



OF FIVE ASHES, FRANT, MARK CROSS AND MAYFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

WITH GOD'S LOVE WE GROW AND LEARN TOGETHER

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Challis

Monday 7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome all the children back to school. They have returned looking smart, positive and ready to learn, with a real bounce in their step. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they settle into new classes and begin a new school year.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of learning, growth and achievement across the Weald Federation.

New Approach to Spelling in KS2

This year, we are introducing a new approach to **spelling** in Key Stage 2. Rather than learning a list of words for a weekly spelling test, children will explore spelling through root words, helping them to understand how words are connected. They will learn about the etymology (the origin and history of words) and morphology (how words are formed through prefixes, suffixes and word families). By understanding a root word, pupils will be able to generate and spell many related words, deepening both their vocabulary and spelling knowledge. Each week, children will practise their focus words through a range of activities, including dictation sentences, word investigation and application in their writing. Spelling progress will be continually assessed through regular practice, discussion and written work, ensuring that learning is meaningful and embedded over time rather than relying on a single weekly test. Please take some time to practise these with your child. We will let you know the focus root words each week so that you can support learning at home.

For children who require a bespoke spelling programme, the class teacher will communicate this to you. This new spelling programme will begin within the next two weeks.

Class Information and Curriculum Maps

Attached to this email you will find a **welcome letter** from your child's class teacher. This includes an invitation to the upcoming *Meet the Teacher* classroom drop in sessions, along with other important information about routines, expectations and learning for the year ahead.

You will also find **curriculum maps** for each class attached. These are also available on the school website and provide an overview of the exciting topics and learning experiences planned for the term ahead.

Thank you for your continued support. We greatly value the partnership between home and school and look forward to working in partnership together to ensure every child thrives this year.

Kind regards,

The Weald Federation Leadership Team

Mrs Challis, Mrs Hillman, Mr Gurr and Miss Ramsay



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