



SLADE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Newsletter

Term 4, Issue 4

Friday 21 March 2025

Karen Slade : From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a treat I had this afternoon when I got to spend time in Elmer Class, sharing my favourite pirate stories with them and admiring their freshly decorated Mr. Nourish biscuits! As you will recall, Elmer Class were the winners of the PTA Smarties competition, having raised the most funds by being so helpful at home during the half term break. Therefore, as the winners they were then able to decide on their prize which was to invite me to join them in their classroom to read them a story and to enjoy a biscuit treat too! A huge thank you Elmer children for listening so beautifully to my story and for sharing your biscuits with me! I had a super time; I hope that you did too!

Well done and thank you to everyone for supporting us with our fundraising for Comic Relief today and for the online donations that you have made. It has been lovely to see everyone enjoying wearing their red noses at very interesting times across the day! Well done to the children, who in addition to joining in with today's non-uniform day, have also embraced the odd sock theme too in support of World Down Syndrome Day. Well done and thank you everyone for getting involved!

Well done and thank you too to the children and staff who have helped us all join in with and celebrate British Sign Language (BSL) Week, an annual event celebrated every year in March, to commemorate the first time BSL was acknowledged as a language in its own right. The aim of this national event is to encourage everyone whatever their age to take up the challenge of learning BSL whilst finding out more about the language and culture of the Deaf, Deaf Blind and hard of hearing British people for whom BSL is their first or preferred language. Do take a look at our BSL notice board that takes pride of place in our school entrance hall for more information or check out our British Sign Language learning page, link below, on the school website. <https://www.slade.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=British+Sign+Language+%28BSL%29+Learning+Page&pid=67> Enjoy learning your signs everyone!

It was lovely to see so many families enjoying a joyful evening on Wednesday at Tonbridge Baptist Church watching our Key Stage 2 choir perform in the Tonbridge School Choir Celebration. As always, all of our singers were amazing and were a credit to the school, not only with their singing but also by being such positive ambassadors for Slade throughout the entire evening too; we are all very proud of you! Special thanks to Mrs. Stephens all of your hard work in preparation for this moment and a special mention to Mr. Clark and Miss Garrett for supporting the children at the event too.

I am saddened to report that we have received complaints from neighbours this week regarding the inconsiderate behaviours of a very small minority of parents, at the beginning and end of the school day when dropping off or collecting pupils from school. Parents continuing to park opposite the school outside the former Power Station and on the private property of homeowners, in addition to allowing children to play in these areas too, is causing disruption and upset for our neighbouring homeowners and needs to stop. We have apologised on behalf of the school for the upset this has caused and have contacted the local parking wardens who will now be in the vicinity in the coming days to monitor the situation and to speak directly to the offending car owners.

Finally, thank you to those parents who supported our two parent workshops that were held this week and for sharing your positive feedback following both of these events too. We're glad that you found them both informative and supportive.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Karen Slade

Diary Dates: Next Week at Slade

Monday 24 March 2025

- Gnome Class Forest School
- Yeti's Wraparound Booking for Term 5 opens at Midday (See page 7)
- Cheerleading Squad Competition (Leigh Academy). Details known to participants
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Tuesday 25 March 2025

- Sprite Class Forest School
- Phoenix Class Swimming
- Parent - Teacher Consultations 16:00 - 19:00 (See page 4)
- After School Activity Clubs will not run today (See page 4)

Wednesday 26 March 2025

- Pegasus Class visit to Pizza Express Tonbridge
- 13:00 Brain Buddies: Details known to those signed up to attend
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Thursday 27 March 2025

- Phoenix Class Forest School
- Sphinx Class Swimming
- Parent - Teacher Consultations 16:00 - 19:00 (See page 4)
- After School Activity Clubs will not run today (See page 4)

Friday 28 March 2025

- Sphinx Class Forest School
- Football fixture (Girls vs Kings Hill)
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)



Looking further ahead?

Our yearly planner can be found on Page 16 of today's newsletter and online via [the school website](#).

Slade Journal: Around School



This week we are delighted to have welcomed Ross, Himanvi and Himansi to Slade.

Ross joins us in Mrs Fordyce's Wyvern Class in Year 5, whilst sisters Himanvi and Himansi are together in Griffin Class with Mrs Lipman.

It has been wonderful catching up with them during the week as they settle in to life at the school with their new friends and classmates. Welcome to Slade and we hope you have all enjoyed your first few days with us.

Our warm welcome is extended to the families of Ross, Himanvi and Himansi with who we hope to enjoy a long, happy and successful relationship.



We are looking forward to seeing over 390 of you at our Parent - Teacher Consultation evenings on Tuesday and Thursday of next week. The consultations will take place in the classrooms, please wait outside the classroom until the teacher calls you in.

Entry will be via the Main Playground Gate which will be open from 16:00.

If you are yet to book an appointment, the deadline to do so is 23:59 on Sunday evening.

A reminder that there are no After School Activity Clubs running on the evening of Tuesday or Thursday next week owing to the Parent Teacher Consultations, although Yeti's Wraparound is open as normal until 17:30.

Thankyou to everyone who has already booked onto an Activity Club for Term 5. Our first summer time clubs and activities timetable of 2025 is available now on the [school website and here](#).

A reminder that all questions about school run clubs should be addresses to Wendy Ball via sportsandactivities@slade.kent.sch.uk whereas if you have a question for an independent club, please contact the provider directly.



Clubs and Activities

Forest School



Forest School Kit

Not long until the Summer Terms, even if it seems like a year away if you have been scraping the ice off of windscreens earlier this week!

This is therefore the tricky time of year (this Monday's weather vs today's!) where confusion can be a problem with what to wear or pack for Forest School sessions at school.

We have included a reminder of the seasonal kit list below, with advice to keep an eye on the weather forecast as the weeks progress keeping the average and continuous temperature of 15 degrees in mind.

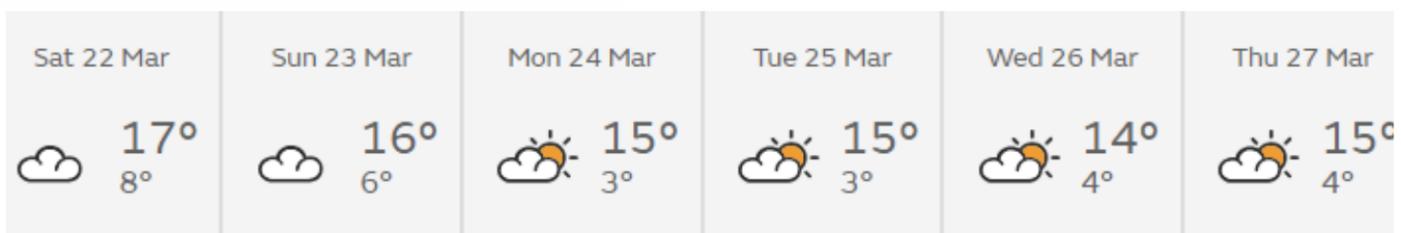
Forest School Kit Checklist

Autumn/Winter (less than 15°C)

- Base Layer – long sleeve t-shirt.
- Mid Layer – Jumper and jogging bottoms.
- Thick/warm waterproof coat (or warm coat with waterproof layer over the top)
- Waterproof over trousers
- Wellington boots.
- Thick welly socks
- Gloves - waterproof
- Hat
- Snood (*not essential*)
- Large carrier bag for muddy clothes

Spring/Summer

- Thin long sleeve t-shirt
- Thin long trousers
- Light weight jumper/fleece
- Wellington boots
- Trainers/walking boots ok when dry
- Sun hat
- Sun screen
- Water bottle
- Waterproof trousers
- Waterproof jacket
- Large carrier bag for muddy clothes



[Met Office Weather Forecast for Tonbridge](#)



The children have been very pleased to get back into the Forest School area this week after the recent flooding, we look forward enjoying many warmer and drier days down in the woods throughout the rest of the school year.

Meanwhile our range of outside learning saw the very first wool based craft club start at Slade, run by our Green Rangers. We hope that the younger children who came along yesterday lunchtime will come again next week and do bring a friend!



Slade Journal: Around School



Thankyou to everyone who attended our special talk on Sepsis on Tuesday evening.

We received lots of lovely feedback following the talk, which we hope proved to be interesting and informative.

Our thanks also to Sarah Hamilton-Fairley for her presentation, to Libby Wilmshurst for organising the event and to Hannah for her personal stories that made the evening so worthwhile.

The talk was recorded and we are delighted to be able to share both the video and slides used.

The package can be accessed by clicking on this link: [Sepsis Information Event](#) .

On Wednesday afternoon, Pegasus Class held a special assembly as they continued our whole school lessons about Racism that happen termly.

In this assembly, they were able to find out the difference between being non-racist and being anti-racist.

Whilst they all know that racist attitudes are wrong and that to show racist behaviour is unacceptable in society , they have found out the important difference about being a bystander when we witness something wrong, and doing something about it.

The assembly included a short [BBC Bitesize video presented by John Amaechi](#) who explained the difference - which was perfectly remembered and summarised by Sonia in the class discussion that followed. 'To be non racist is to know racism is wrong and not to say or think anything that is racist, but to be Anti Racist is to say something, to tell the racist person they are wrong.'

Class Teacher, Miss Meers, explained that someone who was Anti-Racist would not shout or demand, but to calmly say that the language used was not acceptable.



Mrs Ball and Debs Holliday from the NHS Wellbeing Team who has been providing sessions for students across the school hosted a special workshop for parents on Thursday morning titled Me and My Child: Understanding Resilience.

The workshop had the parents thinking about how resilience does not come naturally and has to be taught; usually by modelled behaviour from parents. Since resilience is needed when things are hard it also impacts and can be impacted by our Emotional Wellbeing as well.

Thankyou to the parents who attended this event.

Slade Journal: Around School



The booking window for securing places at our ever popular Yeti's Wraparound Breakfast and After School Clubs during Term 5 opens on Monday lunchtime at 12:00.

Customers will need to make sure that their Wraparound account on Arbor is topped up with the required funds before making bookings. This includes those who pay for sessions using Childcare Vouchers.

You are reminded that Yeti's bookings are secured on a first come first served basis and that there is a strict capacity of 40 children per session.

A few things to bear in mind:

- **After School Club Session 1 is regularly very busy on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening;**
 - ◊ *If you require both sessions, please do not book Session 2 before securing the Session 1 place*
 - ◊ *If you are already enrolled on to an activity club, please do not also book a place at Yeti's for the same time*
- **DanceMode customers who attend the Street Dance club on a Tuesday from 16:15 to 17:15 and who would like their child to attend Session 1 of Yeti's rather than going home first:**
 - ◊ *Booking Yeti's should be done in the normal way and on the first come, first served basis. Please book early to avoid disappointment and inconvenience*
- **Bookings for Yeti's can be made on your Arbor account up to 30 minutes before the session starting time where places are available**
- **Cancellations must be made using the [online form](#), submitted 24 hours or more in advance of the session starting time**
- **If parents will be late collecting their child at either 16:30 or 17:30, they should telephone ahead to the team on 01732 37 77 60.**

For information on the wraparound provision at Slade, please see [our website](#).

If you have any questions, please email yetis@slade.kent.sch.uk

Focus on Year 4



The children in Phoenix and Sphinx Classes have been out today on their Educational Visit to Mountfitchet Norman Castle and Village.

As the newsletter drops in to your inbox, the Year 4 children will be on their way home down the M11 and M25 after a day putting to life their history learning this term as they have spent time finding out all about the Norman era here in England (1066 - 1216)

Mountfitchet Castle

The children in Phoenix and Sphinx Classes have been out today on their Educational Visit to Mountfitchet Norman Castle and Village.

The grounds at Mountfitchet have allowed the Year 4 classes to get as good an idea as possible as to what it would have been like to live in the Norman times in the South of England.

The Essex attraction and educational facility is (from their [website mountfitchetcastle.com](http://www.mountfitchetcastle.com)) 'unique as it is the only wooden Motte and Bailey reconstruction on its original site anywhere in the world. The Village is also re-constructed on its original historic ancient site and is complete with many different buildings, siege weapons and animals roaming freely throughout the 10 acre site, providing a unique insight into community life in Domesday England.'



The classes have been preparing for the visit during their classroom sessions



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 = 95.4%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.4%

Punctuality: Number of Late Pupils This Week: 37

Congratulations to our winners this week:

Attendance Ted: Hydra Class (95.4%)

Punctuality Pup: Sprite Class (No pupils late)

Well done to Mr Duffin, Miss Ellis and everyone in Hydra and Sprite Class.



MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

Slade Journal: Around School



Red Nose Day

Today has seen the children in school celebrate Red Nose Day organised as a Non-Uniform event by the Pupil Council.

In addition to this, they have set up their own donation page on the Red Nose Day website. If you are able and would like to donate, please [visit the site \(via Just Giving\)](#).

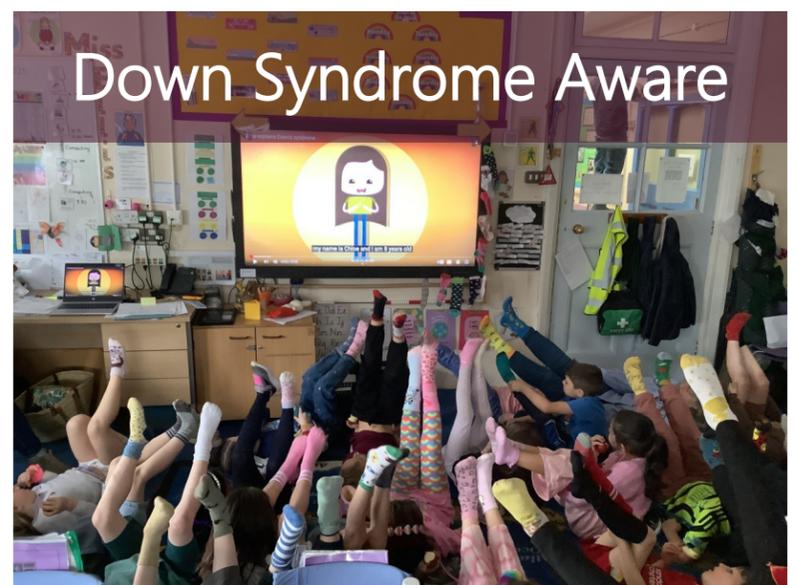
We have also been learning about the need for Red Nose Day and the charities that it supports. For more information, please visit [Red Nose Day | Comic Relief](#)



As part of the outfits on show today, we are very pleased to have been able to incorporate plenty of Odd Socks in aid of raising awareness about Down Syndrome.

[World Down Syndrome Day](#) is on 21 March every year. It is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The goal is to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better.

The date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was chosen to represent the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.



Every class across the school has had the opportunity to watch some especially selected information clips which we are delighted to share here as well for all of our families.

[Chloe Explains Down Syndrome](#) [What is Down Syndrome?](#)

As a special treat, Mrs Pearson spoke to Sprite Class about her experiences learning with Down Syndrome children and she introduced the You Tube clips to them. Thankyou to Mrs Pearson and Marnie for organising the DS Odd Socks Day today.

BSL Week



Also this week, we have been commemorating British Sign Language Week which is run on an annual basis by the British Deaf Association (BDA).

It is celebrated each year in March to coincide with the anniversary of the recognition of BSL by the British Government in 2003.

The team in Titan Class have shared a [video from the BDA](#) which teaches some common words in British Sign Language. The children have watched the video in class this week.

Sport, Fitness and Wellbeing



Congratulations to everyone who represented Slade at the Kent County Trampolining Championships on Monday at the Jumpers Rebound Centre in Gillingham. Everyone taking part did fantastically and remembered and executed their routines very well.

On his return to school, Owen from Sprite Class told us: 'I was nervous, very nervous about forgetting the order of the jumps, but I did it and was very happy and proud to have received a score of 5.7 from the judges.'

Owen, who like the other competitors from Slade, put himself forward for the challenge following a whole school invitation had an enjoyable time, 'I really enjoyed it and I am smiling because our team when the scores were put together, came first! My routine included a seat jump, half and full turns, straddle, pike and tuck jump!' Thankyou to Owen for sharing his story of the victory for the team in Medway - he will have lots to shout about when he next goes to his Trampoline Club at the Angel Centre!



Our super team at Jumpers was : Sid, Owen, Jack, James, Rosie, Arya and Francesca.

Last night at Skinners School we had a team performing in the local schools' Multi Sports Festival which took in many disciplines including those which involved throwing, jumping and running.

Mrs Ball described the event as a 'total blast' and commented what a lovely event it was. Himansi and Himanvi added 'We had a lovely time, my favourite part was the huge obstacle course, we had so much to do and it was so much fun!'



Slade Journal: Around School



On Wednesday evening, our Key Stage 2 Choir took part in the annual Tonbridge Lions Choir Festival at Tonbridge Baptist Church.

The festival saw choirs from six local schools sing their own choice of song - ours was a melody of ABBA numbers and 'Memories'.

At the end of the festival, all of the children involved sung together in a rousing 'Hairspray Melody'.

Mrs Stephens and Mr Clark had a very enjoyable time leading our group and described the festival as a wonderful community event full of uplifting moments.

Thankyou to everyone who attended to support the choir.

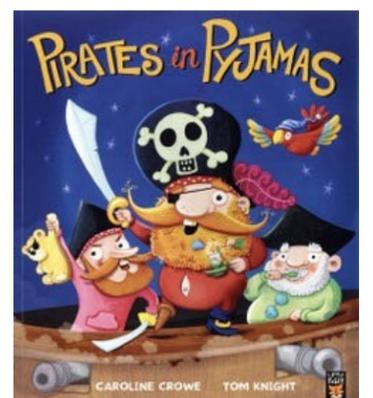


Regular readers will remember that the recent PTA Valentines Smartie Challenge was won by Mrs Hitchcock's Elmer Class.

They had the opportunity to choose their own prize and after careful consideration, they decided that they would like for Mrs Slade to visit their classroom to read them a story.

We thought this was a lovely idea and in her last few months as Headteacher at the school, it took Mrs Slade back to her Early Years roots, something that pleased her very much, 'It was a real treat and honour to be invited to Elmer Class and share in their much deserved prize - I had a lovely time reading to them. I chose Pirates in Pyjamas because I love pirate stories and this one is one of my favourites. I have also chosen to donate this book to Elmer Class since I won't need it for much longer! They can practise reading to each other, which will mean it will be used lots. Thankyou to all of the children in Elmer for inviting me.'

To celebrate their prize, the children also decorated their own Mr Nourish biscuits - with smarties!



News and Events from the PTA

We are looking forward to celebrating the end of another wonderful term with you.

Today, we launch our Easter Eggstravaganza @ Slade - a new, and hopefully more weather-proof, Easter event for the whole school to enjoy on the last day of term!

Caroline, Emily and everyone on the PTA Committee at Slade.



Choose The Rules

RULES

The Easter Bunny is being cheeky again and has muddled up some of the school rules!

Before Mrs Slade has time to put them right, the children will have chance to choose the rules they would like to follow on Friday 4th April (the last day of Term 4)

There is a suggested donation of £1 for each of the rules below chosen:

- Any footwear allowed eg: trainers
- Have any hairstyle and wear any hair accessories you would like
- Go crazy with your socks or tights
- Nail varnish is permitted
- Wear any jewellery or accessories you fancy

During the day on 4 April, the PTA will organise an Easter Egg Hunt for years R-3 and a Bunny Drive for years 4-6.

These events will take place during the school day. All children will receive a chocolate prize, with dairy free alternatives available.

Do let us know of any additional dietary concerns though (PTA@slade.kent.sch.uk). There is no charge for the Easter Egg Hunt or Bunny Drive.

Easter Egg Events



Calling All Bakers!

After school on Friday 4 April, we will hold our annual, super popular Easter Bake Sale!!

Let us know if you would be able to bake something, or donuts are always popular! If baking, please ensure no nuts are included, and attach a full list of ingredients so that we can guide anyone with allergies.

Things to Do!



Trinity Dance

MUSICAL Madness

DANCE & CHEERLEADING WORKSHOPS

Join us for two days of 'Musical Madness' dance and cheerleading workshops inspired by everyone's favourite musical hits!

Welcoming all 6-12 year olds who would like to learn exciting routines, express their creativity and make special memories this Easter holiday

New location!

The Skinners' Kent Primary School, T'Wells

14th & 15th April
9 - 4pm

£40 per day
£70 for both

Musical Theatre Cheerleading, Street Dance, Hip-Hop, Jazz Contemporary, Arts & Crafts

Register your place by emailing lauren@trinitydance.co.uk

www.trinitydance.co.uk 07857499646 @_TrinityDance_

Looking for an activity to take up a couple of days in the Easter holiday?

If you are between 6 and 12 years old, you can sign up for a whole day of Dance and Cheerleading with Trinity Dance run by Lauren Merch who runs our own Cheerleading squad and has been working with various yeargroups across the school recently during their PE lessons.

Contact Trinity Dance via their website or 07857 499646 for booking and more information.

Local teacher and cake decorator Zuzi Ledger would like to make children in Year 5 and 6 at Slade Primary School aware of a cake decorating course that she is running locally.

Zuzi says, 'The children's Cake Decorating Workshop It is run by myself, a qualified local primary school teacher and cake maker with 25+ years' teaching and 20+ years' cake decorating experience.

I have recently run a cupcake workshop which children from Slade attended and I have also taught as a supply teacher at Slade recently.'



Children's Cake Decorating Workshop

for Year 5 and Up!

£110 for full course

4-week Saturday course, 12:00 - 14:00

March: 29th, April: 5th, 12th, 19th

Zuzilicious Cakes

Zuzilicious Kitchen, South Tonbridge

Book at: 07830675075

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 and all General Enquiries
yetis@slade.kent.sch.uk

Session Cancellations: [Cancellation Form](#)
Late Collections: **01732 37 77 60**

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
		
December	January	February
		
March	April	May
<p>Wednesday 12 - PTA EYFS and KS1 Film Night</p> <p>Tuesday 18 - From 18:30 Sepsis Savvy Presentation for parents</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>Monday 28 - Year 5 Trip to Carrot Wood</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>Friday 13 - 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 8 - Year 1 Trip: Hastings</p> <p>Tuesday 15 - Year 6 Production</p> <p>Thursday 17 - Year 6 Production</p> <p>Friday 18 - Last Day of Term 6</p>	

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

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