



Otford Primary School-27 February 2026

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 4!

It was wonderful to see the children back at school this week. We all enjoyed the sunshine and the new playground markings on Wednesday, which made everything seem very colourful! Hopefully, we will have many more sunny days over the next few weeks.

Mr Male, our new Site Manager, is settling into school life and getting to know the site, the children and the staff. We are delighted to welcome him to the team for his first full week.

I am aware that this term is a busy one, with Open Classrooms and Parent Consultations taking place. All key dates are listed below and are also available on the school calendar on the website. We do hope you find these events helpful in celebrating your children's achievements and identifying next steps.

We have been focusing on writing as one of our key priorities this year as part of our School Development Plan. The Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leaders have been monitoring standards across the school, and I am sure you will see the strong progress your children have made from the start of the year to now. We are very proud of the children's efforts and resilience; they are working incredibly hard across all areas of learning.

We would also like to inform you that "Leap Pad" is back up and running. This takes place in the Victorian building at the start of the day, from 8:50 am until 9:15am, for any child who may find the transition into school challenging. Miss Nye will be leading this alongside Mrs Williams. Please take your child to the main blue door of this building. Please rest assured your children will be marked as present and on time if they are in Leap Pad by 8:55am.

This space allows children to regulate and feel ready to start the day if they are finding the transition tricky. We know that most of our children feel very comfortable coming in and heading straight to their class teachers; however, this option is available for those who may need a little nurture before going to class.

As always, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be available at the start of the day. If you need to make an appointment with your child's class teacher or a senior leader, please let the office know and we will arrange a time that is convenient.

With best wishes for the weekend ahead,

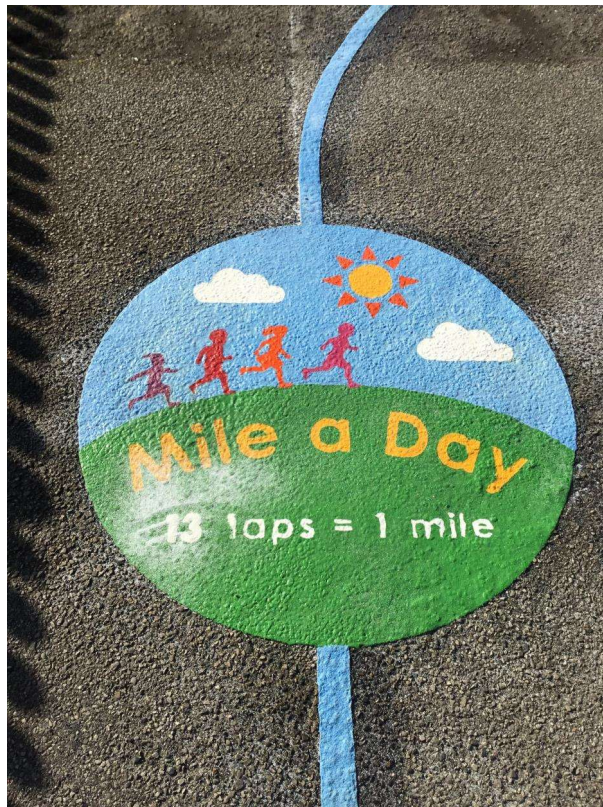
Mrs H Roberts

Playground

We are so pleased with our new playground markings which the children love! They are running many many miles and having a fantastic time which is wonderful to see :) Miss Chalkley will be discussing some of these new markings with the children in Monday's assembly as they are really looking forward to playing the games in both playgrounds. Along with the new equipment in the main school playground the children have lots of options of fitness and fun! Thank you to Miss Poulter for organising the markings, the funding of these has been taken from our Sports Premium Grant which is available on our school website.







Zig Zag Lines

Our MP, Laura Trott, is helping to organise the lines being painted outside the school. This should be completed shortly. Mrs Roberts has been in close dialogue with our MP to review the road safety for the children at Otford and welcomed support. It is good to know that the needs of the school are being considered by our MP and the general safety of the children in our school is a priority.

Year 6 Community Ambassadors- well done!

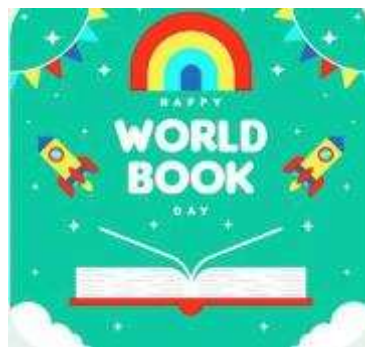


The Year 6 community ambassadors for Term 4 are:

6CC- Beau, Evie, Finley, Euan and Ezra

6L -Edward, Niall, Kunal, Ellie and Jen

World Book Day- Next Thursday, 5th March



Don't forget! World Book Day is Thursday, 5 March! Children are welcome to come in dressed as a favourite book character.

We do not wish to put a lot of pressure on parents to buy something. The focus is to celebrate the joy of books rather than the costumes themselves. We have always welcomed homemade/recycled costumes. If parents are struggling with a costume or require support, please do let the school know.

Mrs Williams, our English lead, will be organising events throughout the day for all children to take part in. Many thanks for your support.

Year 6 Kurling

Tuesday 10th February 2026: Kurling

Year 6 had a fantastic time trying out kurling, a Winter Olympic sport that links perfectly with our *Polar Kingdom* topic. We chose this activity because kurling is played on ice, just like many sports in the cold Arctic and Antarctic regions we have been learning about.

Kurling is similar to curling, a sport played in the Winter Olympics, where players slide stones towards a target to score points. It takes teamwork, concentration and careful aim to get your stone closest to the centre. Even though we played without real ice, we still had to think about speed, direction and strategy — just like the professionals!

It was a great way to experience a sport from icy climates while connecting our learning to the Polar regions.







Year 6 Save the Dates



We know that Year 6 is always a very special year and goes so quickly! The Year 6 teaching team would like to share some key dates with our parents, these have also been added to the school calendar on the website.

Year 6 Save the Date

- **Monday 11th-Thursday 14th May: KS2 Sats Week**
- **Wednesday 20th May: Meeting with parents/carers re Year 6 residential in the school hall at 2:30pm.**
- **Wednesday 24th -26th June: Year 6 Residential to Kingswood**
- **Tuesday 14th July: Performance to parents/families evening: 6:30pm**
- **Wednesday 15th July: Performance to parents/families evening: 6:30pm**
- **Thursday 16th July: Leavers Party**
- **Tuesday 21st July: Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9:30am**

Year R Pyjamas Day- what a lovely cosy event for the children and staff too!



School Book Fair

The school virtual book fair starts today, Friday 27 February and runs until Sunday 8 March!! The special code for free postage is Otford, (not case sensitive), which needs to be entered at checkout. It is valid from 9am today until midnight on the last day (8 March) and can be used any number of times.

We know that getting children engaged with books stimulates their imagination, develops social skills and helps them to learn about the world. And for every 5 books purchased, the school will receive 1 book free!

Most of the new books are just £2.50. There are gift books, board books, touch and feel, flap books, picture books and many more to choose from.

[Click Here to Shop the Book Fair¹](#)

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Buying is as easy as **A B C**

A →

Go to www.gobbledybooks.co.uk during the week of the book fair. Every book on the website is just £2.50..whatever the book's RRP!



Browse our extensive range and add books to your basket. For every 5 books bought, we will donate one to your school for free!

B →

Make sure you fill out your child's name, class and school address in the delivery section. Add the CODE at the checkout for FREE POSTAGE

Now, simply pay for your books at the checkout and we will take care of the rest.

C →

A few days after the fair has ended, your books will be handed out at the school. Each book parcel will be specially wrapped, with your child's name on.

Finally, take your books home and enjoy!



For further details, take a look at the 'Parents Info' from your school. Or check out our PARENTS BOOK FAIR HELP PAGE on the website.

www.GobbledyBooks.co.uk

Clubs

SPRING TERM CLUBS AT OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOOTBALL CLUB

For boys & girls of all abilities!

SPACES REMAINING

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM

£8.30 per 1 hour session
Monthly payment plans available

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After School

Book via website

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- ☑ A fun, welcoming space where they feel confident to try new ideas
- ☑ Building, creating, and problem-solving with LEGO® bricks every session
- ☑ Figuring things out, overcoming challenges, and feeling proud of what they build
- ☑ Working with friends, sharing ideas, and building together
- ☑ Using their imagination while taking on exciting STEAM challenges
- ☑ Learning cool skills like engineering and robotics through play
- ☑ Leaving every class feeling happy, confident, and excited to come back

Real-world concepts related to Science Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths

bricks4kidz.co.uk/kent ccobb@bricks4kidz.com 07814 371279

We Learn, We Build, We Play with LEGO® Bricks

Catering and Recipes

RECIPE

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE JAMBALAYA

INGREDIENTS

- 3kg diced 50/50 chicken
- 2 large onions
- ½ bag frozen sliced peppers
- 4 tbs garlic puree
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes
- Chicken stock
- 2 courgettes
- 2 tbs paprika
- 4 tbs Cajun spice
- ½ bag long grain rice

METHOD

- Place sliced onions, chicken, veg, spices, garlic and roast until chicken cooked
- Add uncooked rice, tinned tomatoes and stir through
- Add chicken stock so it covers 2 inches over rice
- Foil and bake until rice is cooked
- Garnish with thinly sliced red pepper and coriander

BEAN GUMBO

INGREDIENTS

- 2 red onions
- 2 tbs garlic puree
- Plain flour
- 1 tin chopped toms
- Vegetable stock
- 1 tin red kidney beans
- 1 tin cannellini beans
- 2 courgettes
- ¼ bag of sliced peppers
- 3 tbs paprika
- ½ tsp chilli powder
- Thyme
- Salt and pepper

METHOD

- Fry off onions, then add garlic and spices. Add vegetables
- Add a little flour to so all is coated
- Add chopped tomatoes, beans and vegetable stock
- Cook out until thickened



WE ONLY USE



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RECIPE

FOSTER'S BANANA CHEESECAKE

Make a standard cheesecake

METHOD

- Slice bananas sprinkle with brown sugar and roast until caramelised
- Put on top of cheesecake and drizzle toffee sauce on top

TOFFEE SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

- ½ pack of phase
- 6oz brown sugar
- 7 fl oz cream

METHOD

- Place add ingredients in a pan
- Heat over a low heat, stirring all the time
- Once thick and toffee coloured take off the heat

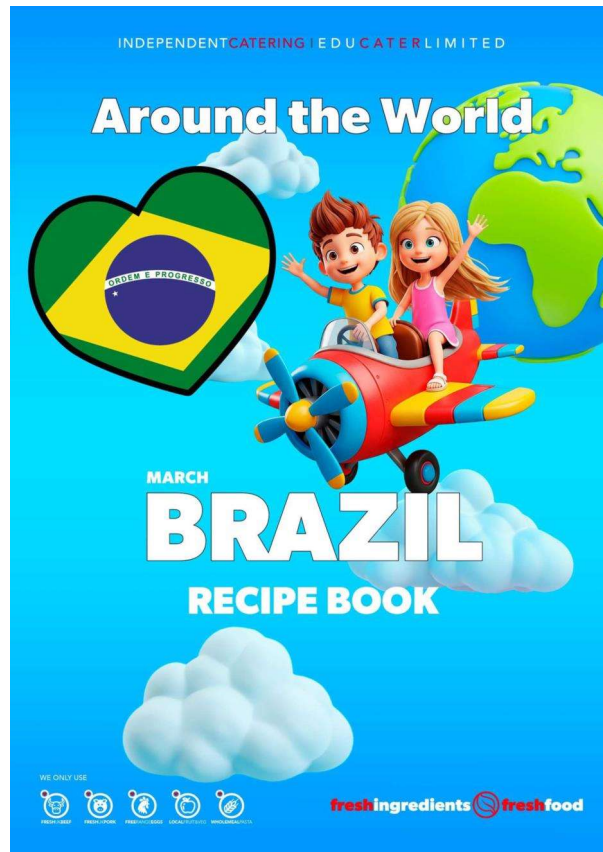


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AROUND THE WORLD BRAZIL MENU



INDEPENDENT CATERING | EDUCATER LIMITED

Around the World



BRAZIL

TUESDAY 17 MARCH

MENU

Frango Grelhado com Limão with Arroz Branco (8, 11)
(Lemon Chicken and Steamed White Rice)

Moqueca de Legumes Vegan
(Brazilian Vegetable Stew)

Jacket Potato with Choice of Topping

Couve Refogada
(Sautéed Greens with Carrot)

Bolo de Banana (1,7)
(Banana Sponge Cake)

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RECIPE

FRANGO GRELHADO COM LIMÃO (Grilled Lemon Chicken) (MAKES 50 PORTIONS)

INGREDIENTS

- Chicken 50/50 - 6kg
- Garlic Puree - 50g
- Lemons (juice and zest) - 6
- Olive oil - 300ml
- Dried oregano - 3 tbsp
- Paprika - 2 tbsp
- Salt - 2 tbsp
- Black pepper - 2 tsp
- Fresh parsley (chopped, optional garnish) - 1 bunch

METHOD

- In a large mixing bowl or container, combine the lemon juice and zest, olive oil, crushed garlic, oregano, paprika, salt, and pepper.
- Add the chicken and mix well to coat. Cover and refrigerate to marinate for at least 2 hours (or overnight for best flavour).
- Preheat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan) or prepare a grill/hotplate if cooking fresh.
- Spread chicken out on baking trays lined with parchment or foil.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the chicken is fully cooked through (internal temp 75°C). If grilling, cook until golden and cooked through, turning occasionally.
- Sprinkle with fresh parsley before serving if desired.
- Serve with rice, salad, or seasonal vegetables.



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RECIPE

MOQUECA DE LEGUMES (Brazilian Vegetable Stew) (MAKES 50 PORTIONS)

INGREDIENTS

- Red peppers (sliced) - 10
- Yellow peppers (sliced) - 10
- Courgettes (sliced) - 10
- Carrots (sliced) - 10
- Sweet potatoes (peeled & diced) - 4kg
- Onions (sliced) - 5 large
- Garlic puree - 50g
- Chopped tomatoes (tinned) - 3kg
- Coconut milk - 3 litres
- Vegetable stock - 1 litre
- Lime juice - from 5 limes
- Palm oil or vegetable oil - 300ml
- Paprika - 2 tbsp
- Fresh coriander (optional) - 1 bunch
- Salt and pepper - to taste

METHOD

Method

- Heat the oil in a large pan. Add sliced onions and garlic, cooking until softened.
- Add the peppers, courgettes, carrots, and sweet potatoes. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Stir in the paprika, chopped tomatoes, and vegetable stock. Simmer for 15 minutes until vegetables begin to soften.
- Add the coconut milk and lime juice. Simmer gently for another 15-20 minutes until all vegetables are tender and the stew is creamy.
- Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- Garnish with chopped fresh coriander if using.
- Serve with rice or crusty bread.



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RECIPE

COUVE REFOGADA (Sautéed Greens with Carrot) (MAKES 50 PORTIONS)

INGREDIENTS

- Spring greens or cavolo nero (shredded) - 2kg
- Sliced carrots - 1kg
- Garlic puree - 50g
- Olive oil or vegetable oil - 200ml
- Salt - 2 tbsp
- Black pepper - 1 tsp
- Lemon juice (optional) - from 2 lemons

METHOD

- Heat the oil in a large pan over medium heat.
- Add the crushed garlic and cook for 1-2 minutes until fragrant (not browned).
- Add the shredded greens in batches, stirring well after each addition.
- Season with salt and pepper.
- Steam or boil sliced carrots until tender.
- Cook for 5-10 minutes, stirring regularly, until the greens are tender but still vibrant.
- Drizzle with lemon juice if using before serving.

BOLO DE BANANA (Banana Cake)

SPONGE MIX

INGREDIENTS

- Ripe bananas (mashed) - 2.5kg (approx. 20 medium bananas)
- 1lb self-raising flour
- 1lb caster sugar
- 1lb phage
- 8 eggs
- ½ tsp baking powder

METHOD

- Cream phase and sugar, add eggs, flour and baking powder and mashed banana.
- Pour into lined baking tin.
- Bake until cooked.



WE ONLY USE



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WHOLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATES

World Book Day 5th March

Year 2 Parent Forum 6th March from 2:30-3pm

British Science Week 9th March- 13 March

Open Classrooms 10th and 11th March

Year 3 Parent Forum 13th March

Parents Evening 17th & 19th March

Year 5 Parent Forum from 2:30-3pm

Red Nose Day - 20th March

Year 4 Parent Forum - 23rd March from 2:30-3pm

Year 6 Parent Forum - 27th March from 2:30-3pm

Easter Egg Hunt - 1st April

Last day of Term 4 - 2nd April

Term 5 Starts - 20th April

Community Notice Board





Oxford Methodist Church
TUESDAYS
3.30 - 5pm
 Parents & Children

Club dates Terms 3 & 4
Tue 13 Jan
Tue 27 Jan
Tue 10th Feb
Tue 3 Mar
Tue 17 Mar
Tue 31 Mar

Toast Club is open to all primary school families. Come and enjoy being involved together, in a relaxed atmosphere, with refreshments from the start, and of course Toast with a variety of spreads! On any Toast day, we offer a variety of craft, an animated bible story with 'Veggie Tales', fun with puppets, maybe some illusions and plenty of fun!



Attendance Insight

www.PSDgraphics.com



We know that consistent school attendance is so important for your child; the benefits for them are immeasurable! However, sometimes, the numbers can seem vague. Therefore, to put attendance percentage into perspective, we have converted percentages into their weekly equivalent and, even one step further, to express percentage in terms of lessons missed:

- Attendance of **95%** for the year equals **10 days** that your child has been absent- that is **two school weeks** of your child's learning missed for that year. If we consider that

children are taught 4-6 lessons a day, then 10 days absence over the course of the school year equates to **40-60 lessons missed**.

- Attendance of **90%** for the year equals **19 days** that your child has been absent, that is almost **4 weeks** of school missed, or **76-114** lessons missed.
- Attendance of **85%** for the year equals **29 days** that your child has been absent, that is almost **6 school weeks** missed (nearly the equivalent of the summer holidays) or **116-174** lessons missed.

• Attendance of **80%** for the year equals **38 days** absent per year, that is over **7 school weeks** or **152-228** lessons missed!

Punctuality Matters Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year
- Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year

If, for any reason, you require support getting your child into school, please let us know. Contact the school and we can arrange a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss how best we can support you and next steps.

Please see the government website for more details

The Education Hub²

PTFA UPDATE

 Update from the PTFA 

We are so excited to announce our summer festival fundraiser, **OTFEST**. It will be held from **1-5pm on Saturday 11th July**.

New headline sponsor announcement: Vitality Home Health! A huge thank you to them for their generous donation.

Please come prepared for a relaxed, fun afternoon where all can enjoy live music, food and drinks. The children can run off their energy on the inflatables with unlimited access (ticketed with festival wristbands) and football.

²<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/finer-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

We will also have face painting, hair braiding, a festival-wears shop, fancy dress shop and ice cream van! Please keep the afternoon free and get ready to help us raise some funds for the school!

Save the Date

1st April- Easter Hunt

11th July - OTFEST Summer Festival 

We'd Love to Hear From You! We truly welcome your ideas, feedback, or offers of help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch at ptfa@otford.kent.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support—we can't wait to make this a fantastic year together!

Warm wishes,

The PTFA Team

Thank you

Sam Bennett/Carly Symes PTFA Co-Secretary



OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2026-2027

Term 1	
INSET DAY	Tuesday 1 September 2026
INSET DAY	Wednesday 2 September 2026
Starts	Thursday 3 September 2026
Last day of term	Thursday 22 October 2026
INSET DAY	Friday 23 October 2026
Term 2	
Starts	Monday 2 November 2026
Last day of term	Thursday 17 December 2026
INSET DAY	Friday 18 December 2026
Term 3	
Starts	Monday 4 January 2027
Last day of term	Friday 12 February 2027
Term 4	
Starts	Monday 22 February 2027
Last day of term	Thursday 25 March 2027
Term 5	
Starts	Monday 12 April 2027
Bank Holiday Monday	Monday 3 May 2027
Last day of term	Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6	
INSET DAY	Monday 7 June 2027
Starts	Tuesday 8 June 2027
Last day of term	Wednesday 21 July 2027

Otford Instagram Account



We would love to remind everyone to visit our Instagram page at [otford_primary_school](https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school) where you will find lots of information and pictures regarding all the exciting things we have been doing at school. We regularly post news in the "stories" rather than posts as they can easily become lost in the posts. We have 451 followers now- thank you for taking the time to look. You can find us here: [otford_primary_school](https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school)³

³https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school

Should we receive any inappropriate content on this page the account involved will be blocked and reported to Instagram.

Early Birds Bookings

Dear Parents\Carers,

ParentPay should be used to make Early Bird Bookings. Bookings can be made until the end of the academic year and will need to be paid for at the time of booking. There is a limit of 45 children per day in place and spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis. Please find below link to guide to booking:

https://cdn.embedly.com/widgets/media.html?src=https%3A%2F%2Ffast.wistia.net%2Fembed%2Fiframe%2F7e9aflmga&display_name=Wistia%2C%2BInc.&url=https%3A%2F%2Fparentpay.wistia.com%2Fmedias%2F7e9aflmga&image=https%3A%2F%2Fembed-ssl.wistia.com%2Fdeliveries%2F388bc7ea8e1880c18a91c5f5ec1e32f6ca5d2bc.jpg%3Fimage_crop_resized%3D960x540&key=40cb30655a7f4a46adaaf18efb05db21&type=text%2Fhtml&schema=wistia&wvideo=f7e9aflmga

Parents who pay for sessions using childcare vouchers should email their requirements at least a term in advance to earlybirds@otford.kent.sch.uk. Early Birds will then manually add the required sessions onto ParentPay on your behalf. Sessions paid for by childcare vouchers are not guaranteed unless booked termly in advance.

