



Otford Primary School

Dear Parent and Carers,

As Safeguarding Leads, we are going to provide a termly newsletter in order to make sure that we can work together to keep all our children safe and happy.

It is important that you know who to contact and how to do this.

During term time, if you have any concerns please do contact us, in confidence, so we can signpost and support you, your family and children. You can make an appointment via the school office or approach us for an appointment on the playground. Or email us, and please entitle Re: SAFEGUARDING safeguarding@otford.kent.sch.uk

Miss Chalkley and Mrs Cornelius

What is Safeguarding?

- Safeguarding means **keeping people safe from harm**. Everyone has the right to live in a safe environment, free from abuse and neglect. There are many definitions of the term, but the statement above covers them all. All children in school have the right to receive the necessary care and should be safeguarded at all times.

In school support:

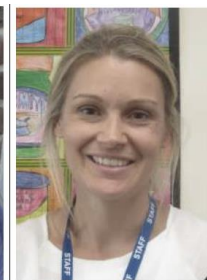
In school, all staff receive **annual safeguarding training**. This ensures we all know how to support children and what signs to look out for. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

Annually, children carry out a **safeguarding survey**. This shows us that our children feel safe at school (97% in the last survey) and also helps us to address any trends the children mention.



Miss Chalkley

Designated
Safeguarding Lead &
Deputy Head teacher



Mrs Cornelius

Designated
Safeguarding Lead &
Deputy Head teacher

01959 523145

If you are concerned about any child, please do contact us. This will be kept confidential.

In an emergency, contact the Police (if appropriate) or Kent Child Services directly on:

03000 41 11 11

social.services@kent.gov.uk

[Report abuse - Kent County Council](#)

If you have any suggestions for Safeguarding at school, or any useful information that we can signpost please do let us know via email.

Children who struggle to come to school in the mornings can attend our **Leap Pad room from 8.45** so do contact us should you wish to explore this for your child.

Any child can attend a lunchtime '**Listening Ear**' session with a member of staff who will guide and support them. This takes place daily in the Nest.

Other lunchtime clubs include **Games Club and Mindfulness** which are an opportunity for children to take a break from busy lunch playtimes.

Children who may need additional 'talk time' can have a **learning partner 'buddy'** who will check in with them regularly.

Each class has a **worry box** and teachers teach **PSHE** regularly as part of our **curriculum**. Our curriculum, and assembly themes, also include **Anti-Bullying and Online Safety**. This means children learn what safety is and how to keep themselves safe and report issues.

We also invest in **professional counsellor** who supports children in-school on a 1:1 basis weekly. Should we feel your child would benefit from this, we will discuss this with you to gain your views and share information.

For families experiencing financial difficulties, we may be able to offer '**Bags of Help**' groceries. These are kindly donated by Otford Methodist Church. Please do contact us.

Bullying

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger).

If you are worried about your child being bullied or their behaviour towards others, you should speak with us straight away.

This term we celebrated **Anti-Bullying Week** in November. We look forward to **Safer Internet Day** on 7th February. More information will follow nearer the time.

[Online Safety Leaflets & resources - Internet Matters](#)

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

[CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

[Helping Children Deal with Bullying & Cyberbullying | NSPCC](#)

External Support

Early Help provide a range of services to meet the educational, social and emotional needs of children, young people and families in Kent through [our partner organisations](#).

For example, they can offer support if:

- you are worried about your child's behaviour
- you are struggling to cope
- you are worried about your family finances
- your child is struggling to cope with bereavement
- your child is being [bullied](#)
- your child refuses to go to school or college
- you or your child want to develop new friends and have new experiences
- you are having difficulties with family relationships.

For further information: [Early Help \(support for families\) - Kent County Council](#)

You are able to make an Early Help referral yourself although we are able to support you with completing this if you would like. If we feel this may be beneficial for you, we may suggest this as an option during a meeting.

Financial Support

Loaves and Fishes Food Bank [Loaves & Fishes – St John the Baptist Church, Sevenoaks \(stjtb.com\)](#)

Kent Support and Assistance Service [Home essentials in a crisis - Kent County Council](#)

Support for Ukrainian nationals [Support for Ukrainian nationals - Kent County Council](#)

Cost of living support – Kent Together [Cost of living support - Kent County Council](#)

We hope that you enjoy the Christmas Break and look forward to seeing you in 2023!



Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Well-being Support

Mrs Cornelius is our Well-Being lead, and all children and staff have recently undertaken an individual **well-being survey**. This will help inform us of our next steps as a school and results will be shared in the New Year. We are hoping to include parent voice within the well-being action group.

There are a range of online resources to support families:

[Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)

[Kent Resilience Hub - Kent Resilience Hub](#)

[Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#)

[Well-being | Otford Primary School](#)

A referral can be made to the NHS School Health Service via this link, again we are happy to support you with completing this:

[Emotional health and wellbeing | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust \(kentcht.nhs.uk\)](#)