



## ***Otford Primary School -December 12th 2025.***

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week of joy and wonder in school! We have seen so many incredible performances from children in the Carol Service and the Reception Nativity. We very much look forward to the Nativities for Years 1 and 2 next week and, of course, welcoming the panto once again on Wednesday. It always amazes me how many lines the children learn, the songs they remember to sing, and how confidently—even our very youngest children—stand on big stages in front of so many people. Thank you to parents for being there, providing costumes and props, and celebrating these achievements with your very talented children.

As we move towards the end of a busy term, we acknowledge that the children have been very focused on their learning, and it is key to us that they continue to make good progress. While we will certainly ensure fun along the way, next week is still very much about learning. Please can parents continue, wherever possible, to support good attendance, as this is paramount to the progress children are able to make.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Sim to the Governing Body as our newly elected Parent Governor. Mr Sim will be attending our next Full Governing Body meeting at the start of February next year. Thank you also to Mr A. Warner for his expression of interest in the role. We value all of our parental contributions and thank parents for undertaking this highly valued voluntary position within the school.

Finally, there is much excitement in the air for the PTFA Christmas Bonanza this afternoon after school. Thank you to our new team for their hard work and support so far—it makes such a difference to the children and to our whole school community.

**Best wishes**

**Mrs H Roberts**

### ***Carol Service at St Bart's, Otford***

A wonderful evening spent at St Barts on Wednesday this week! The children raised the roof with their Carols, some played instruments and we had, of course, our Year 6 readers and talented tech team! Thank you all for coming along.





*The Reception Nativity- shining stars!*



*Year 6 in their Christmas Jumpers for Save the Children December 11th*



*The School Christmas Tree*





The School Christmas Tree was kindly donated by Stonepitts Farm, and decorated with lovely, hand made decorations from the children in Reception!

***THE CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT AT ST. BARTS CHURCH, OTFORD***

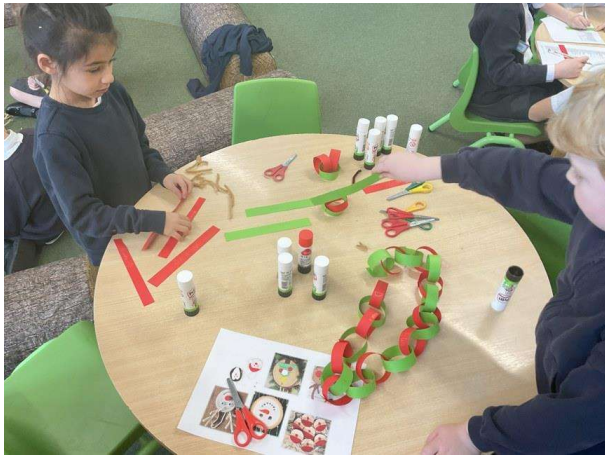




We all came up with lots of ideas for decorating our tree and then voted and chose the most popular. We were keen not to use plastic so that our decorations are all eco-friendly as the environment is important to us. Each paper chain link has the name of a child in our school written on it so that every child is represented and celebrated. We made fun decorations of Santa, reindeers and penguins and then included all the values that we think Christmas is all about like love, joy, hope and kindness. Kindness is also one of our school values too. We also had a parent who kindly knitted a little bobble hat and we decided to put it on the star so it had pride of place! We wanted to put presents under the tree too so it felt just like Christmas morning. It has been really fun to do something that the whole village can enjoy and we look forward to seeing all the other trees.

Written by The Community Leaders, Otford Primary School











### ***YEAR 4 VIKING DAY***

Year 4 became Vikings for the day as a fantastic finish to their "Invasion" topic. In the morning they learned about and had the opportunity to touch different Viking artefacts including metal scales for trading, deer, rabbit and beaver fur, metal jewellery and coins, rope made from bark and horse hair, a woollen coat and a witches' wand! They learned how to play a Viking board game called "Fox and Geese" which they enjoyed and showed great skills at and they took part in a quiz about different aspects of Viking life. In the afternoon they learned about Viking battles and the weapons they used. They acted out a battle and played a strength game . Finally they acted out the "end of the world" scene which the Vikings believed in. The children showed great enthusiasm for all the activities, behaved respectfully and thoroughly enjoyed the day.





## Children in Need- Funds Raised- Grand Total



Thank you for your Donation!

**B B C**  
**CHILDREN  
IN NEED**

BBC Children in Need  
Bridge House  
MediaCity UK  
Salford  
M50 2BH  
United Kingdom  
C.O.I.N. #1181  
Reg. Charity #802052  
Transaction #29170  
27/11/2025 16:30:50

Number of Coins Counted:	
£2 coins	3
£1 coins	45
50p coins	113
20p coins	465
10p coins	515
5p coins	372
2p coins	16
1p coins	36
Coin Total:	£271.28
Processing Fee:	£0.00

DONATION: £271.28

Charity will receive the  
donation which is less  
the processing fee.

Tesco  
79603137  
Aisher way  
Sevendaks  
United Kingdom TN13 2QS

This is your donation receipt.

**NOT VALID  
FOR CASH**

## DECEMBER CATERING NEWS

INDEPENDENT CATERING EDUCATER LIMITED

**THIS MONTH, IT'S ALL ABOUT PEARS**  
**Simple, Seasonal, Sensational!**

**Did you know?**  
Pears ripen from the inside out, which means they can feel firm on the outside even when they're ripe inside - making it a bit tricky to judge ripeness, but also a fun fact that explains their delicate handling

**Why we love them**  
Pears are naturally sweet and juicy, making them a perfect addition to both desserts and fresh salads for a refreshing burst of flavour

**Fun fact**  
The world's heaviest pear weighed over 3 pounds (1.8 kg) and set a Guinness World Record in Japan in 2011!



# RECIPE

## PEAR AND BANANA OAT MUFFINS

### INGREDIENTS

- Ripe pears (peeled and grated) - 1¼
- Bananas (mashed) - 1¼
- Plain flour - 100g
- Rolled oats - 50g
- Eggs - 1
- Milk - 75ml
- Baking powder - ½ tsp
- Brown sugar - 37g
- Vegetable oil - 50ml

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Line 5 muffin cases.
2. Mix dry ingredients in one bowl.
3. Mix wet ingredients with pears and bananas in another.
4. Combine both mixtures.
5. Spoon into cases and bake 20-25 minutes until golden.

## PEAR AND CHEESE WRAPS

### INGREDIENTS

- Soft tortilla wraps - 5
- Ripe pears (thinly sliced) - 1¼
- Grated cheddar - 125g
- Cream cheese - 75g

### METHOD

1. Spread cream cheese over wraps.
2. Ripe pears (thinly sliced) - 1¼
3. Grated cheddar - 125g
4. Cream cheese - 75g



# RECIPE

## PEAR CRUMBLE POTS

### INGREDIENTS

- Ripe pears - 625g
- Brown sugar - 50g
- Plain flour - 150g
- Butter - 75g
- Rolled oats - 50g
- Cinnamon - ½ tsp

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. Cook pears with 25g sugar and cinnamon.
3. Rub butter into flour, stir in oats and remaining sugar.
4. Divide pears into 5 small pots and top with crumble.
5. Bake for 20 mins until golden.

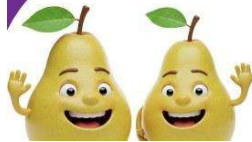
## PEAR AND CARROT SALAD POTS

### INGREDIENTS

- Pears (grated) - 2
- Carrots (grated) - 2½
- Raisins - 75g
- Lemon juice - 25ml
- Greek yoghurt - 100ml
- Honey - 1 tbsp

### METHOD

1. Mix pears, carrots, and raisins in a bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, combine yoghurt, lemon juice, and honey.
3. Mix everything together and portion into 5 small cups.



# RECIPE

## BAKED PEAR SLICES WITH CINNAMON

### INGREDIENTS

- Pears (sliced) - 5
- Honey - 1 tbsp
- Cinnamon - ½ tsp
- Olive oil - ½ tbsp

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. Arrange pear slices on baking tray.
3. Drizzle with honey and oil, sprinkle with cinnamon.
4. Bake 15-20 mins until soft and golden. Serve warm or cool.

## MINI PEAR UPSIDE-DOWN CAKES

### INGREDIENTS

- Pears (sliced) - 1¼
- Butter - 75g
- Caster sugar - 75g
- Eggs - 1½ (use 1 large + 1 yolk or beat 2 and use ¾)
- Self-raising flour - 100
- Vanilla extract - ½ tsp
- Golden syrup - 50ml

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease and line 5 muffin tins.
2. Add 1 tsp syrup to each tin, top with a pear slice.
3. Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla.
4. Fold in flour. Spoon batter over pears.
5. Bake 20-25 minutes. Cool slightly before turning out.



INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATER LIMITED

# Christmas Lunch



**16 DECEMBER**

## CHILDRENS' MENU

**Traditional Roast Turkey with Chipolata Sausage (1, 8)  
and Yorkshire Pudding (1, 7, 9)**

**Festive Vegetable Crumble (1, 11)**

**Roast Potatoes, Carrots and Peas served with Gravy**

**Santas' Selection of Desserts**



INDEPENDENTCATERING.CO.UK  
EDUCATERLIMITED.COM

## MUSIC UPDATE

**Carol service** On Wednesday evening St Bart's church was filled with joyous music for our annual school carol service. Thank you to everyone who came along, the church was filled to bursting! I would like to say a huge thank you to all those that played a part in making this event such a success. To all the singers, musicians, readers and tech team - you were fantastic. Every one of you gave your best performance last night and I was so proud of you all.

**Christmas Bonanza** As I write this, the Christmas Bonanza has not yet happened but I want to say in advance thank you to all those who are taking part in the musical performance. I know without a doubt you will be brilliant!

Please do contact me to find out more about music lessons and clubs at Otford primary school.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a restful festive break.

Mrs Brown

(louise.brown@otford.kent.sch.uk)

## TERM DATES FOR 2026-2027



Term 1	
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Tuesday 1 September 2026</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Wednesday 2 September 2026</b>
Starts	Thursday 3 September 2026
Last day of term	Thursday 22 October 2026
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Friday 23 October 2026</b>
Term 2	
Starts	Monday 2 November 2026
Last day of term	Thursday 17 December 2026
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Friday 18 December 2026</b>
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
<b>Bank Holiday Monday</b>	<b>Monday 3 May 2027</b>
Last day of term	Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6	
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Monday 7 June 2027</b>
Starts	Tuesday 8 June 2027
Last day of term	Wednesday 21 July 2027

## **MESSAGE FROM STONEPITTS FARM**



### ***Donation to Schools from Stonepitts Christmas Tree Farm, Seal Chart***

*As in previous years, Martin & Jackie would once again like to offer a £2.00 donation to your PTA for every Christmas tree bought by families and staff. If you would like to participate, it is important that you bring a copy of this News Letter with you. This will count towards the final donation to the school PTA. You may also be interested to know that Stonepitts will again be supporting Demelza Hospice Care for Children as their chosen Charity.*

*For details and directions to Stonepitts Farm please visit [www.stonepitts.com](http://www.stonepitts.com)<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.stonepitts.com/>

## POPPY APPEAL



Otford Primary collected £62.79 for the Poppy Appeal. Many thanks to the school community!

Overall, the Sevenoaks total, as of end of November, was £17054.32 but they expected this number to go up as many more organisations had donated by BACS for their wreath.

## PTFA!


 Update from the PTFA 

Don't forget to come to the school hall straight from pick up tonight for our Christmas Bonanza! Due to some connectivity issues with the card readers, please try and bring cash to avoid delays!

- A Big Thank you to all our amazing volunteers for the Otford Society Christmas Fayre - we raised a grand total of £423.43
- We hope you all enjoyed making Christmas Cards with your children, this initiative raised almost £100 for the school - thank you!
- Tonight! The Otford Primary Christmas Bonanza from 3.10pm the hall will be transformed into a festive wonderland! Expect homemade bakes, krispy kremes, hot chocolates, craft stalls, games, and plenty of holiday cheer. Thank you to those who have offered their time to make this event happen.

We've got a PTFA meeting scheduled for Monday 12th Jan at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room, Otford Parish Council. We will be planning our events for 2026, so if you are interested in

getting involved and volunteering with the PTFA, please see feel to come along. We would love to see as many people as possible and there is no obligations to join

 We'd Love to Hear From You! As we settle into our new roles, we truly welcome your ideas, feedback, or offers to help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch at [ptfa@otford.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@otford.kent.sch.uk).

## Message from Sevenoaks Primary Care Network



**SEVENOAKS PCN**  
*Newsletter for Parents*

**Theme: Relationships**

**How to support your child's relationships**

- Encourage playdates
- Role playing
- Read books about friendship
- Role playing
- Create opportunities for social interaction
- Model positive behaviour
- Teach empathy
- Encourage group activities (sports team, clubs)
- Discuss relationship qualities
- Provide positive feedback
- Help with conflict resolution

**Click on the icons below to direct you to helpful resources**

**Parentkind**

**The Children's Society**

**Friends & Issues**

4-11 year c

# SEVENOAKS PCN

Newsletter for Parents



## Theme: Relationships

**Click below for more information for parents and teens on relationships**

- **Are they really your friend? 15 signs that suggest otherwise.** Ditchthelabel.org
- **How to feel confident saying no when you're feeling pressured:** <https://moodspark.org.uk/peer-pressure/>
- **Friendship guide for young people:** [https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/friendship-guide-for-young-people\\_0...](https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/friendship-guide-for-young-people_0...)
- **Mood Spark:** <https://moodspark.org.uk/relationships/>

### Welcome to MoodSpark

A space created by young people for young people to help navigate and learn about emotions.

# SEVENOAKS PCN

Newsletter for Parents



## Services in Kent

**Click on the headings below for more information**

- **Peer Mentoring, SALUS:** 1-2-1 service for children aged 9+
- **Healthy Empowering Relationship Advisory Service (HERA) SALUS:** Support and empowering young women and gender diverse individuals aged 10-18.
- **Mentoring Referrals, The Young Lives Foundation:** For young people who are identified as vulnerable e.g. mental health, low level behavioural issues, adverse childhood experiences.

### Directory of services available

<https://map.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk/directory>

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/clubs-and-activities-in-libraries/clubs-and...>

### House in the Basement, Youth Café in Sevenoaks for 11-17 year olds



## Pupil Premium: Extra Support for Your Child's Education

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium is **additional funding** given to schools to support children from families who may need extra help. It helps with things like:

- School trips or clubs
- Uniform or learning materials
- Extra academic or emotional support
- Free or subsidised school meals

The aim is to help **every child succeed**, no matter their background.

### **Who Can Get It?**

Your child may be eligible if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Universal Credit** (with an annual income under £7,400 after tax)
- **Jobseeker's Allowance (income-based)**
- **Child Tax Credit** (without Working Tax Credit)
- **\*\*Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)**
- Other qualifying benefits

Also applies if your child:

- Is in care or has been adopted
- Has a parent in the armed forces

### **How to Apply**

It's quick and confidential. You can:

1. Visit your school's website or office
2. Apply through your **local council's website**
3. Or speak to the **school office** for help

You'll need your **National Insurance number** and some details about your benefits.

### **Why It Matters**

Even if your child already gets free meals, **applying ensures the school gets extra funding** to support your child's learning and well-being.

### **Need help?**

Here is a link below which will help with applying:

Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK<sup>2</sup>

## ***SITE MANAGER POSITION***

We are recruiting for a new site manager. Please refer to the Kent Teach website for more details.

## ***Clubs Information***

Clubs include:

The Outdoors Project The Outdoors Project<sup>3</sup>

Skills Academy Skills Academy<sup>4</sup>

Sevenoaks Jujitsu Sevenoaks Jujitsu<sup>5</sup>

Bricks 4 Kidz Lego Bricks 4 Kidz<sup>6</sup>

These are run by outside sources, so please contact them directly if you are interested. All information can be found on the school's website under Parents and Club Information

## **Otford Instagram Account**



We would love to remind everyone to visit our Instagram page at Otford\_primary\_school where you will find lots of information and pictures regarding all the exciting things we have

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk/sevenoaks/>

<sup>4</sup><https://skillsacademyltd.com/>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.sevenoaksjitsu.com/>

<sup>6</sup><https://bricks4kidz.uk/kent-maidstone-westmalling/>

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)<sup>7</sup>

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

## COMMUNITY MESSAGES



**The TOAST Club**

Otford Methodist Church  
**TUESDAYS**  
**3.30 - 5pm**  
Parents & Children

**Club dates Term 2.**

**Fri, 31-Oct Light Party**  
**Tue, 4 Nov**  
**Tue, 18-Nov**  
**Tue, 02-Dec**  
**Tue, 16-Dec Christmas Film**

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!

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<sup>7</sup>[https://www.instagram.com/otford\\_primary\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school)



## 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](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](mailto: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.*



## Sims Lite App - Data Collection System

Once a parent is registered, this app allows parents to interact electronically with school and to check and amend any information held eg: emergency contact details such as phone numbers and addresses, any medical needs. At the start of the year, school will send an invitation out to parents of all new members of the school and also to any parents whose invitation has expired. If you have already been using our online payment system (ie: ParentPay<sup>8</sup>) you can use your login details to access this app as well. We would encourage you to check the information held for your child on a regular basis, in order that we may have up to-date information if we need to contact you in the event of an emergency.

<https://www.sims-parent.co.uk/>



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<sup>8</sup><https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>