



# Otford Primary School - (October 31)

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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,**

Welcome back to the start of Term 2! We hope you all had a restful break during the half term.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our *Open Classrooms* this week — it was wonderful to see so many of you engaging with your children's learning and the children feeling rightly proud of their achievements. We are also looking forward to welcoming you again next week for *Parent Consultations*.

For these meetings, we kindly ask that parents make their way to the **grey door** upon arrival, where a member of the school team will be there to welcome you. Once signed in, please make your way to the **school hall** for your consultation.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks for your patience and understanding while we continue to work to ensure that the school roof is repaired as swiftly as possible. We have been informed that KCC will be attending the school site next Monday to begin their assessment, and we will, of course, update you as soon as there is any progress to share.

For safety reasons, we kindly ask that any parents needing to visit the school during the day call the office first. Please ensure that we are able to clearly identify you via the CCTV cameras before entry is granted. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping us keep our school community safe.

Our thanks also go to the Year 6 children who have volunteered to sell poppies in the playground after school. Unfortunately, we are unable to proceed with that plan at present, but we will look for an alternative system to ensure that poppies can still be purchased by our children as we come together to remember this important occasion. More information will follow shortly.

Wishing all of our families a lovely weekend.

**Kind regards,**

Helen Roberts

Headteacher

Oxford Primary School

Community Ambassadors for **Term 1:**

6L

Eliza, Arty, Artie, Ellie, Esme

6CC

Poppy, Lilly, Tia, Nicholas, James

Community Ambassadors for **Term 2:**

6L

Edward, Henry, Ella, Niall and Jen

6CC

Alfie, Jack, Gracie, Ellie, Ethan

*Harvest Festival*

*This is what the volunteers at the Food Bank had to say about Oxford Primary School*

*"Wow! This is a huge amount of donations! Thank you so much to the generous and thoughtful people at Oxford Primary School. You have no idea the difference this makes to peoples' lives, thank you all so much."*

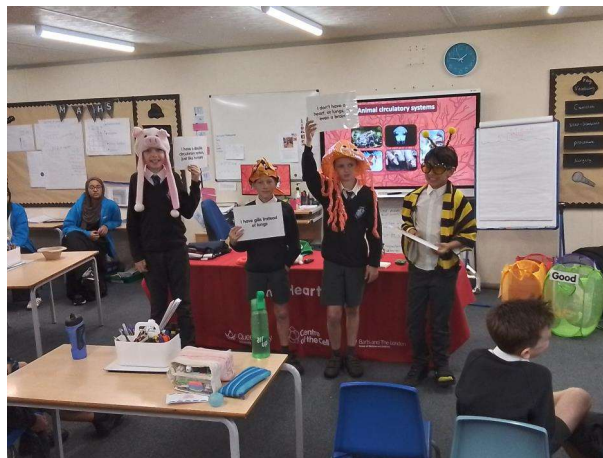






### Year 6- Centre of the Cell Workshop

On Tuesday afternoon, Year 6 embarked on an exciting journey through the circulatory system linking with their current science topic! In an interactive workshop led by 'Centre of the Cell', a science education centre based at Queen Mary University of London, they explored what blood is made of, how it moves around their bodies, and how animals' circulatory systems differ from their own. Tied closely to the KS2 National Curriculum, the session allowed the children to measure their pulse rates and discuss how to keep their hearts healthy, using fun games to keep it engaging!







## 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](http://WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK)**  
HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SAILINGS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP  
OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

Dear Parents.

We hope you had a good half term. Bricks 4 Kidz return with LEGO® after school classes on Monday 3rd November.

There are a few spaces available, please sign up via our website link here to join us next week. It would be great to have some new little builders give us a try this term <https://uk.bricks4kidznow.com/profile.php?id=7847&ts=1761564096>

Boost your child's confidence, creativity & STEM skills.

At Bricks 4 Kidz, we believe learning should be an adventure - exciting, hands-on, and filled with fun!

Kind regards,

Caroline

Award winning programmes 2025



BRICKS 4 KIDZ  
Caroline Cobb   
Director  
T: 07814 371279 |  
E: [ccobb@bricks4kidz.uk](mailto:ccobb@bricks4kidz.uk)  
[www.bricks4kidz.uk/kent](http://www.bricks4kidz.uk/kent)  
 @bricks4kidz\_kent  
 @b4kmidkent


## Update from the PTFA!

We were absolutely thrilled to meet you at our first Cake Sale where we raised a whopping £194.60. Thank you to everyone for coming over, saying hello and enjoying the sweet treats! Also a big thank you to year 6 for supplying the goods. We also had a wonderful welcome morning for our newest reception family members. It was a pleasure to meet you all & we look forward to seeing you & your little ones enjoying our future events.

### Save the dates!

- **Monday 3rd November** - PTFA meeting, 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 feel free to come along. We would love to see as many people as possible and there is no obligation to join.
- **Friday 7th November** - Class Rep meeting, 9am, Jubilee Room. We will be informing reps of more details for the upcoming Christmas events and volunteers needed.
- **Friday 21st November** - Donation Day in return for Own Clothes day - More to come from your class reps.
- **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 fun for all ages.

- **Friday 12th December** – Christmas Bonanza! After school from 3.30pm, the hall will be transformed into a festive wonderland! Expect homemade bakes, hot chocolates, craft stalls, games, and plenty of holiday cheer.

 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).

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

Warm wishes,

The PTFA Team

## Message for Year 6 Parents from St Gregory's

*Dear Parents*

*This is just a reminder that if you have a child in Year 6 and have listed St Gregory's Catholic School as one of your secondary school choices, the school requires you to complete a supplementary information form but only if your child already has a sibling at the school or meets any of the faith criteria. There is no need to complete the form if this criteria does not apply to you.*

*The form can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://stgregoryscatholic.applicaa.com/sif>*

*The deadline is usually 31 October but due to the half term break, the date has been extended to Friday 7 November.*

*If you have already submitted the supplementary information form, either online or directly to St Gregory's, or if this does not apply to you, please disregard.*

## 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**



**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](https://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.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/friendship-guide-for-young-people\\_0...](https://www.childrenssociety.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*

**SEVENOAKS  
 PRIMARY CARE NETWORK**


**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>1</sup>

## 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

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

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.

## 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>2</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/>



## 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 been doing at school. We regularly post news in the "stories" rather than posts as they can

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<sup>2</sup><https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>

easily become lost in the posts. We have 437 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>3</sup>

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

## Term 2 TOAST CLUB & MESSY CHURCH



**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**

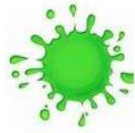
Toast Club is open to all primary school families. Come and enjoy being involved together, in a relaxed atmosphere, with refreshments from the start, and of course Toast with a variety of spreads! On any Toast day, we offer a variety of craft, an animated bible story with 'Veggie Tales', fun with puppets,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



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<sup>3</sup>[https://www.instagram.com/otford\\_primary\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school)

**St Bart's, Otford  
Messy Church**



Sunday 16th November

3.00pm-5pm

in The Church Centre



All Age craft and activities to help us explore the season of Advent and the theme of Light. Lots of things to make and do, followed by informal worship and tea.

This is an event mainly for primary school children and their families. Everyone is welcome but no unaccompanied children please.

For more information or to let us know that you are coming please contact:



office@stbartholomews.co.uk

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## 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%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](https://cdn.embedly.com/widgets/media.html?src=https%3A%2F%2Ffast.wistia.net%2Fembed%2Fiframe%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](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.*

