

# COMPASS

CHRONICLE

TERM 5 SPRING 2025

**One Child**  
One Chance



**Compass**  
Federation

# From the Executive Head



**As Executive Headteacher across our three wonderful schools, I continue to be inspired by the collective effort, determination and unity shown by our staff, pupils, and families. This term has been a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when we work together, guided by our unwavering belief in One Child. One Chance. This is not just a motto – it is the foundation of every decision we make, ensuring that every child, in every classroom, is given the best possible start in life.**

Collaboration across our schools has continued to strengthen our provision. Through shared planning, moderation, and professional development, our staff have been working side by side to raise standards and deliver a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. The benefit of this joined-up approach is clear – our children are thriving, and our schools are learning from each other every day.

One of the highlights of the term has been our Year 6 Federation Day. Bringing together our Year 6 pupils from all three schools, the event was designed to support their transition to secondary school, build confidence and foster friendships across the federation. It was a day filled with laughter, teamwork, and reflection – and it was a joy to witness the growing independence and maturity of our children as they prepare for the next chapter in their education.

Our Year 6 pupils have also shown incredible resilience and determination as they completed their SATs. These assessments, while only one snapshot of their journey, were approached with focus, calm and pride. We are immensely proud of how they handled the challenge, supported by their teachers, who worked tirelessly to prepare them both academically and emotionally.

Beyond the classroom, we remain committed to enriching the lives of our pupils through meaningful experiences. Educational visits, workshops, and themed days have brought learning to life this term – whether it's exploring local heritage sites, participating in science experiments, attending live performances, or learning outdoors. These experiences ignite curiosity, deepen understanding and build the kind of cultural capital that helps every child to see the world beyond their immediate experience.

Each of our schools continues to celebrate its individual identity and strengths. The beauty of our federation is that while we share a common vision, we remain deeply rooted in our local communities and responsive to the unique needs of our children and families. This means that we can offer a truly bespoke experience, where the individuality of each school shines through while drawing strength from our collective efforts. Whether it's a community celebration, a school-specific initiative, or a targeted intervention, we make decisions with a deep understanding of context and a commitment to equity and inclusion for all.

As we look ahead to the final weeks of term and begin to prepare for the next academic year, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank our parents, carers, governors, and community partners for their continued support and partnership. The strength of our federation is not only in our shared structures and leadership but in the shared values and trust that bind us together. Your belief in our work empowers us to go further, dream bigger, and do more for the children we serve.

Together, we remain steadfast in our promise: One Child. One Chance. And every day, in every lesson, through every conversation and opportunity, we are making that chance count – not just for today, but for a lifetime.

*Benjamin Hulme*



# VE DAY 80 Celebrations



St. Paul's was awash in red, white and blue as we came together to mark VE Day 80 with reflection, creativity and community spirit. Children arrived proudly dressed in patriotic colours, ready to celebrate a significant moment in our nation's history.

The day began with a chance to get creative, as each class designed vibrant VE Day banners filled with doves, flags and messages of peace. Later, everyone enjoyed a delicious treat—a traditional scone with jam and cream, savoured in the sunshine and shared with smiles all around. These were kindly donated by our amazing PTA.

At 12 o'clock, the whole school gathered to take part in the national two-minute silence. Standing together outside the heritage building, we paused to remember those who lived through the war and all that was sacrificed to bring peace.

In a moving moment of the morning, Mr Johnson read from a powerful recollection written by Mrs Arnett, St. Paul's headteacher during the Second World War. Her words painted a vivid picture of life at the school during those difficult times—of classrooms damaged by bombs, of resilience shown through continuing the nativity, and of the comfort brought by hot meals shared with friends.

It was a day of remembrance and pride, of learning and gratitude. The children not only celebrated the end of conflict, but also honoured the strength and spirit of those who came before them—especially right here at St. Paul's.





# Oak to Maidstone Mosque

**Oak Class had a fascinating and enriching visit to Maidstone Mosque this week, where they were warmly welcomed and given a glimpse into Islamic faith and culture. The trip offered a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of different beliefs through first-hand experience.**

The children listened attentively as the Imam explained the Five Pillars of Islam and the importance of daily prayer. They explored the prayer hall, observed the intricate designs and Arabic calligraphy and learned about the significance of the mihrab and minbar. Questions were encouraged throughout, and Oak Class impressed everyone with their curiosity and respect.

There was a real sense of wonder as the children stepped into a new environment and took in the peaceful atmosphere of the mosque. The visit brought classroom learning to life and helped build empathy and awareness of the diverse world around us.

It was a moment of reflection and appreciation—an opportunity to connect across cultures and to see how different communities come together in shared spaces of faith and worship.

A big thank you to the staff at Maidstone Mosque for their warm hospitality and thoughtful explanations. Oak Class returned full of insight and excitement, with plenty to reflect on and discuss.





# Swanley Cup Champions

Played with passion and pride, the Swanley Schools Cup was an unforgettable day for our St. Paul's football team. From the first whistle, the players showed focus, energy and teamwork—storming to a sensational 10–0 win in the semi-final and carrying that momentum straight through to triumph in the final.

Each match was packed with brilliant passes, fearless tackles and unstoppable goals. The whole team played with confidence and heart, showing just how much practice, resilience and team spirit can achieve. It was a joy to see their hard work pay off on the pitch.

The excitement wasn't just in the scorelines—it was in the way the team supported one another. From encouraging words to clever link-up play, they truly played as one unit, giving it their all and never letting up.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Dickens for coaching the team and guiding them through each stage of the competition. His dedication and encouragement helped shape a squad that not only played well, but played with purpose and pride.

Winning the Cup was a fantastic achievement, but even more inspiring was the way the team represented St. Paul's—with determination, respect, and joy in the game. Well done, champions!





**At Dunton Green Primary School, outdoor learning plays a vital role in nurturing the whole child, offering opportunities for pupils to grow academically, socially, and emotionally in a natural and stimulating environment. From structured activities to unstructured exploration, the school integrates outdoor learning into daily life, helping children develop confidence, independence, and a love of nature.**

One of the standout features of Dunton Green's outdoor curriculum is Forest School, where children engage in hands-on experiences in a woodland setting. These sessions promote resilience, creativity, and problem-solving through activities like den building, fire lighting, and nature art. Pupils learn to assess risk and work collaboratively, building life skills that extend well beyond the classroom.

For our younger learners, the outdoors is a rich environment for exploration and discovery. In Year 1, for example, the technology walk takes children on a journey through their local area to spot and discuss the everyday technology around them.

The school's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship is driven by its Eco Council—a student-led initiative that encourages awareness and action on issues like recycling, energy saving, and biodiversity. Linked to this is the Gardening Club, where children plant and care for vegetables, flowers, and herbs. These activities cultivate responsibility, patience, and an appreciation for the natural world.

# Outdoor learning





# Mini London Marathon

On Monday 28th April, the children and staff of Dunton Green Primary School laced up their trainers and took part in the Mini London Marathon, joining thousands of others across the country in this exciting national event. With energy, enthusiasm, and plenty of determination, pupils from all year groups had 30 minutes to run, walk, skip, or jump as many laps of the school field as they could.

The spirit of the day was infectious, with children cheering each other on and staff joining in to encourage every effort. Many pupils completed over 15 laps, showing fantastic stamina and commitment, whatever their chosen pace or style. It was a wonderful celebration of fitness, fun, and community spirit.

In addition to their physical efforts, the children raised an impressive £250 for WWF-UK, supporting vital work to protect the planet and its wildlife. This achievement reflects Dunton Green's strong values around global citizenship and environmental responsibility. The Mini Marathon was a shining example of how physical activity, teamwork, and charity can come together to create something truly special. Well done to all the children and staff for their amazing efforts!



# Team DG Colour Run

The Team DG Colour Run was a joyful explosion of colour, laughter, and community spirit as children dashed through a vibrant 20-minute course filled with fun obstacles, water splashes, and paint showers.

The event brought smiles to every face and raised an incredible £2,000 for Team DG and the continued development of the sensory garden—a project close to the hearts of many. Children raced with enthusiasm, climbing, crawling, and running through a kaleidoscope of colour, while adults cheered them on and even joined in on the fun. The lively event wasn't just about getting messy; it was about making a difference. Every step and splash helped support the sensory garden, which will offer a calming and stimulating space for all children, particularly those with sensory needs.

The success of the event was made possible by the energy and dedication of the volunteers, whose help in organizing, setting up, and managing the run was truly invaluable. The entire Dunton Green community came together in a spectacular celebration of unity, inclusion, and support. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and helped make the day unforgettable. Team DG continues to grow stronger—with more colour than ever.



Although this half of the Summer Term is short, it has been as busy and productive as ever. Teaching and learning is, by its very nature, an ongoing and ever-evolving process. Some initiatives take time to come to fruition, and their impact is something we continuously measure and evaluate. Many projects are now becoming embedded practice but one constant remains: our unwavering commitment to continuous improvement for all children.

This commitment has been particularly evident through our learning walks and book looks, which have provided valuable insights into classroom practice and pupil outcomes. Across the federation, we have seen strong evidence of high-quality teaching. Pupils' books reflect a clear progression of skills, thoughtfully adapted tasks, and a genuine love of learning.

Team planning has also proven to be a highly effective strategy. By bringing teachers together to plan collaboratively, we have harnessed a wealth of expertise and shared knowledge. This approach has positively influenced teaching and learning across all three schools. In particular, collaborative planning of foundation subjects has helped to reduce teacher workload while enhancing lesson quality, with a clear focus on key concepts, subject-specific vocabulary, and inclusive strategies that support all learners.

Finally, we are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils and the work that was done in preparation for the SATs. Their resilience, focus, and determination have been outstanding. Staff across the federation have worked tirelessly to provide targeted support, and we are hopeful that outcomes will reflect the dedication of both pupils and teachers. Beyond the tests themselves, our children have demonstrated a deep understanding of the curriculum and a readiness for the next stage of their education.

Together, these developments reflect our shared commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. As we look ahead, we remain focused on building on this momentum to ensure that every child across our federation continues to thrive.

# Teaching & Learning





# Year 6 Transition Day

This week, Year 6 pupils from St. Paul's, Dunton Green and St. Edmund's came together for a special Compass Federation Transition Day—an exciting opportunity to build confidence, make new connections and enjoy a day of shared adventure before the move to secondary school.

For many, it was the first chance to meet others heading to the same secondary, and the atmosphere was filled with a mix of curiosity, excitement and friendly chatter. It didn't take long before new friendships were forming and nerves began to settle.

The day was packed with activities designed to encourage teamwork and spark enthusiasm. Mr Manning led a brilliant Forest School session where the children worked together to build catapults. Over on the field, Ollie put the groups through their paces with an energetic biking session, while Foot Rounders brought laughter, competition and some fantastic displays of teamwork.

Throughout the day, it was lovely to see the children supporting one another, trying new things and stepping a little further outside their comfort zones. It was a real celebration of the Compass spirit—collaborative, welcoming and full of energy.





# Godstone Adventure Park and Farm

**Our Reception class visited Godstone Adventure Park and Farm in Surrey and made friends with lots of different animals.**

They attended an Animal Interaction workshop in the Reptile House where they came up close and personal with different animals and reptiles and were able to compare the feel of their skin and fur through touch.

Taking a closer look at animals, the pupils followed the Farm Trail to see who was residing in the farm. They used their knowledge to name the animals and discussed what they could see in their habitats. They were lucky enough to feed some too.

In the afternoon, they participated in a mini beast hunt and searched high and low to find different mini beasts and used their beast mats to identify what they had found.

Before leaving, the pupils had a wonderful time in the adventure park, building castles in the giant sandpit, zooming down the zip wire and climbing the wooden tower.

The staff at Godstone Adventure Park and Farm commended the younger the members of our school community on their behaviour and were impressed by their animal and mini beast knowledge.



# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day



St Edmund's and West Kingsdown village came together to celebrate and remember Victory in Europe Day.

The morning started with a minute silence to remember those who fought and played important roles in the first and second world wars. Our hall was full of prayers, silence and reflection as Martin Stoneham from the Royal British Legion raised and lowered the West Kingsdown standard in order for us to pay our respects.

Our Year 6 School Council Representatives attended and held the St Edmund's school banner at a memorial service at St Edmund's church. They stood with pride alongside members of the church and parish council. They commented that representing St Edmund's school was 'a great honour.'

In the afternoon the celebrations began. The whole school came together to dine on fish and chips or Homity pie followed by a slice of Victoria sponge cake. Music was played across the school field where the pupils taught each other to Jive, Lindy Hop and Jitterbug.

St Edmund's would like to take this opportunity to say a great big thank you to a parent of a pupil in Year 6 who provided each pupil in the school with a hat and flag so that they could all celebrate together.





# Tournament Success

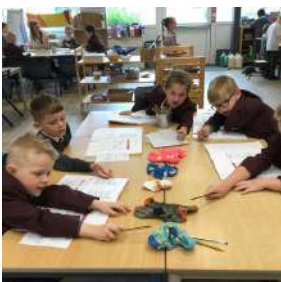
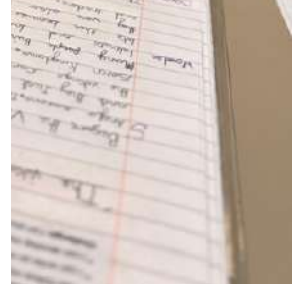
**St Edmund's continues to shine its sporting light while competing in the Charity Shield and Tonbridge and Malling schools football tournaments.**

Our mixed team of Year 5 players were awarded third place in the Charity Shield, after just missing out in the semi finals against another primary school. One member of the team was awarded the St Edmund's player of the tournament.

St Edmund's hosted the Tonbridge and Malling Schools football tournament which saw thirty one pupils across our Year 5 and Year 6 classes having the opportunity to play against five other schools. For many of our pupils this was the first time representing the school in a football tournament.

We are starting to see a lot more girls taking up the sport and being selected to represent the school in many matches. It is always a pleasure to see the pupils taking part in all of their games with a great attitude, supporting and encouraging each other and having these fantastic opportunities to show case their skills and talents.







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