



COMPASS

CHRONICLE

TERM 2 AUTUMN 2024



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One Chance



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Federation



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From the Executive Head



As the festive season approaches, it is with great joy and gratitude that I write to you, reflecting on a year of remarkable accomplishments and heartfelt moments across the Compass Federation. The Christmas period is traditionally a time for reflection, togetherness, and celebration, and I am delighted to share the highlights of the school term and express my deepest appreciation for the unwavering support you have shown.

Much has been achieved this term both within individual schools and centrally across the Federation, in and out of the classroom. Staff continue to work together to share ideas, next steps and support across the three schools and this has led to better outcomes and teaching for our pupils. Mrs Baker-Clarke in her role as Teaching and Learning lead has been able to work with Heads of School and teachers to ensure teaching and curriculum depth and more can be read about her work towards the end of this terms Compass Chronicle.

I have often said that you can tell the strength of a school by how it deals with adversity. For a variety of reasons St. Edmund's had to welcome and embed two new teachers into the team across Term 2. Both Miss Boyle and Mrs Woodhams have done a wonderful job in picking up new classes mid-year and I thank them and the colleagues around them for ensuring that this happened smoothly and without detriment to the pupils in those year groups.

The central Federation team consisting of Heads of School, Teaching and Learning Lead, ECT and Student Teacher Lead, Federation Business Manager and I continue to meet weekly to think about needs from a strategic perspective and plan action moving forward. This term we met to plan out what the next three years across the Federation could look like and I am excited to be able to share this with you later in the academic year. I am excited about the plans we have in place to continue enhancing our educational offerings and facilities. We are committed to engaging students in meaningful and challenging experiences that prepare them for the future. This includes expanding our extracurricular programs, integrating more technology into the classroom, and continuing to foster an environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our teaching and support staff. Their passion and commitment to nurturing the potential of each child are the cornerstones of our school's success. They go above and beyond every day to create a supportive and stimulating environment, and their efforts do not go unnoticed.

To our wonderful parents and guardians, thank you for your continued partnership. Your involvement in school activities, from volunteering to attending meetings and events, strengthens our community and enhances the educational experience for all students. We value your insights and feedback, which help us grow and improve as an institution.

As we celebrate this festive season, I encourage you to take time to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. May this Christmas bring you peace, joy, and renewed hope for the coming year. Let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead with optimism and determination, and continue to work together to ensure our schools are ones where every child can thrive.

In closing, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the spirit of the season fill your homes with warmth and happiness.

Benjamin Hulme



Whole School Carol Concert



On Wednesday afternoon, the walls of St Mary's church in Riverhead were filled with joy as we descended upon the church for our annual carol concert.

The children had spent all term rehearsing and performed beautifully. We were so lucky to be joined by so many friends and family members and we have had such lovely feedback.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped us walk the children down to the church and every friend/family member that joined us for our special celebration.



Year 4 residential to Windmill Hill



On a very cold weekend in November, some of the Year 4 class went on their first residential trip to Windmill Hill for an action packed weekend with their peers from St Paul's and St Edmund's.

They had an incredible weekend, participating in all sorts of activities and braving their fears. They were joined by Mr Manning, Mr Hulme and Mrs Holliday joined for a day on the Saturday.

The children all tried something new. I know the highlights included; climbing, giant swing, aeroball and of course the food and the shop! A very special highlight was seeing the children sat around the campfire on the Saturday night, roasting marshmallows and singing songs with their new friends. Next term Year 2 go off on a one night adventure and we can't wait to hear about what they get up to.





KS1 Nativity

The Inn-spectors made a visit to Dunton Green this week as Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed their show-stopping nativity to KS2, Tiggers nursery and their families and friends.

The children and teachers have been working especially hard this term on their nativity and the children pulled it out of the bag and put on a show-stopping performance. All nerves were pushed to the side and the children sang their hearts out.



Forest School

This term Year 4 and Reception have enjoyed forest school every Tuesday. Even though it has been freezing, they have learnt so much and enjoyed every second outside with Mr Manning.

This term one of the favourite activities has been cooking. The children have made pancakes, smores and cake all over the open fire. The craft area has also been very popular and the parents of Reception and Year 4 have been treated to a number of Christmas decorations made using natural materials. Next term, Year 5 and Year 3 will have forest school on a Tuesday and we can't wait to see what they get up to.



Carol Singing at Rivermere

This term we have continued to build our connections with the local area and choir made another visit to Rivermere care home to share some Christmas spirit.

Adorned with tinsel and Christmas hats, the choir arrived at Rivermere full of festive joy. Miss Dinsmore and the choir performed a selection of their favourite Christmas Carols that we have been learning for our carol concert on the 18th December and shared their favourite things about the Christmas period with the residents.

One of the best things about our visits to Rivermere is seeing our children engage in conversation with the older generation and talking so enthusiastically about everything we do at Dunton Green.



New computer suite

This term our brand new computer suite has been finished!

Children now have the opportunity to access a desktop computer as part of the computing curriculum where they are able to learn vital skills they will need in the future; such as coding, word processing, touch typing, programming and many others.

As part of our computing and PSHE curriculum we also weave in learning around online safety and being good digital citizens.

Our year 5 pupils have been incredibly lucky to work with the pupils from Sevenoaks School this term who have taught them all about coding microbits.





Birch to Willow's Birds of Prey

This term, Birch Class embarked on an exciting adventure to Willow's Bird of Prey Centre in Knockholt, where they delved deeper into their exploration of the enchanting book *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell.

The visit began with an engaging presentation about birds of prey, focusing on the habits and characteristics of owls. The children were captivated as they learned about different owl species, their habitats, and their unique adaptations that make them skilled hunters.

Next, Birch Class had the extraordinary opportunity to meet some real-life owls up close! They were thrilled to see majestic owls like the barn owl and the tawny owl, mirroring the characters in *Owl Babies*.

To round off the day, the children took part in a hands-on activity, where they examined owl pellets to uncover the remains of the creatures owls had eaten. This sparked their curiosity and gave them a unique insight into how owls hunt and digest their food. The experience brought their learning to life and encouraged a deeper appreciation for wildlife.





Oak to Drusilla's Park

This term, Oak Class enjoyed a fantastic trip to Drusilla's Park as part of their learning about The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins.

The highlight of the day was a workshop all about penguins, where the children learned fascinating facts about these flightless birds, including how Emperor penguins care for their eggs and survive in harsh Antarctic conditions. The workshop brought their classroom learning to life, sparking excitement and curiosity.

Afterward, the children had the incredible opportunity to watch the penguins being fed. They observed their playful behaviour and swift movements in the water, gaining a deeper appreciation for these amazing animals. There was also time to experience the amazing outdoor play space that they have at Drusilla's.

The trip was a wonderful experience for Oak Class, combining hands-on learning with unforgettable moments. Thank you to Drusilla's for providing our children with a wealth of knowledge!



PTA Christmas Light Disco

This year's PTA Christmas Disco was a spectacular event, filled with festive fun, laughter, and plenty of dancing!

A huge thank you goes to our amazing PTA for organising such a fantastic event. Events like the Christmas Disco are not only wonderful for bringing our school community together but also play a crucial role in raising funds to enhance the educational experience for all our pupils.

Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of families and the tireless efforts of the PTA, we raised enough money to purchase two minibuses, a game-changing resource for trips and extracurricular activities. This year, we are aiming to raise funds for more iPads to support learning across the school.

We are so grateful for their commitment to ensuring that every child at our school receives the best possible opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you to everyone who attended, supported, and volunteered at the disco—we couldn't do it without you!





DT WEEK: Food, Glorious, Food

This term, the school was buzzing with creativity and delicious aromas during DT Week, where the focus was all about cooking!

Birch Class embraced autumnal flavours by making a hearty pumpkin soup. The children worked together to peel, chop, and blend their ingredients, learning about the nutritional value of pumpkins and how to create a warming dish perfect for the season. Whilst, Oak Class explored the art of creating a balanced meal by preparing their own nutritional wraps. They carefully selected ingredients, discussing how different foods contribute to a healthy diet, before assembling colourful, tasty wraps bursting with flavour.

Beech Class took on the challenge of making a seasonal tart. From preparing the pastry to selecting fresh, in-season toppings, the children demonstrated fantastic teamwork and creativity. And, Maple Class focused on adapting recipes to improve a classic dish: bolognese sauce. They experimented with adding vegetables, herbs, and spices to enhance the flavour and nutritional content of the dish, showing impressive culinary innovation.

DT Week was a fantastic opportunity for all the children to learn valuable cooking skills, understand the importance of healthy eating, and gain confidence in the kitchen. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and pride in creating delicious dishes from scratch!





Year 4 Residential: Windmill Hill



Year 4 had an unforgettable adventure during their residential trip to Windmill Hill, packed with exciting activities, new challenges, and plenty of opportunities to build friendships and teamwork.

The Year 4 residential to Windmill Hill was packed with thrilling experiences, especially for those who faced their fears of heights! The children climbed towering structures, balanced on high ropes, and zipped through the air with incredible courage.

They also honed their fencing skills, learning discipline and precision, and took part in team-building challenges that strengthened their communication and trust.



These moments brought Year 4 closer together and deepened bonds with pupils from other Compass Federation schools. Evenings around the campfire were equally magical, with songs, marshmallows, and stories under the stars.

The trip was a wonderful opportunity for the children to build resilience, confidence, and community—huge thanks to the staff who made it all possible!



Forest School

If you go down into Forest School, you'll be in for a big surprise!

Pupils cutting wood with saws and drills and building campfires to keep warm and cook food. The list can go on but what is more important is the other skills that they learn, self confidence, belief, communication and respect for the world around them. They learn to embrace the outside world and learn how they can make a difference within it.





Year 4 to Windmill Hill

The firsts of many for St Edmund's this year and one of these being a Year 4 overnight residential to Windmill Hill with the other Compass schools.

The pupils participated in a range of activities which challenged a lot of them to use their Christian value of courage and through this they shone their lights. They abseiled down towers, trusted in their friends to pull them up on ropes, swung from great heights on giant swings and toasted marshmallows at the campfire.

For many of our pupils, this was their first time away from home but this did not stop them having fun and with their friends by their side, feeling like they had conquered the world.



Remembrance Sunday

November is a time when we reflect on remembrance and what this means to our pupils and to our community. To mark our remembrance we joined the national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of many who have and continue to defend our freedoms.

The pupils participated in a 2 minute silence which was led by Martin Stoneham who is the Standard Bearer for the West Kingsdown branch of the Royal British Legion.

Following this, a group of our pupils took part in the West Kingsdown Parade and supported Mr Ledger in laying the school wreath at the Remembrance Service at St Edmund's Church.

The pupils and their families continue to support the Poppy Appeal and wear their poppies with pride throughout November. This year St Edmund's raised £322.21 and we received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Royal British Legion.





Out and About with St. Edmund's

Learning outside of the classroom is very important at St Edmund's and we like to get out and about and support our community.

It is very important that the pupils at St Edmund's learn about and access their local area. From weekly trips to West Kingsdown library to choose books to read, from designing decorations to be hung in West Kingsdown Co-op, to donating food packages to our local charity, The Community Cupboard and visiting our church in the woods. The pupils learn important life skills while playing a role as an active citizen.





Christmas Cheer!

Christmas at St Edmund's was extra special this year as it was our fabulous Reverend Sarah's final one before she leaves us for retirement in July. She guided us through our Circle of Light and Christingles where we reflected on Jesus' light and the journey that many had to make to welcome him into the world.

The pupils were also treated to a host of Christmas activities that were organised by our dedicated and committed PTA. They opened our school to the community to welcome them to our Christmas fair, organised a day of Christmas activities and flew in a very special guest from the North Pole, who gave each child a present and dressed the hall with Christmas crackers, decorations and glasses of squash for the children's Christmas lunch. Their unwavering determination has seen them raise just over £4,000 for the school and they continue to plan for new and exciting fundraising opportunities for 2025.





Teaching and Learning

Across the federation, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure the highest quality of teaching and learning. As a federation, we aim to provide all of our staff with professional development appropriate for them, in order to make them the best practitioners that they can be for the children.

Our ECTs (Early Career Teachers) work regularly with Mr Ledger and continue to receive tailored training. Teachers who are slightly further along on their journeys, have been paired with experienced teachers across the federation, who will act as challenge partners. In addition to this, we have created pathways for all staff and invested in an external training provider to ensure senior members of staff are also continually developing and learning. Research is another way of keeping up with the latest trends in education and so work has started with subject leaders to ensure that we are using best practice in our schools.

Mrs Baker-Clarke has been working across the schools, with Mr Hulme and Heads of School, on their school development targets as well as working alongside teachers in their planning time. We really care about teachers' well-being and workload in the federation and have offered teachers an additional day of planning and preparation time this term in order for them to get ahead of their planning for next term. Where possible, this has been a collaborative exercise to help teachers learn from each other. Mr Ledger and Mrs Baker-Clarke have worked closely with our newer teachers and ECTs to ensure that they feel confident in their planning and preparation.

Mrs Baker-Clarke is a keen advocate of Reading for Pleasure and has introduced Reading Ambassadors in all three schools. In two out of the three schools, these children have already started to act out their roles and responsibilities including: leading assemblies, reading with the younger children and tidying and organising communal book areas. I know that the St Paul's children are keen to get started next term.



From the Governors...



What a busy and productive year it has been for our school communities, and we know that everyone will be looking forward to a well-earned rest. As we approach the end of term, we want to take a moment to thank you all for your contributions to our school communities.

We are sure that you would like to join us and the Governing Bodies in thanking all our Staff for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the children during the last term. Our dedicated team, in whatever role they have, have put so much into making the schools what they are and for providing the best education and support for every child. At the end of each term, we ask 'are our schools in a better place than last year'. There is no doubt this is the case for each of our schools.

We would also like to thank the children for their continued hard work throughout this year. It has been a great privilege to watch them learning new concepts from an ever-challenging curriculum and making progress throughout the year.

As Chair of Governors across both St. Paul's and St. Edmund's and Dunton Green, can we take this opportunity to thank you our Parents and Carer's for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that the children enjoy their time at our schools and make good progress and that when they leave they are responsible, qualified and mature young people, ready to make a valued contribution to society.

It only remains to wish all staff, children, fellow governors, parents and carers a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and we look forward to next year with enthusiasm and positivity.

What do Governors do?

Setting the school's vision

Governors work with the Executive Headteacher to develop the school's aims and policies.

Managing the budget

Governors are responsible for the school's budget and ensuring money is well spent.

Ensuring the curriculum is taught well

Governors are responsible for making sure the agreed curriculum is taught effectively.

Holding the headteacher to account

Governors hold the Executive Headteacher to account for the school's educational performance.

Engaging with the school community

Governors engage with pupils, staff, parents, and the wider school community to understand their views.

Being accountable to others

Governors are accountable to parents, the local community, and the Local Authority.



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