



# SLADE

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### In this issue:

02: From the Headteacher

03: Diary Dates for Next Week

04: Around School

05: Around School

06: Around School

07: Music

08: Sport, Fitness and Wellbeing

09: Slade Stats

10: Christmas at Slade

11: PTA News

12: In Our Community

13: We Are Slade - Contacts and Payments

14: Looking Ahead

School Newsletter

Term 2, Issue 6

Friday 13 December 2024

# Karen Slade : From the Headteacher

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

What a festive time we have all had this week!

Massive congratulations and well done to all the children and staff involved in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 productions that were performed throughout this week. The acting, singing, dancing, signing and narrating were all absolutely fabulous and I know that everyone who came to watch left feeling thoroughly Christmassy! Special thanks also to Councilor Steve Hammond, Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, who gave up time in his busy schedule to come and enjoy the Year 2 show! We hope that everyone who came throughout the week all enjoyed the children's performances as much as we all did! Well done and thank you children, we are all very proud of each and every one of you!

Christmas well and truly arrived today at Slade with children and staff all looking very festive in their Christmas jumpers and outfits as we all enjoyed the Christmas Sale and our Christmas Lunch. A huge thank you to all our parent helpers who have been busy in school these past weeks organising the fabulous sale which the children all thoroughly enjoyed this morning. Your help in making Christmas such a special time here at Slade is very much appreciated. Thank you too to our cook Kirsty and her amazing catering team for producing such a fabulous feast for us all at lunchtime today. Delicious!

For children who were absent today and missed the Christmas Sale then there is still an opportunity for you to carry out your Christmas shopping here in school on Monday! Huge thanks to Mrs Wilmshurst, Family Liaison Officer, who will be setting up a stall of gifts within her office for you to select and buy your presents. Do look out for your invitation to come along to the extra sale session.

Still with Christmas and looking ahead, our Key Stage 2 choir will be out and about next week spreading their Christmas cheer further afield as they enjoy their much sought-after slot singing Christmas carols and songs around the tree in Trafalgar Square! The children will be entertaining all passers-by with their singing during a 45-minute window starting at 4pm whilst shaking their collection buckets (and QR codes!) with the aim of raising funds on behalf of our PTA. Do drop by and have a listen if you're passing through that way on Wednesday. I look forward to seeing you there, joining in the fun!

A special mention to Milo, Veeraj, Harry and Swati in Year 6 who earlier this week entered the Invicta Maths Challenge competition at Invicta Grammar School Maidstone. Huge congratulations to the team for coming runners up in the competition, for the second year in succession, and for representing the school so splendidly too. Do read on into the newsletter to find out more! Still with Maths, I am looking forward to revealing in assembly on Monday the winners of this month's Times Tables Rock Stars competition. As previously shared, winners will be rewarded for all of their hard work in learning their times tables with a Christmas movie afternoon next Tuesday! Look out for the names of the winners in next week's final newsletter of the year which will be dropping into your inboxes next Thursday.

Finally, many thanks to parents who have already responded to the Wraparound survey that is currently open, seeking your feedback regarding the timings of provision at Yetis particularly regarding extending the current finishing time. The survey will be closing at the start of Term 3 so I would encourage you all to take a look and share your thoughts if you can! Thank you.

**Have a lovely weekend everyone.**

**Karen Slade**

# Diary Dates: Next Week at Slade

## Monday 16 December 2024

- 12 days of Christmas Draw at 7:15. [Click here for a chance to win!](#)
- Sphinx Class Forest School - inside activities, no kits required
- 14:00 - Whole School Assembly at Tonbridge School (Children only)
- Extra Curricular Clubs: No School Run Clubs, For Independent Club details, check with club providers
- From 18:00 Carols by Candlelight (See Page 4) Performers should report to their teacher in the Church by 18:25

## Tuesday 17 December 2024

- 12 days of Christmas Draw at 7:15. [Click here for a chance to win!](#)
- Pegasus Class Forest School
- Griffin Class Swimming
- Extra Curricular Clubs: No School Run Clubs, For Independent Club details, check with club providers

## Wednesday 18 December 2024

- 12 days of Christmas Draw at 7:15. [Click here for a chance to win!](#)
- Year 6 Intra School Football at Tonbridge School
- Mrs Stephens' KS2 Choir at Trafalgar Square GLA Carol Singing Event. (Details known to participants)
- Extra Curricular Clubs: No School Run Clubs, For Independent Club details, check with club providers

## Thursday 19 December 2024

- 12 days of Christmas Draw at 7:15.
- Hippogriff Class Forest School
- Extra Curricular Clubs: No School Run Clubs, For Independent Club details, check with club providers
- **Last Day of Term 3**

## Friday 20 December 2024

- **School Closed to all pupils**



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 said welcome to Slade to both Gabriel and Raphael who have joined us in Year 6 and Year 3.

The brothers have both settled very quickly and we hope they have enjoyed their first few days with Mrs Lipman, Mr Louth and their new friends.

Our welcome to the school is extended to Gabriel and Raphael's family, with who we look forward to a long, happy and successful relationship.

Our range of before, during and after school Activity Clubs have again proved very successful with bookings going well for Term 3. The timetable can be found online and [here](#). From our school run Free Clubs, there are still spaces left on the following:

Year 4-6 Choir, KS2 Signing Choir, KS2 Sports and Year 4-6 Sports. There is very limited space left on Year 2 and 3 Sports and the Year 2-4 Choir.

Bookings for these clubs must be made via your Arbor account.



A final reminder that there is one more change of menu to contend with next week.

For the last day of term (Thursday 19 December) Kirsty and her team in the Nourish Kitchen will be serving an end of the week meal, which will be:

- Option 1 Meat Sausages with Chips
- Option 2 Quorn Sausages with Chips
- Baked Potato

As we head towards the holiday, please make sure that all meal balances are in credit or a zero balance, with no accounts in debt (negative balance).

Musical talents from across Slade will be performing at the Church of St Peter and St Paul on Monday evening. The concert will feature both Key Stage Choirs led by Mrs Stephens and Mrs Ball, Mrs Martin's Signing Choir as well as children from Year 6 who will be reading the Christmas story and poetry. We are thrilled to say that Nancy Bishop's Musical Theatre Club will also be showcasing their Christmas show!

The concert starts at 18:30 with doors of the Church open at 18:00. The PTA will be serving mince pies and mulled wine at this time as the perfect warm up before the traditionally beautiful musical evening of lots of talents from Slade. All are welcome, with no booking required.



# Slade Journal: Around School



This term has seen record numbers of children using our Yeti's Breakfast and After School Wraparound provision, with After School Club regularly reaching capacity during the middle days of the week. Thankyou to all of our Yeti's customers, the team including Sharon, Lynn, Mercedes and Louise wish you and all of the children a very happy Christmas break.

They look forward to seeing everyone again in January. Booking to secure places at Breakfast and After School Clubs opens at 11:00 on Monday 16 December. Booking is made via the Clubs section of your Arbor account. For new customers or as reminder on how to book, including the use of Childcare Vouchers to pay for sessions can be found on our website under the Parents Tab, and by clicking on the link below:

[Yeti's Wraparound at Slade](#)



Miss Garrett is opening a consultation with parents about their use of Wraparound, both now and in the future. In particular the school are interested in your view of the hours that the wraparound provision is open. To inform this consultation, we have a quick form that we ask parents, especially those who use Yeti's, to complete which can be found in the link below. Miss Garrett says, 'We are currently reviewing our opening hours for wrap around care. We would be interested in hearing the thoughts of our school community to help with our planning so please complete the questions below by Monday 6th January at 6pm.'

[Yetis Opening Hours Consultation Form](#)

We have introduced a new method of cancelling sessions at Yeti's whilst we wait for Arbor to upgrade the system to allow parents to do this function themselves.

For all cancellations you wish to make in Term 3, we ask that you complete our new form, which can be found [here](#), on the Wraparound section of our website, on display at the drop off and collection door and under the QR Code (right). The form will be seen by afternoon Finance and Admin Assistant, Yanina Dunton. You will be provided with an acknowledgement by Yanina within 1 working day of your request.

We will only be able to receive a total of seven such requests per term per child, so please be mindful of not 'block booking' sessions and to make sure that all other activity clubs you intend to attend have been booked up in advance.

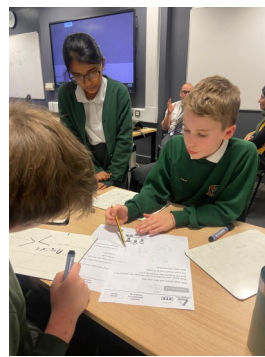
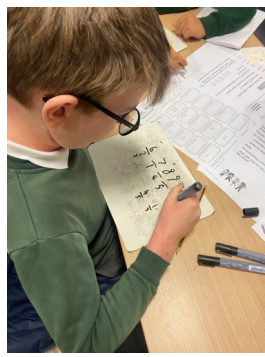


# Slade Journal: Around School

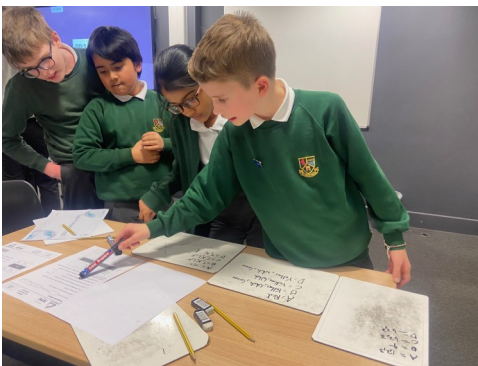


On Wednesday, Mrs Duffin and Mrs Buckland attended the Invicta Maths Challenge with a team of four talented mathematicians from Year 6.

The challenge is held each year at the Maidstone school, and is a chance for local primary schools to compete and stretch their maths knowledge and skills at a time when the children themselves are preparing for starting Secondary School.



Mr Duffin was particularly impressed with the great team work that Harry, Veeraj, Swati and Milo showed - as can be evidenced from our photographs, their excellent problem solving skills and his praise was echoed by the teachers at Invicta who were very impressed with how the Slade team solved the trickier problems by setting their work out well and using all of the resources available.

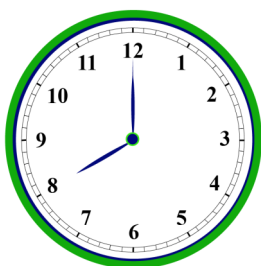


Overall, Slade came second out of all of the competing schools which included primary and independent schools, and behind only our friends from Allington Primary from Maidstone.

Many congratulations to Harry, Veeraj, Swati and Milo and well done for representing yourselves and Slade so well!

Here's a couple of the questions the teams faced for you to try at home!

1. **How many times from 2am to 11am, is the hour hand on an analogue clock at right angles to the minute hand?**



2. **Use these numbers once to make the target. You can use these symbols as many times as you want:**



**7, 12, 15, 16, 55 and 95 to make: 14**

**1, 6, 8, 8, 10 and 30 to make: 100**

**5, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 8 to make: 1001**

We will have the answers for you next week.

One of our Maths Stars, Milo from Griffin Class, wrote this piece to describe how he saw the event at Invicta Grammar School:

The maths challenge was super fun although it was quite stressful as there was a timer. We competed against 10 other schools and we managed to come joint second which we were all quite surprised about. Most of the time it was about working as a team and our maths problem solving skills.

If your daughter is in Year 4 or 5, and she is looking for different schools to consider for her Secondary School choices, keep an eye out on the Invicta website [Welcome to Invicta Grammar School](#) for open events and taster sessions.

# Christmas at Slade 2024



It has been showtime all week at Slade and we would like to pass on our thanks to every friend and relative who has passed through our doors to watch their children making memories on stage.

We all hope you enjoyed the performances.



Our youngest learners in Elmer and Gruffalo Classes performed a traditional Christmas Story Nativity. The twenty minute performance showed the Christian belief of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem on a donkey before finding that there was nowhere to stay. Their baby, Jesus, was born in a stable surrounded by angels, shepherds and the Three Wise Kings amongst a plethora of animals sheltering there themselves.

Pixie and Elf Classes have had a ball learning, practising and performing their selection of Christmas hits.

The playlist, which ran to over 30 minutes of material, included Merry Christmas Everyone, Jingle Bells, Rocking Around the Christmas Tree, Slade's Merry Xmas Everybody, Feliz Navidad and All I Want for Christmas Is You amongst many others.

The whole show was a rocking success with the cheers at the end heard across the main building!



# Christmas at Slade



The Bethlehem Broadcasting Company in partnership with Gnome and Sprite Productions have produced a dazzling dance show to celebrate the special occasion of Jesus' birth. The cast, jam-packed with nativity celebrities from funky camels to a disco star, who've come together to recall their roles in the Christmas story.

The audience assembled this week for Year 2's special show: *Lights, Camel, Action!* The traditional tale, with extra pizzazz!



The productions would not have been such a rousing success this week without the support of the teaching teams in school and of course the parents who have provided outfits and rehearsal time at home.

We have also been delighted to welcome back to Slade, Sheila Vaux, our much loved former TA who retired in the summer from day-to-day work at school. Sheila has been controlling the sound and lights for the shows - thank you Sheila, it has been great seeing you again!



Kirsty, Jemma and the team in the school kitchen were busy preparing the children's Christmas Meals on Thursday afternoon and through this morning before a successful serving from midday earlier on.



The children seemed to have a fantastic time sharing Christmas fun with friends to the backdrop of festive music.

# Sport, Fitness and Wellbeing

The Year 6 Boys Football team opened their league season up with a victory over Hildenborough Primary last Friday evening.

The boys won 2:0 with goals from Daniel and Milo. The Greens kept possession of the ball and were unlucky not to score more on the night.

The team have been training with Tonbridge Angels and the professional element of the coaching is paying off, as teammates Hayden and Robert told us:

‘We have built confidence by being able to train and play with each other and as a team we have improved a lot over the year, that is a lot to do with the coaching from Tonbridge Angels. Last year we lost 4:1 to Hildenborough, so this is a really positive start to the year.’

The boys have further fixtures in January against the other schools in the local area.



Opening Day Win



At the beginning of the week we had a team of 32 children walk to the Angel Centre in town to take part in the Leigh Academy Sportshall Athletics Competition, competing against twelve other schools in sprints, relays, long jump, vertical jump, speedbounce.

It was a fun event with everyone taking part giving their best and producing some fantastic results.



On Thursday, Mrs Ball and Mrs Buckland were pleased to be at Tonbridge School with a group of our Year 3 and 4 children to take part in a teambuilding event.

The participants undertook a number of activities involved in encouraging them to work out puzzles together.

The title picture is Mrs Ball's favourite from the afternoon!



Teambuilding

# 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 = 95.0%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.5%

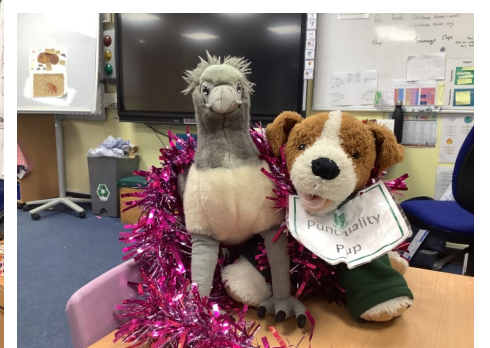
Punctuality: Number of Late Pupils This Week: 47

**Congratulations to our winners this week**

**Attendance Ted: Sprite Class (99.3%)**

**Punctuality Pup: Hippogriff Class (0 late)**

Congratulations to Miss Ellis and Mr Louth and your classes on being here, ready to learn, every day!



# News and Events from the PTA

## A Thankyou!

The PTA and everyone at Slade would like to offer a huge thankyou for the incredible donations and offers of help that we have received over the past term.

It has been a very busy few months of fundraising and there has been a wonderful sense of community throughout the school.

In the New Year we will be in a good position to share the amount raised so far this year, and how those funds will be allocated to benefit all of the children across the school.



## PTA Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle

The Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle continues to grow and we have had another week of winning.

Many congratulations to the winners so far who this week have walked away with Tonbridge Angels match tickets, a month of family membership at Tonbridge Sports Centre, Cases of Wine and Cake. Tuesday's winner was Tracy who is pictured with her winning wreath (left).

It hasn't finished yet, there are 4 further fabulous prizes to be won each day with Caroline and the team drawing a winning ticket number and a prize at random each morning and you could still be involved by buying your chance to win with £1 tickets on sale now via the PTA Sum Up Store page, link below:

<https://sladeppta.sumupstore.com/product/12-days-of-christmas-raffle>

Winners, in case you weren't already aware, are announced each morning at 7:15 in your email inbox!



## Children's Christmas Sale

This morning, we held our annual Christmas Sale in the playground as the children had the chance to experience a mini Christmas Market all for themselves.

They had the chance to buy gifts for each member of their family, with stalls laid out for presents for Mums and female relatives, Dads and male relatives as well as younger and older Brothers and Sisters.

Hopefully you will like the gift that is presented to you in a couple of weeks!

Thankyou once again for all of the donations brought to school over the last few weeks and to everyone who has helped sort them out as well as today's volunteers who have looked after the stalls and the children to make the sale another memorable event.



# In Our Community

Kent Libraries at Tonbridge have been in touch to let all families know that the Winter Mini Reading Challenge is back on!

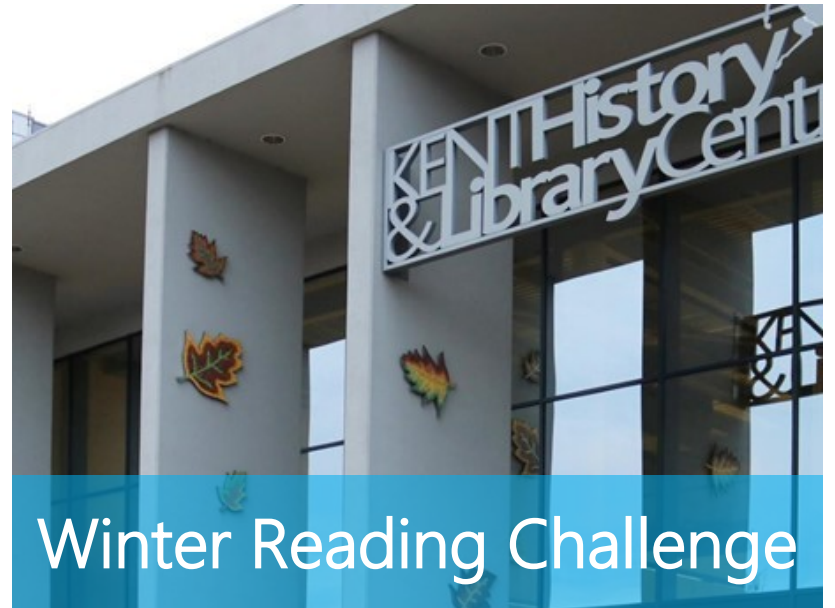
Paul Puttick from KCC Libraries told the newsletter: I am really pleased to say that The Winter Mini Challenge is returning again for 2024, encouraging children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays.

Following the success of the Summer Reading Challenge, we are delighted to continue the Marvellous Makers theme into the Winter Mini Challenge, brought to life once more by the amazing illustrator, Natelle Quek.

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is easy. Simply encourage your child to read at least three books of their choice between now and the closing date, which is way off on the **20th February 2025**. You can borrow books from any of our local libraries including in Tonbridge High Street and the main central library in James Whatman Way in Maidstone.

Before they start, all you need to do is add them to their online profile at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk).

Reaching their reading goal will unlock a limited-edition digital badge and a new Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.'



THE READING AGENCY Winter Mini Challenge

Marvellous Makers

Join the Winter Mini Challenge!

Get rewards for your reading!

wintermini.org.uk

SCAN ME

Arts Council England | Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

THE READING AGENCY | Celebrating creativity CREATE!

Kent Libraries

Illustrations by Natelle Quek. Logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2024

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# 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
		
December	January	February
<p>Monday 16 - Carols by Candlelight</p> <p>Wednesday 18 - Y5/6 Choir at GLA Trafalgar Square Christmas Event (participants aware of detail)</p> <p>Thursday 19 - Last Day of Term 2</p>	<p>Monday 6 - First Day of Term 3</p> <p><b>Wednesday 8 - EYFS Application Open Event. Book Via <a href="mailto:admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk">admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 15 - Deadline for Applications to be made for starting Primary School in September 2025</b></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