



Otford Primary School - (Friday 19th September 2025)

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term is now in full swing and the children seem to be settled back into school life. We very much pride ourselves on how closely we work with parents, as always, should you feel that you need to talk to someone about any concerns you have throughout this term please do feel free to speak to either your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who are always available on the school playground at the start and end of the school day.

Following on from last term, we are planning to continue to hold our Parent Forum meetings which were very well attended by elected Parent Forum spokespeople from each class. We would like to continue these once again and build on developments from last time and also look to outline our areas for development this year in our annual School Improvement Plan. If you are interested in attending this please do attend on the day, we recommend two parents from each class, these meetings are held in the Peaceful Pod. If parents do not wish to attend please do let the school know and we can look to book a Forum at another time. Below are the dates and timings:

- 10th October Year R, 2:15pm
- 17th October Year Year 1, 2:30pm
- 14th November Year 2, 2:30pm
- 7th November Year 3, 2:30pm
- 21st November Year 4, 2:30pm
- 28th November Year 5, 2:30pm
- 5th December Year 6, 2:30pm

I am very much looking forward to meeting you and sharing our plans for the future. Thank you to all our parents last term for attending, your views and time are very much valued. Some of the feedback from parents suggested that we noted key dates available as a reference point. We now have our School Calendar up and running on the website- this holds information regarding dates up to Christmas. We do hope that this is helpful for you as we appreciate the busy lives parents and families lead. Information regarding Christmas events will be shared at a later date, but we hope the advance notice of dates is helpful.

As we head into this term we would like to inform you that Open Classrooms and Parents Evenings have been planned. The bookings for Parents Evenings are available on the link, all of these meetings will be held in the main school hall.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk/code/rau44>

Open Classrooms will be held on 28th and 29th October in your child's classroom from 3:30-4:00pm- please do come along and see your child's learning environment as well as their learning- no booking is needed for this.

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many clubs here at Otford, the running of these do of course rely on parents signing up with providers- please do look at our clubs timetable for more information. In particular the morning and after school clubs, we currently run Tennis, Football, Gymnastic Club, Dodgeball, Jujitsu, The Outdoors Project and so many more!

timetable 2025-2026.xlsx¹







Finally, can I please politely remind parents that children should not be taken out of school for holidays, these will not be authorised. We are striving to ensure that children attend school as much as they are able to. We do understand that children do get poorly but hope that we can work together to aim for our children attending at least 95% of the time. Here are some key facts regarding attendance.

¹<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/otford-primary-school/UploadedDocument/a2f19a60-0242-46a7-8cfd-79ca3b8389ac/clubs-timetable.pdf>

Impact of Attendance on Primary School Children






Good Attendance (95% or higher)

Benefits:

-  **Better learning** – keeps up with lessons, avoids falling behind
-  **Builds good habits** – punctuality, responsibility, routine
-  **Social growth** – stronger friendships, confidence, teamwork
-  **Future success** – better chances of finishing school and getting a good job
-  **Support access** – meals, health checks, and learning help
-  **Teacher connection** – more consistent support and feedback

Poor Attendance (Below 90%)

Consequences:

-  **Falling behind** – struggles to catch up, lower attainment and progress measure
-  **Social impact** – isolation, weaker peer relationships
-  **Dropout risk** – more likely to leave school early
-  **Fewer opportunities** – limited career and study options later
-  **Missed support** – harder to spot learning or health issues early

Finally, a huge thank you to our parents who attended the AGM this week. Thank you to some of our current parents who will be stepping down after many years of hard work and dedication to the school, a particular mention to Mrs Waters and Ms Simmonds for being simply incredible over the past 4 years! We truly do appreciate all you have done to support the fundraising for the children at Otford! THANK YOU!!

A warm welcome to our new team! More information to share soon, thank you to our parent body for coming together to enable this fundraising to continue, but most importantly creating memories and fun for the children here and making our school community a special place to be.

Warmest wishes to all our families for the weekend ahead, the next SWAY will be towards the end of this term.

Mrs H Roberts

Update on support from NHS on teeth!



We cover 12 districts in Kent and provide evidence based oral health education.

If you would like to speak to one of the team, please get in touch

Check out our website for more information and advice

www.kentcht.nhs.uk/happyteeth



Oral Health in Early Years

Did You Know? Tooth decay is the most common reason for hospital admissions in children aged 5-9.

The good news - Tooth Decay is *preventable!*

Reduce Sugar intake – Limit sugary foods and drinks, think about the time between snacks and especially those consumed frequently or at bedtime.

Promote good oral hygiene – Encourage regular toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste, starting from when the first tooth erupts.

Supervised toothbrushing – Consider implementing a supervised toothbrushing programme in your early years setting.

Regular dental visits – Schedule regular dental check ups for early detection and prevention of decay.

Fluoride application – Fluoride varnishes can be applied by dental professionals to strengthen enamel.

Educate parents – Provide parents with information about oral hygiene and the importance of healthy eating habits.

With a good understanding on oral health and facts about dental decay and prevention you can play a vital part in protecting the oral health of children.



The department of Health and Social Care have some fabulous resources on their webpage which you can order or download. Check out the

'Top Tips for Teeth' better health start for life campaign to help promote key messages within your setting.

[Better Health Start for Life Top Tips For Teeth | Campaigns | Campaign Resource Centre](#)

Become an Oral Health Champion!

We will provide you with the current guidelines and useful links to resources to share within your setting.

You will also be sent the link to our free quarterly webinars with CPD.

To sign up just send us an email at kentchft.oralhealthkent@nhs.net

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.UK²

Music Update

Music update

Music clubs start back next Thursday lunchtime: 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 (small fee involved, please email to reserve a place)

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)

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: **Harvest Festival** KS1 Thursday 16th October 10.30 am in the school hall KS2 Wednesday 15th October 1.45 pm in St Barts church We will be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Loaves and Fishes foodbank in Sevenoaks

Christmas Carol Service KS2 Christmas carol service Wednesday 10th December, 6.30pm in St Barts church

CLUBS TIMETABLE - ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

Please find below the link to the Clubs Information section on the school website:

<https://www.otford.kent.sch.uk/clubs-information/>

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:

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

ParentPay³) 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/>



Oxford Instagram Account



We would love to remind everyone to visit our Instagram page at [Oxford_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 432 followers now- thank you for taking the time to look. You can find us here: [otford_primary_school](#)⁴

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

St Bart's Oxford Messy Church

For Harvest

Sunday 21st from 3pm-5pm

³<https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>

⁴https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school

In the Church Centre

All Age craft and activities to help us explore the season of Harvest. 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: St Bart's OTFORD office@stbartholomews.co.uk

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%2F7e9aflmga&display_name=Wistia%2C%2BInc.&url=https%3A%2F%2Fparentpay.wistia.com%2Fmedias%2F7e9aflmga&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.

