



Otford Primary School-6 February 2026

"Pupils' thirst for learning continues throughout the school, with pupils rising to the challenges they are set..." Ofsted 2023

Letter from the Head Teacher

Thank you to all who completed the Smartphone survey last year. The majority of parents from both year 5 and year 6 currently responded in favour of a Smartphone ban in school. Therefore, we will be continuing this next academic year and would like to request that, if a child must bring a phone to school, that it is not a Smartphone. The current system where children are not allowed to have their phones with them during the school day will still apply. May I also add that children do not need to bring a phone to school and generally parents feel that this step is only ever needed if children are starting to navigate more independent journeys to and from school.

For children in Year 6 next year, the children will be required to hand their phones to their teacher in the morning for storage in the office until home time. If you feel that you would like your child to bring a phone to school could you please message your child's class teacher at the start of the school year to inform them. Should a child currently in year 5 need to bring a phone to school, please email the office in advance (secretary@otford.kent.sch.uk)

and ensure that your child brings their phone directly to the office in the morning and picks it up at the end of the school day.

We have noted a small number of children using phones at the start and end of the school day who are currently in Year 6. Could we please ask parents to discuss this with your children as the entire school site including entrance and exit points is phone free.

We will continue to seek parental views on this subject as children move through the school and will therefore be sending more surveys in the future. Our decisions will be based on these, current best practice and Government guidance which is gaining speed.

We appreciate and respect that this is a very personal decision but hope that these steps will further support our families and children as we continue to navigate the very complex issues related to on line behaviour and exposure of social media to our very young children.

Best wishes,

Mrs H Roberts

Headteacher

Children's Mental Health Week 9-15 February

Next week we will be taking part in **Children's Mental Health Week**, a national event that helps children understand and look after their emotional wellbeing.

Children's Mental Health Week – Theme: 'This Is My Place'

This year's theme focuses on the importance of **belonging** and helping children feel safe, valued, and included.

Dress to Express – Wednesday 11th February

On **Wednesday 11th February**, children are invited to **wear something they feel comfortable in or that expresses who they are**. We kindly suggest a **£2 donation**, via the children's mental health charity **Place2Be**. Donate | Place2Be¹

Throughout the week children will be taking part in lots of Active Learning opportunities.

There will be a **Children's Mental Health Week assembly on Wednesday**.

Resilience & Wellbeing Workshops (Years 3 & 4)

¹<https://donate.place2be.org.uk/?campaign=cmhw&source=website&medium=website&dontype=single>

On **Thursday 12th February, Year 3 and Year 4** will take part in **Resilience and Wellbeing Workshops** run by **NHS Kent Family**, which also include a **parent session** for Year 3 and 4 parents at 2.45pm.

Parent Support Café – Wednesday 9.00am

Our **first Parent Support Café** will take place on **Wednesday morning at 9.00am**. This is a relaxed space for parents who may appreciate some extra support. Please do come along - we will be discussing themes such as techniques to support emotional well-being, friendship issues, sleep and neurodiversity. ALL are WELCOME.

Celebration Assembly – Friday

We will end the week with our **Active Learning Celebration Assembly on Friday**.

For more information about Children's Mental Health week please go to the [Place2Be Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site²](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Year 5 Cake Sale 13 February at 3:30

Last Day of Term 13 February

First Day Back 23 February

Year 1 Parent Forum 27 February from 2:30-3

World Book Day 5 March

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

British Science Week 9 March- 13 March

Open Classrooms 10th and 11 March

Year 3 Parent Forum 13 March

Parents Evening 17th & 19th March

Year 5 Parent Forum from 2:30-3

Red Nose Day - 20 March

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

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

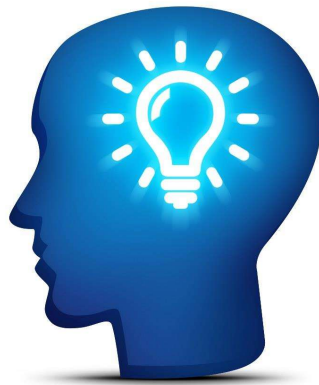
Easter Egg Hunt - 1st April

²<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Last day of Term 4 - 2nd April

Term 5 Starts - 20 April

Attendance Insight



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

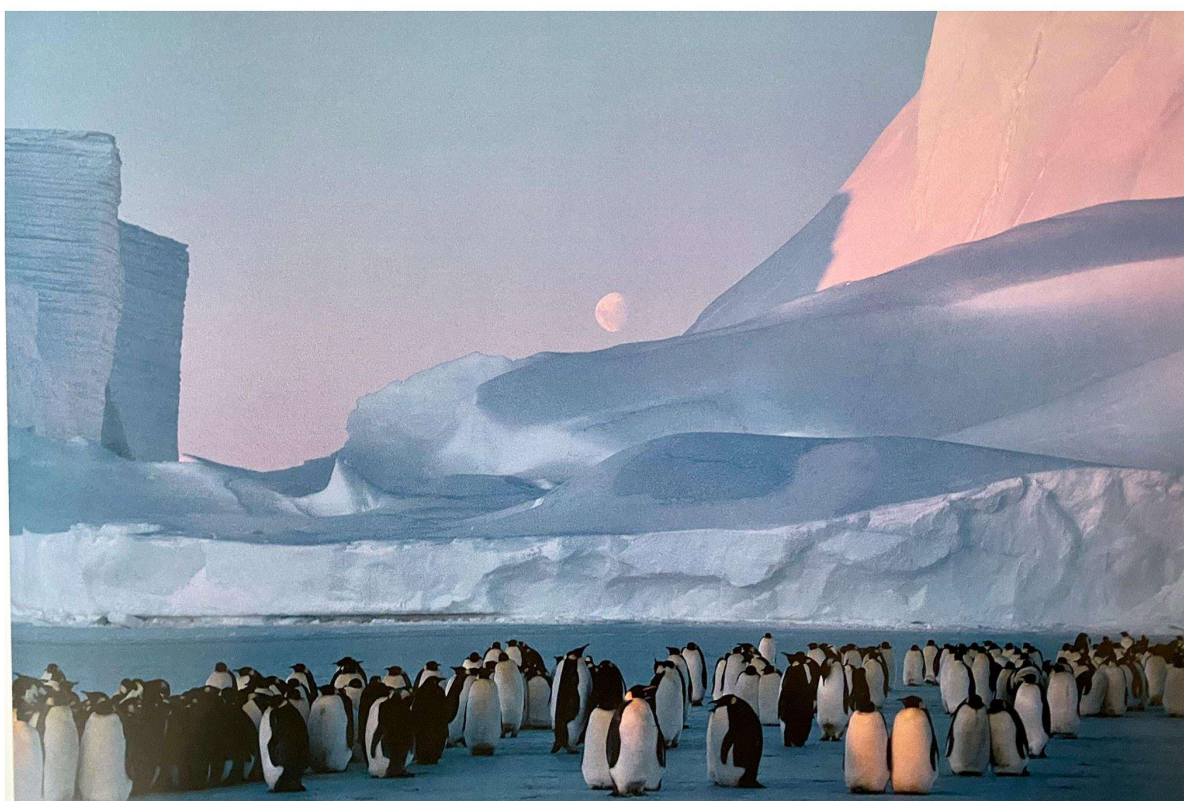
- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year
- Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year

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 Hub³

AN ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE FOR YEAR 6!



On Friday afternoon, Year 6 set off on an amazing expedition to the icy world of Antarctica – all without leaving the school! We were delighted to welcome a special visitor, Mark Corti (uncle of Emma Moran in Year 5), who shared fascinating stories from his kayaking journey along the Antarctic Peninsula. This visit linked perfectly with our current topic, *Frozen Kingdoms*.

³<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Mark had everyone hooked as he described his experiences, from battling rough, freezing seas to pitching camp in temperatures well below zero. His vivid descriptions brought the continent to life, painting pictures of vast snowy plains, enormous icebergs and the haunting stillness of one of the most isolated places on Earth. He also told us about the incredible wildlife he encountered, such as Adélie and chinstrap penguins, humpback whales and inquisitive seals.

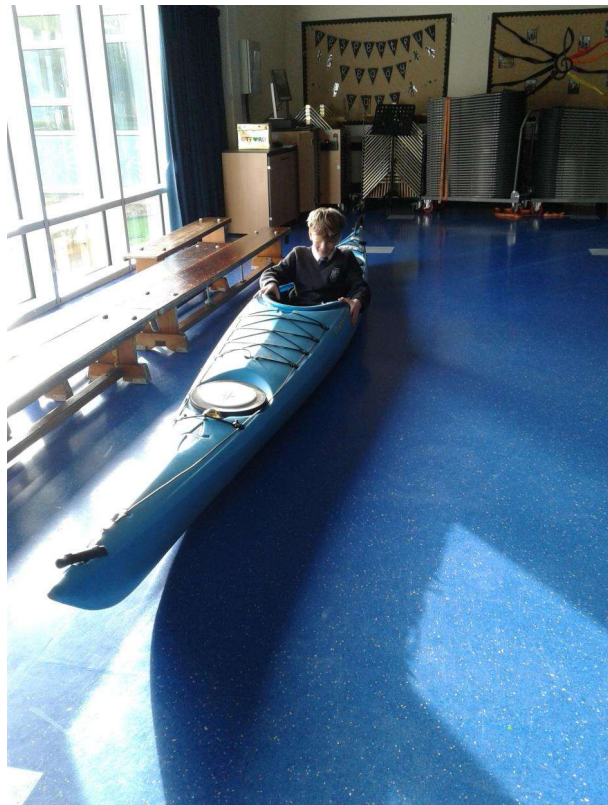
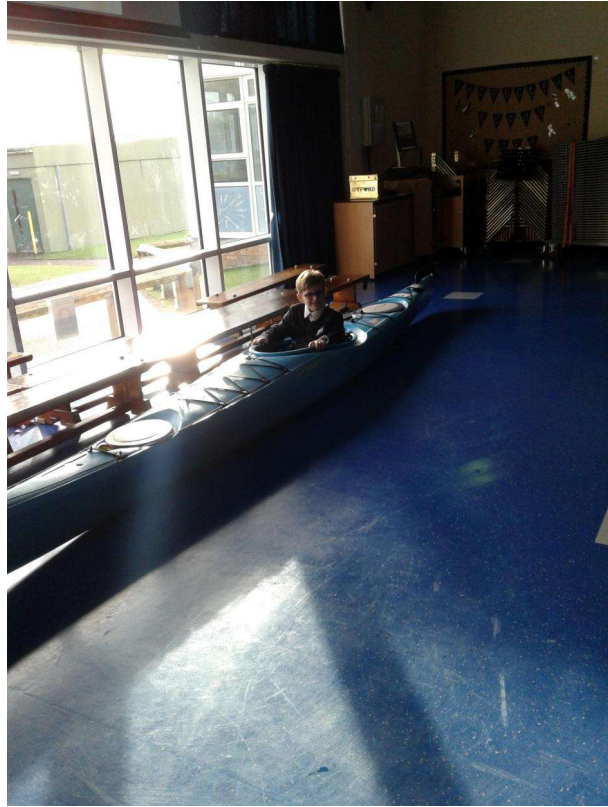
We were especially intrigued to learn about the many challenges of surviving in such an extreme environment – from selecting the right gear to stay warm to carefully planning food to maintain energy levels. Mark also shared incredible photographs and videos, helping us to truly imagine what it's like to explore this remote and hostile landscape.

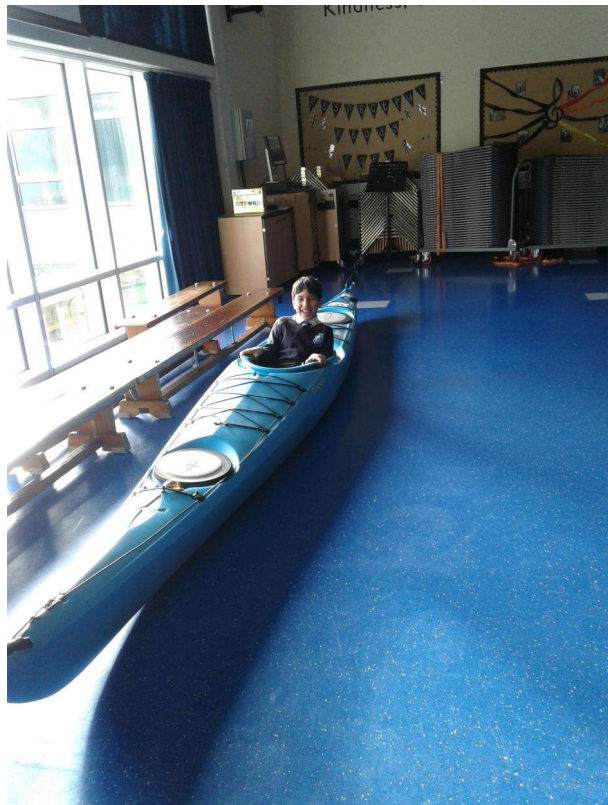
A real highlight was seeing his actual kayak up close, with some lucky Year 6 pupils even getting the chance to sit inside and picture themselves paddling through icy Antarctic waters!

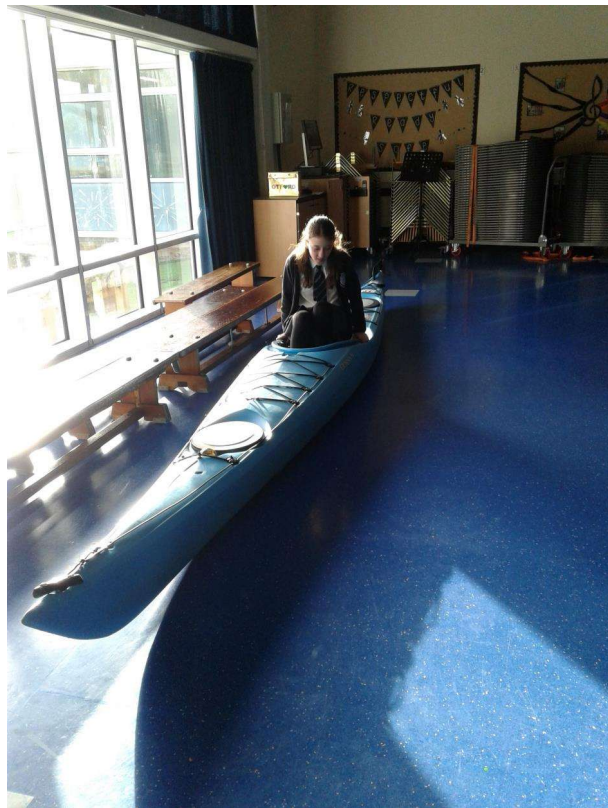
Listening to someone who has experienced life in a true Frozen Kingdom has made our learning even more exciting. It was a visit we won't forget!

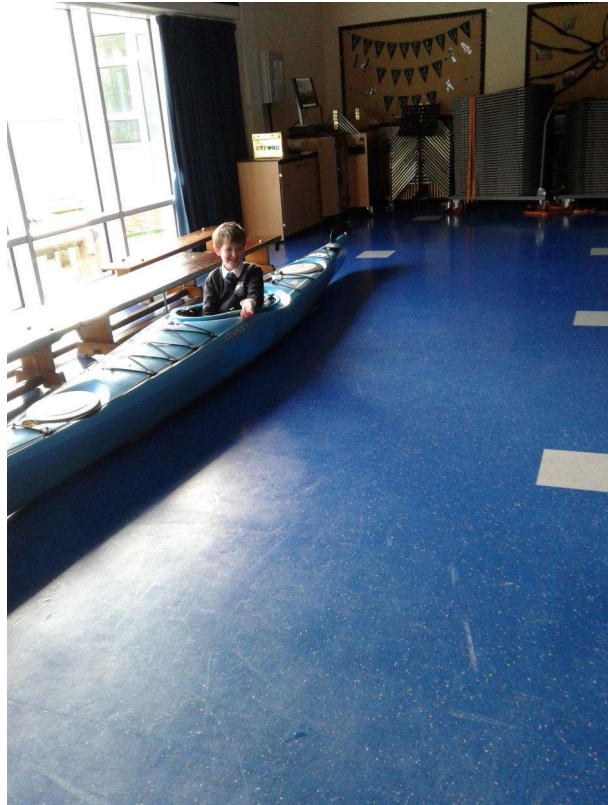
Year 6

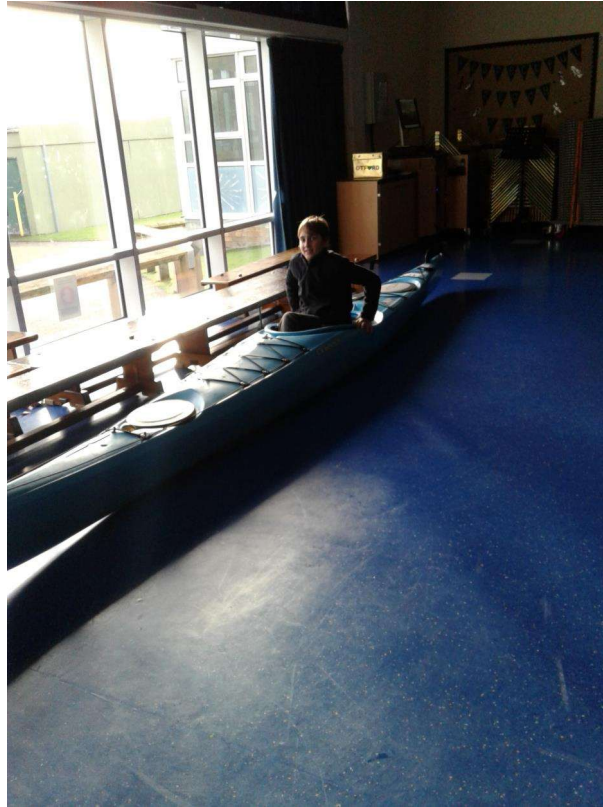










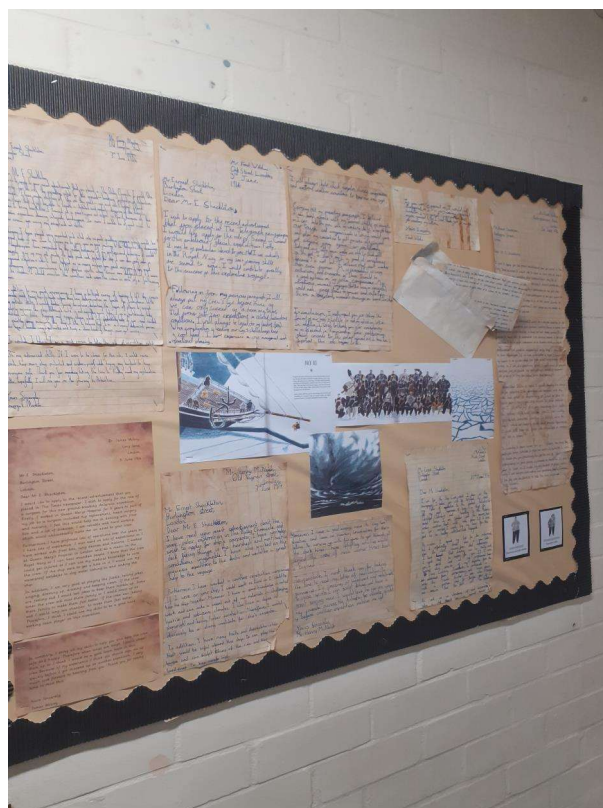
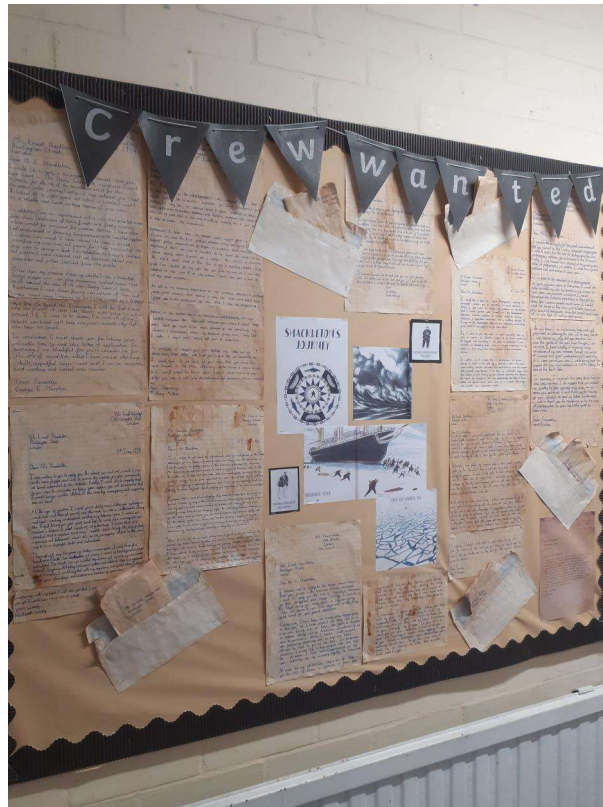


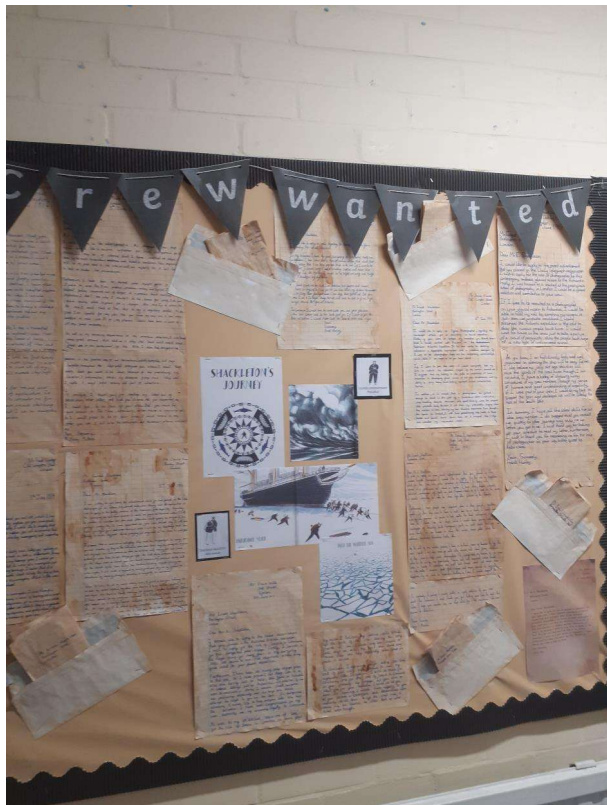
We are so proud of Year 6 and their fantastic recent piece of extended writing. The children wrote letters from the perspective of crew members applying to join Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition and the results are truly impressive.

The letters are thoughtful and engaging, skillfully applying the grammar features that have been taught, while brilliantly capturing the spirit, determination and courage of Shackleton's crew. We're sure Shackleton himself would have admired their true explorer spirit!

Well done Year 6-an outstanding achievement!

YEAR 6 EXTENDED WRITING



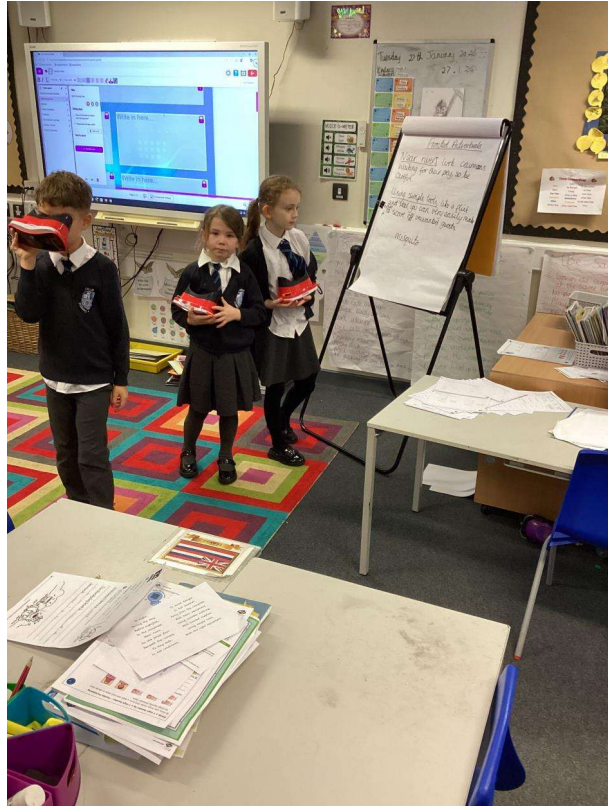


Year 3

Last week, Year 3 had an exciting opportunity to explore learning through VR headsets. The children travelled to the North Pole, explored the ancient city of Pompeii, and discovered volcanoes and wild animals from around the world. They were fully engaged and loved being able to experience these places in such an immersive way.









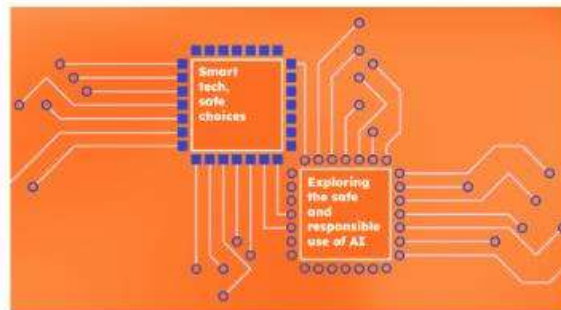
Reception Class Burns Supper

Here are a couple of photos from our Burns supper. The children learnt who Robert Burns was and some interesting facts about Scotland





SAFER INTERNET DAY



Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the **10th of February 2026**, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**'.

Oxford Primary School will be taking part in this next week, with an assembly introducing the theme on **Monday**, followed by some class activities throughout the week.

Everyone's talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

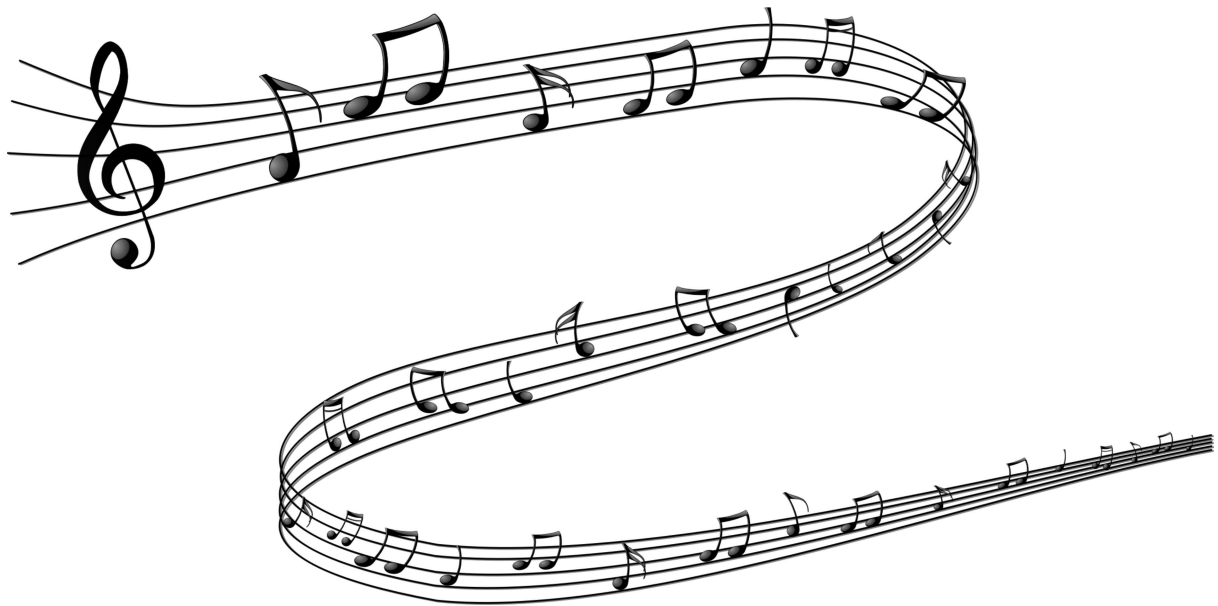
This Safer Internet Day we are exploring the impact of AI on all of our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly.

Please see the links below which we hope are useful for you and your child/ren:

TOP TIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE⁴

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS⁵

MUSIC UPDATE



Drum teacher update

Our new drum teacher, Mr Pagan, has started drum lessons today. If you would like your child to learn to play the drums or are interested in any other instrumental lessons please email me for more details Louise.brown@otford.kent.sch.uk

Music opportunities during February half term

This February half term, Kent Music are offering a range of exciting courses and musical experiences. Applications can be made through the Kent Music website

<https://www.kent-music.com/courses/?type=half-term>

Mon 16th Feb Junior Wind Band Strings Day

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th Feb Junior Come and Sing (come to one or both days)

Thursday 19th Feb Music Tech experience day

⁴<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>

⁵<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

SCHOOL CATERING-MENUS AND RECIPES

AROUND THE WORLD USA MENU



INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATERLIMITED

Around the World



USA

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

MENU

Chicken and Vegetable Jambalaya (1)

Mardi Gras Bean Gumbo with Crusty Bread (1) VEGAN

Mac n' Cheese (1, 9, 11)

Jacket Potato with Choice of Topping

Mini Corn on the Cob

Banana Foster Cheesecake (1, 9)

WE ONLY USE



freshingredients freshfood

RECIPE

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE JAMBALAYA

INGREDIENTS

- 3kg diced 50/50 chicken
- 2 large onions
- ¼ 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



freshingredients freshfood

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



WE ONLY USE



freshingredients freshfood

AROUND THE WORLD BRAZIL MENU



INDEPENDENTCATERING | 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)

Maccarronada (1)

(Tomato Pasta)

Jacket Potato with Choice of Topping

Couve Refogada

(Sautéed Greens with Carrot)

Bolo de Banana (1,7)

(Banana Sponge Cake)

WE ONLY USE



freshingredients freshfood

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.



WE ONLY USE



freshingredients freshfood

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.



WE ONLY USE



freshingredients freshfood

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 phase
- 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



freshingredients freshfood

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK -*The Importance of Belonging*

As part of Children's Mental Health Week next week, the children (and staff) are invited to dress in anything they feel comfortable in or that expresses who they are, in exchange for a suggested £2 donation to the charity a Place2Be. This will be on Wednesday 11th February.

[Click Here to Make Your Donation](#)⁶



The theme of the week this year is 'This is my Place' - all about the importance of belonging.

Below are some ideas you could discuss with your children

PLACES WE BELONG

Belonging isn't just one thing or one place. You might belong in different ways across different parts of your life:

'Finding a place where you feel valued and welcome or people that make you feel this way'

'Doing things we enjoy'

⁶<https://www.place2be.org.uk/support-us/donate/>

'Try and make friends'

'Having an adult to talk to when not happy'

'By being more kind to people'

'Try new things and meet more people'

'By talking to people about feelings'

'Being around people you enjoy being with'

EMBRACE YOUR UNIQUENESS!

Rather than trying to "fit in", focus on being your true self. Belonging comes from being accepted for who you are.

Join clubs or groups you enjoy. Whether it's sport, video games, music or crafts, shared interests is a great way to connect with others.

LISTEN TO YOURSELF

Pay attention to your feelings and try to understand what you need. For example, if you're feeling lonely, listen to this and think about what might help you feel more connected.

WHAT DOES BELONGING MEAN TO YOU?

'Feeling that you have a place where you are always welcome and valued as either place or set of people.'

'Places we go and are part of like clubs.'

'Belonging means that you belong in your family and you fit in with your friends.'

'Belonging is a place that you feel comfortable just to be yourself. '

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OUR OWN SENSE OF BELONGING?

'By finding a place where you feel valued and welcome.'

'Others helping and listening to me If I have a fallout with friends, I want to spend time fixing the friendship with an adult or sit together in class.'

'By making you feel calm and help you stop carrying problems by sharing them such as at Place2Be.'

HELPING OTHER CHILDREN AND

YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL THEY BELONG

'Be kind'

'If you see someone left out then you can ask them to play'

'By asking people how they are and if they are okay'

'Make sure everyone has friends and feels included'

'By reminding everyone to include everyone and put yourself in other's shoes'

A THANK YOU FROM STONEPITTS

8th January 2026

Dear Madam

Stonepitts Christmas Trees

As you know we offered to make a €2.00 donation for every tree sold to families, or staff of your school and you kindly included details in your newsletter.

Anyone visiting Stonepitts Farm and producing a copy of your newsletter article has been included in the final donation and we now have pleasure in enclosing £24 as a result for your PTA.

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

It has also been our custom to donate an amount for every Christmas tree sold to a recognised and worthy charity. I am delighted to report that with everyone's support we have just sent the above a cheque for £1250, which is a great result.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy and successful New Year, and hopefully we will see you during the summer when, as you may know, we arrange school visits to show the children the workings of an active soft fruit farm. If you are interested just email us.

Yours faithfully,

Martin and Jackie Clews

Community Notice Board



The image shows a person's hands holding a dark, fossilized rock specimen. The rock has a distinct, layered, and somewhat shell-like appearance, possibly a fossil. The person is wearing a blue shirt. In the top left corner of the image, there is a logo for 'CROSS-CHANNEL GEOPARK TRANSMANCHE'. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'Otford Palace The Archbishop's Palace Conservation Trust'.

Free drop-in half-term activity

OPERATION: BRING YOUR ROCK!

Wednesday 18th February
10am to 12pm
1pm to 3pm
Otford Palace Tower

geoparktransmanche.org

CROSS-CHANNEL GEOPARK TRANSMANCHE Kent Downs National Landscape Cap de Marais d'Opale

Bring Your Rock is a free drop-in half-term activity to be held at Otford Palace on Wednesday 18th February.

A rock may seem ordinary... but think again! Every stone holds an adventure millions of years old — volcanoes, oceans, earthquakes, and ancient climates. Whether it comes from your pocket or a beach, it has a story to tell. Ready to let the rocks speak?

Come and join us at Otford Palace Tower, for a fun and educational half-term activity in the heart of the Darent Valley. The event is being organised by the Cross Channel Geopark in association with the Palace Trust Operation: Bring Your Rock! UK | Cross-Channel Geopark.

We will be running two drop-in sessions from 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm for your chance to come and see some amazing fossil specimens, use microscopes, hear exciting short talks on rocks and minerals and to bring along some of your own rock and fossil collections, photos or heritage finds and learn more about them from our brilliant team of GeoAmbassadors.

(The Cross-Channel Geopark is an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark linking the Kent Downs National Landscape in England with the Parc naturel regional des Caps et Marais d'Opale in northern France, together with the stretch of the English Channel that connects them (<https://kentdowns.org.uk/geopark/>)

FOSTER FOR KENT

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Fostering SOUTH EAST

READY TO START YOUR FOSTERING JOURNEY?

Visit kentfostering.co.uk

03000 420 002

Kent
fostering
Kent
County
Council

OTFORD 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!

Parent Support Cafe

Otford Primary School

PARENT SUPPORT CAFE

Are you concerned about your child's sleep or daily routines?

Do you have questions about friendships, family changes, or your child's social and emotional wellbeing?

We are pleased to invite you to our new Parent Support Café. The first one will be held on Wednesday 11th February at 9 am, during Children's Mental Health Week.

This informal, friendly session is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet Mrs Peppie Cornelius (Deputy Head & Wellbeing Lead) and Mrs Paula Williams (Assistant Head & Inclusion Lead) with a focus on Well-being support. This could be linked to daily routines including sleep, concerns about family relationships, social and emotional issues. They will be available to listen, offer wellbeing advice, and signpost families to any support that may be helpful.

The Parent Support Café is designed as a relaxed, safe space to chat, ask questions, or simply enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. We hope to run these sessions every term, giving families regular opportunities to connect and access support.

All parents and carers are very welcome. To help us gauge numbers, we kindly ask that you register your interest using the link below and give us an indication of any particular area you would like to discuss:

Parent Support Cafe – Fill out form⁷

Otford Primary School

PARENT SUPPORT CAFE

LET'S TALK

WEDNESDAY
11
FEBRUARY
9.00-10.00

This informal, friendly session is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with Senior Leaders - with a focus on well-being support. Do come and join us if you have any questions or concerns.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

- ✓ Meet other parents
- ✓ Discuss areas of concern
- ✓ Find out about support

For More Information contact the school office:
secretary@otford.kent.sch.uk

⁷<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gMBp23FnXkiR9d-9YNKUc7NHXY9-smZJoUbRgHbrG69UMURaUkIROEJPTkZVUDVZN0wzWVI2R0ZFWs4u>

SITE MANAGER UPDATE

We are pleased to inform you that we have appointed a new site manager! We will soon be welcoming Mr Alan Male to the team. Mr Male is recently retired, very experienced and we are very much looking forward to him starting here at the school.

Name the Food Waste Truck School Competition

Local school children are being asked to name a fleet of new trucks that will collect residents' food waste from the spring.

Sevenoaks District Council is introducing food waste collections from most homes from 27 April 2026 to help protect the environment.

The food waste will be collected in a brand-new fleet of eight energy efficient trucks.

Once collected, the food waste will be taken to a specialist facility and will be used to generate electricity as well as plant food for farmers.

Message to the Students

We've got a brand-new fleet of food waste collection trucks that's nearly ready to roll... but there's just one thing missing – none of them have names.

That's where we need your help. We're inviting primary school classes to cook up the perfect names for our food waste trucks. It could be compost-clever, bin-brilliant or rubbish-funny – so as long as it celebrates fighting food waste and helping the planet.

The eight best names will be painted on the front of the trucks.

So, get your thinking caps on and let your teachers know your favourite name ideas by **5pm on Friday 13 February 2026**.

Enter the Competition⁸



Help name the Council's new
food waste collection trucks
Enter by 13 February 2026

⁸https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vZoH_GjCV0ytaFih6eVZiECpAbMpiZ9Br9rES8ulqm5UNTm3TzZLRIVOTTBZUzVDWVcwU1QzV1dVOC4u

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.

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

13th February - Year 5 Cake Sale

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



February Half Term



Have fun
Learn awesome skills
Make new friends

Do Jujitsu!!




Sevenoaks Jitsu

February Half Term Holiday course now booking!

Dates: 16 to 20 February

Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Best price:

🕒 Early booking: £30 per morning – book & pay by 8 Feb

📅 Book and pay after 8 Feb: £40 per morning

Flexible: Book as many or as few days as you want

Progress: Opportunity to change belt faster

Newbies welcome: No experience necessary (come and try us out!) 🙌

Contact **Chris** to book: 07914 805 339 or chris.sevenoaksjitsu@icloud.com

Next Thing

NEXT THING EDUCATION PRESENTS

LIMITED SPACES
BOOK BY
6TH FEB

FEB HALF TERM 2026

Coding & Robots + Circuitry & Inventions + LEGO Engineering + Minecraft Madness + Tech Fun

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

Different activity theme each day, please check our website for your camp activities.

16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY - LIMITED SPACES

What Parents Say

"Absolutely Fantastic!
First time attending &
my son loved it!"

★★★★★

HOW TO BOOK

STEP 1 SCAN THE QR CODE

STEP 2 FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP

STEP 3 BOOK ONLINE SPACES LIMITED

BOOK

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

W: WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION
E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

TECH CAMP

FEBRUARY CAMPS 2026

Sevenoaks Primary School, TN13 3LB

£39.99 PER DAY OR £175 FOR 5 DAYS
9 AM - 4PM, AGES 5-11

Childcare Vouchers & Education Allowance TAX-FREE included

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE

www.nextthing.education

SCAN ME

They think it's FUN,
you know it's EDUCATIONAL

SPACES AVAILABLE!

After School

Book via website

TOP 7 REASONS WHY Kids LOVE Bricks 4 Kidz

- ☑ 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

@bricks4kidz_kent @b4kmidkent

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

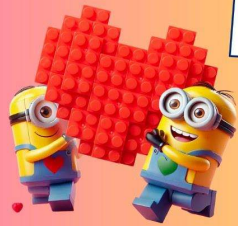
bricks4kidz.co.uk/kent ccobb@bricks4kidz.com 07814 371279

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

Adult & Child Build Event



LOVE LEGO®



Celebrate the LOVE of LEGO® with your loved one. ♥ Enjoy unlimited free play, explore exclusive LEGO® Technic sets and get creative with LEGO® mosaic art – all in a relaxed fun environment where imagination takes the lead ♥

2pm-4pm
Sunday 8th
February

Kings Hill Community
Centre

£25*

*Book!
Now!*

Includes a LEGO®
craft take-home



bricks4kidz.uk/kent



2026 CAMP DATES

FEBRUARY
14TH FEB - 20TH FEB

EASTER*
30TH MAR - 17TH APR

MAY
26TH MAY - 29TH MAY

SUMMER
21ST JUL - 28TH AUG

OCTOBER & CHRISTMAS DATES TBC

Visit: www.megacamps.net
for your locations exact dates & more details

NERF GAMES & LASER TAG



CAMP HOURS 9am-4pm
EXTENDED HOURS 6am-6pm

**NEW EXCITING ACTIVITIES
& STRUCTURE
TO BE ANNOUNCED
IN 2026**



ARTS & CRAFTS



INFLATABLE FUN



MAKING MEMORIES

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR PRICE FREEZE
AND EARLY BIRD OFFERS!**

WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET

*DATES VARY DEPENDING ON LOCATION
** PRICE FREEZE UNTIL JAN 31ST 2026

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS & OFFER TAX-FREE CHILDCARE!



MEGA CAMPS
KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILDCARE FROM 8am - 6pm

AGES 4 - 14

FEBRUARY CAMP 2026

SAVE ££'s - EARLY BIRD OFFERS END 31st JAN
 MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ESSEX, SURREY & KENT



WALL CLIMBING



ANIMAL WORKSHOP



ARCHERY & AXE THROWING



FENCING

DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND SPORTS AVAILABLE EACH DAY

MEGA FUN AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU!
 CHECK WEBSITE FOR LOCATIONS AND DATES

Ofsted Registered

BOOK ONLINE NOW!
www.MEGACAMPS.NET
 OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR STAFF ARE



2026 DATES LAUNCHED



February Half Term 2026

If your child is aged between 7 and 14 years of age and enjoys a range of sports such as

Football, Tennis, Netball,
Rounders, Cricket, Basketball,
Badminton, Dodgeball

and more, perhaps they would like to attend

St Gregory's Multi-Sports.

To book spaces simply click onto the jotform link and complete the form.

<https://form.jotform.com/253635031505045>

Or for more information email nbradbury@sgschool.org.uk

Where St Gregory's Catholic School, Sports hall entrance,

A26, St John's Road,
TN4 9TX

Time 10am – 3pm

Cost £20 per day, if two or more siblings then £18 each per day.

Monday 16 February
Tuesday 17 February
Wednesday 18 February
Thursday 19 February
Friday 20 February

Please book early to avoid disappointment – places are limited!

FARMYARD TRAIL
13th - 22nd February 2026

Join our trail around the farm to find the animals
Collect your prize goody box from the Tea Room
No booking needed

£5 per entry

Open daily (except Tuesday) from 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Foil Farm Animal Rescue
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3AX
www.foalfarm.org.uk



OFSTED REGISTERED





FEBRUARY HALF TERM CLUBS

"Childcare during the holidays they want to go to"
Fresh air. Fresh activities. Fresh attitude.

SEVENOAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL







MONDAY 16th FEB

CAMPFIRE COOKOUT : PANCAKE DAY SPECIAL & BUSHCRAFT

Join us for the perfect winter campfire cookout! Make s'mores & pancakes over the flames. Learn different bushcraft fire lighting methods & enjoy a cosy & relaxed day filled with creativity, camp vibes, tasty treats and skills to take home and share with your family!

TUESDAY 17th FEB

TRIBAL ADVENTURE : BUILD, CRAFT & SURVIVE

Work together to build your tribal woodland camp & get creative with tribal crafts. Take on castaway style team challenges & games as you learn how tribes across the world live & survive in the wild!

WEDNESDAY 18th FEB

WE'RE GOING ON A YETI HUNT!

Track the legendary Yeti through the wild as you follow hidden clues, build clever traps, & craft your own Yeti footprints as proof of your discovery. Work together to uncover the forest's secrets and outsmart the wild's most mysterious creature.

THURSDAY 19th FEB

BUSHCRAFT V MINECRAFT

Team up to build your village using real bushcraft skills, earn reward pixels for completing survival challenges, & search for hidden resources to craft your tools. Take on Creeper & Lava Chicken games and experience Minecraft like never before! (Knowledge of Minecraft is not required!)

FRIDAY 20th FEB

NERF : WILDWEST SHOWDOWN

Let's go back in time and ride into a Wild West world of heists and outlaws! Join stagecoach standoffs, bank robbery missions, and cattle corrals in a full day of action packed Nerf games. A fast paced, high adventure Nerf experience! (Age 6+ recommended)

"BEST HOLIDAY CLUB AROUND"

★★★★★

For more info on dates, locations and how the clubs run & to book: www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk

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

Oxford 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 440 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)⁹

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%2Ff7e9af1mga&display_name=Wistia%2C%2BInc.&url=https%3A%2F%2Fparentpay.wistia.com%2Fmedias%2Ff7e9af1mga&image=https%3A%2F%2Fembed-ssl.wistia.com%2Fdeliveries%2Fe388bc7ea8e1880c18a91c5f5ec1e32f6ca5d2bc.jpg%3Fimage_crop_resized%3D960x540&key=40cb30655a7f4a46adaaf18efb05db21&type=text%2Fhtml&schema=wistia&wvideo=f7e9af1mga

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.



⁹https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school