



Coxheath Primary School

Mr Giacomo Mazza
Headteacher

T: 01622 745553

E: office@coxheath.kent.sch.uk

W: www.coxheath.kent.sch.uk

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Parent Engagement and Partnership This Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin the new academic year, one of our priorities at Coxheath Primary School is to strengthen the partnership between home and school and ensure that we are working together to help every child achieve their very best.

We know that children make the greatest progress when school and home work together. As part of our ongoing commitment to this partnership, we have been listening carefully to feedback from our parent surveys. One of the key messages from parents who responded was that they would like to feel better informed about what their child is learning in school and how they are progressing.

We have therefore been looking at ways we can give you more opportunities to see and hear about your child's learning throughout the year, rather than relying solely on formal parents' evenings.

We want to celebrate your children's achievements with you, share the work that we are doing in school and give children opportunities to talk proudly about their own learning. At the same time, we want to encourage families to play an active role in supporting learning at home. There are some simple things that make a significant difference to children's progress, and we would really encourage you to make these part of your child's weekly routine.

Supporting learning at home

Reading

Reading regularly is one of the most important things you can do to support your child's learning. Ideally, children should be reading every day, particularly our younger children in EYFS & KS1, as regular reading has a significant impact on their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. However, we recognise that family life can be busy, so our minimum expectation is that children read at least three times each week at home.

This can include reading independently, reading to an adult or sharing a book together, depending on your child's age and reading ability.

We will be sharing more information about our reading incentives shortly, as we want to celebrate and encourage children who are developing strong reading habits.

Times tables

From Year 2 onwards, children should also be regularly practising their times tables at home. Secure knowledge of times tables is fundamental to children's mathematical learning and gives them the fluency they need to access many other areas of mathematics confidently.



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Our expectation is that, by the end of Year 4, children should know their times tables to automaticity. Regular, short practice at home can make a real difference to this.

There will be further information throughout the year about how we are supporting children with reading, times tables and other areas of learning.

Keeping in touch about your child's learning

With the changes we are making to the timing of parents' evenings, we also want to make sure that communication between home and school remains strong throughout the year.

If a teacher identifies that your child would benefit from some additional support or practice in a particular area, they may get in touch with you. This could be through a conversation at the classroom door or, particularly in the older year groups, through an email. They may also send home some suggestions, activities or resources that you can use with your child to help them practise further.

Children in Years 2–6 also have access to IXL, which provides a wide range of Maths skills for children to practise at home. There are lots of different skills available for your child to work through, and some activities can take as little as five minutes to complete. Regular, short bursts of practice can make a significant difference to your child's confidence, fluency and understanding in Maths. If you are unsure how to access IXL or would like some guidance about which skills your child should be practising, please speak to your child's class teacher. We will be very happy to help you make the most of this resource.

We see this as an important part of our partnership with you. We do not expect parents to be teachers, but we do value the support you can provide at home when you know what your child is working on and how you can help. Equally, if you would like to support your child at home but are unsure about what would be most helpful, please speak to your child's class teacher. We are very happy to provide suggestions and guidance.

Five and Proud

One of the ways we are strengthening our partnership with families this year is by introducing our '**Five and Proud**' events.

These events will give you the opportunity to see what your child has been working on, hear them talk about their learning and celebrate the progress they have made throughout the term.

With this in mind, at the end of this term, **Years 2, 3, 4 and 5** will each be hosting a 'Five and Proud' event.

The event will take place at **2:30pm** on the allocated date and in the allocated hall. Please see the details below:

Year Group	Date	Location
2	Monday 12 th October	Thurnham – KS2 Hall Allington – KS1 Hall Bodiam – Yellow Building
3	Tuesday 6 th October	Hastings – KS1 Hall Sissinghurst – KS2 Hall



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4	Thursday 8 th October	Scotney – KS1 Hall Tonbridge – KS2 Hall
5	Friday 9 th October	Rochester – KS1 Hall Canterbury – KS2 Hall

The purpose of the Five and Proud event is to give your child the opportunity to share their learning with you. Each child will have chosen five pieces of work from this term that they are particularly proud of. They will be able to show these to you, explain what they have learned and talk about their progress.

This event is not intended to be an early collection opportunity. Following the event, children will return to their classrooms to collect their belongings and will then be dismissed from their classroom in the usual way.

We would really encourage you to take the time to sit with your child, listen to them talk about their work and celebrate their achievements together. This is a lovely opportunity for your child to share something they are proud of and for you to see their learning through their eyes.

The Five and Proud events are intended to complement parents' evenings by providing another opportunity for you to come into school, see your child's work and hear directly from them about what they have been learning.

Closer to the time, we will send out a Google Form asking you to let us know whether you will be attending, so that we have an idea of how many family members to expect.

If you are unable to attend yourself, please do consider whether a grandparent, relative or another family member might be able to come along instead. We would love for every child to have someone there to see and celebrate the work they have chosen to share.

Years R and 1

Years R and 1 will not be taking part in the Five and Proud events this term. Instead, we will be offering parent workshops, giving you the opportunity to find out more about how we teach phonics and maths and how you can support your child at home.

Please look out for further information and dates for these workshops.

Year 6

Year 6 will have their own Five and Proud event later in the academic year, with further details to follow.

Changes to Parents' Evenings

We have also made some changes to the timing of our parents' evenings this year. These changes are designed to ensure that our conversations with you are as useful and informative as possible, and that we have meaningful assessment information to share with you.

For **Year 6**, parents' evenings will remain in **October and February**, as these are important points in the year when we have assessment information and data to share with you as your children prepare for their transition to secondary school.



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For **Years 1–5**, parents' evenings will now take place in **January and April**. Moving these conversations later in the academic year means that we will have a greater amount of assessment information available to us. This will allow us to use this information to have more meaningful conversations with you about your child's progress, strengths and next steps.

For **Year R**, parents' evenings will take place in **October and April**. We feel that the October meeting provides an important opportunity to talk with you about how your child has settled into school, how they are developing their independence and confidence, and how they are beginning their learning journey in Reception.

The April meeting will then take place at a point when we have a much clearer understanding of your child's development and progress, including their progress towards the Early Learning Goals. This will allow us to have a more meaningful conversation about their achievements, areas for development and the next steps in their learning.

Working together for our children

Ultimately, all of these changes are about strengthening the relationship between home and school and ensuring that we are working together in the best interests of every child.

We want to celebrate the things your children achieve, share their learning with you and give them opportunities to feel proud of their progress. We also want to make sure that, where children need additional support or practice, we work together to provide this as early as possible.

Your support at home — whether that is listening to your child read, practising times tables, talking about what they have learned, completing activities suggested by their teacher or simply taking an interest in their learning — can make a significant difference.

We are really excited about the opportunities we have planned this year and hope that they will help us to build an even stronger partnership between home and school.

Most importantly, we want every child to feel proud of what they can achieve, supported by the adults around them and motivated to do their very best.

We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing in your children's learning and achievements throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

Giacomo Mazza
Headteacher