



Otford Primary School- 1st MAY 2026

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

A sunny welcome to Term 5! It has been magical to see the children on the school field this term enjoying the sunshine and all that the school has to offer. We are so incredibly lucky with our grounds, and I know the children appreciate this so much during these warmer days! The term has started with so many rich learning experiences for the children, we hope this will be a very positive term for the children. Do of course reach out if you have any concerns, we look forward to working with you throughout this term.

We understand that, on occasion, pupils may need to attend medical appointments during school hours. However, these should be arranged outside of the school day wherever possible. If an appointment during school time is unavoidable, parents/carers must inform the school office in advance and provide confirmation of the appointment. Pupils should attend school before and/or after their appointment wherever possible, so that disruption to learning is kept to a minimum. We appreciate your support and co-operation with this.

Mrs Helen Roberts

Year 6 Ambassadors

Congratulations to the new community ambassadors for Term 5 :

6L: Ellis, Artie L, Esme, Benjy and Eliza

6CC: Theon, Teddy, Ethan, Lilly and Dylan

Year 6

This week

6L completed their striking skyline silhouette artwork inspired by the skies over London during the Blitz in World War II. The children explored the dramatic colours of the night sky, blending fiery reds, glowing oranges, deep purples and bright yellows to reflect the intensity of the time.

They then carefully designed and cut out detailed London skylines using black paper, with some children incorporating silhouettes of bombers overhead. The contrast between the vibrant skies and the dark cityscapes has resulted in some truly powerful and thoughtful pieces.

These artworks will be used as the front covers for our new topic books as we begin our learning journey on Britain at War



A Message from Mrs Cornelius

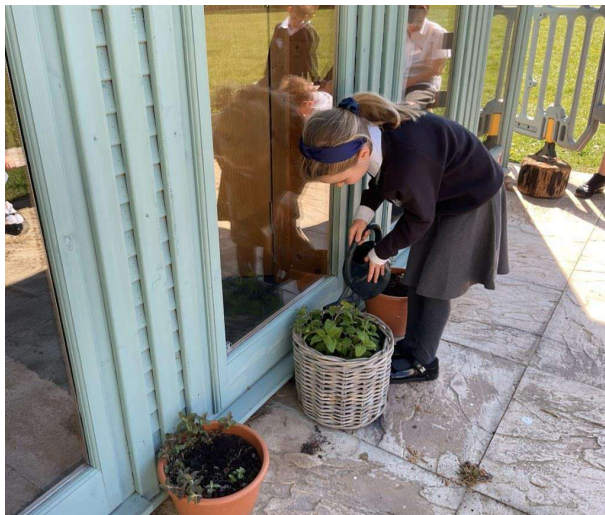
Thank you to the Community Leaders from last term, who at their last meeting helped tidy up the Peaceful Pod Garden and plant some new flowers. They have been such a helpful group and full of ideas! We know they will continue to be fantastic role models in the school.

It is time, however, to welcome our new Community Leaders for the Summer term, including two from Year 1 Deer Class. Congratulations to all those who have been voted in this term.









Year 2 Trip to Hever Castle!

Year 2 had an incredible day visiting Hever Castle this week! The sun shined on Pandas Class. Linked to their learning journey of Monarchs, the children sketched the castle, explored the castle and grounds, played in the playground, and made friends with some ducks! Thank you to our parents for all their help! What a day to remember!











Reception Class Has Been Busy Planting!

A lovely afternoon with the parents and children planting all the new herbs, vegetables and flowers. Thank you for all your generous contributions, making this a fabulous place for the children to learn and grow as little people!





Swimming Gala

Congratulations to the children who took part in the District Swimming Gala on Monday. Otford swam their hearts out and came an incredible second place! For some children this was their first ever swimming gala and there was great support amongst the team, amazing attitudes, and sportsmanship shown. Well done to you all! We are very proud of all the children and thank you also for our parental support.





Community Leaders

Congratulations to the following children who are the new Community Leaders for the summer term. They had their first meeting yesterday and are wanting to help keep our school looking clean and tidy with some litter picking. They will also be looking out for

anyone sitting on the new friendship benches at playtimes and lunchtime and offering their support.

Deers: Bethany and Daniel

Pandas: Lydia and Daisy

3ST: Rosy and Arlo

4B: Sophie and Hugo

4AG: Ashley and Murphy

5H: Betsy and Clemmie

5AH: Morgan and Niamh



Young Writers Competition Book

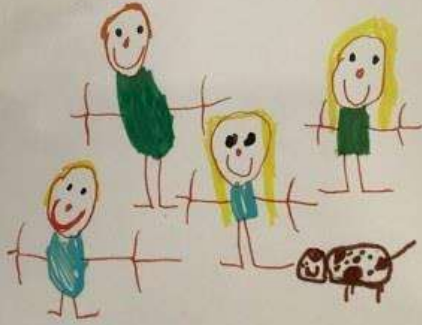
The Reception children drew pictures of their families for the Young Writers Competition and they were printed in the Young Writers Competition book. Arabella Tippen-Smith won the competition. Her drawing of her family is printed on the front cover of the book and she also won a bag of art and craft resources

Young Artists

ME AND MY FAMILY

Featuring

The Tippen-Smiths



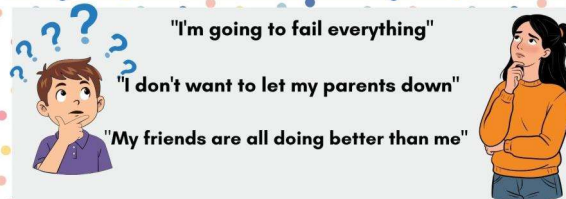
Illustrations by
children from
across the UK

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

Radnor House Taster Day

Radnor Create

Year 5 Taster Day

1 - A creative introduction to Senior School Life at Radnor House Sevenoaks



Discover Radnor House Sevenoaks

Friday 12 June 2026 | 09:00 - 14:00

Open to current Year 5 pupils from external schools, places are limited.

We are delighted to invite current Year 5 pupils from local primary and prep schools to join us for a dynamic, hands-on Taster Day at Radnor House Sevenoaks.

Radnor Create is designed to give pupils an exciting and confidence-building introduction to life in Year 7.

Radnor *Create*

Friday 12 June 2026 | 09:00 - 14:00

Throughout the day, pupils will:

Take part in creative, interactive sessions

Explore our Senior School environment

Meet teachers and current pupils

Build confidence ahead of transition

This is not a typical school day – it is an opportunity to experience Senior **Discover Radnor House Sevenoaks** School in an engaging, welcoming and inspiring way.

Click here to book your place today!¹

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

¹<https://www.radnor-sevenoaks.org/radnor-create---year-5-taster-day->

- 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

- **Monday 11th-Thursday 14th May: KS2 Sats Week**
- **Wednesday 20th May: Meeting with parents/carers re Year 6 residential in the school hall at 2:30pm.**
- **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

 **Oxford 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



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)

The Outdoors Project

MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK
HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SAILINGS 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](#)

☎ 01689 828385
🌐 skillsacademytld.com
✉ info@skillsacademytld.com



They think it's FUN,
you know it's EDUCATIONAL

SPACES AVAILABLE!

After School

Book via website

TOP 7 REASONS WHY Kids LOVE Bricks 4 Kidz

- ☑ A fun, welcoming space where they feel confident to try new ideas
- ☑ 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

[@bricks4kidz_kent](#) [@b4kmidkent](#) Real-world concepts related to Science Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths

bricks4kidz.co.uk/kent ccobb@bricks4kidz.com 07814 371279

We Learn, We Build, We Play with LEGO® Bricks

SAVE THE DATES

Bank Holiday - 4th May

Year 5 Camp Out- 7 & 8th May

KS2 SATS - 11-15th May

Class photos - 21st May

Last day of Term 5 - 22nd May

Half Term - 25th -29th May

Inset Day - 1st June

Term 6 Starts - 2nd June

Community Notice Board

Saturday 16 May

Come to Knockholt Village Tennis Club's
Open Day from 2pm-4pm

Whether you're wanting to try tennis for the first time, returning to the sport after a break or just looking for a new place to play, find out what we have to offer



Come and try pickleball, the new racket sport that is sweeping the country. It's a fun game for kids and adults alike - and much easier to pick up than tennis

Saturday 16 May 2pm-4pm

+ + Have a hit on our courts
(all rackets and balls provided)

+ Give pickleball a try - and see why it's becoming so popular

+ Top tips from our coach Gary

+ Fun games (with prizes) for the young and not-so-young

+ Free food and drink

+ Win a new Wilson racket and other top prizes in our raffle

+Join the club on the day and get a 20 per cent discount on your first-year membership - plus a can of new balls

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**We're in Main Road, behind the
Knockholt Village Centre**

We welcome players of all ages and abilities. We offer coaching, club sessions where you can mix in with other members, an online court booking system and a cosy clubhouse

PTFA UPDATE

🍌 Update from the PTFA 🍌

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

Upcoming Events:15th May: Year 4 Cake Sale

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).

Sponsored by:

Headline sponsor: Vitality

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

Oxford Instagram Account



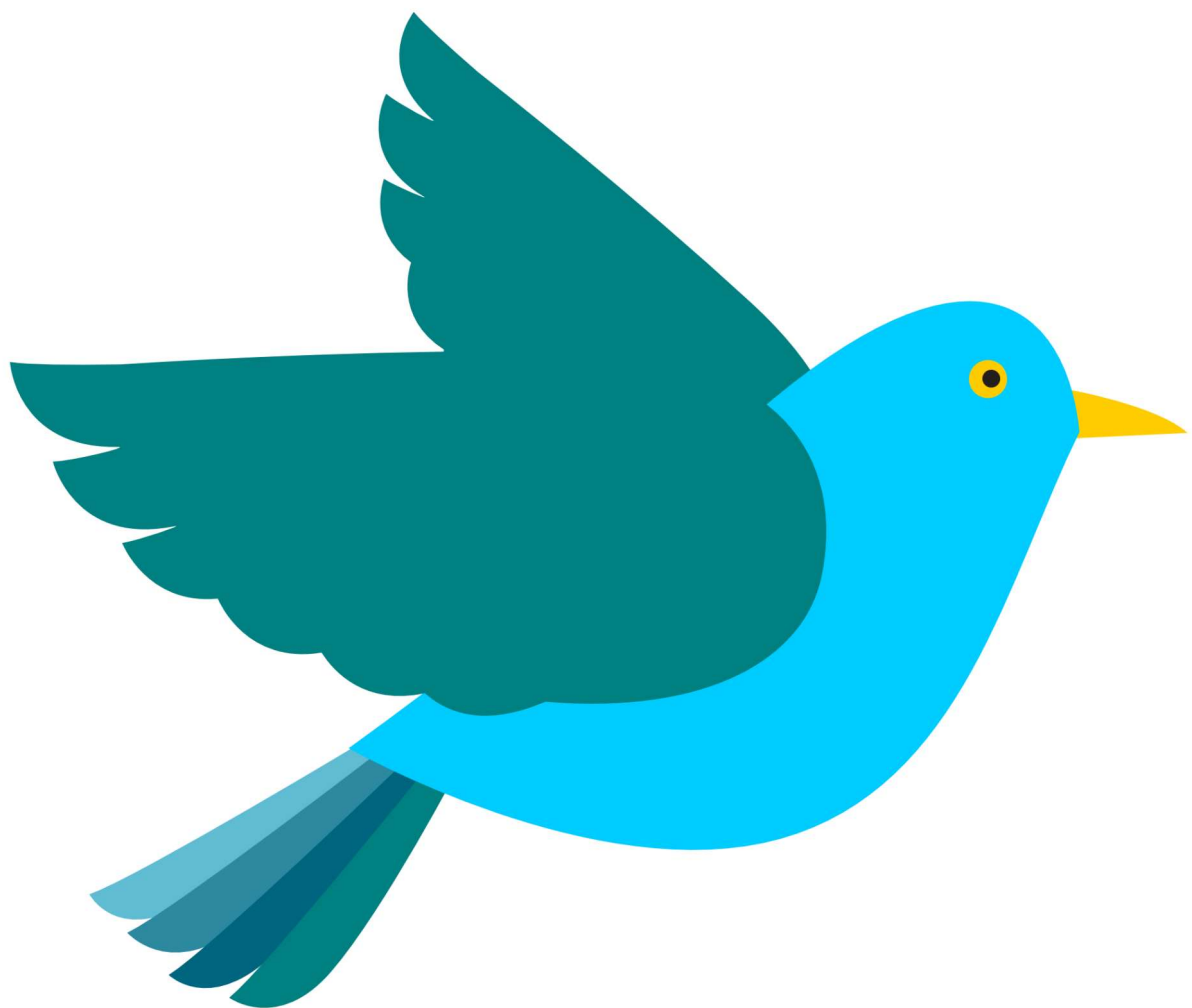
We would love to remind everyone to visit our Instagram page at [Oxford_primary_school](#) where you will find lots of information and pictures regarding all the exciting things we have been doing at school. We regularly post news in the "stories" rather than posts as they can easily become lost in the posts. We have 459 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.

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

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.

