term, we are excited to see how our students grow and develop in their learning. Their enthusiasm and curiosity are truly inspiring, and we look forward to sharing more updates in our next newsletter. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in your child's education!

## Year 3 & 4 Jobs, Shakespeare and Pankhurst



Happy New Year 2026 and welcome back to school everyone! What an exciting first week we've in LKS2. the children have come back full of energy and excitement - which has doubled thanks to a light sprinkling of snow early this week! lets take a snap shot at what the children have been up to this week:

English 📖: The children have started reading Stone Age Boy and looking at how stories follow a 5 part design with an opening, build-up, problem, resolution and an ending. The children have used a combination of video, reading and drama to help them create a simple retelling of this story and a slightly adapted version - which we will come back to towards the end of our unit to develop.

Maths 📊: Term 3 has started with a focus on times tables and multiplication and division - we've looked at factors and how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100. Now is a good time to get into the habit of doing daily times table practice especially if you are in Year 4 as the MTC national test is in term 5 and you'll need to know those times tables by then!

Science 🏛️: we have begun our topic on fossils and spoken about the dinosaur link that Maidstone has - the children were very excited!

RE ✝️: across terms 3 and 4 we will be studying a world faith which for LKS2 is Sikhism. This week we started our studies off by exploring what it is that Sikh's believe and compared this to other world faiths.

PE 🏀: The children have started their sessions on Basketball and Dance - please remember that Monday is our hub PE day and that we are outside - so a warm tracksuit and gloves would be wise.





**2** Use counters to make arrays and find the factor pairs for each number.

a) 22  $1 \times 22$   $2 \times 11$   $11 \times 2$   $22 \times 1$   
 b) 12  $1 \times 12$   $1 \times 12$   $2 \times 6$   $6 \times 2$   $3 \times 4$   
 c) 35  $1 \times 35$   $5 \times 7$

Which of the numbers has the most factor pairs? 12

**3** Complete the factor bugs.

a) b)

**4** Draw a factor bug for 32.

b) List all the factors of 32.  
1 2 4 8 16 32

**Factor pairs** Open Book Maths

Dexter is using arrays to find the factor pairs of 20.

a) Complete the multiplication shown by each array.

$20 \times 1 = 20$   
 $10 \times 2 = 20$   
 $5 \times 4 = 20$

Explain why there are no other arrays that can be made using 20 counters.

b) Complete the sentences.  
 20 has 6 factor pairs.  
 20 has 3 factors altogether.

c) List all the factors of 20.  
1 2 4 5 10 20

**Multiply and divide by 10 and 100** Open Book Maths

**1** Use the base 10 to work out the multiplications.

a)  $6 \times 1 \text{ ten} = 6 \text{ tens}$   
 $6 \times 10 = 60$

b)  $6 \times 1 \text{ hundred} = 6 \text{ hundreds}$   
 $6 \times 100 = 600$

What do you notice?

**2** Work out the multiplications. Use base 10 to help you.

a)  $3 \times 10 = 30$       $3 \times 100 = 300$   
 b)  $7 \times 10 = 70$       $7 \times 100 = 700$   
 c)  $10 \times 5 = 50$       $100 \times 5 = 500$   
 d)  $8 \times 10 = 80$       $800 = 8 \times 100$   
 e)  $20 = 10 \times 2$       $200 = 100 \times 2$

What do you notice?

**3** Use the ten frames to complete the multiplications.

a)  $10 \times 10 = 100$

b)  $12 \times 10 = 120$

c)  $23 \times 10 = 230$

d)  $14 \times 100 = 1400$

e)  $28 \times 100 = 2800$

Modelled Example

Opening	Build up	Problem	Resolution	Ending
What are the characters like and where are they?	What happens at the start of the story?	What goes wrong?	How is the problem sorted out?	How does the reader know the story has finished?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boy walking in the woods</li> <li>He trips and falls</li> <li>Wakes up in a cave</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boy meets stone age girl</li> <li>Meets her family</li> <li>Learns about life in the stone age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boy and girl walk to a cave</li> <li>See cave paintings of animals</li> <li>Meet a bear!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boy uses spear and torch to scare bear</li> <li>Run and warn everyone</li> <li>Boy falls over again</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wakes up in current time</li> <li>Tells his family about the stone age</li> <li>It was all a dream ... or was it?</li> </ul>

Story plan

Opening	Build-up	Problem	Resolution	Ending
<p>Introduce the characters - describe the setting</p> <p>Daisy-Rae, a modern day girl is exploring in the forest. Suddenly she slips and starts falling down, down, down...</p>	<p>Tell what happens at the start of the story</p> <p>She wakes up in an ancient-looking forest and meets Ely, a Stone Age girl who takes Daisy-Rae to her camp.</p>	<p>Make something go wrong</p> <p>A bad tiger roars too close to the camp causing panic and separating Ely from her family!</p>	<p>Describe how the problem is sorted out</p> <p>Ely, Daisy-Rae uses her fire-making skills to re-light the campfire, helping scare away the tiger and Ely finds her family!</p>	<p>Let your reader know the story is finished</p> <p>Ely leads Daisy-Rae back to the cave; she returns to her own time with a carved stone gift in her pocket.</p>

	<p>The boy was walking in the forest. He tripped and fell down, down</p>
	<p>The boy wakes up in a cave. Meets a girl called Dan</p>
	<p>There was a cave. A bear tried to attack them.</p>
	<p>The floor gives way, sending them back to modern time.</p>
	<p>He tells his parents they don't believe him</p>

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



Welcome back and happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school and see them settle so well into our new routines. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, full of new learning opportunities and experiences.

A quick reminder about **school uniform expectations**. Please ensure that children are wearing the correct school uniform every day. Stud earrings only are permitted, hair should be tied up, and children should not be wearing make-up. We would also like to remind you to support your child in **completing their homework on time**, as this plays an important role in reinforcing learning from the classroom.

In **English**, we have been exploring **Norse mythology** in preparation for our new class text, *Arthur and the Golden Rope*. The children have been learning about Norse gods and mythical creatures and have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity during discussions and activities.

In **Religious Education**, we have been introduced to **Humanism**. So far, the children have learned what Humanism is and what Humanists believe, focusing on values such as kindness, fairness and making good choices.

In **PE**, we have begun two brand-new topics: **Football and Dance**. In football, the children have been practising their dribbling and passing skills, showing excellent teamwork and control. In dance, they have started thinking about music, themes and learning how to count in sets of eight to help structure their movements.

In **Science**, we have started our new topic on the **properties of materials**. This week, the children carried out experiments using magnets, investigating which materials are magnetic and discussing their findings with great excitement.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The ABC Archie Awards





*2 - This week our four Archie's have been awarded to the following children:*

*EYFS: Emilia M-C for always following the school values*

*KS1: Sienna for always helping her friends and other adults*

*LKS2: Tebama for always following expectations and demonstrating the school values*

*UKS2: Nigella for always being a star pupil*

*I wonder who will win the Archie's next week?*

## Contact Us



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

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