

Miers Court Matters

Issue 1

11.09.26

Upcoming event

16.09.26 -
Medway Test

16.09.26 -
Year 1 and 2
Welcome
meeting

Note from Mrs Fordyce

Welcome to the end of another busy week - the children all seem to be settled and enjoying their new classrooms and the new learning that they are taking part in which is fantastic to see. Next week is the Medway Test for some of our Year 6 children, we will all be here to support them through this process from breakfast to end of school. We know these days are stressful for them but we all work hard to ensure that the children are as comfortable and happy at the start of every test as they can be

.. Good luck Year 6!

Have a lovely weekend !

Thank you so much to all of our families that have been so patient whilst we have sorted the wraparound care provision that we are offering. Miss Jefford, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Winter and Mrs Barham have done a fantastic job getting this provision up and running and the children are enjoying the new routines. We will update further with some photos and menus as everything becomes more embedded so watch this space. We have had slightly more frustration with setting up behind the scenes and Laura in our office has worked tirelessly to ensure Arbor is up to date and to work on the payment systems. She has our Trust finance lead coming in on Monday to iron out any payment issues that anyone may be having and to sort out the voucher system for payment. We apologise for any confusion this may be causing and are working to sort it as soon as possible. Thank you

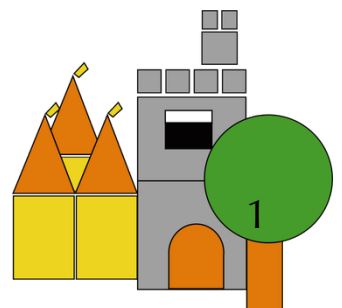
**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



We are very much looking forward to celebrating our first group of children who are very nearly close to their 10 Dojo point this term.

Keep up the good work Miers Court we can't wait to celebrate with you.

Attendance



Safeguarding Corner



As a reminder, our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs L Fordyce. Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are; Ms Munns, Miss Collings, Mrs Doherty, Miss Bradley and Mrs Kavanagh. If you have any safeguarding concerns, do not hesitate to get in contact.



Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

WELCOME BACK!

- 1 START EARLY**
Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.
- 2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER**
Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.
- 3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY**
Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.
- 4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS**
Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak to or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, 'buddy' systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.
- 5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION**
Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day mealtimes, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.
- 6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY**
Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. Anxiety around going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be common, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can also help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.
- 7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS**
Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.
- 8 PRIORITISE SLEEP**
Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.
- 9 PREPARE AHEAD**
Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing plans for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.
- 10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE**
Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adapt to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.

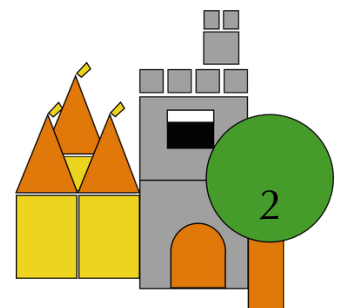
Meet Our Expert
Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, and a business development specialist for Minds Ahead, which works with schools to improve their mental health provision.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

DO's and DON'Ts of SCHOOL PICKUP

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| <p>❌</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't bombard with questions ("How was your day?"). • Don't jump straight into homework or chores. • Don't criticise behaviour or reports at the gate. • Don't overwhelm with loud excitement or multiple demands. • Don't compare their mood with siblings or peers. • Don't dismiss signs of tiredness or overload. | <p>✅</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smile and greet warmly without pressure. • Offer a snack and drink straight away. • Keep your tone calm and predictable. • Allow quiet time to decompress before talking. • Use gentle physical connection if welcomed (hug, hand squeeze). • Move slowly into the afternoon routine. |
|--|--|

The Contented Child
HELPING CHILDREN BE UNDERSTOOD



Reading update



A new year of reading begins ...

A very warm welcome back to all of our super Miers Court readers! It has been great to see the children getting stuck straight back into their phonics learning, reading lessons and our Accelerated Reader system. We have a fantastic range of core quality texts across the school which will be used throughout the year to engage and inspire your children.

AR updates

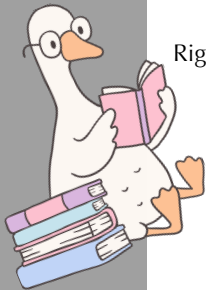
Children across Years 3 – 6 have been busy taking a new 'Star Test' to generate them a ZPD range. The AR ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) is your child's personal reading range, shown as two numbers (like 2.5–3.8), that helps them pick books that challenge them without causing frustration. As your child grows and improves as a reader, so their ZPD range will tend to get higher as they are reassessed throughout the school year.

What if I notice my child's ZPD range has gone down?

It is incredibly common—and completely normal—for a child's ZPD to dip slightly at the very beginning of the school year. After the long summer holiday away from school routines, children may have a period of adjustment into their new classroom, new teacher, and new routines. This may result in a temporary drop.

Please rest assured that this score is simply our starting baseline, not a reflection of their true capability. As a child gets more comfortable with their daily routines over the next few weeks, their stamina will increase and we fully expect to see their ZPD stretch and grow.

Right now, teachers will focus on building a consistent, enjoyable reading habits to ensure that things get off to a solid and enjoyable start.



How can I support at home?

Encourage your child to read at home every day. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or book shop on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is understanding what they read. Reading with your child, no matter what their age, is an important part of developing a good reader and building a lifelong love of reading and learning.

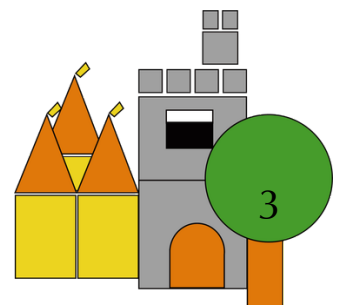
What if my child reads a book at home?

Great! Please use the Accelerated Reader Book finder website found here:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>

You can use the search function on here to see if a home book is on the AR system. If it is, then please let your child's teacher know the name of the book that they have read at home and then the teacher can let them do a book quiz at school. This will then allow that book to count towards their year group word target.

If you have any questions then please feel free to contact me via the office email address FAO Mrs Papandrea. Thank you!



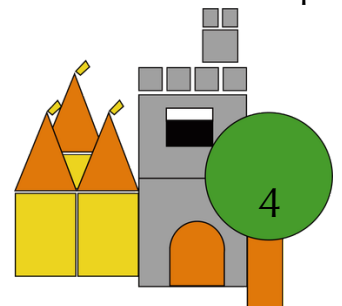


Please meet Warren! Last week year 1 were surprised to see him dressed as one of the Kings guards 🧑 with a message for the children and some clues for them to work out where he had been on his travels!

After discussing the clues we identified that Warren had been visiting places in the UK and that he wants Hummingbirds and Skylarks to learn more about the places he has visited!



We look forward to learning more about the UK this term with Warren's help 🧑



School Games



We have successfully been awarded a grading of Silver in the School Games Mark for last academic year.

We haven't been awarded a grading since 2022/2023 academic year where we were placed Bronze. So through every one's hard work and dedication to providing active opportunities to our children we have received Silver with lots of elements of Gold! So guess what we're going for this year.

We are delighted to announce that we, Miers Court have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2025/26 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

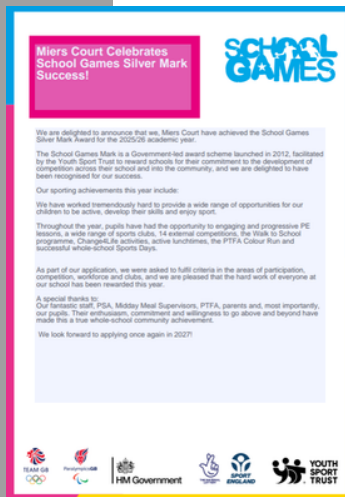
Our sporting achievements this year include:

We have worked tremendously hard to provide a wide range of opportunities for our children to be active, develop their skills and enjoy sport.

Throughout the year, pupils have had the opportunity to engaging and progressive PE lessons, a wide range of sports clubs, 14 external competitions, the Walk to School programme, Change4Life activities, active lunchtimes, the PTFA Colour Run and successful whole-school Sports Days.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to:
Our fantastic staff, PSA, Midday Meal Supervisors, PTFA, parents and, most importantly, our pupils. Their enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to go above and beyond have made this a true whole-school community achievement.



Thank you!!

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Farley for the World Cup Trophy she kindly donated for a prize for the School Council's stall at the summer fayre:

Mrs Farley's Tuition LTD is creating an alternative provision for the home-ed community. Recently we have expanded significantly. What began in 2023–24 with just two home-ed groups (KS1 and KS2) has now grown into ten daytime groups each week. This expansion reflects the increasing need for a supportive, flexible environment for children who do not thrive in mainstream school but also do not require specialist SEN settings.

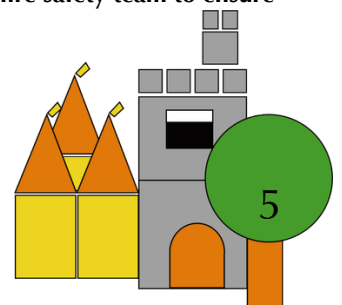
Many of the children we work with experience SEN-related burnout, EBSA, anxiety and other mental-health challenges. They often sit in the middle ground, capable and bright, but unable to cope with the demands, pace, or sensory load of traditional education. Our alternative provision is designed to meet their needs through small groups, predictable routines and a calm, relationship-centred approach.

Alongside this, we will continue to run our established after-school and weekend tuition, which includes six curriculum and 11+ groups, as well as a range of tutors providing 1:1 tuition from foundation level through to GCSE. Our team consists of dedicated subject specialists, SEN practitioners, and a dyslexia specialist tutor and assessor, ensuring high-quality academic support for all learners.

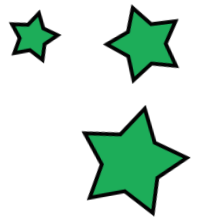
We are proud of the community we are building and the positive impact this expanded provision is already having on children and families.

If you want any further information please let me know! Our new step is the big expansion to a HUGE place in Rainham and we're just in the process of waiting for planning permission and the fire safety team to ensure everything is safe. We are hoping to be in by 2027.

THANK YOU



Wraparound care information



We would like to provide you with a quick update regarding our Wraparound Care provision following the first few weeks back after the summer holidays. We are pleased to say that the children who attend Wraparound Care are now settled into their routines, and everything is beginning to run much more smoothly.

We are also pleased to confirm that the issues some parents experienced with childcare vouchers and payments have now been resolved. All childcare voucher accounts have been set up, and anything that required action from our end has now been dealt with.

For parents who require invoices, receipts or any other Wraparound Care payment-related information, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist.

Arbor Meal Account Balances

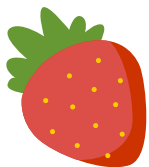
We are aware that some parents who booked Wraparound Care well in advance for the whole academic year may currently see a larger-than-expected amount showing as owing on their Arbor meal account.

Please be reassured that this is now in hand with our Finance Team. They are working to move all Wraparound Care payments onto the correct account type within Arbor, meaning your meal accounts will return to their normal balances.

If you have booked Wraparound Care in advance, you may notice the balance gradually reducing as the payments are processed and allocated to the correct account. There is no need to panic if you currently see an unusual balance showing. We completely understand that this has been a frustrating process for both parents and the school office, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding while we have worked through the issues.

Thank you once again for your continued patience and support.

Food menu



Monday - Beans and Sausages on toast

Tuesday - Soup and Bread

Wednesday - Pizza

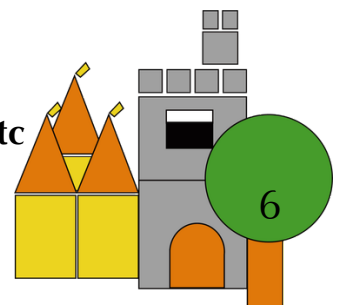
Thursday - Hot Doga

Friday - Spaghetti hoops toast



Allergies alternative - Chicken wraps

Snack are also avialable this consists of bread sticks, fruit etc



House points



Emerald

157



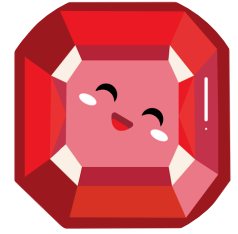
Topaz

150



Sapphire

171



Ruby

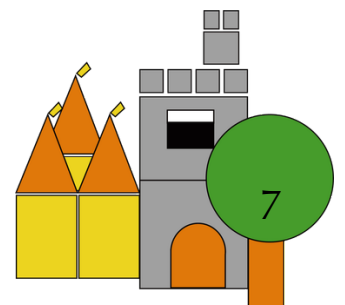
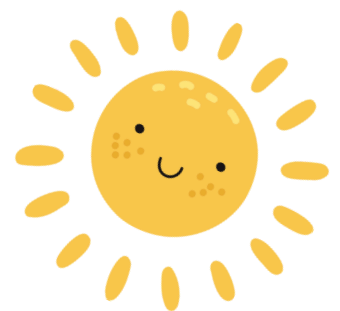
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OPAL Update



This week we began our launch of OPAL at playtimes. The children have had an assembly about the new equipment that we have that they are able to access and use and are all very excited. The ethos behind OPAL is that the children enjoy imaginative and creative play opportunities come rain or shine so please ensure that children have coats in school from now on. If your child has wellie boots that they can bring in and leave at school then please begin to bring them in so that they are here and ready to be used when it rains !

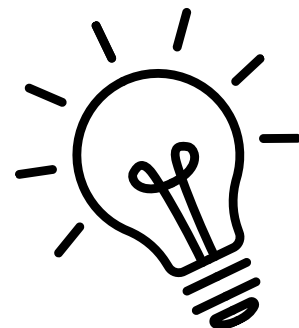




ECO



Battery Recycling - This week we have **25** batteries, thank you. We submit our total to the Duracell website each week. We also collect empty, clean bread wrappers and used ink cartridges (domestic only, please), which we give to Gillingham Street Angels, who receive a small amount of money for them. This money is used to help fund the projects that they run, for example, the soup kitchen and food bank.



Parent Information

To ensure the safety of all pupils and staff, we are asking parents to wait at the main school gates until a member of staff opens the KS1 playground gates at 8:30 and 3:10 each day, and 1:05pm on a Friday and then opens the both pedestrian gates and carpark gate.

This ensures that the staff responsible for opening the gates at the beginning and end of the school day are able to do so quickly and efficiently.

We would also like to remind all parents and pupils, that they should not be riding bikes or scooters in the school grounds, particularly down the slope from the KS1 playground. We have already had a couple of runaway scooters and accidents with children falling over this term.

If pupils are riding bikes to school, they should be wearing safety equipment such as a helmet to protect them in the event of a collision.

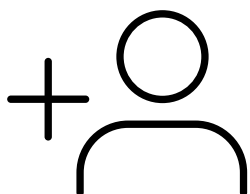
Dates for your Diary

16.09.26 - Medway Test

16.09.26 - Year 1 and year 2 welcome meeting

02.10.26 - Year R AND Year 6 Height and weight check

16.10.26 - Year R - Year 6 Flu immunisations



School website: <http://mierscourt-that.org.uk>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mierscourtthat/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/mierscourtthat/
X: www.x.com/mierscourtthat/

