

City of Rochester School Newsletter



Autumn 2 2025 – Academic Year 2025-2026

Introduction from the Head

As we come to the end of a busy and productive Autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful achievements of our pupils and the exceptional support shown across our school community. It has been a term filled with hard work, growth and many proud moments, and I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to making it such a success.

I would particularly like to extend my sincere thanks to our placement providers, whose ongoing partnership continues to offer our pupils invaluable real-world experiences and opportunities. Your commitment to supporting our young people makes a genuine difference, and we are deeply appreciative of all that you do.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your trust, encouragement and collaboration. Your support is crucial in helping our pupils thrive, and we value the strong relationships we have built with you. And of course, my heartfelt thanks go to our dedicated staff team. Their passion, resilience and unwavering commitment to our pupils are what make City of Rochester School such a special place to learn and grow.

As we approach the festive season, I would like to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year. I hope you enjoy a well-deserved break with family and friends, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term ahead

Key Dates

Term 3:
06/01/26 –
13/02/26

Half Term:
16/02/26 –
20/02/26

Term 4:
23/02/26 –
02/04/26

Easter Holidays:
07/04/26 –
20/04/26

Term 5:
21/04/26 –
22/05/26

Half Term:
25/05/26-
29/05/26

Term 6:
01/06/26-
15/07/26

Bank Holidays:
25/12/25
26/12/25
01/01/26
03/04/26
06/04/26
04/05/26
25/05/26
31/08/26

Spotlight on Pupil Work: Jupiter Class explores Tsunamis

How does a tsunami happen?

By Drew Mayne, Jupiter Class

Introduction

Have you ever seen a massive wave destroying cities? This is called a Tsunami. Imagine strong waves of salty sea water moving towards you. It moves very fast and crashes into walls and buildings. But why does this happen?

How do tsunamis start?

A tsunami starts when there is earthquake, landslides volcanic activities near the ocean floor. This movement causes waves in the ocean and tsunamis occur.

What happens during a tsunami?

First, the water is displaced by the earthquakes. Then, the water forms into a deadly wave. Next, the waves move towards land. In fact, tsunamis can move at speeds over

Antibullying Week 2025: Building Bridges of Kindness

Our school participated in Antibullying Week, which ran from Monday, 10th November to Friday, 14th November, focusing on the theme 'Building Bridges'.

The week kicked off with Odd Socks Day on 10th November, celebrating the unique differences that make us all special. Across the school, our pupils engaged in activities designed to promote kindness and understanding, which culminated beautifully with World Kindness Day on 13th November.

In Primary, pupils used the 'Building Bridges Primary Resources' to explore important concepts. Our youngest pupils began with an assembly on 'Have you filled your bucket?' and learnt about empathy and the role of an 'Upstander' through dedicated videos, social stories, and quizzes. For Kindness Day, they watched the 'One Kind Word' video and took part in a kindness paper chains competition, working to complete their 'Kindness superhero' templates.

Simultaneously, Secondary pupils explored the theme using the 'Building Bridges Secondary Resources'. Their lessons covered the definition of bullying, the 'Power for good' poem, and the importance of being an Upstander, leading to a 'Power for good pledge'. One class shared their 'odd socks' and discussed why celebrating difference matters, linking their kindness discussions to real-world issues like Food Banks and different life circumstances.

They reflected on using the 'Power of Good' to ensure inclusion at break and lunch times, offering small acts of kindness throughout the day. This positive focus was powerfully reflected in the paper chains of kindness, which reached twice around our school hall! As one pupil noted, "Together we are even kinder."



Will embracing his true nature!



"It all started when a pupil took one look at Will in his Hi-Vis Jacket and said without missing a beat said, "You look like a traffic cone!"

As you can see in the photo, Will has embraced identifying as a traffic cone!"

☀️ Pupil Voice Shines at Latest School Council Meeting ☀️

We are delighted to share the highlights from our most recent School Council meeting, which was a brilliant demonstration of pupil leadership and collaboration. A massive thank you to all the pupils who contributed their time and excellent ideas to this very productive session. It is inspiring to see them running the meeting almost entirely by themselves with minimal adult support!

Leading the Way

The meeting was efficiently chaired by Alfie, who happily stepped in to start the session. James, a pupil with previous experience in the role, took over halfway through. Both pupils demonstrated fantastic skills in keeping order, ensuring everyone had time to speak, adhering to the agenda topics, sharing opinions, and expertly managing the time.

Focus on Fundraising and Community

Our dedicated fundraisers, Kian, Theo, and Marco, are forging ahead with their plans to support Wisteria Cat Rescue, the pupils' chosen charity for this year. They were looking forward to their meeting with staff members, Tia and Amy, who will be supporting them with their exciting ideas on how to raise vital funds.

Following their excellent performance in the meeting, James and Alfie have stepped up to take on the roles of Organiser and Deputy Organiser respectively.

Involving the Wider School

William, who efficiently manages the administrative role, is taking on a crucial task. He will be creating a survey for pupils to gather views regarding the School Council and future Cultural and Diversity Days. Furthermore, William is our valuable representative on the Medway Youth Council.

Crucial Conversations

The pupils engaged in a mature and thoughtful discussion about Antibullying Week. A powerful suggestion was put forward by some of the members that they could take on the role of upstanders. This would involve helping staff by keeping a careful eye out for any potential bullying incidents. We have already shared supporting videos in the pupil packs during Antibullying Week to help them feel confident in this new initiative.

Reading, Writing, and Favourite Lessons

The conversation turned to reading, where some pupils admitted they are still not enjoying it as much as they would like. This led to a creative idea about writing stories instead of focusing purely on reading existing texts. A fantastic suggestion was made, pupils could write the beginning of a story in one class, and then pass it to another class to continue, building a collaborative narrative. This idea was met with great enthusiasm!

Finally, the pupils confirmed their current favourite lesson across the board is PE.



Christmas Card Competition

City of Rochester pupils took part in a Christmas card competition organised by Teaching Personnel. We had some incredibly creative submissions. In the end Harry from Mercury came first winning a £50 shopping voucher for his 3D pop-up card. Followed by Isaac from Eris and Kodi-Lee from Saturn class.

Well done to all who took part.

Here are some designs from the competition

These card designs are amazing, well done to every participating student.

Kodi-Lee, Saturn class



Harry, Mercury Class



Bailey, Eris Class



Isaac, Eris Class

Interview with a staff member.

Hi, I'm Sian, and I'm part of the Learning Support team. My role is to work alongside students to help them feel confident, supported, and ready for learning each day. I assist in lessons, help students stay focused and calm, and support them with any challenges they might face throughout the day.

I'm also the school's Wellbeing Fairy, which means I help bring a bit of positivity, encouragement, and fun to staff and students. Whether it's organising wellbeing activities or spreading a little cheer, I enjoy helping make the school a supportive place for everyone.

Sian has been asked some questions. Let's see what she has to say.

✦ What made you want to become a Learning Support?

I wanted to become a Learning Support because I enjoy helping young people feel confident and capable. Seeing students grow, learn new skills, and realise what they're capable of is something I've always been passionate about.

✦ What do you most enjoy about your day?

I enjoy the moments when a student has a breakthrough — when something clicks, or when they smile because they've achieved something they didn't think they could. I also love building positive relationships and supporting students to feel safe and understood.

✦ What does your typical day look like?

A typical day can be very different depending on the students I'm supporting, but it usually includes helping with lessons, keeping students engaged, supporting transitions, and making sure everyone feels calm and ready to learn. No two days are ever the same, which keeps the job exciting.

✦ What makes you proud to work at this school?

I'm proud to work at this school because the staff genuinely care, and the students are brilliant and full of potential. We work as a team to create a supportive, welcoming environment where every student is valued. It's a place where you can really make a difference.

That concludes our interview with Sian.

What have mercury class been up to this term?

Mercury Class enjoyed creating mummified tomatoes for part of their English topic. Everyone had a tomato, and they followed the process of mummification. They are monitoring the tomatoes daily

Mummifying a Tomato; How we did it and how you can do it too!

Materials Needed:

2 tomatoes, salt, bicarbonate of soda, jars, knife, teaspoon, antiseptic liquid/handwash, kitchen roll.

Step 1: Prepare Tomato

- Cut a slit in one tomato.
- Remove seeds and pulp.
- Wash with antibacterial liquid.

Step 2: Fill with Mixture

- Mix equal parts salt and bicarbonate of soda.
- Fill the prepared tomato with the mixture.
- Place it in a jar.

Step 3: Control Jar

- Put the second tomato (untouched) in a separate jar for comparison.

Step 4: Observe

- Store jars in a warm, dry place.
- Check weekly for changes in weight and appearance.



☀️ **We're Hiring at City of Rochester School!** ☀️

Are you passionate about making a difference in young lives? Do you thrive in a supportive, inclusive, and dynamic educational environment? Join our dedicated team at City of Rochester School, where every staff member plays a vital role in helping students reach their full potential.

We're currently recruiting for Learning Support Specialists — explore the opportunities and become part of a school that values compassion, creativity, and commitment.

👉 Apply now via Kent Teach: www.kent-teach.com

📦 Supportive leadership and professional development

💬 Feel free to message us with any questions or call 01634 570706

Let's build brighter futures together 💙



*City of Rochester School wishes you a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year!*