



MEET THE TEACHER

Elder Class 2025-26

Elders Teaching Staff:

- Mrs Hutchinson– Mon, Tues & Wed
ghutchinson@crockhamhill.kent.sch.uk
- Mr Bonner – Thursday & Friday
pbonner@crockhamhill.kent.sch.uk
- Mr Rowland – Tuesday PE
drowland@crockhamhill.kent.sch.uk

Mr Robertson,
Mrs Ceely,
Mrs Polkinghorne
Mrs Mayo

Timetable

PE days – Tuesday

Forest School – Thursday (Term 1 only*)

*PE will then replace on Thursdays from Term 2 onwards.

Please send children in dressed in their PE kits on their PE day.

Learning and trips

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Early Islamic Civilisation	Local area study	South America: The Amazon Basin	Second World War	Black and British	Coasts
Trip to Tunbridge Wells Mosque	Fieldwork trip: Edenbridge + singing carols at Edenbridge Manor Care Home	Virtual fieldwork, using Oddizzi's exploration of the Amazon Basin	Celebration of learning assembly: parents & grandparents invited in to show artefacts/share family stories of involvement in the war	SATs – 11 th - 14 th May Bikeability – w/c 19 th May	Trip to Dorset (1 st – 5 th June), including fieldwork study on beach (Studland Bay)

Long term planning (for the year) and medium-term planning (for this term) are all on our class page on the school website.

Dorset – School Journey

- Cumulus – Dorset – 1st – 5th June 2026
- Letters will be sent out from Mrs Waghorne in the office, regarding payments and forms to complete.
- Kit lists will be sent out and there will be a parent information evening closer to the time.

Important Dates:

Transition to secondary school

- Closing date for secondary school applications – Friday 31st October.
- Secondary school place announcement – Monday 2nd March, after 4pm.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES 2024 and 2025

Leavers – July 2024

- Tunbridge Well Grammar School for Boys – 3
- Skinners – 1
- Judd – 1
- Leigh Academy (Hugh Christie) – 1
- Hillview – 2
- Tonbridge Grammar School – 1
- Hazelwood (private) – 1
- Lingfield (private) – 1
- Weald of Kent – 2
- Sackville (Surrey) – 1

Leavers – July 2025

- Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys – 3
- Skinner – 2
- Hugh Christie – 2
- Bennett Memorial – 5
- Hillview – 1
- Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls – 1
- Weald of Kent – 1
- Oxted – 3
- Kent College (private) – 1
- Sackville (private) – 1

Uniform reminders

- Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform or PE kit each day (see school website for full detail)
- **Jewellery** - only stud earrings which must be removed on PE days (unless newly pierced)
- **Shoes** - shoes or trainers only (no ankle boots)
- **Hair** - should be tied up fully (not a half ponytail). This is for health and safety reasons (getting caught/ headlice etc).

General Reminders

- **Water:** please make sure your child has a labelled water bottle in school every day.
- **Snack:** fresh fruit/vegetables only (or dried fruit, e.g. raisins)
- **Personal hygiene:**

Homework

- **Reading** – every day

HOMEWORK SET BY MR BONNER: Every Friday

- *Reading comprehension*
- *Grammar task*
- *Maths consolidation task*
- *Spellings*
- *Times tables*

Due in on Thursday

Reading

- There is such a huge correlation between reading for pleasure and success across the curriculum.
- Children's writing is vastly improved when then they read avidly – it allows them to be immersed in the language and vocabulary.
- Children also love it when an adult reads to them - there is obviously a time issue with this!
- It will make a huge difference if you are able to hear them reading or read to the children regularly – not every time they read but weekly.

Reading Journals

- As part of the reading homework, the children have been set a reading journal activity.
- This is where they can respond to the books they are reading and record what they have read.
- This is a more grown-up version of the Reading Record books used further down the school.
- We would like the children to complete one activity each week following the reading they have done.
- The other times they read can be recorded in their books with the pages they have read.

Reading Journal Examples

Varjak Paw

Author: SF Said
Illustrator: Dave McKean

Reason for choosing: The book was recommended by Mr Gosling and Mrs Mayo. Christopher couldn't put it down! The blurb sounds intriguing.

22nd July Read to page 31 (chapter 4)
Questions for Varjak

- Why do you feel that you are not good enough?
- How do you feel about your family of cats?
- What has happened to the Contessa? Who is she and why is she important?
- Who is Talal and why is he so important to the family?

23rd July - Read to page 71 - chapter 9

24th July - Read to page 170 - Chapter 19

25th July - Read to page 188 - Chapter 27
1st of the story

26th July - Read to the end

Phrases that relate to 'eyes' - Varjak, Holly, Talal.

"It's because of his eyes," added Julius. "The colour of danger... eyes aren't blue green - it's an embarrassment"

"She had spiky black and white fur and mustard coloured eyes" (Holly)

"The eyes were big and dazzling" (metal monsters)

"Holly wheeled about and faced him, mustard eyes on fire."

"And saw two silver-blue cats with amber eyes, calmly looking back at him." P221.

Gromera (villages) looked like a wheel on a starburst, with the market square at its centre and streets like spokes spiking outward

29th July - P29 - 29

30th July - P29 - P54

Character description

Isa or Isabella

Isa lives with her father, who she calls 'Da'. Her mother, Ma, has died and so has her twin brother, Gabe. They both died of diseases that they were not able to get rid of; for this she blames on the governor as they were not able to travel to main parts of the island, where medicines

Isa is a headstrong and brave, Isa is brave as she finds a way to travel into

the forgotten territories to try to find Lupe (the governor's daughter, her friend). She is determined when she sets her mind to something and fiercely loyal. This was shown when she wants to put herself in danger to find Lupe and also when protecting her father.

I find her an interesting character given her friendship with Lupe, the hated governor's daughter.

Will that friendship change?

How will she feel towards Lupe, Pablo, Da?

2nd August P55 - P105

3rd August P105 - P146

4th August P146 - End

Impressions: I liked the use of the myths and stories that were woven into the plot. The more I read, the more

York hidden from view. Ted is unable to hide his feelings and finds reading other people's emotions difficult.

I like that they become friends with a mutual respect for one another.

Themes	C	T	L	I	S	T	E	N	I	N	G	G
family	O	I	O	C	I	Y	Q	A	X	L	P	N
fear	H	S	Q	A	S	U	D	M	I	Z	I	
autism	M	U	S	J	R	W	N	K	H	B	O	D
loss	U	K	V	H	K	T	S	L	S	Y	N	
communication	N	B	R	I	C	O	D	M	M	J	L	A
understanding	I	W	E	V	S	N	G	E	F	A	N	T
friendship	C	U	R	E	B	T	F	E	F	A	S	
listening	A	U	T	I	S	H	V	P	A	Z	M	R
	T	F	R	J	E	W	Q	H	R	Y	A	E
	I	F	C	A	X	D	P	O	G	F	G	D
	O	D	E	I	H	F	A	M	I	L	Y	N
	N	X	H	L	C	O	K	Z	B	N	J	C

Reading Journal activities

Pick a character or two from the story and draw them.	Construct a timeline of events in the story. (Storyboard)	Use the dictionary to look up 6 words that you do not know and write their meaning.	Write a blurb for the story.
Make a cartoon strip showing part of the story.	Compare two characters in the story. How are they similar? Different?	Design a new eye catching front cover for the book.	Write an alternative ending for the story.
Write about your favourite part of the story and explain why.	Make a fact file about one of the characters.	Choose a page and write a list of all the adjectives.	Design a poster to advertise the book. Tell the buyers why they should buy the book.
Which character did you like the most? Explain why	Choose a page and pick a descriptive word. Use a thesaurus to find 5 alternatives.	Write a letter to the author telling them why you did or didn't like their book.	Draw a picture of where the story is set as you imagine it to be from the description in the book.
Read a passage and list the words and phrases used to create an atmosphere.	Write a new opening paragraph for the book.	Design a wanted poster for a character in the story. Remember to describe them well.	Choose a page and write down all the verbs on the page.
Choose a page and write down all the nouns on the page.	Rewrite a chapter of the book as a playscript.	Pick a paragraph and rewrite it in the future tense.	Which character would you like to be? Why?

Possible reading journal activities

Behaviour and rewards:

We follow our school's positive behaviour policy:

- We operate clear class rules and routines
- We use praise, house points and special responsibilities as rewards.
- In Elders, we also have 'top table' on a Wednesday and Friday.
- We will continue to award merits and headteachers awards in celebration assembly on Fridays.

Online safety

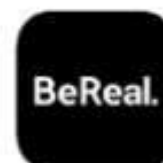
- The internet is a wonderful place but it was not designed with children in mind.
- Online safety and the activity our children get up to when using the internet is an area which has a lot of press/ media interest.

What is social media?

Social media are websites and apps that allow us **to create and share content with others.**

Social media also allows us to **connect with others through** comments, direct messaging, 'likes' etc.

Do you know the apps, what they do, and their age ratings?



BeReal



Instagram



LegoLife



TikTok



Snapchat



WhatsApp

Online safety

- The age rating of Whatsapp is 16+.
- This is to do with GDPR and parental consent. 16+ age removes the need for this.



WhatsApp

16+

Risks of social media

- Oversharing
- Sharing their location
- Talking to people they don't know
- Sending or receiving inappropriate content
- Unrealistic sense of body image or reality
- Obsessive focus on likes and comments



Supporting your child



- ✓ Check the age ratings before they sign up
- ✓ Setup new accounts together
 - Support with choosing profile pictures and usernames
 - Educate children about what info isn't needed (look for the*)
 - Make sure accounts are set to private
 - Turn off location settings
 - Adjust who can contact your child
 - Remind them some things are always public
- ✓ Talk about only accepting friend requests from people they know and have met before
- ✓ Get to know the tools together

Useful tools:



On pages or posts to **report and block**



Use the **take a break feature** to pause someone who you are connected with



Limit who can see different parts of your account, like stories



Use the **unfriend button** to remove any unwanted followers

Top take-aways...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI9wSVjI7I0>

Please watch this video at home around how you can have organic, free-flow conversations around online safety and interacting with your children about this

Ensure appropriate filters are in place and that security measures are turned on – contact your Wi-Fi providers for guidance on this and ensure they are in place on any devices

If there are any questions or you need any help, advice or support then please do get in touch with school.

Any questions?