



# SLADE

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Newsletter

Term 2, Issue 3

Friday 22 November

# Karen Slade : From the Headteacher

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

What a chilly week it's been; I do hope that you've all been managing to stay warm and cozy!

This week has seen us say a couple of goodbyes to two members of our staffing team as they each start out on their own new and exciting adventures away from school. Firstly, we said goodbye on Wednesday to Amie Riseborough, Learning Support Assistant, who is leaving Slade to start her own learning journey and pursue her lifelong passion of training to be a nurse. All good wishes to you Amie at the start of your next new chapter! We look forward to hearing of how the studying goes!

In addition, we also said good bye and good luck on Wednesday to Natalie Hooper, Midday Supervisor in Elmer Class, who is leaving us temporarily to start her maternity leave! I'm sure that you all join with me in sending our good wishes to Natalie and her family at this very exciting time as they await their new arrival, due in the coming weeks. Watch this space for pending baby news and updates!

Wednesday really was a busy day as we also held the final Open Morning of the year during which we welcomed prospective parents who are currently looking to choose a school for children who are due to start in September 2025. The morning was another opportunity for our visitors to hear about the provision on offer here at Slade followed by time to explore and see a typical Wednesday morning in action! It was lovely once again to receive so much positive feedback from our visitors about our fabulous children! A huge thank you to all involved in this event. Due to popular demand for tours, we will be holding an additional session in January for anyone who was unable to book a place this time around; please do share this information with anyone you know who would be interested to attend.

Many of you I know will already be planning ahead for Christmas and beginning the task of writing Christmas cards with your children. A reminder once again that whilst we love a 'real life' opportunity for the children to practise their writing skills we are also mindful of the cost involved in sending cards, not to mention the environmental impact that card sending can have too; 420 children each writing just a handful of cards is a lot of paper and card! Therefore, in order to try to reduce both cost and paper waste, we will once again be encouraging children to either send a virtual card to their class via the class email address or alternatively to send one card to the class which can then be shared and displayed in the classroom. Thank you for considering these options with your children before operation Christmas card writing gets under way!

A reminder that the school gates are closed promptly at 8.50 each morning by which time all children need to be on school site, heading to class in time for their morning registration and getting ready to learn. If your child arrives at school after 8.50 then access to the school site is from the main car park entrance where your child's attendance will be registered at the side gate by either myself, Miss Garrett or Mrs. Wilmshurst (FLO). It is really important that all children are at school on time every day in order that they don't miss out on those vital first minutes of lessons at the start of each morning. Many thanks for your help and support in getting your children here and ready to learn on time.

And finally, congratulations to Mrs. Lipman (Griffin Class Teacher) who has asked me to now share her pregnancy news with the wider Slade community! Huge congratulations to you Helen and to your family from us all. We look forward to welcoming your new addition in the Spring!

**Have a lovely weekend everyone.**

**Karen Slade**

# Diary Dates: Next Week at Slade

## Monday 25 November 2024

- Wyvern Class Cooking Experience at Tonbridge School
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

## Tuesday 26 November 2024

- Wyvern Class Forest School
- Griffin Class Swimming - This is the first session. Please make sure consent and payment has been made via your Arbor Account.
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

## Wednesday 27 November 2024

- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

## Thursday 28 November 2024

- Hydra Class Forest School - This is a date alteration (previous email refers)
- Dragon Class Swimming - This is the first session. Please make sure consent and payment has been made via your Arbor Account.
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

## Friday 29 November 2024

- Gnome Class Forest School
- PTA Donation Day - Jumpers and Gifts (See Page 11)
- [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 year our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children will again be putting on a show for their families this festive time. Ticket information will appear next week with two tickets per family available for each of the two shows. The dates of the performances are listed on the last page of today's newsletter.

The EYFS children will be acting out the traditional Nativity, Year 1 are performing a concert with a wide range of Christmas Favourites on the playlist and Year 2 are putting together a special show: Lights, Camel, Action!

We are running a workshop later on in the term which will see some children being tasked with sorting faces from magazines and newspapers into the different Zones of Regulation which are used in school.

To assist with this, we would be really grateful for any used and ready to be recycled newspapers or magazines that would be appropriate to use with the children (For example: Children's magazines but not comics, TV times, Hello magazine etc.) so that we have a variety of pictures to use.

If you have anything at home that would otherwise be thrown away and you think it may be appropriate, please bring them to the school office whenever you are passing.



In total, we have entertained over 150 families over the last two Wednesday mornings. They are preparing their applications for starting primary school in September 2025.

If you have, or know someone who has a child born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, an application to start primary school in EYFS Reception Year must be made before 15 January via the KCC online service, available here: [Apply for a Primary School Place](#).

It is important to remember that if you have a sibling family connection in school already, you still need to make an application in the same way.

It helps us greatly if you could inform us if you make a sibling application for Slade to join any older brother or sister currently in EYFS Year R through to Year 5. Please email us once an application has been made via [admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk).

Children currently in Year 6 are not eligible under the Sibling and Family Connection criteria as they will not be attending the same school in September.



# Focus on Year 6



This week, Year 6 have been learning about different aspects of World War 2.

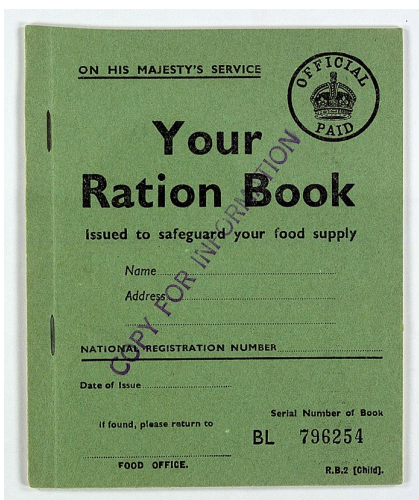
They began by finding out about key events of one of the darkest periods in European history.

They continued by learning the key places and people from WWII which was assisted by the making of their own timeline running from the year 1939 to 1945 and also a map which helped them remember the location of each of the countries on our continent and their role in the conflict.

The children in both Griffin and Dragon Classes have had a chance to learn in groups and share their knowledge (both that already known and also the new information learnt this week) with each other so that they all finish the week with a good foundation of facts about this important time in world history. They investigated the reasons for the start of WWII, which included learning more about the First World War and the interwar years including the rise of power of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party in Germany.

Propaganda was used to influence the public in different ways; it was often displayed on the streets or on leaflets. The leaflets were even sometimes dropped from enemy aircraft to try and alter the opinion of the local people!

The children in Year 6 learnt the meaning of the word propaganda and its context to the material created in the war, before looking at many posters displayed in both Britain and Germany at the time and also had a go at designing their own examples.



The classes have also been taking a special interest in how the war affected people across Britain and right here in Tonbridge. They have gathered facts about the evacuation of children from large towns to the rural areas of the country and they have used infographics to show their learning. They found out about the many roles for those not already in the army, navy or air force. One of the largest topics was that of Rationing. It surprised many of the children that it wasn't just food that was rationed - but also clothes! They came to the conclusion that Rationing was needed, however it was also difficult and miserable. Swati in Griffin Class told us that Rationing did, 'mean that ordinary people knew that they were contributing to the war effort.'

They took a look at a Rationing Book and the quantities each family was allowed. To try to replicate some wartime cooking, Griffin and Dragon Classes all took to the kitchen to bake some scones using the ingredients from a wartime recipe.

Surina also shared her learning by showing empathy with the people affected, 'The people in England had to put up with horrible conditions for a long time - during and after the war, with food shortages and fear, while the people of Germany had their country split into two very different places, where life was especially hard for those placed in the East.'

If you have a child in Year 6, do ask them about this week of special learning.

# Slade Journal: Around School

## Fostering in Kent



This week, we spoke with Liz Bailey who fronts the team at Kent County Council who look after parents and carers who are considering becoming Foster Carers in the county.

Liz told us that, 'Kent Fostering and Supported Homes are looking for new carers and hosts to join our outstanding fostering community in helping to care for some of Kent's most vulnerable children and young people.'

Liz continued by offering advice to any family who may have thought about, or have started to think about playing a part in this more than rewarding role, she said, 'If you'd like to find out more please take a look at our website where you can watch [this short film](#) which we hope will inspire you to think about fostering with us. It's never too late to give a child a second chance to shine, become the person they can be, and make a difference. Thankyou to anyone in the Slade community who is considering becoming a Foster Carer.'

For more information please give Liz's team a call on 03000 420 002, fill in their [online enquiry form](#) or sign up to the [mailing list](#).'



[The Fostering Kent team are hosting an online information meeting on Tuesday 10 December at 19:00.](#)

[To find out more and to receive your invite, please click anywhere here.](#)

A couple of reminders for all parents and carers of children in Year 6.

Firstly, next week sees both Griffin and Dragon begin their swimming lessons at Tonbridge Pool. We still require consent to be given and payment made for nearly a third of the yeargroup. If you have not provided consent and payment for these lessons, please make sure this is done over the weekend. Children will not be able to travel to the pool and take part in these lessons if consent has not been provided.

Also, a small number of parents are yet to have chosen and ordered their Leavers Hoodie. We are very grateful to the group of parents who are organising the hoodies and other events closer to the summer. Parents who have not yet made an order should be aware that the hard deadline for doing so is this weekend: Sunday 24 November. Orders can be made via this link: [Slade Primary School 2025 Leavers](#).



# Our News: Playing The Right Notes



We are very proud of our musical achievements at Slade and are looking forward to our Choir events coming up at Christmas and in the New Year.

Two of our pupils have had individual highlights to share recently and have been speaking to the newsletter this week.

## Music Magic

Congratulations to Alice and Arthur on your successes and thank you to you and your family for sharing your stories.

Alice is learning to play the ukulele with our friends at Music Station.

Due to her progress in playing the popular instrument, Alice was invited to take part in a Jam session at The Royal Oak on Shipbourne Road last weekend.

There was a packed out crowd in that evening as you would expect and they were excited to hear the live music.

We spoke to Alice about her experience.

'I had a great time playing in The Royal Oak, it was fantastic playing in front of an audience, especially when they all clapped wildly at the end of my playing.'

'I played Demons by Imagine Dragons which went really well.'

Alice received the invitation as she is working well towards her Grade 1 exam and wanted to showcase her efforts. Making her debut appearance Alice was a little nervous but had her Music Station tutor, Jon Hunter, by her side to assist. 'I like learning with Jon, he helps me a lot. He is teaching me Knocking on Heaven's Door now, which is a bit more of a challenge but I enjoy it.' And Alice's future ambitions? 'I want to learn to play the guitar next, which I will look forward to!'

Congratulations, Alice; it sounds like a great evening!



Meanwhile, many congratulations are due to Arthur in Phoenix Class who this summer participated in the Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival earning rave reviews.

Arthur also took the ABRSM Grade 5 Practical Exam, earning a Merit in both.

This was his first time taking a face-to-face music exam, and he worked incredibly hard, dedicating a lot of time to practicing scales, sight-reading, aural tests, and his three pieces. You will be able to see the pride in his performance beaming from his smile in the picture (left)

Arthur has recently joined Mrs Stephen's school choir, which has greatly helped him improve his aural skills.

We look forward to hearing more about a young star in the making!

# Sport, Fitness and Wellbeing



Climbing Experience

On Tuesday afternoon, Wendy Ball took a small group of children to the Tunbridge Wells based Chimera Climbing for an afternoon on the climbing and activity walls.

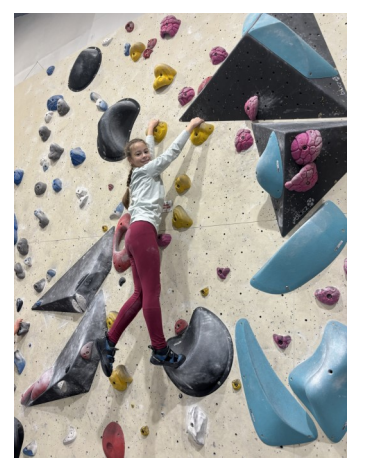
The children had a great time, earned by their effort and application in class, and took their opportunity with open arms!

We were grateful to Emily and Immy who spoke to us about their time at Chimera.

For Immy it was her first time visiting a climbing wall: 'I really enjoyed going to the climbing centre and having a go at the different walls. At first I looked up at the biggest wall and thought, how am I going to get up there?! However I was really proud when I did!'

Emily remembered a handy hint on how to scale the wall successfully, 'I have been up a climbing wall before and a good thing to remember is to look for the bigger 'holds' as you go up - they offer more grip.'

Emily also recalled how she felt when she did reach the top, 'I was scared when I got to the very top because when you get there, you have to clamber over the peak before going down the other side, which isn't too bad as it is a gentle slope there, but you are very high up at the top. I was very happy to be able to do the challenge with no problems!' Immy knew what she was looking for, 'It was not easy to get across the top, but when I got to the top, you came down some stairs, and then there was a café there, so a great reward!'



Thanks to Emily and Immy for sharing their stories of the afternoon at Chimera on Tuesday

We had two teams representing Slade in the National League Trust U11 Cup at Longmead on Thursday. The teams came a creditable 5th and 11th out of 31 teams from across the Mid and West Kent area.

The teams actually only lost three games between them, but due to the increased team format this year, that still didn't allow them to progress past the Quarter Finals stage.

Mrs Ball was very pleased with the effort of both teams, 'I was so gutted for them as the performances were there and the immense improvement by all of the players from last year was noticeable. We have to say it was one of those, and we go again in the League, which we are looking forward to competing in again.'



VNL Mixed Football

# 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 = 94.6%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.6%

Punctuality: Number of Late Pupils This Week: 63

This was a new record for the number of late children in one week.

Well done however, to Attendance Ted winners, Griffin Class.

Congratulations to Mrs Lipman and her Year 6 Class.



# Slade Journal: Around School



Miss Hall, Forest School Leader is running our new Green Rangers - a group of Year 5 and 6 children who will be advocating all things environmental through the year.

This interesting and varied role is open to all children in Year 5 and 6 to apply for, with the key duties highlighted in the Job Description and Commitment Information below.

If your child is interested, just ask them to write a letter to Miss Hall explaining why they would like to be a Ranger! Application letters should be handed to Miss Hall or the school office if you cannot find her before 1 December.

## Slade School Green Rangers (Year 5 and 6)

### Job description

- Forest School ambassadors (showing parents around our outdoor learning environment on open days/evenings)
- Work towards the Young Foresters Award
- Conservation and biodiversity in Forest School
- Allotment (planting, growing and maintaining)
- Plant and weed pots around the school
- Work with the younger children on nature based projects
- Recycling around the school
- Help to reduce our carbon footprint
- Raise awareness of environmental issues (making posters/leading assemblies)

**Commitment** – some lunch times and some early mornings during the summer months to keep the allotment watered – 8:30am start.



If you are interested:

- 1) Write a letter explaining why you would like to be a Green Ranger.
- 1) Hand in to Miss Hall by 1<sup>st</sup> December

News and Events from the PTA

# Christmas at Slade

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE**

Friday 29 November

**SLADE'S 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Wednesday 4 December

**CHRISTMAS SALE**

Friday 13 December

*Donation Days*

**Friday 22 November - Jumpers & Gifts**

**Friday 29 November - Jumpers & Gifts**

**Friday 6 December - Gifts**

Christmas jumpers in good condition.

Wrapping paper; Small new or nearly new gifts for siblings and grown ups: toiletries, games, socks, sweet treats. Please no DVDs, CDs or Jewellery.

[See email for further details.](#)

# In Our Community

We are very grateful to Martin and Jackie Clews at Stonepitts Farm for again supporting the school this winter.

As in previous years, the local, friendly family run farm providing delicious PYO strawberries, raspberries and music event's during the summer and Christmas trees, wreaths & festive good cheer in the winter, would once again like to offer a £2.00 donation to Slade for every Christmas tree bought by anyone who can show the staff at the farm a copy of this article from the newsletter.

For full details of everything that goes on at Stonepitts and how to get there can be found on their website: [www.stonepitts.com](http://www.stonepitts.com).

Stonepitts also make a donation per tree sold to various charities. This year they will again be supporting Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

**Stonepitts Farm know their trees!**

From today, the shop is open 7 days a week between 09:00 and 16:00.

Their farmyard will be stocked with Premium Grade Nordmann "low needle-drop" Christmas trees, holly wreaths, mistletoe, tree stands and general good Christmas cheer.

The helpful staff will assist in netting your chosen tree either for you to take home or for delivery at reasonable cost. The picturesque site has easy access and good car parking.

## Delivery

If you can't make it to the yard there is an online order and delivery service. Please be sure to check carefully [where delivery can be made to](#) before ordering. If you are outside of this area but would like a delivery please call Stonepitts on **07977 487277** before ordering your tree online.

The team will make deliveries on the following dates: 22nd, 25th, 29th Nov, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 9th, 13th, 16th, 20th Dec and your Christmas tree will be added to the date following the day of your order

Tree Variety On Offer - Nordmann Fir (Abies nordmanniana)

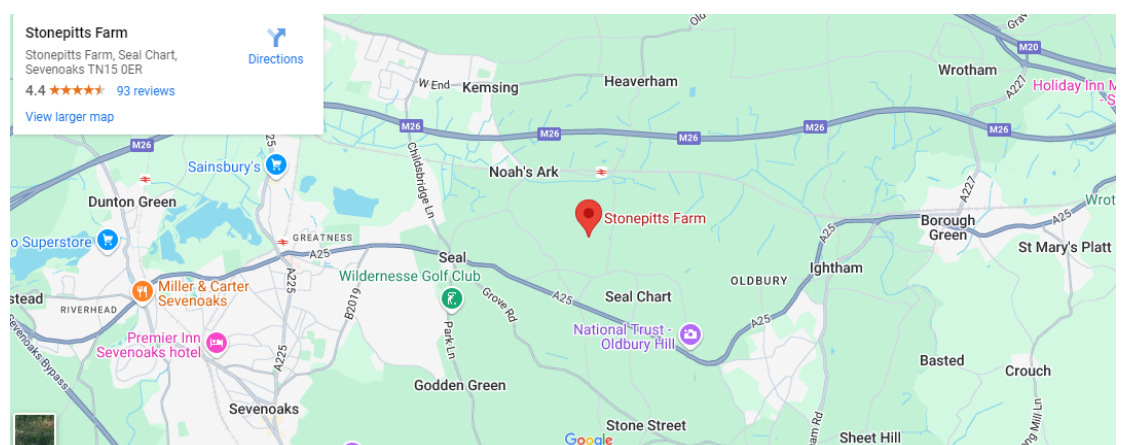
The Nordmann Fir was first introduced to Britain in 1848 and is now the most popular Christmas Tree in the UK. It is a high quality non-drop fir tree ideal for decorating your home this Christmas, retaining its needles and with a lush glossy green leaf having a silver colour under branch.

The tree also gives off a fragrant forest aroma.

Source: [www.stonepitts.com](http://www.stonepitts.com).



**Demelza**  
Hospice Care for Children



# 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](mailto:classname@slade.kent.sch.uk)

Absence

Sickness Reporting, Absence Requests and all Medical Appointments

[attendance@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@slade.kent.sch.uk)

School Office

General Enquiries and School Events

[office@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@slade.kent.sch.uk)

Wraparound

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

[yetis@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sportsandactivities@slade.kent.sch.uk)

Slade PTA

Slade PTA

[pta@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:pta@slade.kent.sch.uk)

Admissions

In Year and September EYFS Admissions

[admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:finance@slade.kent.sch.uk)

School Lunches

Comments and questions about school meal provision from Nourish Contract Catering

[jasongibbons@nourishcc.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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> <p>Friday 29 - Year 3 Parent Maths Workshop</p>
December	January	February
<p>Tuesday 10 - EYFS Performance (09:30)</p> <p>Tuesday 10 - Year 1 Performance (14:00)</p> <p>Wednesday 11 - Year 2 Performance (09:30)</p> <p>Wednesday 11 - EYFS Performance (14:00)</p> <p>Thursday 12 - Year 1 Performance (09:30)</p> <p>Thursday 12 - Year 2 Performance (14:00)</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>Thursday 19 - Last Day of Term 2</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*