



Otford Primary School -November

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach that busy time of year , we thought it would be helpful if we put together a list of upcoming dates for your diary. These can all be found on the school calendar as well.

- **21/11** Year 4 Parent Forum- 2:30pm in the Peaceful Pod- if parents do not feel the need to meet please let the office know.
- **22/11** Otford Society Christmas Fayre in Otford
- **28/11** Year 5 Parent Forum- 2:30pm in the Peaceful Pod- if parents do not feel the need to meet please let the office know.
- **5/12** Year 6 Parent Forum- 2:30pm in the Peaceful Pod- as above
- **10/5** KS2 Christmas Carol Service-18:30-19:30 at St Barts Church
- **11/12** Year R Nativity-9:30am
- **12/12** Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

- **12/12** Christmas Bonanza After School in the Hall-3:10-4:30pm- thank you PTFA!
- **15/12** KS1 Nativity- 9:30am
- **16/12** Christmas Lunch
- **16/12** KS1 Nativity-9:30am
- **17/12** KS1 and KS2 Panto- thank you PTFA for providing the funds to pay for this!
- **18/12** Last Day of Term 2
- **19/12** Inset Day- no children on the school site
- **05/01** First Day of Term 3

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation during this very busy term!

Best wishes

Mrs H Roberts

Remembrance Sunday, 9 November



Many members of the school community gathered round the war memorial in the village. Thank you to Anna and Euan in year 6 who laid the poppy wreath on behalf of all the children and staff of Otford Primary school. They carried out this responsibility with great respect and maturity.

Thank you also to all our children in Year 6 for selling poppies during the weeks leading up to Remembrance and playing such a vital role throughout our school community during this period of time.



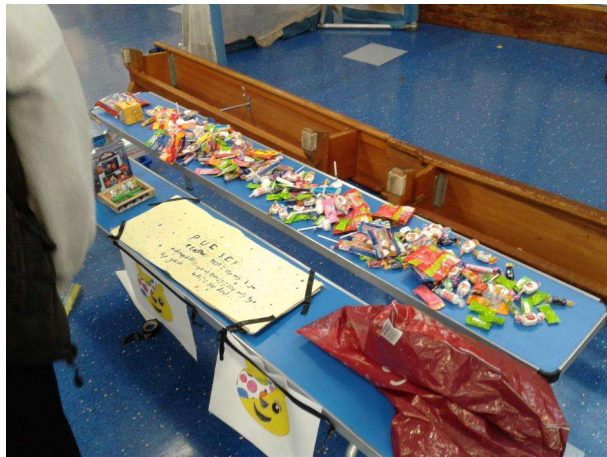


YEAR 6 FUNDRAISER FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



Year 6 did a wonderful job organising and running this year's fundraiser for Children in Need. They planned their own stalls, gathered resources independently, and worked brilliantly as a team to bring the event to life. The games were a great success, with children from across the school eager to join in and get involved. Thanks to their enthusiasm-and your generous support-we raised an impressive amount for this important charity. We would also like to thank everyone who took part by wearing something spotty and donating. Your contributions made a real difference. Year 6













Year 6 and Year R Buddy Pics



Buddies Time – Hedgehogs and 6L

Our youngest children in Hedgehogs had a very special visit from their new Year 6 buddies in 6L. For 20 wonderful minutes, the children paired up and enjoyed spending time together in the Reception outdoor areas. There was laughter and teamwork as they played games, built creations, explored role play, and shared stories.

It was truly heartwarming to see the older children showing such care, patience, and enthusiasm while supporting their younger friends. Miss Hill and Mrs Little were incredibly impressed by the kindness and maturity shown by Year 6, and the joy and confidence it brought to our Hedgehogs.

This is the beginning of a lovely new friendship between our oldest and youngest learners— one that we hope will continue to grow and blossom throughout the year.













Music Update

Christmas Carol service

Our annual KS2 candlelit Christmas carol service will be held at St Barts church, Otford on Wednesday **10th December at 6.30 pm**. All KS2 children and parents/caters are invited to attend. The service will be led by Year 6 with carols and readings. Ukulele club, Rhythmix and other school musicians will also be performing. Please do come along to this wonderful festive event.

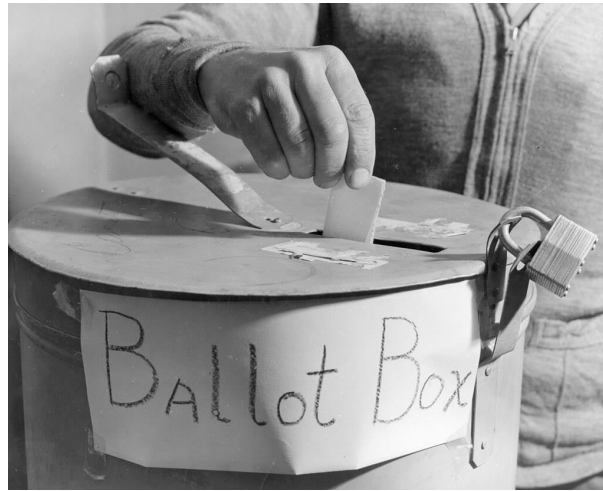
Christmas tree festival

St Barts are holding a Christmas tree festival and Otford Primary school are taking part. We will be decorating a tree on behalf of the school and it will be displayed, along with many other trees, during the festival on **5-7th December**. The church will be open all weekend to visit plus there will be 'Carols and cake' in the church centre on Saturday 6th in the afternoon. Please do pop in and see our school Christmas tree.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

Thank you to everyone who has voted so far. For those of you who have not, please submit your ballots by 25 November. The ballot box can be found in the front office. The votes will

be counted by one of our school Governors on the 27th November, we look forward to sharing the outcome with our parents.



Message from Atom Learning and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys

Free 11+ preparation and KS2 learning support

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys has partnered with Atom Learning to provide free access to Atom Home (worth £575.90/year) for children in Years 3-6 who are eligible for Pupil Premium. What is Atom Home? Atom Home is an online platform for ages 7-11 that supports KS2 learning and 11+ preparation.

It offers practice questions, mock tests, video tutorials and more to build children's confidence in English, maths, and verbal and non-verbal reasoning. Whether or not your child plans to take the 11+, we hope this is an enjoyable and effective way of supporting KS2 progress.

How to apply:

- Pupil Premium students: please fill in the form on this page: <https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/twgsb>
- Non-Pupil Premium students: there is a free trial available at www.atomlearning.com¹

For more information, please email pupilpremium@atomlearning.com

¹<https://www.atomlearning.com>

The image shows the Atom Learning logo at the top, featuring a blue circle and the text 'Atom Learning'. Below the logo is a tablet displaying a user interface with various educational modules. The main screen shows a 'Hi George!' message and a 'George's exam prep plan' with subjects like English, Maths, and Science. Surrounding the tablet are several smaller icons representing different topics: 'Quadrilaterals', 'Triangles', 'Equations', 'Sequences', and 'Match to a pair'. At the bottom of the tablet screen, it says 'Free 11+ preparation and KS2 support'. Below the tablet, there is a Trustpilot logo with five green stars.



TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL for BOYS
Amanda Simpson, Headteacher

MESSAGE FROM STONEPITTS FARM



-Christmas Trees 2025-

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.com²



MESSAGE FROM KENT POLICE

On behalf of Kent Police, I would like to invite you to a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Community Event on Monday 1 December 2025 from 10am to 12pm or Tuesday 2 December from 6pm to 8pm.

This event will be hosted online via Microsoft Teams and will be an opportunity to find out more about what Kent Police and partners have done to make your community safer for women and girls. You will also be able to ask questions of the local teams delivering in your area.

This event has been shaped from the feedback at previous events and will focus on progress against the VAWG strategy; 2025 performance data and what initiatives have been undertaken across the force to tackle VAWG this year.

²<http://www.stonepitts.com/>

N.B Both events will have the same content, we host them at different times to enable more people to attend. The event has live transcription and people can ask questions online or submit them in advance when booking.

Please use the links below to register for the event

Monday 1 December, 10am - 12pm³

Tuesday 2 December, 6pm – 8pm⁴

I look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards

Emma Banks

Detective Chief Superintendent and Strategic Lead for VAWG

Public Protection Command

Kent Police, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9BZ



³<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/26bc1372-b3f0-433e-88b5-0e07c833e855@f31b07f0-9cf9-40db-964d-6ff986a97e3d>

⁴<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f9126487-952b-4d1c-a754-3c9c48a6f2f7@f31b07f0-9cf9-40db-964d-6ff986a97e3d>

2025 AUTUMN TERM- After School Clubs

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
2025 AUTUMN TERM

"MY SON HAD SO MUCH FUN. HE WANTS TO GO BACK FOR MORE TOMORROW!"

"MY DAUGHTER WAS FULL OF BEANS AND BURSTING WITH LOVELY STORIES WHEN I COLLECTED HER"

FUN, EXERCISE, FRESH AIR & DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THIS TERM INCLUDE:

HARRY POTTER QUIDDITCH
BONFIRE NIGHT FIREWORKS PAINT MURAL
SCAVENGER HUNT: SPOOKY TRAIL
CAMPFIRE COOKOUT: AUTUMN EDITION
NERF GAMES: ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE
BONKERS CONKERS & LEAF MONSTERS
BUSHCRAFT SHELTER & DEN MAKING
AMONG US & VIKING KUBB
& AS USUAL: FUN VIBES & ADVENTURE!

WATCHING CHILDREN'S CONFIDENCE GROW & NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORM AT OUR CLUBS IS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING THINGS WE DO.

OTFORD PRIMARY
TUESDAYS 3:20 - 4:20PM
YEARS 1 - 6
9th SEPT - 9th DEC 2025
TOTAL COST: £104 / 13-WEEK TERM

The Outdoors Project

MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK
HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SAPLINGS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP
OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

Additional clubs include:



Skills Academy Skills Academy⁵

Sevenoaks JiuJitsu Sevenoaks JiuJitsu⁶

Bricks 4 Kidz Lego Bricks 4 Kidz⁷

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

PTFA! 

 Update from the PTFA  A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for your generous donations. These will go towards our next 2 events.

- Saturday 22nd November – Otford Society Christmas Fayre 11-4pm We're thrilled to have a stall at the Otford Fayre! Find us in the village car park for festive games and


⁵<https://skillsacademy ltd.com/>

⁶<https://www.sevenoaksjiitsu.com/>

⁷<https://bricks4kidz.uk/kent-maidstone-westmallng/>

fun for all ages. We are still after volunteers between 2pm and 5pm so if you are able to come and help out, please speak to your class rep ASAP.

- Friday 12th December – Christmas Bonanza! After school from 3.10pm, the hall will be transformed into a festive wonderland! Expect homemade bakes, hot chocolates, craft stalls, games, and plenty of holiday cheer. More details will be sent out via your class rep next week.

 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.

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

Warm wishes,

The PTFA Team

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

Watch on YouTube

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...
- **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.UK⁸

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 438 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.

⁸<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

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

COMMUNITY MESSAGES



A festive poster for a Christmas Tree Festival. At the top, a string of colorful lights and snowflakes is displayed. The main title 'CHRISTMAS TREE Festival!' is in large, bold letters, with 'CHRISTMAS TREE' in green and 'Festival!' in red. Below the title, the location 'At St Bart's Church, Otford' is written in green. The dates and times are listed in red: '5th December 12.30pm-4.30pm', '6th December 9.30am-4.30pm', and '7th December 11.30am-4.30pm'. The bottom section features three stylized Christmas trees in green with yellow stars on top, decorated with colorful ornaments and lights. Below the trees, the text 'Free Entry. Donations welcome' and '50% of all money raised will go to Loaves and Fishes foodbank' is written in green.

**CHRISTMAS TREE
Festival!**

At St Bart's Church, Otford

5th December 12.30pm-4.30pm
6th December 9.30am-4.30pm
7th December 11.30am-4.30pm

Free Entry. Donations welcome
50% of all money raised will go to
Loaves and Fishes foodbank



A poster for 'The Toast Club' at Otford Methodist Church. The background is a gradient from orange to yellow. In the top left, there is a logo for 'The TOAST Club' featuring a slice of toast. To the right, the text 'Otford Methodist Church' is written in a curved font, followed by 'TUESDAYS' in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below this, the time '3.30 - 5pm' and the audience 'Parents & Children' are listed. The middle section lists the club dates for Term 2: 'Fri, 31-Oct Light Party', 'Tue, 4 Nov', 'Tue, 18-Nov', 'Tue, 02-Dec', and 'Tue, 16-Dec Christmas Film'. At the bottom left, a paragraph of text describes the club's activities, and at the bottom right, there is a small image of a monkey puppet.

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!



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%2Fframe%2Ff7e9aflmga&display_name=Wistia%2C%2BInc.&url=https%3A%2F%2Fparentpay.wistia.com%2Fmedias%2Ff7e9aflmga&image=https%3A%2F%2Fembed-ssl.wistia.com%2Fdeliveries%2Fe388bc7ea8e1880c18a91c5f5ec1e32f6ca5d2bc.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.



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: ParentPay¹⁰) 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.

¹⁰<https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>

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

