



Nurtured We Flourish



Dear Families,

Welcome Back - September 2026

A massive welcome back to the new school year: 2026 - 2027. I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. We are so excited to see the children back at school on Thursday 3rd September.

Please see the following in this newsletter:

- Page 1 - Staffing updates and Attendance
- Page 2 - Key Dates - Including Year Group Meetings, PE Days and Forest School days
- Page 3 - Trips Overview for your child's year group
- Page 4 - Other events celebrated this year and a welcome back for your children.
- Page 5 - Tips for supporting your child at school.



We have lots and lots of exciting learning planned for this year. The teachers have been in school over the holidays getting their classrooms ready and preparing an exciting curriculum for our children and we can't wait to share it with them. You will be updated on our developments over the course of the year.

Kind regards,

Jackie Chambers (Headteacher)

Staffing Updates

We are delighted to welcome Ms Reeves and Miss Alexander to our staff team this school year.

Ms Reeves is our new Business Leader. She is very experienced and will help to manage all of the Business Functions of our school.

Miss Alexander is teaching Robins (Year 3). She is an experienced teacher and can't wait to get stuck in.

Unfortunately for us, Mr Mellor has been offered a new position as part of cabin crew for an airline. We think he will be amazing in this role, but, it does mean that he will sadly be leaving us on Friday. We are sure you will all join us in wishing him the best of luck as he travels the world. We will let you know as soon as we have recruited a new front of house receptionist.

Some of you may know that Miss Spain unfortunately lost her baby last year. She is not quite ready to return to work and so

Mrs Evans (Inclusion Leader) will be teaching in Year R every Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Evans will plan her time so that she is available for parent meetings in the latter half of the week, and

Mrs Hancock will be available for parents on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please do bare with the team whilst Mrs Evans takes on this additional responsibility to ensure our Year R children have a settled start to their school year.

Our Attendance

We all know that it is important for children to be in school to learn. Unfortunately, attendance at our school is currently sitting below the national average. This means that our children are not receiving the same education as their peers at other schools nationally.

We need your help to improve our attendance.

Our school attendance target is for our children to have at least 96% attendance. Last year, our attendance was 93.3%. Although an improvement on the year prior, this has an impact on our children's learning. 2.2% of our absence was unauthorised.

We ask that you send your child to school unless they are poorly (see the guide at the end of this newsletter to help you with deciding what is 'too poorly for school'). Children are able to come to school with a slight cold - we will look after them. If your child is poorly, please let the office know before 9am. We are unable to authorise ANY term-time holidays. This is Government advice to all schools. **Please check our dates sheets carefully so that any holidays are booked outside of term time. Please also try to make dental / doctors appointments after school where possible.**





Dates for your Diaries

We have mapped out key important dates for the upcoming year. These have been added to our 'Dates for Families' document. Please find this here:

Term Dates

Please note: These dates are subject to change. We will communicate any changes as early as we can.

Introduction to Year Group Meetings

We warmly invite all parents / carers to our upcoming Parent Information Evenings. These will provide important information about your child's new year group.

Year 1 & Year 2 Parent Information Evening:
Monday 7th September, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Y1: Miss Robert's Classroom
Y2: Mr Walker's Classroom

Year 5 & Year 6 Parent Information Evening:
Tuesday 8th September, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Y5: Mrs Frost's Classroom
Y6: Ms Pittam's Classroom

Year 3 & Year 4 Parent Information Evening:
Wednesday 9th September, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Y3: Miss Thorne's Classroom
Y4: Ms Kelly's Classroom

Year R Parent Information Evening:
Thursday 10th September, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Mrs Smith's Classroom

PE Days for Term 1

PE Kit Reminder:

Children may wear their PE kit on their PE Days.

- House coloured PE T-Shirt.
- Plain black sports shorts or plain black leggings / joggers.
- Plain black or white trainers.
- School maroon sweatshirt / cardigan.



Monday:

- Year 2 - Sparrows and Jays
- Year 3 - Robins and Woodpeckers
- Year 4 - Swallows

Tuesday:

- Year R - Cygnets
- Year 4 - Nightingales
- Year 5 - Eagles and Kestrels
- Year 6 - Hawks and Herons

Wednesday:

- Year R - Ducklings
- Year 1 - Wrens
- Year 5 - Eagles and Kestrels
- Year 6 - Hawks and Herons

Thursday:

- Year 1 - Kingfishers
- Year 2 - Sparrows and Jays
- Year 4 - Swallows and Nightingales

Friday:

- Year 1 - Kingfishers and Wren
- Year 3 - Robins and Woodpeckers



Forest School Days - Term 1

Forest School Term 1 26/27	Please note: Forest school sessions are subject to change throughout the term. Changes will be communicated with as much notice as possible.				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 W/C 31.08.26	SCHOOL CLOSED	INSET DAY	INSET DAY	NO FOREST SCHOOL	NO FOREST SCHOOL
Week 2 W/C 07.09.26	HAWKS - PM	JAYS - AM WRENS - PM	WOODPECKERS - AM NIGHTINGALES - PM	CYGNETS - AM KESTRELS - PM	HERONS - PM
Week 3 W/C 14.09.26	HAWKS - PM	SPARROWS - AM KINGFISHERS - PM	ROBINS - AM SWALLOWS - PM	DUCKLINGS - AM EAGLES - AM	HERONS - PM
Week 4 W/C 21.09.26	HAWKS - PM	JAYS - AM WRENS - PM	WOODPECKERS - AM NIGHTINGALES - PM	NO FOREST SCHOOL	HERONS - PM
Week 5 W/C 28.09.26	HAWKS - PM	SPARROWS - AM KINGFISHERS - PM	ROBINS - AM SWALLOWS - PM	CYGNETS - AM KESTRELS - PM	HERONS - PM
Week 6 w/c 05.10.26	HAWKS - PM	JAYS - AM WRENS - PM	WOODPECKERS - AM NIGHTINGALES - PM	DUCKLINGS - AM EAGLES - PM	HERONS - PM
Week 7 w/c 12.10.26	HAWKS - PM	SPARROWS - AM KINGFISHERS - PM	ROBINS - AM SWALLOWS - PM	CYGNETS - AM KESTRELS - PM	HERONS - PM
Week 8 w/c 19.10.26	HAWKS - PM	JAYS - AM WRENS - PM	WOODPECKERS - AM NIGHTINGALES - PM	DUCKLINGS - AM EAGLES - PM	HERONS - PM



Trips Plan for the Year

The below is a copy of our plan for school trips this year. All of our trips link to your child's new year group curriculum. The prices below are estimated but we will communicate more detail as soon as we can.

Please note: For all trips and visits, we will ask for 'voluntary contributions' towards the trip. The amount we ask for is the total cost of the trip divided by the number of children in the year group. We do not make a profit from school trips. Equally, we do not receive any specific funding for school trips, so if the cost of the trip is not gathered from contributions, the trip will unfortunately be cancelled.

Trip Offer	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
In-School Experience / Workshop	£5	£5	£5	£5	Artist / Musician: £5	£5	£5
Whole-School Trip (Zoo)	£20	£20	£20	£20	£20	£20	£20
Panto (in-school)	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50
Visit to a Place of Worship	Harrietsham Church (St John the Baptist) N/A	Chatham Memorial Synagogue £15	Maidstone Mosque £15	Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara (Gravesend) £15	Hindu Dharma Mandir £15	Rochester Cathedral £15	Canterbury Cathedral £15
Science Week	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5
Book Week	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5
Trip: Godinton House and Gardens	£8						
Local Visit: Post Box Trip	N/A						
Trip: Leeds Castle		£8					
Local Visit: Village Walk		N/A					
Trip: Dymchurch Beach			£25				
Local Visit: Maidstone Museum			£10				
Other: Big Dance at Lenham			£2				
Trip: Living Land				£20			
Local Visit: Shop Visit: Spending money				£5			
Other: Swimming (Term 2)				£38.00			
Trip: Hever Castle					£25		
Local Visit: Train Journey (Café)					£5		
Other: School Sleepover					£5		
Trip: London Trip (train)						£20	
Other: Camping at School						£10	
Trip: PGL							£400
Other: Train Journey (transition linked)							£5
Other: Bus Journey (transition linked)							£5
TOTAL	£46.50	£61.50	£90.50	£116.50	£88.50	£83.50	£463.50
Other Opportunities							
Shows / Productions	EYFS Christmas Show (Songs)	Y1 Nativity & Big Summer Sing	Christingle & Big Summer Sing & Dance	Christingle	Y4 Easter Show / Service	Y5 Singing at Chippendayle Lodge	Y6 Production
Class Worship	Class Worship: Term 6	Worship: Term 5	Worship: Term 4	Worship: Term 3	Worship: Term 3	Worship: Term 2	Worship: Term 1
Other							Y6 Leavers Service
OPTIONAL: Bikeability	Bikeability: Balance and Cycle Ready			Bikeability: Confidence / Learn to Ride	Bikeability: Level 1		Bikeability: Level 2
OPTIONAL: Performances						Proms for Praise / Young Voices	Proms for Praise / Young Voices
OPTIONAL: Top-up swimming in Term 5 (for those who have not achieved 25 metres) - payment in Term 5					Swimming	Swimming	Swimming



Other Events Celebrated

The below shows other events that we plan to celebrate as a whole school. You will see a list of activities each term that families are invited to attend.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Black History Month (Linked learning in school)	Anti-Bullying Week (Odd socks)	Number Day (Linked learning in school)	Book Week (Visiting book fayre and £5 contribution)	Cultural Diversity Day (Linked learning in school)	Star Quality Day (Rare Diseases, Diabetes, Epilepsy - Linked Learning in School, dress-up and voluntary donation)
Harvest Festival (Food donations)	Armistice Day (Club uniforms can be worn)	Darwin Day (In-class activities)	Science Week (£5 contribution)	Vaisakh (In-class activities)	School Fundraiser (E.g. Colour run)
Rosh Hashanah (In-class activities)	Diwali (In-class activities)	Ramadan (In-class activities)	Easter	End of Term Disco	
Individual school photos	Children in Need (voluntary donation)	End of Term Disco	Class Photos		
	Christmas - Christmas Dinner, Carols				
	Christmas Jumper Day				
	Christmas Fayre Non-Uniform Day				
Events for families to join:					
Parent Information Sessions: YR-6	Parents Evening	Classroom Open Afternoon	Parents Evening	Classroom Open Afternoon	Meet the Teacher Y1-6
Classroom Open Afternoon	Christmas Fayre		OPAL Parents Lunchtime		Sports Day
					OPAL Parents Lunchtime
					Hot Dogs and Cool Music



Welcoming your children back to School



Classrooms open for visits - Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September 3:30 - 4pm:

We know that, for some children, it can be really tricky to return to school after a long break.

If your child is feeling anxious about their first day back on Thursday 3rd September, and you feel it would help them, we are opening all classrooms after our INSET days on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September between 3:30pm and 4pm. If you would like to bring your child along to see their new classroom, and to see some of the staff, please do pop along - the main front door will be open.

A Video to say Hello:

See below a little video from our staff to your children. Please do share this with them. We hope it will help them to see some friendly faces and their new classrooms.

Video for Children: **Welcome Back 2026**

Is my child too ill for school?

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

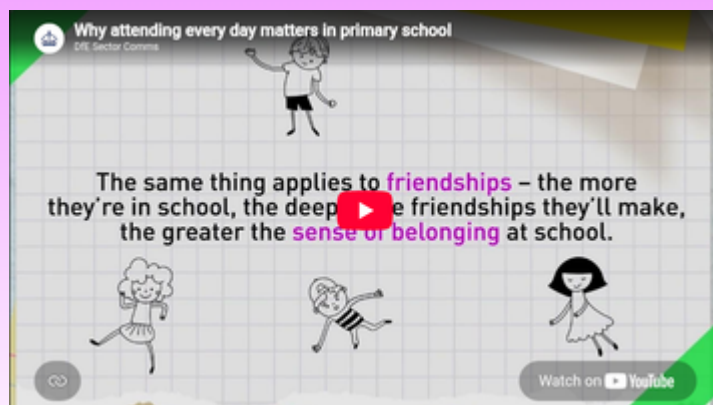
Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

See the short video below to see how you can help to support attendance.



See the video below to see why good attendance at school is so important



See the tips below for ideas of how to help with 'back to school' worries.

Support with back-to-school worries

Clinical Psychologist Dr Nihara Krause has created these top tips to help parents manage concerns their child may have about returning to school after the holidays. Send them to parents as part of your pre-holiday communications

1. Rebuild routine early

Children thrive on routine and during school holidays, sleep patterns, mealtimes, and daily structure become looser. This is completely normal, but this shift can make the return to school feel overwhelming.

Start resetting sleep schedules 3 to 5 days before school begins by moving bedtime and wake-up time earlier in small steps. Reintroduce familiar routines such as reading before bed, laying out clothes, or having breakfast at the table. Limit screens for at least an hour before bed, as overstimulation can affect sleep quality.

2. Plan a calm and structured first morning back

Keep mornings calm by preparing as much as possible the night before (uniforms, packed lunches, school bags, and PE kits) to reduce stress and set a positive tone for the day.

Aim to wake up 10 to 15 minutes earlier on the first day back so there's no need to rush. Create a warm, steady routine with breakfast together, a quiet chat, and a moment to check in on how your child is feeling. Maintaining a relaxed tone yourself also helps, as children often "borrow" their emotional cues from adults.

A smooth, unhurried morning lowers stress and helps children walk into school feeling steadier and more confident.

3. Talk openly and validate feelings

Communication is key, so try to keep checking in with your child in the run up to the return to school. Listen carefully to what's on their mind, and help them break their concerns into smaller, manageable steps you can work through together. This helps them feel supported and understood.

Don't forget to highlight the positives of returning to school like seeing friends, their favourite lessons and enjoyable routines like after-school activities. Normalise their feelings and explain it's very common to feel a little uneasy shifting routines from holiday mode to back-to-school.