



SLADE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Newsletter

Term 2, Issue 1

Friday 8 November 2024

Karen Slade : From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone from the half term holiday. I hope that you all had an enjoyable break and are looking forward to the busy term ahead.

Please look out for the first of this years' year group newsletters which will all be dropping into your inboxes on Monday; these are a great opportunity for you to find out more of what your child will be learning throughout this term and offer ways in which you can support your child too. As always, do get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance should you have any queries regarding your child's learning this term.

Looking ahead, next week we are holding the first of our two 'Open Morning' sessions for prospective parents currently looking to choose a school for children who are due to start in September 2025. The sessions are an opportunity to visit our school and hear about the provision on offer here at Slade, followed by time to look around the school to see a typical Wednesday morning in action, with plenty of time to have your queries about life at Slade answered too! If anyone you know is in the process of selecting a school for their child then do please signpost them to our website or they can email the school on admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk for further information.

Also, next week, on Friday, we will be supporting the BBC Children in Need fundraising event where children are invited to leave their uniform at home and wear their own clothes to school, should they wish to do so, and make a small monetary donation to this very worthy cause. Many thanks to our Pupil Council who have organized this event for everyone to enjoy; do read on into the newsletter for more information about the non-uniform day arrangements including how to donate online.

A special mention and thank you to all members of the PTA who have been busily working away behind the scenes in recent weeks in the build up to this evening's annual firework event! There has been an air of anticipation and buzz of excitement around the school today whilst preparations have been underway; thank you for making this happen for all of us to enjoy! There are still some tickets available if you haven't secured yours yet. I look forward to seeing many of you there later; see you on the gate!

Now for some baby news and congratulations to Mrs Emma Potter, Class Teacher, on the arrival of her baby girl Matilda who was born safe and well during the half term break. I am sure that you all join with me in sending best wishes to Emma and her family; we very much look forward to some cuddles with baby Matilda and welcoming her to Slade in the not too distant future.

Finally, some personal news which was also shared in a separate communication to parents and carers earlier today. At the start of this academic year I informed the governors of my intention to retire from headship and to step down from my position as Headteacher of Slade Primary School. I remain in post for the remainder of this academic year with my final day of employment being 31st August 2025. As I shared, it has been both a privilege and honour to have been headteacher at Slade so the decision to resign from my post has not been an easy one to make. However, I believe that the timing is now right for a new headteacher to be appointed to continue to drive the school forward in the coming years.

Have a lovely weekend and see you at the fireworks!

Karen Slade

Diary Dates: Next Week at Slade

Monday 11 November 2024

- Elf Class Forest School
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Tuesday 12 November 2024

- Odd Socks Day (Part of Anti Bullying Week) See Page 8 and 11 for more information
- Pixie Class Forest School
- Hydra Class Swimming
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Wednesday 13 November 2024

- EYFS Application Open Morning. This event is fully booked
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Thursday 14 November 2024

- Phoenix Class Forest School
- Wyvern Class Swimming
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)
- (16:00 - 18:00) Girls Basketball Competition - Participants aware of detail

Friday 15 November 2024

- Children in Need Day (Non Uniform Day) See Page 8 for information and to donate
- Sphinx Class Forest School
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)



Looking further ahead?

Our yearly planner can be found on Page 9 of today's newsletter and online via [the school website](#).

Slade Journal: Around School



This week, we have welcomed Eban to Slade after he joined his new friends in Mrs Hitchcock's EYFS Elmer Class. Eban has settled quickly and we hope that he has enjoyed his first week with us.

Our welcome is of course extended to all of Eban's family, with who we look forward to sharing a long, happy and successful relationship.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in this year's Bikeability programme for the children in Year 6.

All of our 39 participants successfully took part in both Level 1 and 2 of the scheme which teaches good, sensible, lawful and safe bicycle riding in the community as well as basic bicycle maintenance. The course takes in sessions in the school playground as well as on the local roads.

Our thanks to all of the KCC Bikeability team, our old friends Yolanda, Kate, Alan, Louise and Kevin for their instruction and time with the children in Dragon and Griffin Classes. It has been great seeing you again!



We are all looking forward to seeing you back in school later this evening for the PTA Fireworks Night. Gates open at 17:30 with stalls and entertainment ongoing through to the main event: the spectacular fireworks display which starts at 19:00.

There are plenty of treats available for all of the family with music provided by Matt and Mark, the popular Rainbow Raffle, doughnuts, hot dogs and hot chocolate. There will be glow sticks to buy all alongside the Booze Box Bar as well. Cash and card payments are available, but to avoid internet connection problems, please use cash where possible.

Advance tickets have all been distributed, but there will be a limited number available on the door.

Don't miss out, just arrive in plenty of time at the Main Playground Gate to purchase last minute tickets.

Slade Journal: Around School

On Wednesday, we will be hosting the first of our meetings and tours for parents and carers who are considering Slade as a school for their children, starting in the Early Years Foundation Stage Reception Year in September 2025.

We look forward to meeting lots of new faces as the application window to apply for places is now open and remains so until Wednesday 15 January.

Please be aware that we will be particularly busy between 09:00 and 11:30, so you may wish to avoid these times if you need to make a personal visit to school or telephone with a non urgent matter



EYFS Application Tours



Photograph Delivery

On Wednesday, we took delivery of the individual photographs, ordered from the Portrait Days website. The photographs have been distributed and any products ordered within the free delivery window should now be with you at home.

If you have any questions about the delivery, please contact photographer Matthew Walker directly via matt@portraitdays.net.

We are grateful to Matthew for his kind commission contribution to the school, which this year amounted to £564.29.



Remembrance 2024

This week has seen the launch of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, raising money to provide lifelong support to serving and ex serving personnel of the Armed Forces and their families.

With many thanks to Terry Mason from the Royal British Legion and Tracey Arnold from the school office, we have been giving the children and adults at Slade an opportunity to give their donations in return for a poppy or other RBL gift.

Thankyou also to our Year 6 children for being a playground presence and for travelling around the classrooms with the donation pots and choice of gifts.

Mrs Slade will be presiding over our annual Remembrance gathering on Armistice Day, Monday 11 November at 11:00 in the playground, allowing for the children at Slade to mark their respects.

Slade Journal: Around School



School Attendance

Attendance at school remains a key target for everyone at Slade, our Local Authority Kent County Council and the Department for Education in Westminster.

Our attendance to date this year currently stands at 95.7%, compared with 96.4% for the same period last year and 96.1% in the same period in 2022. Our target remains at 97.0%.

Please see below, a useful guide prepared by Kent County Council which details information on parental responsibility for ensuring that their children attend school every day possible and the impact on the children's learning that poor attendance and punctuality will have on them.

Please remember to let us know when your child is going to be absent (either because of an illness or a pre planned absence such as medical appointment or holiday) via our dedicated email box:

attendance@slade.kent.sch.uk.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

You have a legal duty to ensure your child receives a regular education at school or otherwise, which will help give them the best possible chance of success in life.

If your child is of compulsory school age and registered at a school, but absent without good reason, the school may choose to unauthorise any of those days. This could result in the council taking action against you for each child absent, including:

- ⇒ **A fine (known as a penalty notice)***
- ⇒ **Attendance Prosecution through the Magistrates Courts which could lead to a fine of up to £1,000 or a parenting order being issued.**
- ⇒ **An Education Supervision Order (ESO) through the Family Courts.**

*Your child's school may apply for the council to issue a penalty notice to you if:

- ⇒ Your child goes on holiday without the headteacher's permission.
- ⇒ Your child is absent without a suitable explanation, or none is provided or arrives late after the time the register closes.

*You may receive a penalty of **£160** for each child's absence if paid within **28 days**, and reduced to **£80** if paid within **21 days**. However, if a second penalty is issued in a 3 year rolling period the fine is **£160** with no option to pay the reduced rate. A third penalty cannot be issued in the 3 year period and therefore you may face prosecution in the Magistrates Court which could result in a maximum fine of **£1,000**.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Too ill to attend school?

Children can attend school with minor ailments (toothache, headache, stomach ache, cold, sore throat).

If you are unsure how long your child should be absent with an illness speak with your child's school, GP or pharmacist for advice.

Medical Appointments

All routine appointments should be booked outside school hours. Your child's school may request sight of 'medical evidence' (e.g. copy of a prescription, medicine packaging with a label or appointment card). If you are unable to do so the school might unauthorise the absence.

Reporting Absences

It is *your* responsibility to notify school if your child will be absent and should do this every day until they return. If you do not respond or school has other concerns then staff may decide to visit your home in line with its safeguarding policy to check you and your child are ok.

Absence during Term Time

Your child must not be absent from school:

- For day trips / birthdays / holidays
- If weather is bad or are running late
- To care for other family members
- Due to the illness of a parent or sibling

The school will likely authorise an absence only in very exceptional circumstances, such as in the event of a family emergency.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Persistent and Severe Absence

Any child with attendance of 90% or below (regardless of the reason for any absences) is considered to be a persistent absentee by the government. This equates to 2 days off school each month. **Do you know what your child's attendance percentage is?** Any child with attendance of 50% or below is classed as a **severe absentee**.

If your child is persistently or severely absent the school may arrange a meeting with you to find out what is causing this and what is needed make things better. This may result in the creation of a formal **attendance contract** or referrals to services such as **Early Help**.

Punctuality

Arriving late to school is unsettling for your child and can be disruptive to their teacher and other children. It is important your child arrives on time.

If your child arrives late this will be marked as so on the register. If your child arrives very late, this may be logged as unauthorised absence, even if they are in school. Be sure you know the times the school marks pupils as late.

Minutes late per day	Equals days worth of teaching lost per year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days

Slade Journal: Around School



We know that it can sometimes be tricky to decide if your child is well enough to attend school. Coupled with the ongoing difficulty of securing an appointment to see a GP, this can often mean children being absent for longer than necessary, or coming to school when they would be better off at home instead.

You may be interested to know that pharmacies, including our local Paydens Pharmacy at Clark and Coleman (140 High Street, Tonbridge) are able to take a look at a range of conditions and also give good advice to parents about the decision to send the child to school or not.

Pharmacists are qualified to prescribe antibiotics and other prescription only medicine when necessary.

Pharmacy First

- Urinary tract infections in women
- Infected insect bites
- Sinusitis
- Earache
- Sore throat
- Impetigo
- Shingles



The [NHS website](#) has a lot of very good, clear information about all of the common childhood illnesses and what to do if you suspect that your child may have contracted with one of these conditions, including the instruction we follow about whether a child should be in or out of school:

- High Temperature
- Anxiety and Worry
- Coughs and Colds
- Chickenpox
- Cold Sores
- Conjunctivitis
- Covid-19
- Ear Infection
- Hand, Foot and Mouth
- Headlice and Nits
- Impetigo
- Measles
- Ringworm
- Scarlett Fever
- Slapped Cheek
- Sore Throat
- Threadworms
- Vomiting and Diarrhoea

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)



If you have any questions or concerns about Attendance and Punctuality at school, please contact our Family Liaison Officer, [Libby Wilmshurst via flo@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Libby.Wilmshurst@slade.kent.sch.uk) in confidence.

Slade Journal: Around School



Safeguarding Champions

Following the Role Advert that went out at the beginning of Term 1, we were fortunate to have lots of children from Year 5 and 6 apply to become Slade Safeguarding Champions - we all agree that this is fantastic as they want to help keep everyone safe at school.

We are pleased to announce that we have two teams of Champions taken from the applicants in Year 5 and 6:

- o Year 5: Rohan, Arya, Juliet, Sid, Maddy, Mabel, Vinisha, Darcy and Albert,
- o Year 6: Chloe, Benjamin, Lily, Swati, Eliz, Francesca, Izzy, Surina and Isla,

They have already led an assembly to the school introducing themselves and also sharing with the children about their rights to be kept safe. They also spoke about what to do if they ever don't feel safe (talk to a trusted adult) and reminded them of the lanyard system in place at school.

Miss Garrett is very proud of all of the group for the preparation and delivery they put into the assemblies.

This term, each yeargroup will be focusing on a different safeguarding topic with one group leading on Road Safety Week and the other group with Anti-Bullying Week, which is held next week across the country. We will have special age-related lessons throughout the week and the Year 6 Safeguarding Champions will be holding a special assembly as we help to raise awareness of this subject. By the end of the week the aim is for every child to know:

- The definition of 'bullying'
- What 'respect' means and to be able to give examples and/or demonstrate how they show respect
- To know what to do if they think they are being bullied

On Tuesday, we will join with schools across the country in celebrating differences by wearing odd socks for Odd Socks Day! We encourage your child to come to school wearing any kind of odd socks - as we raise awareness of how being different, makes us all the same! There's more on Odd Socks Day on Page 11.



Children in Need 2024

Our Pupil Council are proud and pleased to invite all children at Slade to a Non-Uniform Day next Friday (15 November) the annual BBC Children in Need fundraising and awareness day.

Please feel free to come to school in non-uniform clothing (Pudsey related clothing is welcome but not necessary!)

If you would like to contribute to the nationwide charity fundraising efforts that we are supporting at Slade, please do so by clicking on this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/slade-primary-2024>

Our News: FA Cup Star, Lily

Last Saturday, Tonbridge Angels played in the First Round Proper of the Emirates FA Cup in front of a record attendance at Longmead Stadium of 3,132 excited fans of both our local National League team and their opponents from Harborough Town.

Whilst the result of a 1:4 defeat for Jay Saunders' Angels team was disappointing, the day was memorable for the club for reaching past the qualifying rounds of the world's oldest and best domestic cup competition and for the excitement of the number of supporters interested in this tie. The interest was felt by national media as well, with the TV cameras in attendance and highlights shown on BBC and ITV Television.

The afternoon was even more special for Lily in Year 2 Sprite Class. Lily was chosen to be one of the Tonbridge Angels' mascots for the day. The office team were enthralled to hear Lily's story of the day, especially sports fan Jill Westwood who had seen the match highlights on TV and Finance Officer Yanina Dunton who commented on how she could hear the crowd that afternoon from her home!

Lily told us: 'I was mascot for Tonbridge Angels in their huge cup game last weekend. I loved walking out on to the pitch with the Tonbridge players in front of a very large and noisy crowd. It was great, I was with the tallest player as you can see in my photograph!'

'I was able to walk along the row of players and referee and his assistants for the before match handshakes. Some of the players shook my hand, some gave high-fives and others a fist pump. After we had shaken hands and the players had gone to get ready for kick off, we ran off of the pitch to our seats.

The other mascots on the day were part of my brother's team, Tonbridge Invicta.'

Lily had a great time and was looked after well by the team at Longmead. She does have a secret though, that she was proud to share, 'My favourite teams are actually Bromley and Arsenal, My favourite players are Bakayo Saka and Beth Mead. Saka is captain of my fantasy football team.'

Congratulations to Lily on a marvellous afternoon and thank you to her and her daddy for sharing the story and photographs.



Tonbridge Angels are next in action on Saturday 9 November at high flying Torquay United, whilst their next home games are against Beckenham Town in the Kent Cup on Tuesday 12 November (19:45) and in the National League South versus Hemel Hempstead Town on Saturday 23 November (15:00).

Slade Stats

Attendance

Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days which equates to 380 sessions.

Registration takes place at 08:50 in the morning and after lunch in the afternoon.

Attendance is affected if a pupil is not present at school for any whole session including registration.

The class with the best attendance each week will win Attendance Ted.

Punctuality

Registers are taken at 08:50. If children arrive after this time, they are registered late.

It is important that the children are at school on time every day to prevent disruption and upset to their day and for the rest of their class.

Punctuality Pup is awarded to the class with the best punctuality each week.

Our Attendance Target = 97.0%

Our Attendance This Week = 95.6%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.7%

Punctuality: Number of Late Pupils This Week: 32

Well done to this weeks special Attendance Focus winners:

Attendance Ted: Pegasus Class

99.2% Attendance

Punctuality Pup: Wyvern Class

0 Late

Congratulations to Miss Elliott, Miss Meers Mrs Fordyce and your classes.



Slade Journal: Around School

Odd Socks Day



We'll be wearing our odd socks this Odd Socks Day, will you?

Tuesday 12th November 2024



#AntiBullyingWeek
#OddSocksDay

Find out more about the Anti Bullying Alliance's Odd Socks Day with ABA patron and CBeebies star, Andy Day.

<https://youtu.be/FLoHRqkKi18>

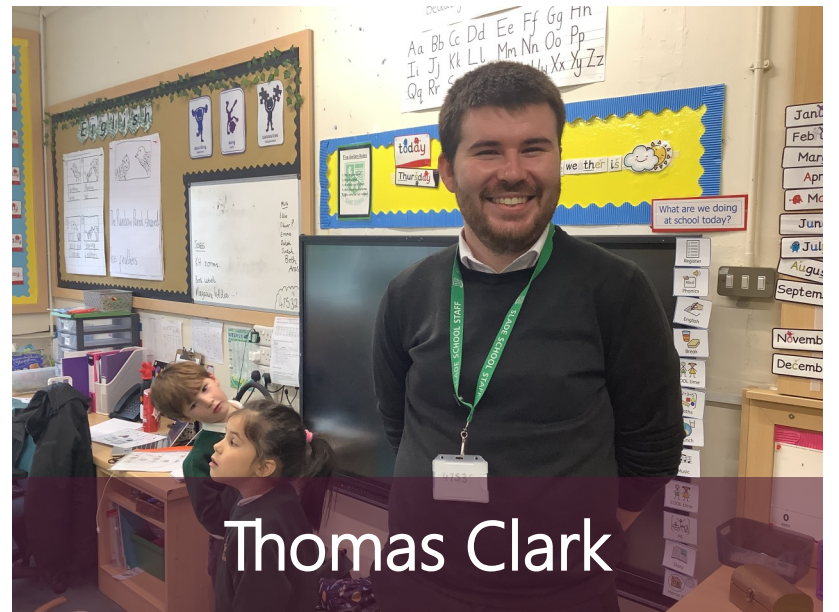
<https://youtu.be/spdoTalkNXs>

For more information about the Anti Bullying Alliance and Anti-Bullying Week, follow this link to the ABA website: [Anti-Bullying Week 2024: Choose Respect](#)

Meet the Team: Classroom Teacher

After starting at Slade as a Teaching Assistant and being inspired by what he saw around him, Thomas Clark made the jump to qualify as a class teacher.

We are incredibly pleased that he decided to join up with the team here and now in his first year as a full time teacher, we caught up with Thomas to find out more about what has led him to the job where is currently having a ball with Pixie Class in Year One.



When did you know that you wanted to be a Primary School Teacher?

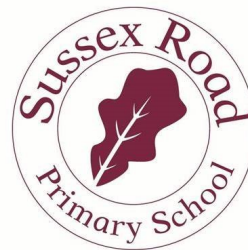
For a long while, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do. One day, and I can't honestly remember why, the thought of teaching struck me and stuck around! I came to Slade in 2018, intending to stay for a single year to confirm that I was heading towards the right career. Well, three years later (!) I forced myself to leave to complete my training, and now I'm back!

What is the best thing about being a teacher?

I love the unpredictability, plus being in the classroom is just fun, and even the hardest days are worthwhile. I can't imagine doing a job in which every day is the same, and waking up each morning looking forward to work is not something I take for granted.

Which school did you go to when you were younger?

Sussex Road for Primary, before moving to Hayesbrook for Secondary and Hillview for Sixth Form.



What was your favourite lesson?

I've always enjoyed English, more so the reading side than writing. I also enjoy learning about History and Science.



If you were not a teacher, what would you like to be?

I can honestly say that, in a realistic world, I can't think of another job I'd rather be doing. But, if forced to change career, I'd love to do something related to film restoration/archiving. Being a Doctor Who fan, I'm fascinated by vintage television and the fact that so much from that period is missing/ does not exist anymore, so to work in a field that gives me direct access and opportunity to encounter rare films would be a dream.

What is your ideal weekend?

I've spent more than the last decade accumulating a collection of thousands of films, so an ideal weekend will absolutely involve them, or a trip to the cinema. Other than that, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, and frequently attend conventions where, speaking of Doctor Who, I have met many of the stars.



We Are Slade: Contacts & Payments

In class

My child's class learning, class activities, lessons, homework or pastoral support; concerns about bullying and behaviour

classname@slade.kent.sch.uk

Absence

Sickness Reporting, Absence Requests and all Medical Appointments

attendance@slade.kent.sch.uk

School Office

General Enquiries and School Events

office@slade.kent.sch.uk

Wraparound

Yeti's Wraparound: Childcare Voucher questions, session cancellations and all General Enquiries

yetis@slade.kent.sch.uk

Sport and Activity

Extra Curricular Activity Clubs (booking and queries) Sports Events and Representative Sports Tournaments

sportsandactivities@slade.kent.sch.uk

Slade PTA

Slade PTA

pta@slade.kent.sch.uk

Admissions

In Year and September EYFS Admissions

admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk

Finance

Childcare Vouchers, Payments for Yeti's and School Meals and School Trips and Special Lessons

finance@slade.kent.sch.uk

School Lunches

Comments and questions about school meal provision from Nourish Contract Catering

jasongibbons@nourishcc.co.uk

Family Liaison

If you would like the services of our Family Liaison Officer, Libby, or just wish to talk over a family issue in confidence

flo@slade.kent.sch.uk

01732 350354 / option 4

Complaints

For all complaints, please refer to the [Complaints Policy](#) then contact us:

slaws@slade.kent.sch.uk

GDPR

Reporting of GDPR Breaches, details of our privacy policy and for Subject Access Requests

slaws@slade.kent.sch.uk

School Dinners

School Dinners provided by Nourish Contract Catering are free to the following groups:

EYFS Classes, Year 1 Classes, Year 2 Classes, EYFS, KS1 and KS2 pupils eligible for benefits related Free School Meals

School Dinners provided to KS2 (Year 3-6) children are charged at £2.55 per meal.

Credit should be loaded onto the Meals section of your Arbor account in advance of a meal being taken.

Yeti's Wraparound Provision (Breakfast and After School Clubs)

Breakfast Club is charged at £5.00 per session After School Club is charged at £5.00 per session:

Session 1 (15:30 - 16:30), Session 2 (16:30 - 17:30)

Payment and Booking should be made via your online Arbor account.

For full information please see our website: [Breakfast and After School Clubs](#)

School Visits, Other Special Events and Swimming Lessons

These payments are all made via your Arbor account. You will receive details of the amount owed and the due date as well as information on the event via email in advance.

Payments

Diary Dates: Looking Ahead

September	October	November
		<p>Wednesday 13 - EYFS25 Open Event</p> <p>Wednesday 20 - EYFS25 Open Event</p>
December	January	February
<p>Tuesday 10 - EYFS Performance</p> <p>Tuesday 10 - Year 1 Performance</p> <p>Wednesday 11 - Year 2 Performance</p> <p>Wednesday 11 - EYFS Performance</p> <p>Thursday 12 - Year 1 Performance</p> <p>Thursday 12 - Year 2 Performance</p> <p>Friday 13 - Christmas Sale, Jumper and Meal</p> <p>Monday 16 - Carols by Candlelight</p> <p>Wednesday 18 - Y5/6 Choir at GLA Trafalgar Square Christmas Event</p>	<p>Monday 6 - First Day of Term 3</p> <p>Thursday 16 - Year 1 Trip: Tunbridge Wells</p>	<p>Monday 3 - Young Voices 2025 (participants aware of detail)</p> <p>Tuesday 11 - Online Safety Day</p> <p>Friday 14 - Last Day of Term 3</p> <p>Monday 24 - First Day of Term 4</p>
March	April	May
<p>Tuesday 4 - EYFS Trip: Godstone Farm</p> <p>Thursday 6 - World Book Day</p> <p>Friday 21 - Year 4 Trip: Mountfitchet</p> <p>Tuesday 25 - Parent Teacher Consultations</p> <p>Thursday 27 - Parent Teacher Consultations</p>	<p>Tuesday 1 - Summer Concert</p> <p>Friday 4 - Last Day of Term 4</p> <p>Tuesday 22 - First Day of Term 5</p>	<p>Friday 2 - Year 3 Trip: Leavesden</p> <p>Friday 9 - Year 5 Trip: Herstmonceux</p> <p>Monday 12 - Thursday 15 - KS2 (Year 6) Statutory Assessment Tests</p> <p>Thursday 15 - Secondary School Information Evening for Year 5 parents</p> <p>Friday 23 - Last Day of Term 5</p>
June	July	
<p>Monday 2 - First Day of Term 6</p> <p>Year 2 Trip: Maidstone</p> <p>Tuesday 17 - Open Evening</p> <p>Thursday 19 - Sports Day</p> <p>Sunday 22 to Wednesday 25 - Year 6 Residential (Kingswood, Ashford)</p>	<p>Thursday 3 - Next Year Transition Day</p> <p>Tuesday 15 - Year 6 Production</p> <p>Thursday 17 - Year 6 Production</p> <p>Friday 18 - Last Day of Term 6</p>	

More information about these events will appear nearer the time.

Events and dates are subject to change

Additional events will be posted here throughout the year

2024/25 Term Dates

Changes and additions to the diary from last week's calendar are written in red for ease of reference