

Herne Bay Infant and Nursery School

Weekly Update

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Issue 8 - Term 2

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Dear Families,

This week, in assembly we talked about the meaning of **Remembrance Day**. The children have embraced this important tradition by designing their own poppies. Their beautiful creations now adorn our school railings, a heartfelt reminder of courage and hope. We encourage you to take a moment to view them and share in this act of remembrance.



We have poppy-related items available to buy in support of the Poppy Appeal. If your child would like to purchase a poppy or another item, they can bring in recommended donation of £1 or £2.

Friendship Week: 10th – 14th November - We're excited to celebrate Friendship Week at school! Throughout the week, students will take part in a variety of fun and meaningful activities designed to promote kindness, teamwork, and positive relationships. There will also be a special assembly where we will reflect on the importance of friendship.



Children in Need – Friday 14th November - This year, we're celebrating Children in Need on Friday 14th November! We invite all children to come to school dressed in spotty clothing. They can wear their own clothes and make their outfits as fun and spotty as they like. If you'd like to support this fantastic cause, we kindly ask for a £1 donation.

Please ensure your child's clothing is warm, comfortable, and safe for play, with sensible footwear. Let's go spotty for Children in Need!

Calling all **Year R** parents/carers - the Herne Bay Gazette have published **First Class 2025 Picture Special** in this week's edition, available now. Unfortunately, the paper left off two of our Year R classes, so we have asked them to print them in next week's paper instead. We are not sure if they will be able to do this but we have our fingers crossed. Watch this space for updates.



Dental Health Guidance for Parents & Fun Activities for Children

Helping your child keep a happy, healthy smile starts long before their first tooth appears—and it's one of the best things you can do as a parent/carer. Regular dental check-ups help prevent cavities and ensure healthy smiles. Please click on the link for tips for parents/carers: <https://www.mydentist.co.uk/dental-health/dental-treatments/kids-club> To make learning about dental care fun, here are some activities for children: <https://www.mydentist.co.uk/dental-health/dental-treatments/kids-club/activity-packs>



Applications are now open for Infant School and Junior School. If your child is due to start school or currently in **Year 2** go to kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to apply for your school place for **Year R or Year 3** September 2025. Deadline is 15th January 2026.

Finally, please read the attached document with regards to supporting, Speech, Language and Communication at our school by the Balanced System. We hope you find it of interest.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Stars of the Week

Year R	Year 1	Year 2
Donaldson Class Ray For fabulous maths work on positional language.	Jeffers Class Kaylen For showing superb resilience in English.	Percival Class Neve For her amazing sentences on facts about Japan.
Hendra Class Max For working hard during phonics activities.	Ahlberg Class Jackson For ambitious writing when sequencing 'Peace at Last'.	Shireen Class Arthur For trying really hard in English with his sentences.
Seuss Class Miya-Rose For coming into school with a positive attitude.	Nursery Inkpen Class Enola For being fun and enthusiastic.	Grey Class Joseph For fabulous learning – super listening and excellent effort – so impressed!

Golden Sticker Winners

Year R	Year 1	Year 2
Donaldson Class Lewis and Caolàn	Ahlberg Class Karen and Leo	Percival Class Esme and Gabriel
Hendra Class Elsie, Jack and Olivia	Jeffers Class Faith and Jenna	Shireen Class Maisie, Mila and Victor
Seuss Class Issac and Lily		Grey Class Ruben and Jax

As Punctuality Parrot says, 'On time is the best time!!' This week our **punctuality winners** of the week are Hendra and Seuss Class. Punctuality Parrot is very pleased. Well done and keep up the good work!



The **OPAL Golden Welly Trophy** has been awarded Luca-Jay in Grey class.

The **Writer of the Week** has been awarded to Sofia in Ahlberg class.



Dates for your diary

Swimming:	Percival Class on Wednesdays Shireen Class on Fridays (pick up from pool)
Fri 14 th Nov	- Children in Need – wear something spotty
Wed 26 th Nov	- Bag2School collection day (information to follow)
Thu 27 th Nov	- Year 1 Trip (see letter for details)
Fri 28th Nov	- INSET day (school closed to pupils)
Wed 10 th Dec	- (10.30am) Inkpen Parents Christmas singalong (details to follow) - (2.15pm) Inkpen Parents Craft afternoon (details to follow)
Mon 15 th Dec	- Year 2 Christmas performance at the church (details to follow)
Tue 16 th Dec	- (9.30am/2pm) Year R Christmas performances (details to follow)
Wed 17 th Dec	- (2pm) Year 1 Christmas performance (details to follow) - Christmas lunch
Thu 18 th Dec	- (9.30am) Year 1 Christmas performance (details to follow)
Fri 19th Dec	- End of Term 2
Mon 5th Jan	- Start of Term 3

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional reward than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



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