



Otford Primary School- 22nd MAY 2026

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents,

As we head towards the end of the term, we would like to share with you some of the incredible learning experiences the children have been involved in over the past few weeks. We know that school life can sometimes present some challenges, but it also offers many opportunities for children to shine and celebrate what they have learnt.

I would also like to mention the impeccable attitude of our Year 6 children. They applied themselves so well during last week's SATs. We know that some children find formal testing difficult, however on this occasion, the children rose to the challenge and completed the tests each day to the very best of their ability, which is all we can ask. Well done Year 6- Alice in Wonderland awaits!

Thank you, parents, for your ongoing support and feedback. We know that the very best outcomes are achieved for children when school and home work together.

We would very much appreciate parents and older siblings taking time to read with their children, as reading is the gateway to many successes in education. Research shows that just 10 minutes of reading each day can expose children to over one million words in a year, significantly improving vocabulary, comprehension, and overall academic achievement.

The Department for Education's Reading Framework also highlights that reading regularly at home, hearing stories read aloud, discussing books together, and promoting reading for pleasure are some of the most effective ways to develop confident, fluent readers. Children who enjoy reading not only achieve better academically, but also develop greater empathy, creativity, and wellbeing.

In a world that is increasingly technology-driven, spending time away from screens through play, conversation, storytelling, and hands-on learning enables the brain to make strong learning connections, helping to cement the learning that takes place in school. Encouraging children to see reading as both enjoyable and valuable is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. We thank you in advance for your support.

As we look towards the next few weeks the weather does look warmer and we do hope you all enjoy the half term break with your children. Please can we ask when children return on Tuesday 2nd June that they have a named water bottle and suncream that they are able to apply themselves if the weather continues to be warm.

With warmest wishes for the weekend ahead

Mrs Helen Roberts

Year 6 Summer Production

Last Friday, was the Big Reveal, when Year 6 discovered which show they would be performing in the summer term. The children are really excited about this and I am sure this will be a production to remember! We are very proud of all the children who have tried so hard in their auditions this week- well done to each and every one of you!



Year 5 Camp Out

Lots of fun was had by the year 5 classes at the annual camp out. They started the event by raising their flag and went on to take part in various exciting activities over the course of the afternoon and evening...the children loved it with some of them saying " it was the best day ever!"







Year R Godstone Farm





Year 3 Class Assembly

On Thursday last week, Year 3 entertained parents and carers with exploding volcanoes... it was a sight to behold! Thank you to all our parents and family members for attending as the children showcased their learning so far this year!







Year 2 Class Assembly- well done Pandas class you were all incredible!



Year 1 Class Assembly

A fantastic class assembly yesterday from Deers class! So many learnt lines, confident children and London Cabs too! Well done Deers class!



Reception Class Assembly

On Tuesday last week, our reception class put on a lovely assembly for their parents and carers... the first of many, well done Hedgehogs for being so confident learning the songs and your lines too!



Incredible Art from Reception Class

Year R are learning about the four stages of growing a sunflower. Some children painted Vincent Van Gogh's famous painting of sunflowers. All of this art work was completely independent, what talented children we have at Otford!



Year 4 River Walk

Last week, the whole of Year 4 enjoyed a trip to a local stretch of the River Darent. Joined by local resident (and keen geologist / historian) Rod Shelton, they learned about the physical features of the river as well as the fundamental part it has played in Otford's history and economy, mainly as a source of power for mills, as a result of which the Darent was the birth-place of paper-manufacturing in this country as well as powering the mass-manufacture of gunpowder! In addition, the children enjoyed some time paddling IN the river, finding a variety of aquatic creatures (including crayfish) as well as creating boats. The children responded well to the trust shown in them, having a lot of fun while also behaving respectfully towards nature, adults and each other. Well done Year 4!









Congrats to Edward in Year 6 whose team won the Cup - what a trophy!



MUSIC UPDATE



Music update

We have some music events coming up after half term.

Summer concert Thursday 11th June at 6.30 pm In the school hall. I would like to invite any musician at the school to perform at our summer concert. Any instrument or voice welcome at any stage of learning. It should be a wonderful relaxed evening showcasing the amazing musical talents within the school. If your child would like to perform then please do email me (louise.brown@otford.kent.sch.uk)

Year 4 Otford Voices concert Thursday 2nd July at 2.45 pm in the school hall. Parents and carers are invited to a short concert by Year 4 children. They will be singing and playing the ukulele.

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day is planned for the 7th July with a back up day of 9th July.

KS2 will start at 9:30, and KS1 will start at

PTFA UPDATE

Many thanks to all our volunteers for the Year 4 Cake Sale who raised an amazing £238.50!

Upcoming Events:Year 2 Cake sale Friday 5th June.The next PTFA meeting will be held in June, if you are interested in joining or attending, please contact us: ptfa@otford.kent.sch.uk

We are so excited to share that OTFEST 2026 Tickets are now on sale! We would absolutely love as many of you as possible to attend. Otford Primary School PTFA¹



¹<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/otfordptfa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=116468>



Saturday 11th July 1:00pm – 5:00pm Otford Primary School

What's on:- Live music from headliners "Never Too Late", plus Otford Primary alumni bands "Anything and Everything" and "The Bends" and more.- Giant inflatables- BBQ and bar- Spartacus football pitch- Camp Beaumont soft archery - Festival shop - Games, stalls, big raffle and plenty more!

Bring your friends and family, grab a drink, and relax on a rug or blanket while you soak up the atmosphere (just a heads up – no outside food or picnics please).

Sponsored by:

Headline sponsor: Vitality

Gold sponsors: Bracketts | JAYMAC

Silver sponsors: After School Club | Knole B&B

Register for the Kent Test

Register for the Kent Test

Registration for the Kent Test opens on 1 June and closes on 1 July 2026.

If your child will be starting secondary school in September 2026 and has not taken the Kent Test, see our information about [moving to a different school](#).

Important dates to know

If your child will be starting secondary school in September 2027, here are the important dates you need to know:

Important events and dates for the Kent Test.

What happens	Date
Kent Test registration opens	Monday 1 June 2026
Kent Test registration closes	Wednesday 1 July 2026
Kent Test - for pupils who attend a Kent Primary School	Thursday 10 September 2026
Kent Test - for pupils who do not attend a Kent primary school	Weekend of 12 and 13 September 2026
Results day	Thursday 15 October 2026

Register your child

Children currently in Year 5 who were born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 can take the Kent Test in 2026.

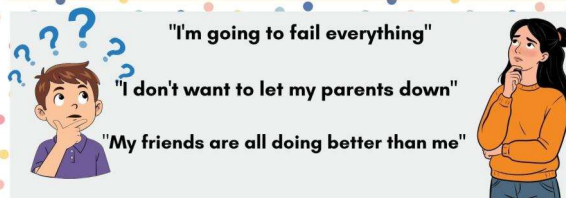
If your child is outside the age range but is expected to transfer to secondary school in September 2027, email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk.

SEVENOAKS PCN

Newsletter for Parents



Exam overwhelm - unhelpful thinking styles



These thoughts are very common on the lead up to and during exams. We call these Unhelpful Thinking Styles. Our thoughts, feelings, and behaviours continually affect each other, and it's easy to develop negative patterns where unhelpful thoughts lead to unhelpful feelings and actions. Sometimes this can become a vicious cycle.

The best way to deal with these unhelpful thoughts is to recognise them, challenge them, and see if you can replace them. Some people call this the catch it, check it, change it approach.

Click here for 'Reframing Unhelpful Thoughts' document to catch it, check it, change it.

Downloadable version with clickable links found here:
<https://sevenoakspcn.gpweb.org.uk/>

SEVENOAKS PCN

Newsletter for Parents



Exam overwhelm - I'm putting pressure on myself

Working to extremes isn't productive

Breaks are essential to help you study effectively. If you feel overwhelmed or stuck, taking time away to relax or do something enjoyable can help you return feeling refreshed and more focused.

Be kind to yourself

If you find yourself procrastinating or avoiding revision, it doesn't mean you're failing. Procrastination can be a sign that you're feeling overwhelmed the pressure to succeed. Try to take small steps towards your goal - even 10 minutes of revision is a win when you're struggling to stay focused.

Congratulate yourself

If you've done a really great stint of revision or had a better round of exams than the last, don't let it pass by. Take a moment to celebrate and give yourself a treat.

Make a plan B

If things don't go to plan, that's okay. It's not the end of the world. The future will be good, you've just gotta get through this rough patch first.

This webpage gives further advice for comparing yourself to friends, not wanting to let parents down and pressure from school.

<https://www.themix.org.uk/explore-our-topics/school-and-university/the-pressure-to-do-well-in-exams/>

HEALTH & WELLBEING

ROADSHOW

Thursday 14th May 2026
10am - 4pm
The Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks
TN13 1ZZ



CANCER AWARENESS Presentation from Bowel Cancer UK & Prostate Cancer UK on signs, symptoms, risks and screening. Join us for an all-day Macmillan Coffee morning!	ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE Talks on NHS services offered by Sevenoaks PCN, West Kent Primary Care and Pure Physiotherapy. Meet your GP's Patient Participation Group.	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS SERVICES Find out about and meet representatives from health, community and charity services for children and young people	MENOPAUSE Hear from Dr O'Neill, GP with special interest in Women's Health on the symptoms of Menopause and how to access the Community Gynaecology Clinic at Borough Green Medical Practice.
LIFESTYLE Free Mini Health checks Exhibitions from Diabetes UK and Everyone Active Info on Kent county Council's innovative Connect2Work scheme.	MENTAL HEALTH Representation from Kent and Medway Talking Therapies, Sevenoaks Mens Sheds and Domestic Abuse services.	AGEING WELL Hear from Kent Community Health Foundation Trust about the first NHS Ageing Well service in Edenbridge and their Day Centre. Representation from Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services and Hospice in the Weald	Scan the QR code for a full list of exhibitors and talk times 

A FREE NHS EVENT organised by Sevenoaks Primary Care Network

Website: <https://sevenoakspcn.gpweb.org.uk>
Facebook: 7oakspcn

Summer Uniform- Terms 5 & 6.

Here is the updated uniform for the summer term which we hope is helpful for potentially much warmer days!

Summer Uniform – Terms 5 & 6

- Navy and white gingham dress worn with white ankle socks.
- Plain white short sleeved shirt or blouse (without a tie and the top button undone) with or without a school jumper.

PE Uniform Indoor

- Royal Blue PE shorts also available from PMG Schoolwear or skorts. Children may wear plain non branded royal blue PE shorts
- White School T-Shirt with emblem available from PMG Schoolwear. Children may wear plain non branded white T-Shirt
- White socks • Black elasticated plimsolls. • School Drawstring PE Bag available from PMG Schoolwear.

PE Uniform Outdoor – Years 1 – 6

- A dark coloured, plain tracksuit- non branded.
- Trainers for outdoor wear, these are only to be worn on days for PE many thanks.

School Uniform policy²

Year 6 Save the Dates



We know that Year 6 is always a very special year and goes so quickly! The Year 6 teaching team would like to share some key dates with our parents, these have also been added to the school calendar on the website.

Year 6 Save the Date

- **Wednesday 24th -26th June: Year 6 Residential to Kingswood**
- **Tuesday 14th July: Performance to parents/families evening: 6:30pm**
- **Wednesday 15th July: Performance to parents/families evening: 6:30pm**
- **Thursday 16th July: Leavers Party**
- **Tuesday 21st July: Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9:30am**

²<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/otford-primary-school/UploadedDocument/37d08eb2-3922-44f0-83d1-ade72d2d2af3/uniform-policy.pdf>

Clubs

 **Otford Primary School**



AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

JUJITSU

Lots of exercise, learning awesome skills, fun games, making new friends!

- Thursdays, 3.30 to 4.30 pm
- £10 per session, first taster session free
- No experience necessary (come and try!)
- For year groups 1 to 6
- Stay for dodgeball 4.30pm to 5pm, £5 per session



Contact Chris to secure your place:
chris.sevenoaksjitsu@icloud.com
 Tel: 07914 805 339

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

SUMMER TERM 2026



"MY DAUGHTER ASKED IF SHE CAN ATTEND THE CLUB UNTIL SHE LEAVES SCHOOL."

"I'VE SEEN MY SON'S CONFIDENCE GROW DURING HIS TIME SPENT AT THE CLUB."

FUN, EXERCISE, FRESH AIR & DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THIS TERM INCLUDE:

WATER DAY: NOODLE BALL
BUSHCRAFT SOLAR FIRELIGHTING
MINI ROBOT BUILDING | CIRCUS SKILLS
TOY STORY SLIME & GAMES
DRAGON SLINGSHOT MAKING
MINECRAFT TREASURE HUNT
NERF WILD WEST | BUSHCRAFT DENS
MARSHMALLOW CATAPULT MAKING
THE KEY INGREDIENT: LOTS OF FUN!

OTFORD PRIMARY
 TUESDAYS 3:20 - 4:30 PM
 YEARS 1-6
 21ST APRIL - 7TH JULY 2026
 PRICE: £88 (11 WEEK TERM)

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

The Outdoors Project

MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK
HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - S4PLINGS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP
OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

SPRING TERM CLUBS

AT OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOOTBALL CLUB

For boys & girls of all abilities!

SPACES REMAINING

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM

£8.30 per 1 hour session
Monthly payment plans available

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

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🌐 skillsacademytld.com
✉ info@skillsacademytld.com



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you know it's EDUCATIONAL

SPACES AVAILABLE!

After School

Book via website

TOP 7 REASONS WHY Kids LOVE Bricks 4 Kidz

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- ☑ Building, creating, and problem-solving with LEGO® bricks every session
- ☑ Figuring things out, overcoming challenges, and feeling proud of what they build
- ☑ Working with friends, sharing ideas, and building together
- ☑ Using their imagination while taking on exciting STEAM challenges
- ☑ Learning cool skills like engineering and robotics through play
- ☑ Leaving every class feeling happy, confident, and excited to come back

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ST. MICHAEL'S BASKETBALL HUB

DELIVERED BY QUALIFIED BASKETBALL ENGLAND COACHES FROM SEVENOAKS SUNS



THURSDAYS
18:00-19:00 PM

@

**ST. MICHAEL'S
PREP SCHOOL**

BEGINNING 14TH MAY 2026

**STUDENTS FROM YEARS 4, 5 & 6
ARE WELCOME!**

BASKETBALLDEVELOPMENT@SEVENOAKSSUNS.COM
Accredited Basketball England club.



WHOLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATES:

TERM 6 STARTS - 2nd June

Year 3 Trip - 9th June

Year 6 Trip - 10th June

Year 6 Residential - 24th June

Year 4 Ukulele Concert - 2nd July

Year 1 Trip - 3rd July

SPORTS DAY - 7th July

BACK UP SPORTS DAY - 9th July

Community Notice Board

PTFA UPDATE

🍌 Update from the PTFA 🍌

Last day of Term 5 - 22nd May

Half Term - 25th -29th May

Inset Day - 1st June

Term 6 Starts - 2nd June

Many thanks to all our volunteers for the Easter Hunt, we raised £561!!!

Upcoming Events:

Keep your eyes peeled for OTFEST 2026 Ticket release! Coming soon.

Saturday 11th July 1:00pm – 5:00pm Otford Primary School

What's on:- Live music from headliners "Never Too Late", plus Otford Primary alumni bands "Anything and Everything" and "The Bends" and more.- Giant inflatables- BBQ and bar- Spartacus football pitch- Camp Beaumont soft archery - Festival shop - Games, stalls and plenty more!

Bring your friends and family, grab a drink, and relax on a rug or blanket while you soak up the atmosphere (just a heads up – no outside food or picnics please).

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Gold sponsors: Bracketts | JAYMAC

Silver sponsors: After School Club | Knole B&B

Sam Bennett/Carly Symes PTFA Co-Secretary

Otfest - Sat 11th July

If you are interested in assisting with the BBQ, please let us know. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2026-2027

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

Attendance Insight

www.PSDgraphics.com



We know that consistent school attendance is so important for your child; the benefits for them are immeasurable! However, sometimes, the numbers can seem vague. Therefore, to put attendance percentage into perspective, we have converted percentages into their weekly equivalent and, even one step further, to express percentage in terms of lessons missed:

- Attendance of **95%** for the year equals **10 days** that your child has been absent- that is **two school weeks** of your child's learning missed for that year. If we consider that

children are taught 4-6 lessons a day, then 10 days absence over the course of the school year equates to **40-60 lessons missed**.

- Attendance of **90%** for the year equals **19 days** that your child has been absent, that is almost **4 weeks** of school missed, or **76-114** lessons missed.
- Attendance of **85%** for the year equals **29 days** that your child has been absent, that is almost **6 school weeks** missed (nearly the equivalent of the summer holidays) or **116-174** lessons missed.

· Attendance of **80%** for the year equals **38 days** absent per year, that is over **7 school weeks** or **152-228** lessons missed!

Punctuality Matters Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year
- Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year

If, for any reason, you require support getting your child into school, please let us know. Contact the school and we can arrange a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss how best we can support you and next steps.

Please see the government website for more details

The Education Hub³

³<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Oxford Instagram Account

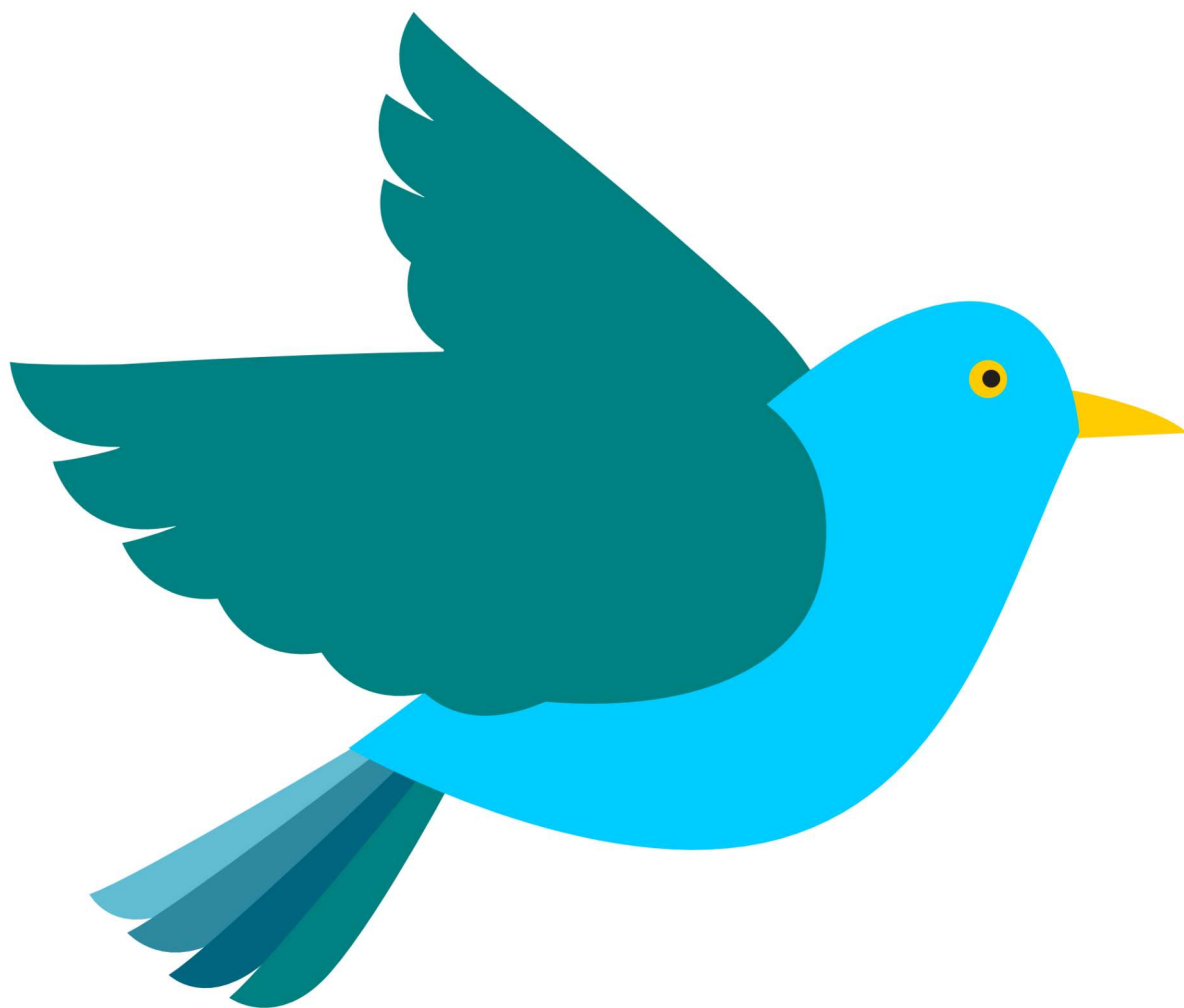


We would love to remind everyone to visit our Instagram page at [otford_primary_school](https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school) where you will find lots of information and pictures regarding all the exciting things we have been doing at school. We regularly post news in the "stories" rather than posts as they can easily become lost in the posts. We have 464 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)⁴

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

⁴https://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%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%3Fimag

[e_crop_resized%3D960x540&key=40cb30655a7f4a46adaaf18efb05db21&type=text%2Fhtml&schema=wistia&wvideo=f7e9af1mga](https://www.wistia.com/medias/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. 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.

