



# Otford Primary School - (Friday 3rd October)

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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,**

As this term progresses, we are pleased to see how quickly the children have settled back into school life. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils, who continue to show great resilience, even when faced with challenges. This was the focus of our assembly this week, where the children shared strategies they use to overcome difficulties and discussed the support available to them.

We deeply value open communication — with the children, and of course, with you. If there is ever a barrier to your child's learning or wellbeing that you think we should be aware of, please don't hesitate to get in touch so we can support them as best we can.

We're also delighted that the PTFA have been busy organising events. We are truly appreciative of their ongoing support, as well as the continued generosity of so many of our dedicated, caring parents over the years. These events create lasting memories for the children, and we're looking forward to what's ahead.

Please take a moment to check the key dates listed below, including our after-school **Christmas Bonanza on Friday 12th December!** These dates will be added to the school calendar, now available on our website for your convenience.

Please do scroll down to see the Music planned by Mrs Brown for this term. Your support with donations for the Loaves and Fishes Foodbank in Sevenoaks is greatly appreciated- every little really does help. Thank you to Mrs Brown for organising this and ensuring our school community continues to embrace our school value of Kindness.

Finally, we recently sent home information (via book bags) about a **Parent Governor vacancy.** We hope you found this helpful, and we look forward to receiving nominations. It's a real privilege to support the school in this way, and we're excited to welcome a new Parent Governor soon.

**Best wishes for the weekend,**

Mrs H. Roberts

## World Mental Health Day



Next **Friday 10th October** is **World Mental Health Day.** It is a day to raise awareness of how important our mental health is and to support the charity **Young Minds**, who are the UK's leading charity fighting for a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health.

To mark this occasion the Community Leaders have voted to have a Pyjama day based on the many requests for this via the pupil suggestion box. Therefore, instead of wearing yellow, as we usually do, the children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas for a small donation to **Youngminds** using the link below. **YoungMinds : Donate**<sup>1</sup>

We hope this day will be fun for all but also raise vital funds and show children and young people they're not alone with their mental health.

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<sup>1</sup><https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/event/hello-yellow/donate>

If you are interested in finding out more here is the link to the charity with access to resources and helplines. **YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds<sup>2</sup>**

# YOUNGMINDS

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Peppie Cornelius

DHT/Wellbeing Lead

## Bricks 4 Kidz- New School Club

Starting after Half Term:

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

We can't wait to start after half term with our amazing LEGO® after-school classes. You can book for Term 2 NOW for years 1-6.

🌟 **Our after-school programmes have just been awarded the prestigious STEM.org Accredited™ seal"**

\*\*All bookings can be made now via our website

here <https://uk.bricks4kidznow.com/profile.php?id=7847&ts=1756464330>\*\*



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<sup>2</sup><https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



From Our Catering Company

Upcoming Special Menu and Recipes to try at home

INDEPENDENT CATERING | EDUCATE R LIMITED

# Around the World



# INDIA

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

## MENU

**Tandoori Chicken with Pilau Rice and a Mini Naan Bread (1, 9)**  
**Butternut Squash and Chickpea Curry with Saag Aloo (1) VEGAN**  
**Desi Vegetable Pasta (1)**  
(Tomato and Vegetable Pasta)  
**Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings**  
**Homemade Onion Bhaji**  
**Chutneys in the Salad Bar**  
**Indian Cookies (1, 7, 9)**

# Around the World



# RECIPE

## SAAG ALOO (MAKES 50 PORTIONS)

### INGREDIENTS

- 3kg new potatoes (pre-cook and cool)
- 500g spinach
- 2 large onions
- 6 tbs tomato paste
- 5 tbs curry powder
- 2 tbs turmeric
- Fresh coriander

### METHOD

- Place potatoes/sliced onions/all spices/tomato paste in an oven tin.
- Mix.
- Roast to temperature.
- Add spinach and coriander just before serving and stir through.

## INDIAN COOKIES (MAKES 50 COOKIES)

### INGREDIENTS

- 8oz phase
- 1lb brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2lb plain flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp ginger
- 8fl oz milk

### METHOD

- Mix into dough.
- Roll into sausages and chill.
- Cut and bake for 12 mins.



# RECIPE

## TANDOORI CHICKEN (MAKES 50 PORTIONS)

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 kg diced 50/50 chicken
- 800g natural yoghurt
- 6 tbs garam masala
- 6 tbs coriander
- 6 tbs cumin
- 4 tbs turmeric
- 4 tbs curry powder
- ½ tsp chilli powder
- seasoning
- 1 whole lemon
- 6 tbs tomato paste

### METHOD

- mix all dry ingredients in with yoghurt.
- add chicken and lemon juice.
- marinate for as long as possible (overnight).
- cook in oven.

## ONION BHAJI (MAKES 50 SMALL BHAJIS)

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 large brown onions
- 1 tbs cumin
- 1 tbs coriander
- 1 tbs curry powder
- 1 tbs turmeric
- To Make a thick batter - plain flour/eggs/milk

### METHOD

- Slice onions.
- Add spices to batter.
- Put onions in the batter and mix through.
- Fry off spoon full size bhaji.
- Can make in advance then reheat in oven.



More Recipes

INDEPENDENTCATERING EDUCATERLIMITED

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

**Did you know?**  
Apples are incredibly versatile - perfect for snacking on the go, baking into delicious desserts, or dicing into salads for a crisp, sweet touch

**Why we love them**  
Apples are made up of about 85% water, making them not only juicy and refreshing but also a good option for staying hydrated

**Fun fact**  
Apples float in water because they're made up of 85% air - that's why they're perfect for the game apple bobbing!

# RECIPE

## MINI APPLE TURNOVERS

### INGREDIENTS

- Puff pastry - 625g
- Apples (peeled and chopped) - 500g
- Sugar - 50g
- Cinnamon - ½ tsp
- Egg - ½ (use 1 small egg or beat and use part)

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 200°C. Cook apples with sugar and cinnamon until soft.
2. Cut pastry into 5 or 6 squares. Spoon apple mix into centres.
3. Fold into triangles, seal edges, and brush with egg.
4. Bake for 20-25 minutes until puffed and golden.

## BAKED APPLE RINGS WITH YOGHURT DIP

### INGREDIENTS

- Apples - 2½ large
- Cinnamon - ½ tsp
- Honey - 1 tbsp
- Greek yoghurt - 125ml
- Vanilla extract - ½ tsp

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Arrange apple rings on baking trays.
2. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with cinnamon.
3. Bake for 20 minutes until soft and golden.
4. Mix yoghurt with vanilla for dipping.



# RECIPE

## APPLE AND CINNAMON MUFFINS

### INGREDIENTS

- Plain flour - 125g
- Baking powder - ½ tbsp
- Cinnamon - ½ tsp
- Eggs - 1
- Milk - 100ml
- Apples (peeled, grated) - 1¼ large
- Sugar - 50g
- Vegetable oil - 50ml

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (fan). Line muffin trays with 5 cases.
2. Mix flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and sugar.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, milk, and oil. Stir in apples.
4. Combine wet and dry ingredients. Mix gently.
5. Fill cases ¾ full. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden.

## APPLE AND CHEDDAR QUESADILLAS

### INGREDIENTS

- Tortilla wraps - 5
- Apples (thinly sliced) - 1¼ large
- Grated cheddar - 150g
- Mild mustard (optional) - ½ tbsp
- Butter - for frying

### METHOD

1. Lay out tortillas. Spread a little mustard on half of each (optional).
2. Add apple slices and sprinkle with cheese. Fold in half.
3. Fry in butter over medium heat until golden and cheese melts.
4. Cut into wedges and serve warm.



# RECIPE

## APPLE CRUMBLE POTS

### INGREDIENTS

- Cooking apples - 625g
- Brown sugar - 50g
- Ground cinnamon - ½ tsp
- Plain flour - 150g
- Butter - 75g
- Oats - 50g

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Cook apples with half the sugar and cinnamon.
2. In a bowl, rub flour and butter into crumbs. Stir in oats and rest of sugar.
3. Divide apples into 20 small ovenproof pots. Top with crumble mix.
4. Bake for 20 minutes until golden.

## APPLE AND CARROT SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

- Apples (grated) - 2½
- Carrots (grated) - 2½ large
- Sultanas - 75g
- Lemon juice - 25ml
- Natural yoghurt - 100ml
- Honey - 1 tbsp

### METHOD

1. Mix apples, carrots, and sultanas in a bowl.
2. In another bowl, whisk lemon juice, yoghurt, and honey.
3. Stir dressing into the salad.



## FREE Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms for Otford Residents

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a deadly gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. It can leak from gas, wood, coal, or oil burning appliances and cause serious illness or even death. If you have symptoms of headaches, nausea, dizziness or breathlessness it could be CO poisoning. Top tips to avoid CO poisoning:

- Ensure all fuel-burning appliances are serviced annually by a qualified engineer.
- Look for yellow/orange flames, increased condensation, pilot lights frequently going out or soot or staining in heating appliances.
- Never block ventilation grills or air bricks.
- Install a CO alarm in every room with a boiler, fire, or fuel-burning appliance.

To help protect our students, the school has a limited supply of free CO alarms available on a first come, first served basis. To get an alarm, please complete this form<sup>3</sup> and you will be notified if you have been issued with a CO alarm, which you will then be able to collect from the school office. Stay safe, get your free CO alarm today!"

**Simon Sim** (Pronouns: Him/He/His) | Project Manager | Financial Hardship Programme – Helping Hands | Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance | Chief Executive's Department | Kent County Council | T: 03000 423 500 | [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)<sup>4</sup> |

<sup>3</sup><https://forms.office.com/e/9hNt9dqVR1>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.kent.gov.uk/>

**Kent Healthy  
Start Champion**



Check eligibility and apply: [kent.gov.uk/healthystart](https://kent.gov.uk/healthystart)



## PTFA Update

🍌 Exciting News from the PTFA! 🍌 We're absolutely delighted to introduce our brand-new PTFA committee! With a fantastic team of 20 enthusiastic members—including new co-chairs, co-secretaries, and co-treasurers—we're ready to bring back the community spirit and kick-start some exciting fundraising for our school. 📅 Save the Dates – Autumn Term Events! We've got three brilliant events lined up this term, and planning is already in full swing. Be sure to pop these dates in your diary:

- 🏠 Friday 10th October – After School Cake Sale- Join us for a sweet treat or two right after school. All proceeds go towards supporting our school projects!
- 🎄 Saturday 22nd November – Otford Society Christmas Fayre- 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, 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

Sam Bennett/Carly Symes PTFA Co-Secretary

## Sevenoaks Family Hubs



[www.familyfoodbank.org](http://www.familyfoodbank.org)

### **We Are Here To Help!**

A sudden drop in finances can happen to any of us for a number of reasons. Please do not suffer in silence.

We have a number of local Family Food Bank Distribution Points which can help you. So please get in touch!

- Swanley Family Hub, St Mary's Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BU.
- Tel : 03000 421545
- Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4pm.
- Please phone in advance to arrange collection.
- Edenbridge Children's Centre, High Street, Edenbridge, TN8 5AB.
- Tel 03000 420995.
- Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.00pm.
- Please phone in advance to arrange collection.

Registered Address: Seashells, Rose Street, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1AW

Operating Address: Unit 4, St Johns Court, Foster road, Ashford Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SJ

Pupil Premium please do apply- it will benefit your child!:)

## **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>5</sup>

## MUSIC UPDATE



Music update

### **Music clubs (Thursday lunchtimes)**

Rhythmix - music and singing club for all KS2. 12.30 in the music room (have lunch before)

Ukulele club - Year 5 and 6. 12.00 in the music room (please email to reserve a place)

Upcoming music events this term:

### **Harvest Festival**

KS1 Thursday 16th October 10.30 am in the school hall (Year 2 parents invited to attend)

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

KS2 Wednesday 15th October 1.45 pm in St Barts church (Year 6 parents invited to attend) We will be collecting non-perishable food donations for the 'Loaves and Fishes' foodbank in Sevenoaks. Please bring donations into school on the morning of Wednesday 15th October.

There will be a table set up in the playground to place them on.

**Christmas Carol Service** KS2 Christmas carol service Wednesday 10th December, 6.30pm in St Barts church (All KS2, parents/carers invited to attend)

**Music lessons** We offer private music lessons in piano, violin, flute, recorder, guitar and drums. If your child would like to start an instrument then please see the school website for more details or email me for further information (louise.brown@otford.kent.sch.uk<sup>6</sup>)

**Kent music wider opportunities** Kent music offer a wider range of instrumental opportunities at their Sevenoaks Music centre at Trinity school on Tuesday evenings. They also run West Kent Junior Voices and West Kent Junior Wind Band which are both wonderful opportunities for children to experience playing and singing together. For more details please see the Kent Music website. Upcoming music events this term:

## 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>7</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>6</sup><mailto:louise.brown@otford.kent.sch.uk>

<sup>7</sup><https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>

## Otford Instagram Account



We would love to remind everyone to visit our Instagram page at [otford\\_primary\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school) where you will find lots of information and pictures regarding all the exciting things we have been doing at school. We regularly post news in the "stories" rather than posts as they can easily become lost in the posts. We have 435 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>8</sup>

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%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)

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<sup>8</sup>[https://www.instagram.com/otford\\_primary\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school)

*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.*



## Community Events

### West Kent Badger Group at Otford Memorial Hall

Message from the West Kent Badger Group:

The West Kent Badger Group is hosting a morning in Otford memorial hall where about a dozen local environmental and wildlife groups are all presenting what they do to help the environment and what they have to offer in terms of volunteering. There will be many Christmas gifts and environmentally friendly items for sale and we are planning informal talks and question and answer sessions. It will be a very informal, child friendly, event where people can come and go as they wish. Betty, our human sized badger, will be there to greet everyone!!

**West Kent Badger Group**  
presents

## Wild about Wildlife

Sunday 19th October 10am—1pm

Including:-  
Kent Wildlife Trust    Kemsing Wildlife Group  
Froglife    CPRE    DRIPS    RSPB  
Folly Wildlife Rescue    Fox Project  
North West Kent Partnership

**Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High St  
Otford, TN14 5PQ**

Free entry  
Talks and refreshments

The poster features a blue border and illustrations of a badger, a fox, and various wildflowers at the bottom.

## Harvest Festival Service at St Bart's



## St Bart's, Otford Messy Church

**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!**