

Dear Families,

Term 2 whizzed by in the blink of an eye! We've had heavy rain and storms which saw many leaks; we've had part of the ceiling tumble in the hall at Upper School; we've had no heating at Lower School, and an afternoon without power! But the staff and children have continued with resilience and happiness. Dame Janet is truly a special place for children and staff.

We've now completed our round of Christmas performances. The week started with our youngest children in the Nursery singing songs around the Christmas tree, and progressed across the week with some lovely, and lively, singing! Your support for your children was incredible and we were packed to the rafters for each performance—thank you!

Staff never expect gifts at this time of year, but your kind words, cards, pictures from the children and the gifts that have been given have left staff feeling grateful. Thank you once again.

Children in Years 1—6 have completed their end of term assessments in the last week or two. The children continue to impress us with their ability to recall and apply their learning—also a credit to the excellent teaching that they are receiving. The assessments help us to understand any gaps in learning and aid the teachers in their planning for the new term. Your child might mention an 'intervention' that they attend—this is a small group session that focuses on supporting children with any support they need.

As I write, the children are busy visiting Father Christmas and having fun decorating Christmas biscuits and taking part in festive activities. From all of us at Dame Janet, we wish you a very happy Christmas.

Mrs G. Sherwin

Head of School

Hello and welcome

We continue to welcome new friends for the children of Dame Janet. As the new houses across Thanet are built, we are welcoming a steady influx of new starters. Many of the parents are new to the area too and have mentioned that they are keen to make friends— if you're able to reach out and say hello to the adults at drop-off and collection times then that would be great.



Change to school hours

The Government expect all schools to offer a 32.5 hour school week by September 2024, at the latest. For most schools this means an adjustment in the core learning hours, and includes us at Dame Janet. This means that we will need to extend our school day for all children in years R to 6 to ensure that children are at school for 6.5 hours each day. I will write to you in the new year with the proposed new timings. We will trial the new timings in the first instance with them likely coming into effect at the start of term 5 (after Easter). Children in Shorty's Nursery will remain unaffected by the changes.



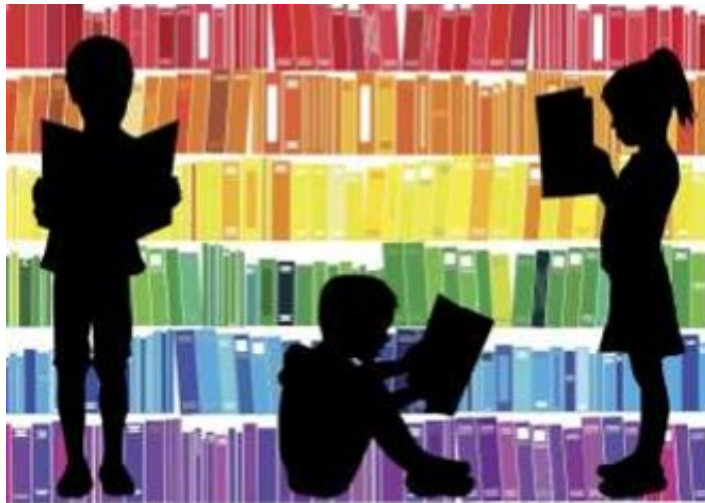
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Reading at Dame Janet

The ability to read confidently and fluently in order to fully enjoy books is something that we really value at Dame Janet. We're so lucky to have two well-stocked libraries and we continue to have wonderful families who donate books to us once their children have enjoyed them. A special thank you to the Jabar family who recently donated a large collection of books for the children of Dame Janet to enjoy.

Over the holidays, Lower School children will come home with a copy of their Read Write Inc (phonics book). Reading this book multiple times helps the children with their confidence and fluency. Children will also come home with another book to share with you. This might be out of their reading range so it is intended for you to enjoy and share as a family.



Upper School children will also come home with their chosen reading book. They continue to choose books from their 'ZPD' (book level) - hopefully they'll be some time to listen to your children read over the festive break. Children will be able to complete their Accelerated Reader quiz on their return. If you're buying books, or borrowing from the local library over Christmas, and want to check if the book has a Accelerated reader quiz, then check out: www.arbookfind.co.uk

Read, Lead, Succeed

Victorian Day

To celebrate our school's history, every year we celebrate Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills birthday with a Victorian Day. On Thursday 25th January, children are invited to dress up as Victorians—they will then spend the day learning all about schooling during Victorian times. It's always a highlight of term 3. Please don't feel the need to go out and buy a costume - chimney sweeps, long dresses and grey school shorts/trousers always work brilliantly.

For those children who do not enjoy dressing up, they are welcome to come to in their usual school uniform.

January 2024

2nd - INSET

3rd - Term 3 Starts for children

15th - Primary School Application deadline

25th - Dame Janet and the Victorians Day

February 2024

1st- Parents Evening (1:30pm finish for children)

5th - 11th - Children's Mental Health Week

6th - Internet Safety Day

9th - Term 3 ends

19th - Term 4 starts



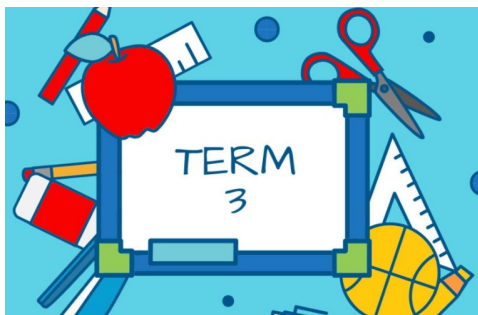
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Start of term 3

Children return to start term 3 on Wednesday 3rd January.
We look forward to seeing you all then.



Breakfast club

Our breakfast club returns at 8am on Thursday 4th January.



Visit us online at www.djpa-tkat.org



Schoolgateway



Scan the QR code above to download the School Gateway app.

Stay up to date with communications from the school, make payments simply from your phone, pick your child's school dinners in advance and book after school clubs all in one place!