



Otford Primary School-March 2026

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents,

Science week has been productive this week with lots of learning opportunities for the children including visits to Sevenoaks School! Today we have the WonderDome Planterium in school, children from Years 1-6 have been visiting this throughout the day, learning about Earth and Space and finding out so many facts- this has been a great success. Bringing learning to life and exploring through practical exposure has such a positive impact on the children. Our deepest thanks to the PTFA for funding the WonderDome enabling all the children to be able to access this experience today.

We look forward to welcoming parents to school next week for Parent Consultations on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. All of these meetings will be held in the school hall, and once again Clare and her team will be providing food to sample from the Independent Menu- these meals are delicious, and also very nutritious for the children. We hope you find these meetings valuable, teachers will be able to share the next steps for your children.

During some of our Parent Forums groups, Reading has been discussed at length. We are very proud of our reading outcomes which are strong at the end of Year 6 with 86% of children attaining the Expected Standard and 40% of these children last year achieved a Greater Depth Standard. Our aim is of course, for every child to have a life long love for reading which in turns supports development in every other curriculum area. We can only

achieve these results with your help, we recommend that children are heard read at least 4 times a week. This coverage ensures that the semantics of reading are covered- parents can help by assisting with:

- **Decoding Support:** Semantic knowledge assists in reading by helping to decode, particularly with exception words that do not follow regular spelling-sound mappings.
- **Comprehension Booster:** It enhances the reader's ability to grasp the intended message, make inferences, and understand the deeper, often nuanced, meaning behind the words.
- **Active Processing:** Techniques like semantic mapping help readers visualise and organise connections between ideas

In school, we hear as many children read as possible, however our main focus is to teach the key reading skills for each year groups these are taught through our Guided Reading sessions. Please do refer to our Literacy policy if you need anymore information on this. Should you wish to discuss reading further please do during Parent Consultation meetings next week. *Your support with this incredibly important area is highly appreciated. We would also like to mention that we are always looking for Parent Volunteers to help with reading. If you feel you are able to help in this area, and support a year group which is not your own childs , please do let the office know and we will start the process. Our Volunteer policy is also on our website.*

Looking forward to seeing as many parents as possible next week.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mrs H Roberts

Minibus Drivers Wanted for Swimming please!



WE WANT YOU!

Please do reach out if you are able to help with driving the mini bus on a Wednesday morning. This is to transport the children from Otford to St Michael's school for their lessons. Currently we only have two volunteers, so any support would be appreciated! The children are supervised by members of our school team, please let Ms Di Mario know in the office and we can get this ball rolling! Many thanks in advance.

Science Week- The WonderDome has landed!



Year 4AG Trip to St Bart's







4AG Church visit 4.3.26

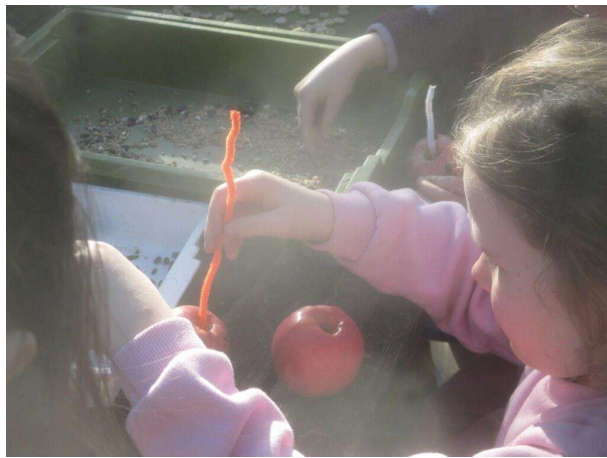
Once Reverend Kelly had explained the significance of Holy Communion (ably assisted by trainee Reverend Sylar), the children lined up respectfully to taste a wafer and a grape before then enjoying a Q&A session all about it. They then learned more about Holy Week through the artwork of the Stations of the Cross before finishing with a cross hunt / sketch. We're looking forward to returning with 4B in Holy Week to learn more about Easter

Year 1-FOREST SCHOOL

We learned about some common UK garden birds - both how they look and sound - and then tried to spot them around the school field. Then, after being shown how to make a birdfeeder, the children got creative making their own versions and had to try to solve any problems themselves - well done to J L(the Jaguar) and D (the Dinosaur) for getting special Otford Values stickers for Courage (for adaptability and perseverance). Most valuably of all, the children also learned the moves to the Birdie Song and were encouraged to challenge their parents to a dance-off!

Mr Grobel





Year R-Chinese New Year, so much learning is taking place from around the world!



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**

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



"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!



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



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](#)

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you know it's EDUCATIONAL

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After School

Book via website

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- ☑ 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



Catering

AROUND THE WORLD BRAZIL MENU

A poster for a Brazil-themed menu. At the top, it says 'INDEPENDENT CATERING | EDUCATER LIMITED'. Below that, 'Around the World' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a heart-shaped outline filled with the Brazilian flag. To the right is an illustration of two children flying a red and yellow airplane over a globe. The word 'BRAZIL' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below that, 'TUESDAY 17 MARCH' and 'MENU' are written in smaller, bold, white letters. The menu items are listed in black text: 'Frango Grelhado com Limão with Arroz Branco (8, 11) (Lemon Chicken and Steamed White Rice)', 'Moqueca de Legumes Vegan (Brazilian Vegetable Stew)', 'Jacket Potato with Choice of Topping', 'Couve Refogada (Sautéed Greens with Carrot)', and 'Bolo de Banana (1,7) (Banana Sponge Cake)'. At the bottom, there are several logos: 'WE ONLY USE' followed by icons for 'FRESH MEAT', 'FRESH FISH', 'FRESH VEGETABLES', 'LOCAL PRODUCE', and 'WORLDWIDE'. To the right of these is the 'freshingredients freshfood' logo.

WHOLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATES

British Science Week 9th March- 13 March

Open Classrooms 10th and 11th March

Year 3 Parent Forum 13th March

Parents Evening 17th & 19th March

Year 5 Parent Forum from 2:30-3pm

Red Nose Day - 20th March

Year 4 Parent Forum - 23rd March from 2:30-3pm

Year 6 Parent Forum - 27th March from 2:30-3pm

Easter Egg Hunt - 1st April

Last day of Term 4 - 2nd April

Term 5 Starts - 20th April

Community Notice Board

SEVENOAKS PRIMARY - WEEK 1

Mon 6 April (BANK HOLIDAY - NO CLUBS)
Tue 7 April EASTER NERF DAY
Wed 8 April CIRCUS SKILLS, BUBBLES & WATER PISTOL PAINTING
Thu 9 April THE BIG WILD EGG DAY
Fri 10 April CAMPFIRE COOKOUT: EASTER TREATS & BUSHCRAFT

SEVENOAKS PRIMARY - WEEK 2

Mon 13 April THE BIG WILD EGG DAY
Tue 14 April CAMPFIRE COOKOUT: EASTER TREATS & BUSHCRAFT
Wed 15 April EASTER NERF DAY
Thu 16 April CIRCUS SKILLS, BUBBLES & WATER PISTOL PAINTING
Fri 17 April THE BIG WILD EGG DAY

CAMPFIRE COOKOUT: EASTER TREATS & BUSHCRAFT
Learn bushcraft firefighting skills, make Mini Egg army hot bridges, toast hot cross buns & marshmallows over the campfire & discover some classic outdoor games. A relaxed, confidence-building day where kids play & explore together, creating core memories in the great outdoors!

EASTER NERF DAY
A high energy day with a playful Easter twist! We'll be capturing the first ever games & challenges. But watch out, the Bunnamator is back & taking away our chocolate eggs! It's all about teamwork, having a go & having plenty of laughs! (Age 6+ recommended)

CIRCUS SKILLS, BUBBLES & WATER PISTOL PAINTING
A colorful day full of movement, creativity & messy fun! Have a go at circus skills like pole juggling & diabolo, & make giant bubbles with your own handmade wands. Then get creative making a big plastic! Plus lots of team games & chances to move, play & have fun together!

THE BIG WILD EGG DAY
Our main Easter-themed day - we'll be setting off on a Spring wilderness scavenger hunt, going on a huge chocolate egg rescue mission (like the bag from the Easter Bunny themselves), & getting creative with our experiments! A truly cracking time for all!

For more info on dates, locations, how the clubs run & to book: theoutdoorsproject.co.uk

MEGA CAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

AGES 4 - 14

EASTER CAMP 2026

SAVE ££'s - CHECK WEBSITE FOR OFFERS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ESSEX, SURREY & KENT

FENCING
KIDS FAVOURITE

WALL CLIMBING

ANIMAL WORKSHOP

PLUS MUCH MORE...

DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND SPORTS AVAILABLE EACH DAY

30TH MARCH - 17TH APRIL
DATES VARY AT EACH LOCATION
VISIT WEBSITE FOR A FULL LIST OF DATES & LOCATIONS

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www.MEGACAMPS.NET
OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR STAFF ARE DBS CHECKED



2026 CAMP DATES

EASTER*
 30TH MAR - 17TH APR



MAY
 26TH MAY - 29TH MAY

SUMMER
 21ST JUL - 28TH AUG

OCTOBER & CHRISTMAS DATES TBC
 Visit: www.megacamps.net
 for your locations exact dates & more details

NERF GAMES & LASER TAG



CAMP HOURS 9am-4pm
EXTENDED HOURS 8am-6pm



SPORTS



ARTS & CRAFTS



INFLATABLE FUN



MAKING MEMORIES

WE ARE RECRUITING!

MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT ESSEX, KENT & SURREY
 FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET



*DATES VARY DEPENDING ON LOCATION



Oxford Methodist Church

TUESDAYS

3.30 - 5pm

Parents & Children

Club dates Terms 3 & 4

Tue 13 Jan

Tue 27 Jan

Tue 10th Feb

Tue 3 Mar

Tue 17 Mar

Tue 31 Mar

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!



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 Hub¹

PTFA UPDATE

🍌 Update from the PTFA 🍌

A Big Thank you to Andrew Preston, Ex School Governor, who has donated £5000 to the PTFA. We are absolutely overwhelmed by this generosity, thank you!

The PTFA is currently seeking a **Social Media Co-ordinator** to join their team. If you're interested in contributing your skills and supporting the PTFA's efforts, your involvement would be greatly appreciated. For further details or to express your interest, please contact ptfa@otford.kent.sch.uk.

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt - 1st April 2026 - 3:15-4.30pm



Tickets are officially on sale now! Hop to it and make sure you pre book by Weds 25th March 2026 for an eggcellent time! We will also have a tearoom in the hall, for hot drinks and lots of yummy cakes and treats for all!

Buy Tickets²

¹<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/finer-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Save the Date

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

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 451 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)³

³https://www.instagram.com/otford_primary_school

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%2Ffe388bc7ea8e1880c18a91c5f5ec1e32f6ca5d2bc.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.

