

# COMPASS

CHRONICLE

TERM 1 AUTUMN 2024



**One Child**  
One Chance



**Compass**  
Federation

# Contents

**Message from the  
Executive Headteacher**

**Dunton Green**

**St. Paul's**

**Compass**

**St. Edmund's**



# From the Executive Head



**The first six weeks of the academic year have flown by and we find ourselves on the precipice of a half-term that is truly needed after a mammoth eight-week term.**

Across the Federation, there has been some incredible work going on both in and out of the classroom in addition to centrally across the three schools.

We were delighted to welcome a number of new staff across the schools in September; all have settled well and we look forward to seeing how they develop during their time with us. At St. Edmund's we welcomed Miss Cross, Miss Savage, Miss Leigh, Mrs Burran and Miss Carly to our teaching and support team. At St. Paul's, Miss Aitchison moved from St. Edmund's and Mrs Webb joined as a teaching assistant in Year 3/4. At Dunton Green, Miss Wright started as a class teacher following her training at the school last year.

Across the three schools, Mr Manning is leading Forest School,

Mrs Simmons is supporting with people and places in her role as Federation Business Manager and Mrs Sims is working on all things finance related. In addition to this, Mrs Baker-Clarke is working across the three schools as Teaching and Learning lead supporting teachers and teaching assistants across the spectrum and Mr Ledger is working alongside student teachers and Early Career Teachers.

There is a real drive across the Federation to get things right so that we can live by our Federation vision of One Child. One Chance. This means that staff are working tirelessly to support all children, regardless of need, to make the very best progress that they can.

Throughout this review of the term, you will be able to read about work and successes across the three schools which gives you a flavour of what has been going on throughout the Federation. It is testament to the staff that such a varied programme of events can be delivered, with the aim that all children have something to look forward to during the academic year.

One of our standout features is trips for all year groups, with the aim to get children involved in a trip, visit or workshop each half term. Throughout this review, you will see the variety of visits that the children get to access throughout the academic year.

We believe that experiences such as this allow children to have a sense of self and to experience learning outside of the classroom. Not all learning needs to be sat at a desk, listening and our extra-curricular activities support this.

I am always honoured by the number of visitors that come to our schools to see good practice and learn from what we do. Each school has its own strength that people like to see from inclusivity to continuous provision and it fills me with delight when people talk positively about the work that we do.

You may have read recently that school admissions continue to pose a problems for schools across the country and in particular the Sevenoaks and Swanley district. Our numbers across the schools continue to thrive and St. Paul's and St. Edmund's were two of a small number of schools that had full Reception classes in September. This shows the strength in what we do and the offer that parents want to see from our schools. We have also had fantastic numbers for our open days and the feedback received has been very positive. Hopefully, we can buck the local trend and fill up again across the schools next year. Please do pass on the dates of our open days if you know of anyone looking for Reception places for September 2025. We still have space left on all of our tours and are able to offer individual tours for any families unable to make the dates.

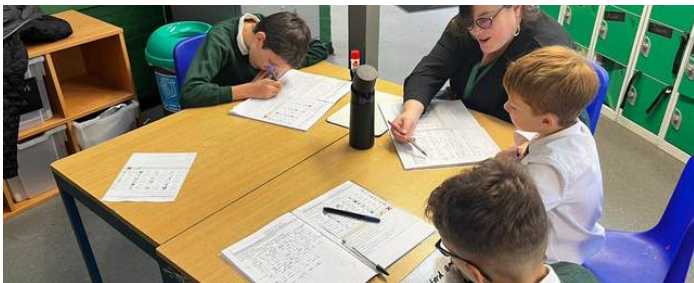
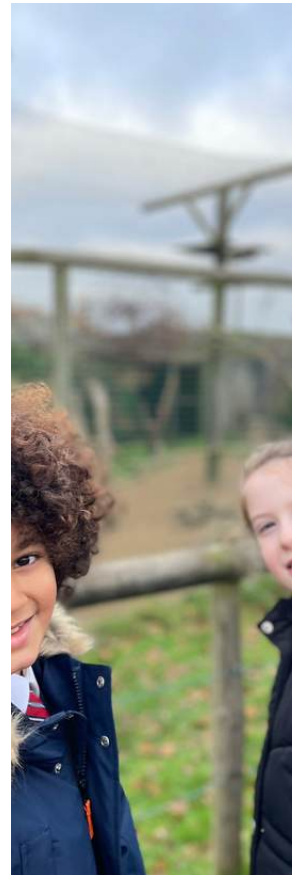
We are always looking at ways to improve what we do across the schools from a pupil, parent and staff perspective. Often when things don't go the way we think they should it's because we don't know of any issue or we haven't communicated it well enough. The use of Class Dojo across the schools has been really positive and parents have told us that they like the instant nature of it and seeing the amount of different things across the school. As a leadership team, we are considering whether Dojo can and should replace the traditional newsletter, given that most things are posted throughout the week. If you have any thoughts on this or any of our communication approaches, please do contact me.

Across the Federation, we are looking at development pathways for all members of staff to ensure that they are getting the very best support and opportunities they can. We are also looking at these for any volunteers in school to ensure that the time they spend with us allows them to take their skills into employment within the Federation or outside. If you are interested in accessing this, please do speak to Heads of School.

Finally, it leaves me to thank you for your on-going support as parents. My letter at the end of the year regarding parent behaviour, whilst difficult to write, has helped. Please continue to work with us for the very best outcomes for your children, that is all we are trying to do.

*Benjamin Hulme*





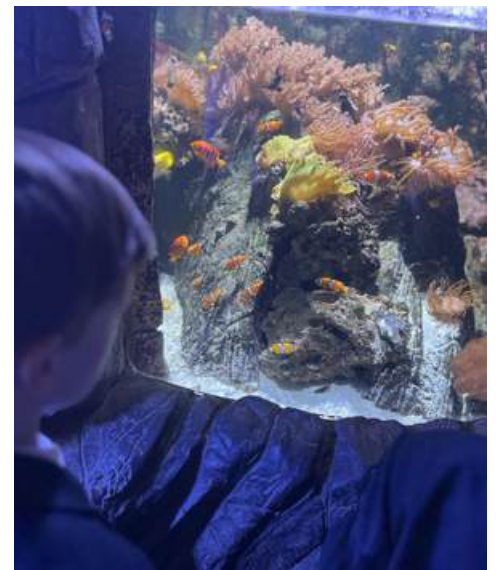


# Maple to the Horniman

**This term, Maple Class enjoyed an exciting trip to the Horniman Museum, where they had the opportunity to explore different cultures and nature in a fun, interactive way.**

Their visit began with a hands-on workshop about the Benin Kingdom, a significant West African empire that flourished from the 13th to the 19th centuries. During the workshop, the children were introduced to the rich history, culture and art of the Benin people. They learned about the importance of the Oba, the King of Benin, and the fascinating bronze sculptures and plaques that depict the kingdom's stories and traditions. The children had the chance to handle replica artefacts, allowing them to appreciate the craftsmanship and artistry.

Following the workshop, Maple Class explored the museum's aquarium, which was another highlight of their visit. The Horniman Aquarium is home to a variety of marine life from different parts of the world. They learned about the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems and the challenges these environments face due to pollution and climate change.





# Harvest Festival

**This year's Harvest Festival at St. Paul's was a truly special event, with the whole school coming together in celebration.**

Each class contributed beautifully by singing a song about the harvest and sharing their own heartfelt prayers, written with care and thought. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the abundance we enjoy and the importance of giving back. We extend our thanks to Vicar Johnny and Bea for

their insightful contributions, which added so much to the occasion. A huge thank you also to all the parents and carers for their incredible generosity – we are proud to announce that a significant amount of money was raised, which will be donated to the Community Compassion Fund, supporting those in need in our local community. This Harvest Festival reminded us of the power of community and kindness, and we are grateful to everyone who participated and contributed.



# PTA Summer Fun Day

The PTA Fun Day was a tremendous success, raising an impressive £2,180! The event was a fantastic community effort, offering a variety of activities that kept everyone entertained.

Highlights included a diverse range of stalls, thrilling bouncy castles, exciting egg throwing competitions and the opportunity to soak teachers standing in the stocks. Each activity contributed to a joyful atmosphere and helped make the day memorable for all who attended.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated PTA members for their unwavering commitment and hard work in organising this event. Their efforts not only made the Fun Day enjoyable but also significantly impactful.

The funds raised have already made a difference, enabling us to contribute towards two minibuses. These minibuses will greatly benefit our children and staff, providing essential transport for various activities and events. The success of the Fun Day demonstrates the power of community spirit and collective effort. Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved!





# Year 6 Joins Swanley Village Residents' Litter Pick!

Year 6 children took part in a fantastic community effort with the Swanley Village Residents Society's litter pick. Armed with gloves, litter pickers, and determination, the children combed through the area around the Glebe and up School Lane, collecting an astounding eight black bags full of litter. It was a vast amount of rubbish for such a small area!

The children were particularly shocked by how much plastic waste they found, with sweet wrappers and other small plastic items being the main culprits. Seeing the sheer volume of litter left many of them concerned about its impact on the environment. This has sparked a sense of responsibility and care for their surroundings.

In response, Year 6 are now looking into ways to reduce litter in and around the school. They are considering incentives to encourage everyone to properly dispose of waste and are working on organising regular patrols to ensure our school stays litter-free. We are incredibly proud of their commitment to making our community cleaner and greener! Let's all take inspiration from Year 6 and do our part to keep our environment clean!





# Fantastic women who changed the world

**At the start of term, the children proudly showcased their work at a special exhibition inspired by the book *Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World* by Kate Pankhurst.**

Each class selected a remarkable woman from history, bringing their stories to life through art and writing. From Mary Seacole's heroic work in nursing, to Mary Anning's ground-breaking discoveries in palaeontology, the children explored the achievements of these trailblazers. The exhibition also featured tributes to fashion icon Coco Chanel and aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart. The children's enthusiasm shone through in their diaries, letters and non-chronological reports, which brought to life the courage and creativity of these extraordinary women. Parents and teachers alike, were deeply impressed by the children's understanding of how these women shaped the world, sparking conversations about history, empowerment, and the importance of following one's dreams. Following this exhibition, the children's work will now be put up around the school on display boards and will stay up until we complete our next whole school text in 2025.



# Forest School

The children taking part in Forest School this term have had a wonderful time getting to know Mr Manning and being part of some wonderful projects including draining and fixing the pond, erecting a bell tent and learning how to use knives!







# Year 6 to Truleigh Hill

**As part of the Green Generations funding, our pupils were the first to experience a range of outdoor activities and learn about the importance of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty following a grant.**

It was a totally free residential for the children and the school, and how wonderful it was! Our pupils were able to confidently talk to the members of staff about deforestation and they were

commended on their behaviour for learning.

The Compass Federation believe residential are important for our pupils to grow and learn outside of the classroom and that is why this year we will see classes from across all three schools coming together to take part in overnight residential.

We are also looking forward to Year 2 and 4 starting residential this year and Year 6 having a second residential later on in the academic year!



# Spiritual Garden

Community is at the heart of St Edmund's and over the summer break some of our parents transformed a piece of unloved land into a tranquil spiritual garden for our pupils.

A garden of peace, the pupils use the space to reflect, enjoy a packed lunch in the sun and as we move towards our Christian festivals, they will use this space as a place to learn.

The Spiritual Garden is an ever evolving space with the whole community working together to continually develop it. Our classes are currently investigating ways to link areas of the garden to our Christian values.

All members of our school community can visit the garden at any time. Members of our Leading Lights act as guides at lunchtimes, supporting children with their reflection and prayer.





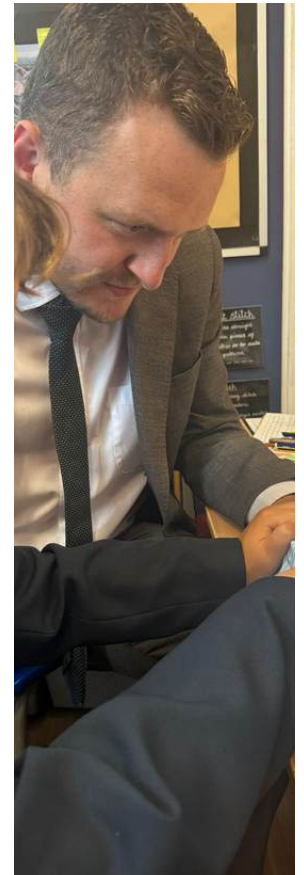
**Harvest is a time when we reflect on what we have, say thank you to God for providing and reach out to help the community in which we live.**

Our Key Stage 2 hall was full of music, poems and prayers as the younger members of our school celebrated the time of giving with their families. Our Key Stage 2 pupils pulled on their wellies and walked to our church in the woods, to give thanks with Rev Sarah.

# Harvest at St. Edmund's

As always, the families at St Edmund's generously donated mountains of food that was blessed and presented to our local charity, The Community Cupboard. At The Community Cupboard, residents facing food insecurity find not just essential groceries, but also a warm welcome, a listening ear, and a helping hand to navigate challenging times. Volunteers greet those looking for help with friendly smiles, offering a cup of tea and a chance to connect.





# Harvest at Dunton Green



As is traditional at Dunton Green, we hosted a special harvest assembly where we learnt all about what Harvest is and why it is celebrated.

We welcomed Daphne Harrison from St Mary's church in Riverhead and Fay Warne from Sevenoaks Larder.

The children sang beautifully to our visitors and they were very impressed by the children's behaviour and donations to the Sevenoaks Larder. Daphne told us about why Harvest has always been an important time of year and why it is celebrated and Fay shared all about the work that the larder do and how they are able to help our local community.



We are looking forward to our school council visiting the Sevenoaks Larder to see how it works and the support they give later in the year and being able to donate more vital supplies to the families in our community.

Thank you once again to everyone who gave so generously.





# Year 6 to WW1 Trenches

At the beginning of October, Year 6 took a trip to the Centre for Experimental Archaeology (CEMA) at the Kent Show Ground, Detling.

This is always one of the highlights of the year for the Year 6 pupils as they get to experience what life was like in the trenches and speak to an expert on WW1. As part of their visit, they learnt about life in WW1 from the archeologist, who has recreated the trenches and advised (and even appeared!) in the film, War Horse. Some of the children got to try on the uniforms British soldiers would have worn and see where they would have slept.

The children were incredible ambassadors for the school and really showed their core values. This experience has helped to support their learning in Humanities and English this term and given them some real life experience to aid with building their own trenches in DT.



# Rivermere Care Home

As part of Silver Sunday (6th October), The KS2 choir were invited to Rivermere Care Home to perform a compilation of songs they have been learning and to meet some of the residents.

The choir performed their songs beautifully and it was so lovely to see the residents with smiles on their faces, tapping their feet along to the music. The children joined the residents afterwards for a biscuit (or two) and told them all about life at Dunton Green. The residents and staff commented that the choir were the best behaved visitors they had ever had.

Every child in the school also produced a hand made card which were delivered to the care home and were gratefully received by the residents.

We look forward to continuing to work with Rivermere care home in the future to keep building these links within our community.



# Reception and Year 6 Buddies

One of the most special moments in Term 1 has been seeing the bond forming between our new Reception pupils and their Year six buddies. We take great pride in fostering an environment that nurtures the growth and well-being of our children. One of the initiatives that embodies this commitment is our longstanding and carefully refined buddy system, which serves as a cornerstone of our school's vision of love and care.

The buddy system is designed to ensure that our newest members of the school community, the Reception class, embark on their educational journey with confidence, enthusiasm, and a sense of belonging. We believe that by forging strong, genuine relationships from the outset, we can create a foundation for their personal and academic success.

The Year sixes have really stepped up to their new responsibilities, taking the Reception pupils under their wings and teaching them all about the core values.

Every week the two classes come together for 'buddy time' on a Friday. We have been very lucky that the weather during these sessions has enabled the children to enjoy the outside areas together. We can't wait to see these new friendships continue to flourish over the year.





# War Horse at The Stag Theatre

The Compass Year 6 children had a fantastic time at The Stag Theatre for their visit to see War Horse. This links in to the learning that they have all done this term on conflicts across the world and in history.

It was a wonderful opportunity to get all of them together for the first time this year for a common reason. We have got lots of other joint events planned for the remainder of the academic year including transition sessions towards the end of the year!



# Compass ECT's

We are incredibly fortunate to have some very talented Early Career Teachers (ECTs) in all 3 of our schools.

Mr Ledger and Mrs Baker-Clarke have worked closely with all of these teachers this term to provide training and support with planning, teaching and learning.

So far this term, Mrs Baker-Clarke has led a workshop on reading skills as part of a course run by the Sevenoaks Schools Partnership, which our ECTS attended. Plus, we were able to offer some bespoke Compass Federation training this term, which covered topics chosen by the teachers themselves. We hope to run this sort of training every term in order to support our ECTs in a tailored and collaborative way.

A big thank you to Rebecca Norburn and Donnington Manor Hotel for accommodating us for the day!

