



# Joy Lane Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## WELCOME BACK TO TERM 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the start of the summer term, and I am glad that the weather has cheered up for the latter part of this week.

### School Update

We have had a plethora of visitors to our school this past week and they have remarked on how our children demonstrate excellent attitudes to learning, showing resilience, curiosity and a real enthusiasm across the curriculum. I have been especially impressed with the way children have supported one another both in lessons and during less structured times. We are so proud of our Joy Lane community.

As you are aware Boyce Class have been crowned 'Beano's Funniest Class of the Year 2026' in a nationwide joke competition. We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the positive response to this wonderful accolade for our children, which has been proudly shared on BBC national news, KM Online and KM, Kent and Virgin Radio, as well as featured in national newspapers; links have been posted on ClassDojo and Facebook if you have not yet had the opportunity to read more about this fantastic achievement.

### Attendance Matters

We continue to place a strong emphasis on good attendance. Being in school every day supports both academic progress and wellbeing. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to ensure your child attends regularly and arrives on time.

### Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remain our highest priority. Please remember that if you ever have concerns about a child, you are welcome to speak with a member of our safeguarding team and in particular, Mrs Feist our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### Upcoming Events

This term is exceedingly busy with trips, productions, Sports weeks and transition into new classes. Please look at Term 6 dates so that you do not miss a moment of all the marvellous events.

### Working Together

We value the partnership between school and home enormously. Your support, feedback and encouragement help us to provide the very best education for all children. As you are aware, members of our Leadership team and Inclusion team are on duty around the school site in the morning and afternoon if you have any questions or suggestions or contact us via the school office email.

I look forward to seeing you this term at many of our school events, especially our Reading Festival on Thursday 25th June, and around the school site.

With best wishes,  
Ms D Hines - Executive Headteacher

## IMPORTANT STAFF CHANGES

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some important news with our school community.

At the end of this summer term, we will be saying a fond farewell to our Head of School, Mr Ashley-Jones, who will be retiring after an outstanding 32-year career in education, including 18 dedicated years here at Joy Lane Primary School.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have Mr Ashley-Jones as part of our school family for such a significant period of our journey. During his time with us, he has served with distinction in both Deputy Headteacher and Head of School roles, consistently demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the children, families, and staff of Joy Lane.

Mr Ashley-Jones has made an extraordinary contribution to our school and to the wider community. His leadership, care, and dedication have helped to shape Joy Lane into the warm, inclusive, and thriving environment it is today. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to benefit our children and families for many years to come.

Of course, no reflection on Mr Ashley-Jones' time at Joy Lane would be complete without acknowledging his unique ability to truly "fully embrace" school life! From the unforgettable Oompa Loompa and George costumes and, of course, his wholehearted "Ho, ho, ho..." each festive season, these moments have become part of the very fabric of our school and will be fondly remembered for years to come.

It has even been suggested that we may need to keep him on a retainer for non-uniform days—a proposal we are sure many of you would support!

Over the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to say your farewells to Mr Ashley-Jones' and to thank him for all he has given to Joy Lane.

Please join us in wishing Mr Ashley-Jones a very happy, well-deserved retirement. While we will miss him greatly, we know he leaves with our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for the future.

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I am also pleased to share some exciting news with you regarding another valued and much-loved member of our school community.

Following a rigorous selection process, I am delighted to inform you that our Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Harkins, has been successfully appointed as the new Headteacher of Hornbeam Primary School in Deal.

Mrs Harkins joined the Joy Lane team in September 2008 as a newly qualified teacher, and over the years has made an extraordinary contribution to our school. She has served as a Phase Leader and, for the past ten years, as our Assistant Headteacher, playing a pivotal role in shaping the life and success of our school.

Mrs Harkins has led our creative curriculum with passion and innovation, and her expertise in all things English has had a profound and lasting impact on children's outcomes. She has inspired a love of reading and writing across the school and has successfully established our much-loved annual Reading Festival, which continues to be a highlight of our school calendar.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs Harkins has also been instrumental in enriching opportunities for our children through meaningful community links, including establishing partnerships with local elder care homes, where our children have enjoyed sharing stories and reading together. These experiences have helped to nurture empathy, confidence and a genuine love of learning. Mrs Harkins' expertise, professionalism and unwavering commitment to all things Joy Lane will be very difficult to replace. She is deeply respected by staff, pupils and families alike, and she will be sorely missed by our entire community.

While we are, of course, sad to see her leave us, we are incredibly proud of her achievement. This promotion is richly deserved, and we know she will bring the same dedication, warmth and vision to her new role. We wish her every success as she begins this exciting new chapter and continues to make a positive difference to children's lives.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs Harkins and wishing her all the very best for the future.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms D Hines Executive Headteacher

## SPORTS DAYS – STARTING MONDAY!

The children have been practising their Sports Day events, and we are so excited to invite you to support and cheer on the children next week.

Children should come to school on the day of their Sports Day in PE kit. Please ensure children are in the correct colour t-shirt for their school house and have appropriate footwear. It looks like the sun will be shining, so please ensure children (and yourselves!) have a hat, water bottle and sun cream applied. You are welcome to bring a camp chair or blanket to make yourself comfortable during the events. Please note that there will be no seating provided. You are welcome to take photographs of your own children competing, but please do not share them on social media if other children are visible.

Entry to the field will be via the main Joy Lane gate, and you will be directed by Joy Lane adults. No parking will be available on the school site (apart from blue badge holders). No dogs are allowed on site and strictly no vaping.

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 3: 9:00-10:00am		Nursery: 9:00-10:00am
Year 4: 10:15-11:15am	Reception: 9:00-10:00am	
Year 5: 11:30-12:30pm	Year 1/2: 10:30am-12:00pm	Wyburn: 1.30-2.00pm
Year 6: 2:00-3:00pm		Warhol and Wiltshire: 2.15-3.15pm

## SPORTS/OUTDOOR LEARNING WEEK – NEXT WEEK!

We are looking forward to Sports Week next week! Children will be taking part in a variety of sporting activities throughout the week and should come to school each day wearing appropriate sports clothing and footwear. (They can save their house colour t-shirt for Sports Day.)

Please note that on your child's Year Group Sports Day, they must wear their school PE kit, including the correct coloured team top.

As the weather is forecast to be warm, please ensure your child:

- Brings a named water bottle to school each day.
- Has a sun hat/cap.
- Has sun cream applied before coming to school.

Thank you for your support in helping the children enjoy a fun and active week.

## BRITAIN'S FUNNIEST CLASS!



We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 Boyce class, who have won the Beano's 2026 competition! Their brilliant joke — *"I didn't think food could make calls, but then: boom! Onion rings."* — secured them the top spot. As part of their prize, the class and their teacher, Bethan Crowe (also crowned Britain's Funniest Teacher!), will be illustrated in a future Beano comic. What a fantastic and memorable achievement for everyone involved — well done, Year 6!

Watch the coverage [here](#). Visit the Beano website [here](#).

## SMARTPHONE-FREE SCHOOL

Year 4 and 5 parents/carers, please read [this](#) important letter regarding our smartphone policy.

# READING FESTIVAL – THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

We are busy preparing for our upcoming Reading Festival! If you want to find out more about what will be happening at the event, visit our dedicated [webpage](#) for more information, including photos, videos, and FAQs.

**READING FESTIVAL**

**Thursday 25th June 2026**

**3:30-6:00pm**

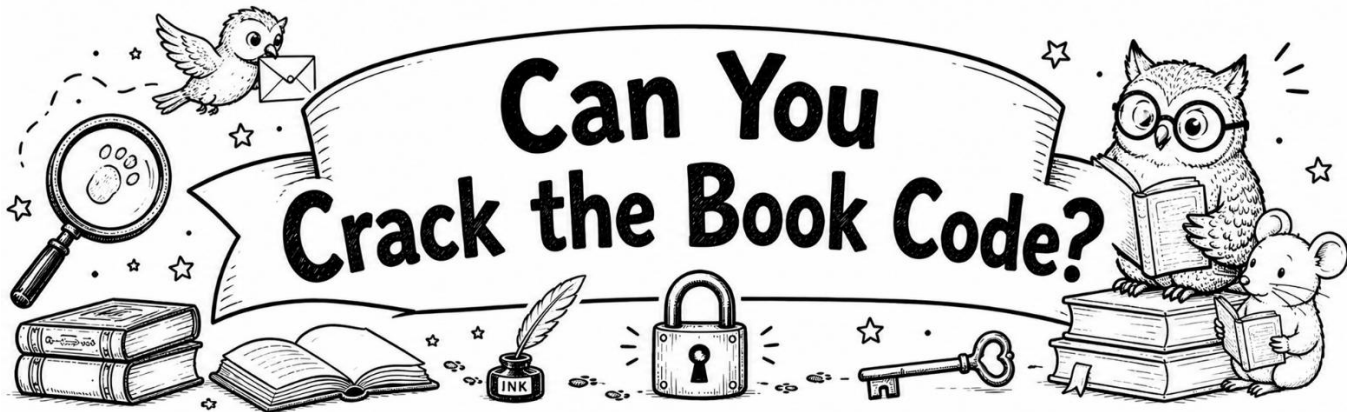
Usborne Books      Tales on Moon Lane  
Arts and Crafts      Live Music  
Coconut Shy      Storytelling  
Face Painting      Book Swap and Shop  
Royal British Legion      Refreshments  
OPAL Play      Adopt a Reading Buddy  
and so much more...

[WWW.JOYLANE.KENT.SCH.UK](http://www.joylane.kent.sch.uk)

**Go wild for reading!**

**FREE ENTRY**

## BOOK QUIZ!



To get us excited about the upcoming Reading Festival, we have released an exciting animal-themed book quiz! Complete the quiz (a copy can be picked up from the school office foyer or your class teacher), fill out your name and class and return it to school along with your £1 entry fee for a chance to win an amazing book hamper!

Deadline: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

## BOTTLES (STILL!) NEEDED!

**JOY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**PARENTS,  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please support our

**READING  
FESTIVAL**

We are asking for donations of the following items to help make our Reading Festival a fantastic event for all!

SHAMPOO  
JUICE  
BUBBLE BATH  
SHOWER GEL  
CONDITIONER

ANY bottles of shampoo, juice, bubble bath, shower gel, conditioner or similar would be greatly appreciated!

**DONATIONS TO BE DELIVERED TO  
THE SCHOOL OFFICE**

Thank you for your support!

## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Mr Sandhu and his team for building our beautiful new reading bench for the Reception garden. We love it and can't wait to sit under the trees with our favourite books in the sunshine this term!



## YEAR 6 TASTER TRANSITION SESSIONS

### TRADING SECONDARY SCHOOL NERVES FOR TOTAL CONFIDENCE.

Join us in a safe, welcoming space designed to make your secondary school transition a breeze. Connect with future classmates, play games, dive into sports and crafts, and build the confidence to conquer September!

Wednesday's starting 3rd June



4:00 PM – 5:30 PM



Strictly Year 6s Only

Sessions are FREE & Spaces are limited!!

📍 The Hub, 51 Faversham Road, Seasalter, CT5 4AX  
(Inbetween the Seasalter Christian Centre & The Co-op)

## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

### Attendance data week ending 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026



JLPS Whole School attendance	94.6%
Number of Persistent Absentees (less than 90% attendance)	61 pupils 9.90%

Klee – 96.1%	Kahlo – 98.6%	Kandinsky – 91%
Van Gogh – 91.4%	Voysey – 99.2%	Vallotton – 96.1%
Picasso – 90.7%	Postgate – 95.2%	Potter – 98.6%
Riley – 94.5%	Rousseau – 97.4%	Ringgold – 96%
Hockney – 93.9%	Heron – 93.8%	Hepworth – 94.8%
Degas – 93.1%	Dali – 92.4%	Da Vinci – 93.3%
Bailey – 91.8%	Banksy – 94.7%	Boyce – 97.3%
Oysters – 90%		

## GENERATION FOMO – GULBENKIAN THEATRE

What is it actually like to grow up online? Find out by seeing [Generation FOMO](#), live at the Gulbenkian Theatre on Monday 29 June, at 7.00pm.

This play is drawn from young people's real-life testimonies about how smartphones and social media shape wellbeing, relationships, and identity. Perfect for parents, educators, and teenagers, the show features a post-show panel discussion to dive deeper into these themes. Tickets are priced on a donation basis: <https://thegulbenkian.co.uk/events/generation-fomo/>

*Note: Explores themes of sex and pornography.*

## COMMUNITY FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Local organisation, John Kemp Funeral Directors in Whitstable, is currently running a free Father's Day raffle as a way of giving back to the community, recognising that this time of year can feel different for every family.

They are offering the chance for one nominated father figure to win a breakfast voucher for the Tudor Tea Rooms on Whitstable High Street.

If you would like your child to nominate someone special in their life, parents and carers can submit entries by:

- Emailing: [johnkemp.whitstable@dignityfunerals.co.uk](mailto:johnkemp.whitstable@dignityfunerals.co.uk)
- Dropping a nomination into the Whitstable branch
- Commenting on the John Kemp Funeral Directors Whitstable Facebook post

Please include your name, the name of the person you are nominating, and a contact detail. The winner will be announced on Thursday 18th June.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & SUPPORT



**WHITSTABLE TREES  
A PROJECT FOR FAMILIES**

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL TREES TOGETHER  
FUN SEASONAL WALKS AND MORE  
IN COLOMBIA AVENUE & COLOMBIA PARK

**LOCAL FAMILIES WANTED**

CONTACT [JO.FUTUREFOODFORESTS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JO.FUTUREFOODFORESTS@GMAIL.COM)  
TEXT 07747386994 SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS



Supported by



**kata**

**Father's Day  
Mug Make**  
SOUTH QUAY SHED

Saturday 13th June

The perfect gift, just in time for  
**Father's Day**

Pop in and decorate a mug to take home using our special sublimation pens and papers. K&A Creative will heat press them for you on the spot so you can take them home with you. Dishwasher proof, personally unique and a perfect activity for any age.

£8 per mug

All welcome! Find us upstairs

[f](https://www.facebook.com/kata.creativeuk) [i](https://www.instagram.com/kata.creativeuk) [kata.creativeuk](https://www.kata.creativeuk)

# CONNECT!

Group activities for neurodivergent young people aged from 9 years old up to the age of 18\*

Creates fun opportunities in an environment that is supportive of neurodivergent people

Allows young people to connect through shared interests to develop social skills

Empowers young people to build their confidence, resilience and wellbeing

Gives parents and carers the chance to have a break and meet others with shared experiences

\*Eligibility Criteria and fees will apply.



## Who is this service for?

- Young people aged between 9 and 18
- Young people who struggle to access universal or mainstream clubs and services
- For young people who are keen to meet others, have fun and try new things

To refer a young person, complete the referral form online.

Email: [youth@involvekent.org.uk](mailto:youth@involvekent.org.uk)

Web: [www.involvekent.org.uk](http://www.involvekent.org.uk)



 **involve**  
Charity no: 1066911

On behalf of  
  
Kent  
County  
Council  
kent.gov.uk

## PARENT & CARER CHECKLIST

- Next week will be **Week 1** of the menu.
- Put the date in your diary: **Reading Festival, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 3:30-6:00pm**
- Click here for a copy of **Term 6's Event Dates**.
- The children can wear sportswear all next week (with their house colour on their Sports Day). Don't forget a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream (applied before school).
- Why not take part in the **Book Quiz** as a family? Deadline next Friday.
- Year 4 and 5 parents/carers, please read this important letter regarding our smartphone policy.