Friday 16th October 2026

Minterne Messenger

As we approach the final week of term 1, it has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, learning and community spirit across the school.

This week we have been recognising Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Awareness Day. Following a whole-school assembly on Thursday, pupils have spent time learning about DLD and developing a greater understanding of how this condition can affect some of their peers. It was fantastic to see so many children and staff wearing purple today to show their support and help raise awareness. Promoting understanding, kindness and inclusion is such an important part of our school community, and I am proud of the thoughtful discussions that have taken place throughout the week.

Our Year 3 pupils also enjoyed an exciting bush craft day as part of their Stone Age topic. The wonderful costumes helped to bring their learning to life, and I would like to thank parents and carers for the effort and support you put into helping the children look the part. It was a fantastic way to celebrate and conclude a topic that has captured the pupils' imagination.

Looking ahead, our Year 5 pupils are eagerly anticipating their visit to Hever Castle on Monday. We are sure they will have a memorable day, full of learning opportunities and experiences that will enrich their understanding of the topics they have been studying.

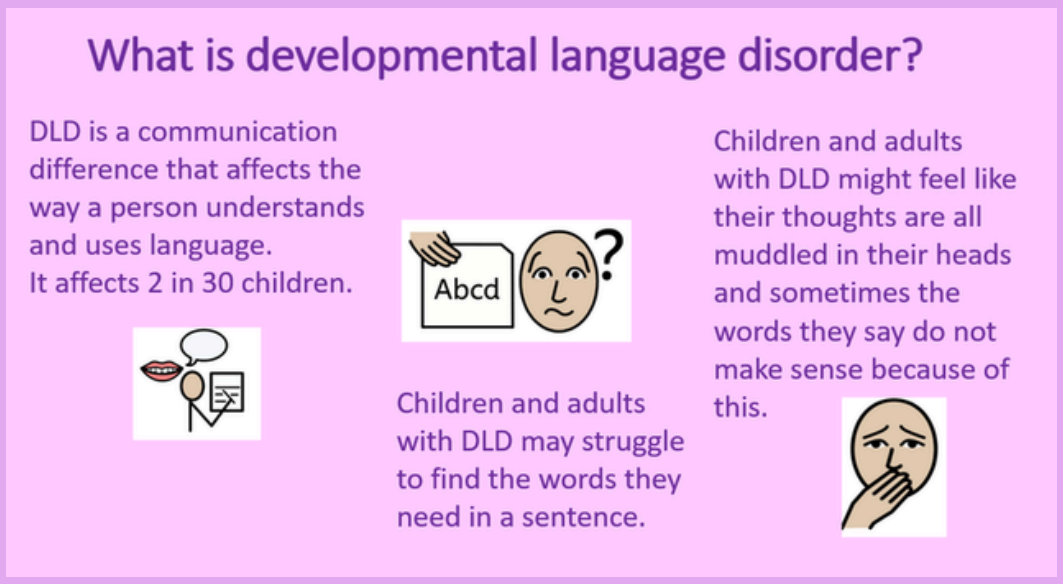
With just one week left until half term, there is still much to look forward to. It has certainly been an exciting end to the term, and I would like to thank all members of our school community for their continued support.

We look forward to making the most of our final week together before a well-earned break.

Miss Warner & Mrs Hurst



DURING ASSEMBLY ON THURSDAY THE CHILDREN LEARNED ALL ABOUT DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER: WHAT THIS IS, HOW IT AFFECTS CHILDREN AND ADULTS AND HOW WE CAN HELP EACHOTHER TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO FIND COMMUNICATING THEIR THOUGHTS AND WORDS TRICKY.



ON FRIDAY WE RAISED AWARENESS OF DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER BY WEARING PURPLE. THE ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN THE ACORN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CENTRE CELEBRATED THIS IN STYLE!



On Thursday, Year 3 travelled back in time 'through the ages' to discover what life might have been like all those years ago!

The excitement was infectious, and the children threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm and curiosity.

From trading and den building to creating 3D sculptures and exploring forest school, the day was packed with adventure, discovery and hands-on learning. A fantastic day was had by all! 🌿✨

Bushcraft Day
In Year 3



Iron Age Trading

3D Art Sculptures







Class Caves





BUSHCRAFT DAY

IN YEAR 3





DEN BUILDING











FOREST SCHOOL





Wear it pink day for Breast Cancer Now!



Friday 23rd October

Children are invited to wear pink for the day. However, if your child does not wish to participate, they are welcome to wear their usual school uniform.

If you would like to make a donation, please use the JustGiving link below or the QR code above.

JustGiving Link - Minterne Junior School

Thank you for your support in helping us raise awareness and funds for this important cause x

Cyril makes it to Everest Base Camp!

We would also like to celebrate an incredible achievement by our school squirrel, Cyril, who has recently completed an expedition to Everest Base Camp!

Accompanied by a parent from Adele class, Cyril travelled all the way to the foothills of the world's highest mountain, experiencing an unforgettable adventure along the way. We are immensely proud that our school mascot has reached such an impressive destination and would like to thank his travelling companion for taking Cyril on this remarkable journey. What an achievement, and what an amazing story to share with our school community!





Working together with parents

HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU

Keeping you informed, connected and involved

HOW	WHAT IS COMMUNICATED	WHEN
NEWSDAY TUESDAY	Parents/carers can view pupil books from 8:30am. If you cannot attend, contact the class teacher to arrange an alternative time.	20th October 1st December 2nd February 9th March 18th May 15th June
HOME CONNECT	Information on your child's Accelerated Reader quizzes and reading. Parents receive a letter with instructions to sign up. Contact your child's class teacher if you need another copy.	Results sent by email after each quiz
PUPIL DIARIES	Record home reading (5x per week), notes to teachers or teaching assistants, spelling and tables test information.	Collected weekly or handed to an adult if you wish the teacher to see a note
SCHOOL WEBSITE	Comprehensive information about the curriculum, newsletters, term dates, policies, and general school information.	Ongoing
EMAIL	Contact teachers via your child's diary or email the school office. Office staff will direct your enquiry to the appropriate person. Email: office@minterne.kent.sch.uk	As needed

HOW	WHAT IS COMMUNICATED	WHEN
ARBOR APP	Letters and announcements, payments for trips, visitors, lunches, and club bookings. If you haven't signed up yet, look out for the link sent to you. Download the Arbor app to stay up to date with everything happening at Minterne. Contact the office for help if needed.	As needed
MINTERNE MESSENGER NEWSLETTER	Celebrations, achievements, key dates, weekly news, safety advice for families, and local events.	Weekly on Fridays
PARENTS' EVENING	Discuss your child's academic progress, attainment, and general updates with the class teacher and SENCO if required. Parents can also view pupil books in Term 3 and Term 5.	Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th January 2027 Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15 April 2027
REPORTS	Academic attainment, progress, general comments, and attendance.	Friday 18th December Thursday 25th March Friday 2nd July
TAPESTRY	Teachers and Year Leaders share photos, learning updates, and curriculum news. Parents can also share photos and news from home.	As needed

Learning for a lifetime

Walk their Wheels

Bikes & Scooters



Have you emailed us?

We aim to respond to you within 72 hours.

Staff do not always have access to emails due to other working commitments; many of our staff run activities for our students both at lunchtime and afterschool. It is therefore important to enable all staff sufficient time to read, investigate and respond to any communication.

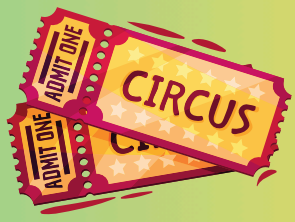
Thank you.

When you do contact us on via any platform please clearly state your child's full name and class





THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER



💚 We'd love to hear from you! 💚

We've put together a short parent survey and would really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete it. It shouldn't take more than a few minutes of your time and it's completely anonymous.
The aim is simply to hear your thoughts, ideas and feedback so that we can continue to support our parents, children and school community as much as we can. Whether you have lots to say or just a little bit of feedback, every response is valuable to us. 😊
Thank you so much for taking the time to complete it and for supporting the FOM! 💚

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE SURVEY





WE CAN HELP

If your child has had a tricky time at school, we want to help as soon as possible.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP

Tell us what has happened so that we can provide support:

- office@minterne.kent.sch.uk
- Write a note in your child's diary
- Speak with Miss Nunn, our FLO
- Ask a teaching assistant on morning door duty to pass on a message to the class teacher







WE CAN HELP

Keeping your child at home after an incident can have a **negative** impact:

- Unsolved problems get bigger
- Friendships can suffer
- Missed learning makes it harder to return and catch up

STAFF WANT TO WORK WITH YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who have sent in donations - your generosity is greatly appreciated.

As some donations were kindly dropped off at the office, we haven't always been able to identify who they came from. If we haven't had the opportunity to thank you personally, please know that we are incredibly grateful for helping us provide appropriate support for the children next year.

Can you help?



family

Please use this link to view the latest Summer edition of the OCMAT Family Magazine.





YOU CAN FIND OUR PRIVACY NOTICE HERE

Our Lives News

OUR LIVES OCMAT WEBSITE

https://www.ourlivestv.co.uk/ocmat/

A polite reminder to please ensure that your child walks their bike, scooter, or any wheeled item once they are on school grounds. This applies to all children, including our younger pupils arriving from The Oaks.

This is important for health and safety reasons, as there are a large number of people on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times, including very young toddlers. We want to ensure that everyone remains safe and that no one is accidentally injured. Children will also be reminded of this expectation in assembly on Monday, as part of our “Be Safe” school rule.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.





Deposits for PGL are now being taken, please go to Arbor to make payment which will secure you child's place for PGL 2027

(Please note deposits are non refundable)

MINTERNE 2027 Leavers Hoodies

Minterne Junior School

A special keepsake for an amazing chapter

FRIENDS TODAY ♥ LEADERS TOMORROW ♥ MINTERNE ALWAYS

Same School Brighter Future

Hoodies T-Shirts & more



Personalised with your name on the arm

TRY ON SHOP

COME AND TRY SIZES BEFORE ORDERING!

TRY ON SHOP DATES AT MINTERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL

ORDER OPEN:
MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER
8.15am - 8.50am & 3.30pm

LAST TRY ON:
FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
8.15am & 3.30pm (if needed)

£10 TOWARDS EACH CHILD'S HOODIE

The FOM has kindly donated £10 towards each child's hoodie.

Hoodie size: _____

T-shirt size: _____

Please make sure you check sizing before ordering.

My Three & Me
PERSONALISED GIFTS & CLOTHING

DISCOUNT CODE:
MINTERNE2027

Hoodies T-Shirts & more

https://my-three-me.sumupstore.com

Parent Information





AGES 5 - 11 YEARS

Dribble and Kick

Dear Parents,

I'm delighted to confirm dates for the October Holiday Club. The holiday club will be running at St Peter's Primary School, ME10 1UJ and will be open for children in School Years R-6 (ages 5-11). The Club will run from **Mon 26th – Weds 28nd October** . For a full day the price will be £18. Half days will be £12. All bookings received by text or email by 19th October are automatically honoured **once payment has been received**. For booking less than a week in advance of the club you will need to await confirmation via text or email. For future holiday club info, Like us on facebook!

If you could clearly write what dates you want on the rear of the sheet I would be grateful. A bank transfer with the child's name as reference or cash will be accepted for payment. If your child is staying for the full day please ensure they have a packed lunch. Please send your child with a spare change of clothes in case of accidents! Early Drop off is available from 9am for £2 extra. PLEASE TEXT ME TO BOOK YOUR CHILD ON TO HOLIDAY CLUB.

!!!!PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE OF BANK DETAILS!!!!

Mon	9.30 – 10am	Warm up Games	Tue	9.30-10am	Warm Up Games	Wed	9.30 – 10am	Warm up Games
	10 – 11am	Tag Rugby		10-11am	Sportsday Games		10 -11am	Kwik Cricket
	11 – 12pm	Football		11am-12pm	Rounders		11 – 12pm	Football
	12- 1pm	Lunch and Film		12 – 1pm	Lunch and Film		12 – 1pm	Lunch and Film
	1 – 2pm	Basketball		1-2pm	Hockey		1 – 2pm	Dodgeball
	2 – 3pm	Kwik Cricket		2-3pm	Basketball		2 – 3pm	Volleyball
	3 – 3.30pm	Cool down Games		3-3.30pm	Cool Down Games		3- 3.30pm	Cool down Games

Andy Booker - UKCC Multisports Coach
Tel: 07837507246 Email: Owlslad@hotmail.co.uk
Web: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dribble-and-Kick/230106053706166

Child's Name ..... D.O.B.....

Parent's Contact Telephone.....

Parent's Email.....

Please list on the rear of this form the dates you would like your child to attend along with indicating if it is an am, pm or full day session they would like to participate in.

I have enclosed Cash for £..... **OR** I have made an electronic transfer on **(DATE)** ..... for £.....
(MR A BOOKER, SORT – 20-25-85, ACCOUNT NUMBER - 00737135)

In the case of emergency and I am not contactable on the phone number provided I give consent for my child to be administered first aid or hospital treatment as required.

Signature.....Printed Name.....





Parent Information

MINTERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Together, we can make a difference

PRELOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM

Good quality uniform, great for your child, better for our community and our planet.



SAVE MONEY
Quality uniform for less

BE SUSTAINABLE
Reuse, recycle and reduce waste

Thank you!

DONATE • BUY • SUPPORT

During the **SUMMER HOLIDAYS** the uniform will be **FREE** for anyone who needs it.

Uniform will be displayed at the **Methodist Church in Sittingbourne** during the Summer Holidays.

Uniform will be available for all schools in Sittingbourne.

Visit their Facebook page (Free, Preloved School Uniform Hub - Sittingbourne Methodists) for opening days/hours.

Avenue Theatre Production Junior's

PRODUCTION OF

DreamWorks

SHREK THE MUSICAL JR.

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the Book by William Steig

Music by Jeanine Tesori

"I'm a Believer" by Neil Diamond

Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire

Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions

Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford

Tue 27th October	Wed 28th October	Thu 29th October	Fri 30th October	Sat 31st October
7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	2:30pm	1:30pm

The Avenue Theatre
Central Avenue
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DN

NODA For every stage

01795 471140

www.avenuetheatre.co.uk

£12.50

Shrek the Musical JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 www.mtishows.co.uk

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Are you a working parent?

Do you need support with childcare costs for your primary school aged children before and after the school day? You may be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare.

Scan the QR codes for more details.

Tax-Free Childcare

Universal Credit Childcare

Or call the Kent Children and Families Information Service: 03000 41 23 23

Or email: kentcfis@theeducationpeople.org

BEST START IN LIFE

HM Government

The Education People

On behalf of Kent County Council

CONSIDERATE PARKING

Let's keep our school community safe, happy and respectful.

MINTERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL
learning for a lifetime

PARK SAFELY
Park carefully and legally. Do not park on yellow lines, zig zags or corners.

RESPECT OUR NEIGHBOURS
Park considerately and keep noise to a minimum. Let's be good neighbours.

DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS
Please keep driveways and access clear. Someone's home is someone's safety.

THINK OF OUR CHILDREN
Park a little further away and walk if you can. It's safer for everyone and a great way to start the day!



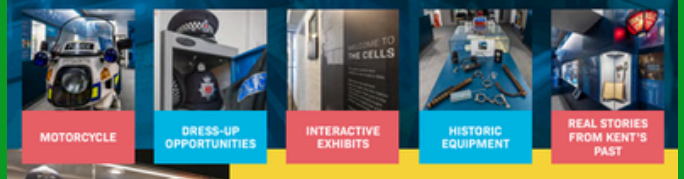
Working together to keep Minterne Junior School a safe and happy place for all.

Thank you for your kindness and consideration.

Parent Information

Visit Kent Police Museum in Faversham and become a detective!

FREE entry





Follow clues, explore real crime stories, discover fascinating police equipment, and enjoy interactive displays.

Learn how crimes were solved in the past and see unusual objects from more than 200 years of Kent Police history.

Looking for something to do this October half term?

The museum will be open from **Tuesday 27 October** to **Saturday 31 October, 10am to 4pm**. For the latest opening times and visitor information, please check the museum website before you visit.



Kent Police Museum

Bringing Our History to Life

kentpolicemuseum
@kpolicemuseum
www.kent.police.uk/kent-museum
Email: museum@kent.police.uk
Telephone 01795 433028

MODELFEST

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM
Charity No. 1179982

AT THE MUSEUM 10am - 4pm

24TH OCT - 25TH OCT 2026

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

A series of model displays including:

WARHAMMER 40,000







BOLT ACTION



SCALEXTRIC







& much more!

Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information





@RAF Manston History Museum

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@rafmanston.co.uk

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.

Kent Libraries



Children's Author Event: With Tamara MacFarlane!

Faversham Library
Monday 26 October, 10.30am - 11.30am

Join Tamara for a spine-tingling journey into the world of cryptids! An adventure full of curiosity, creativity and surprises. Perfect for young explorers!

Please note that booking is required.
For more details, please speak to a member of staff, email favershamlibrary@kent.gov.uk, or call 03000 41 31 31.

kent.gov.uk/libs
@KentLibrariesArchives
@kentlibraries
03000 41 31 31

Kent County Council



Spooky Library Crafts

Faversham Library:
Tuesday 27th October 11am - 12pm

Sittingbourne Library:
Thursday 29th October 2pm - 3pm

Sheerness Library:
Friday 30th October 10am - 11.30am

Queenborough Library*:
Tuesday 27th October 2.30 - 4pm
(Please note booking required for this session due to limited spaces)

Suitable for children and families. Free of charge.

Telephone: 03000 41 31 31
Email: sittingbournelibrary@kent.gov.uk
Visit: www.kent.gov.uk/libs

Kent Libraries

Parent Information

Admission to

Junior school in Kent 2027

KCC residents apply online at
kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Opens Friday 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027

For children born between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**, Transferring to Junior school in **September 2027**

What to do

Choose a school	Apply for a school place	Receiving your offer
It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form. Read the guide to Primary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. You can name up to three Junior schools, inside or outside of Kent. You are unable to name Primary schools on this application.	A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Friday 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027**. Other LA deadlines may differ. You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly. You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.	On offer day (**Friday 16 April 2027**) an email will be sent to you informing you of your offer. You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Friday 30 April 2027**. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email. If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you are moving, please email the team on one of the email addresses below for advice.

Key dates

Friday 6 November 2026	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.
Friday 15 January 2027	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Friday 16 April 2027	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after **4pm.**
Friday 30 April 2027	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Monday 17 May 2027	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals. You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.
The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.
Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council (KCC) if the child resides at a KCC address.
If your child does **not** reside at a KCC address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2027

Common misconceptions

For children born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023**, Transferring to Primary school in **September 2027.**

MYTH #1
Attending a nursery or pre-school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the associated school.

TRUTH
You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
★ Nurseries and primary schools are not linked for admissions purposes.

MYTH #2
A sibling attending the school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the same school.

TRUTH
You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
★ If eligible, your application may be considered under a school's 'sibling' oversubscription criteria.

MYTH #3
Attending an infant school will automatically guarantee a space for your child at the linked junior school.

TRUTH
You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
★ Children do not automatically transfer to a junior school. Admissions are ranked according to the school's admission criteria, including any linked school arrangements.

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Need help?
Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Primary School Admissions
IMPORTANT DATES

For children born between 1 September 2022 & 31 August 2023

Friday 6 November 2026
Online applications open

↓

Friday 15 January 2027
Deadline to submit your online applications. Applications must be submitted by midnight

↓

Friday 16 April 2027 - National Offer Day
Parents will receive an email confirming their child's school offer after 4.00pm

↓

Friday 30 April 2027
Deadline to accept or decline your school offer

↓

Monday 17 May 2027
Deadline to lodge an appeal if you are unhappy with your school offer

How to apply
Kent residents can apply online through Kent County Council at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.
You can name up to 3 primary schools on your application, including schools outside Kent.
Please list your preferred schools in the order you would like them.
Need help? Email: primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Compassion . Community . Inclusion

OCHAT

Admission to

Secondary school in Kent 2027

KCC residents apply online at
kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
Opened Tuesday 1 September 2026 and closes at midnight on Monday 2 November 2026

For children born between **1 September 2015** and **31 August 2016**, Transferring to Secondary school in **September 2027**

What to do

Choose a school	Apply for a school place	Receiving your offer
It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form. Read the Guide to Secondary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions. You can name up to four Secondary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.	A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Tuesday 1 September 2026 and closes at midnight on Monday 2 November 2026.** Other LA deadlines may differ. If you already have an account set up from the Kent Test process, please use these login details. You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly and that the LA has received it. You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.	On offer day **(Monday 1 March 2027)** an email will be sent to you informing you of your offer. You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Monday 15 March 2027**. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email. If we have not offered your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list if your child is eligible for admission.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you are moving, please email the team on one of the email addresses below for advice.

Key dates

Tuesday 1st September 2026	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to register and apply.
Monday 2nd November 2026	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Monday 1st March 2027	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after **4pm.**
Monday 15th March 2027	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of eligible schools named on the original application.
Tuesday 13th April 2027	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September - appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals. You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.
The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.
Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council (KCC) if the child resides at a KCC address.

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Parent Information

Become a Parent/Community/ Foundation Governor

Make a Real Difference &
Play an Active Role in the Future of Our School



The Role of the Local Monitoring Council

The Local Monitoring Council (LMC) works collectively to ensure the success of our school. Every governor's first loyalty is to the school and its pupils. While governors support the headteacher and staff, they also act as a critical friend—providing challenge and support in equal measure. This is a strategic role, not an operational one. Governors do not manage the day-to-day running of the school; instead, they help shape its vision, ethos, and priorities.

The LMC plays a vital role in supporting the work of the school and the **Our Community Multi Academy Trust (OCMAT)**. Its responsibilities fall into three key areas:

- **Quality of Education** – Ensuring high standards of teaching and learning.
- **Distinctive Ethos and Character** – Preserving the school's values, traditions, and culture.
- **Community Engagement** – Maintaining strong communication and trust with parents and the wider community.

Governors monitor these areas and contribute to developing policies that make the school an efficient, caring, and fair environment for learning.

Why Become a Governor?

- Help shape decisions that impact pupils, families, and the wider school community.
- Gain valuable knowledge about governance and educational leadership.
- Contribute to improving outcomes for all children.

As a parent governor, you will:

- Represent the views, insights and experiences of parents at a strategic level.
  - Parent governors are normally elected for a four-year term of office.

As Community/Foundation Governor, you will:

- Bring an independent perspective to support school improvement and, as a Foundation Governor, help uphold the school's Christian vision and values.

Parent Governor:
Who can stand for election?
Any parent or carer of a pupil registered at the school is eligible to stand for election as a parent governor.
You do not need any specific qualifications or previous governance experience. We value a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives.

Community/Foundation Governor:
We welcome applications from any member of the local community aged 18 or over who are passionate about education, the development and wellbeing of children and young people, safeguarding, and supporting schools to provide the best possible outcomes for every pupil.
Foundation governors are appointed in accordance with the school's foundation arrangements. You do not need any specific qualifications or previous governance experience. We value a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives that can contribute to the success of the school.

The enclosed sheet summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor.

Skills we are looking for:

- Communication skills
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Strategic thinking
- Interest in education and children's wellbeing
- Professional or community experience
- Ability to ask questions and offer constructive challenge

To fulfil the role, you will need to:

- Attend three Local Monitoring Council meetings each year
- Read meeting papers and other information in advance
- Participate in induction training and ongoing development
- Undertake governor monitoring visits to gain first-hand insight into the school
- Uphold confidentiality and act in the best interests of the school and its pupils
- Work collaboratively with fellow governors, school leaders and the trust

How to Apply

If you would like to put your name forward, please submit the following to the Governance Professional by the stated deadline at Stacey.Tree@ocmat.org.uk. If you would like to receive more information, please email Stacey.

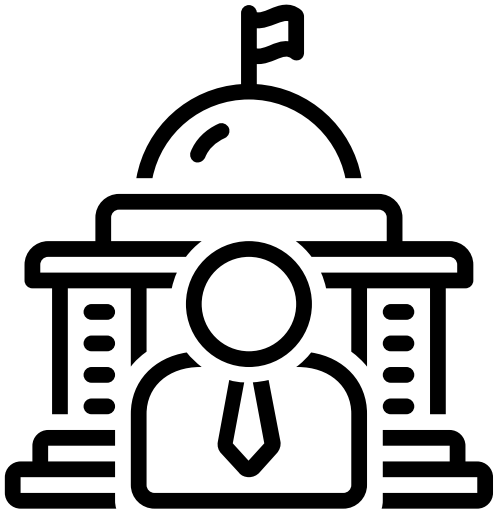
Personal Statement for parent election (maximum 250 words)
For parent governor roles, if more names are put forward than there are places, an election will be held. This will be shared with voters and should include:

- **Relevant skills and experience** that will support you in the role.
- **Your understanding of the role**, the commitment required, and your willingness to undertake relevant training and development.
- **If seeking re-election**, details of your previous contribution to the governing board.

Eligibility and disqualifications to serve as a local governor:

A person must be aged 18 or over at the date of their election or appointment.
A person shall be disqualified from holding office or continuing to hold office as trustee/local committee member if they:

- become incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering their own affairs;
- are absent without the permission of the trustees from all meetings held within a period of six months, and the trustees resolve that their office be vacated;
- have been declared bankrupt and/or their estate has been seized from their possession for the benefit of their creditors and the declaration or seizure has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order;
- are subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986; or
- are subject to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order);
- cease to be a trustee by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006;
- are disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision); or
- are otherwise found to be unsuitable by the Secretary of State;
- have been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which they were responsible; or to which they were privy; or which they, by their conduct, contributed to or facilitated;
- have, at any time, been convicted of any criminal offence, excluding any that have been spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 as amended, and excluding any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence except where a person has been convicted of any offence which falls under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011;
- have not provided to the chair of trustees a criminal records certificate at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997.



Dates for your diary

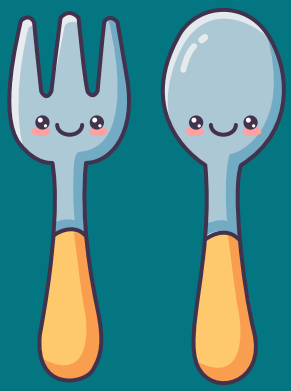
DATE	WHAT'S HAPPENING?
MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER	YEAR 5 AND SIMMONDS HEVER CASTLE TRIP
TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER	NEWSDAY TUESDAY
TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER	NO GYMNASTICS CLUB
THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER	HAPPY CIRCUS EVENT - FOM - SEE PAGE 6
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER	END OF TERM 1 - WEAR IT PINK DAY!
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER	FITNESS CLUB CANCELLED
MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER	TERM 2 BEGINS

SAVE THE DATE - DONATE HERE



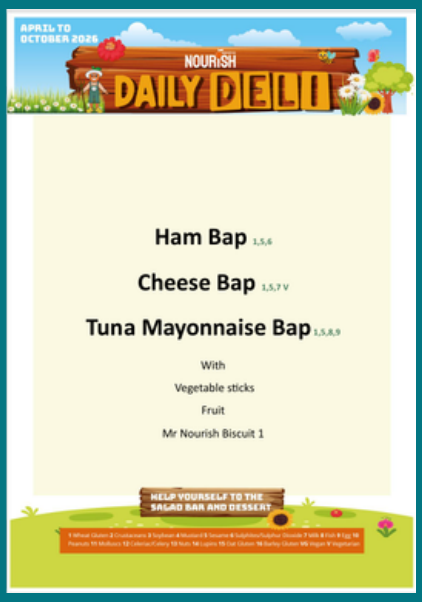
What's for lunch?

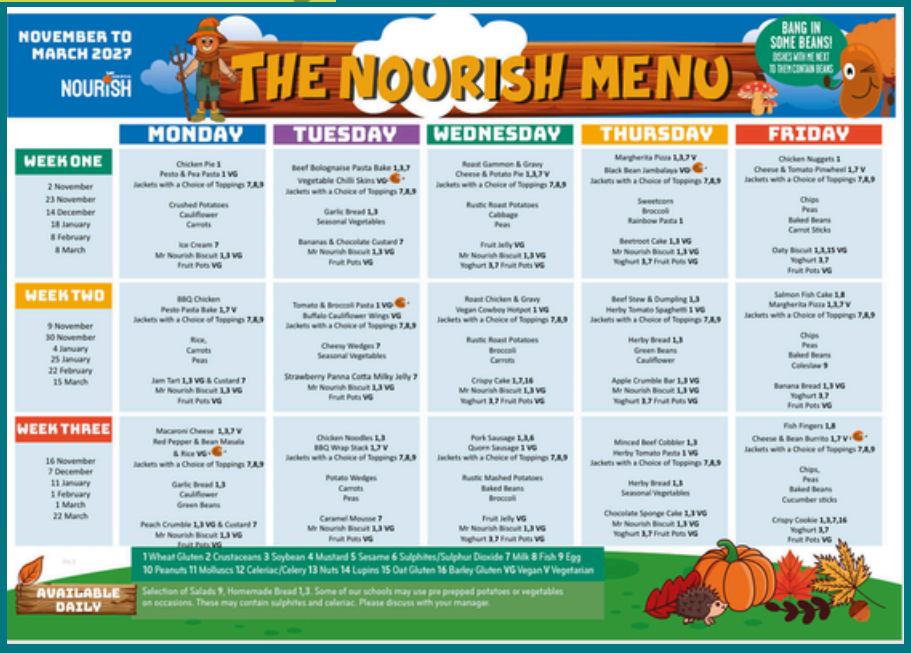












What's for lunch?

Minterne Junior School

OUR SCHOOL IS NUT FREE!

We try to keep our school nut free but sometimes items containing nuts may be brought in, unknowingly, in packed lunch boxes.

To keep risks low we ask all parents to be aware and to **NOT SEND YOUR CHILD** with any food containing nuts.



NOURISH
GROW WITH US

Nourish, our catering company, are made aware of all food related allergies and their allergens are clearly stated on their menus.

What's for lunch?

Free School Meals
Important Update for Families

What's changing?
From **September 2026**, Free School Meals will be extended to include:
- ✔ All children in households receiving Universal Credit
- ✔ No income threshold applied

This means more families will be eligible.

Why register now?
Even though changes start in September 2026, we encourage families to apply now if eligible.
- ✔ Your child receives Free School Meals as soon as eligible
- ✔ Your school receives extra funding (Pupil Premium)
- ✔ Everything is ready ahead of the national changes

How to apply (Kent families)
Apply online through Kent County Council:
www.kent.gov.uk/free-school-meals
It's free and only takes a few minutes.

Not sure if you qualify?
It's always worth checking — many families are eligible without realising.

Compassion . Community . Inclusion OCHAT

DON'T MISS OUT

NOURISH

FREE SCHOOL MEALS EXPANSION

No Income Cap, Income Threshold No Longer Applies



Key Details of the 2026 Expansion

No Income Cap: The previous £7,400 net earned income threshold no longer applies to the new expanded group.

Free school meals are now split into Two Benefit Categories:

Targeted FSM (for household earnings of £7,400 or less, which unlocks Pupil Premium funding) and
Expanded FSM (for earnings above £7,400, which provides the meal only).

How to Apply: While many local authorities automatically recheck or transition existing claims, families receiving Universal Credit who are not yet registered should submit an application through their local council or use online checkers like the Free School Meals Checker to confirm status.

Official Guidance: Read the complete policy updates and requirements on the GOV.UK Free School Meals Guidance page.

YOU COULD SAVE UP TO £550 A YEAR

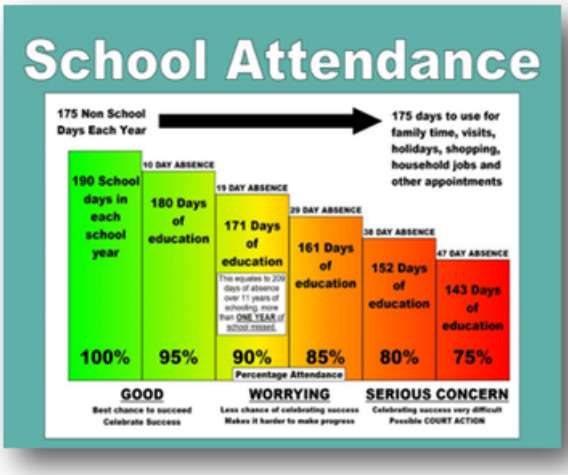


As you may be aware our school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Midmorning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children can reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised cost. If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/parents. If you register by 25/08/26 you could win a supermarket voucher or free milk for a year!



Attendance

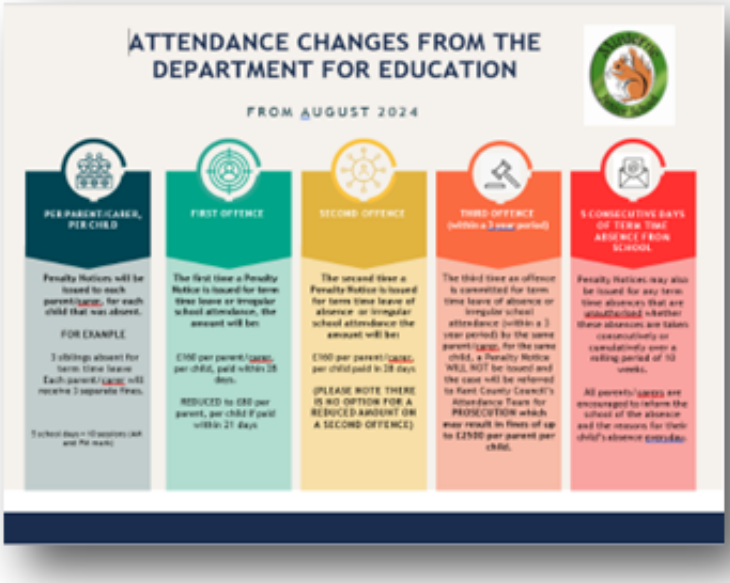
Minterne's attendance so far this year is 96.37%



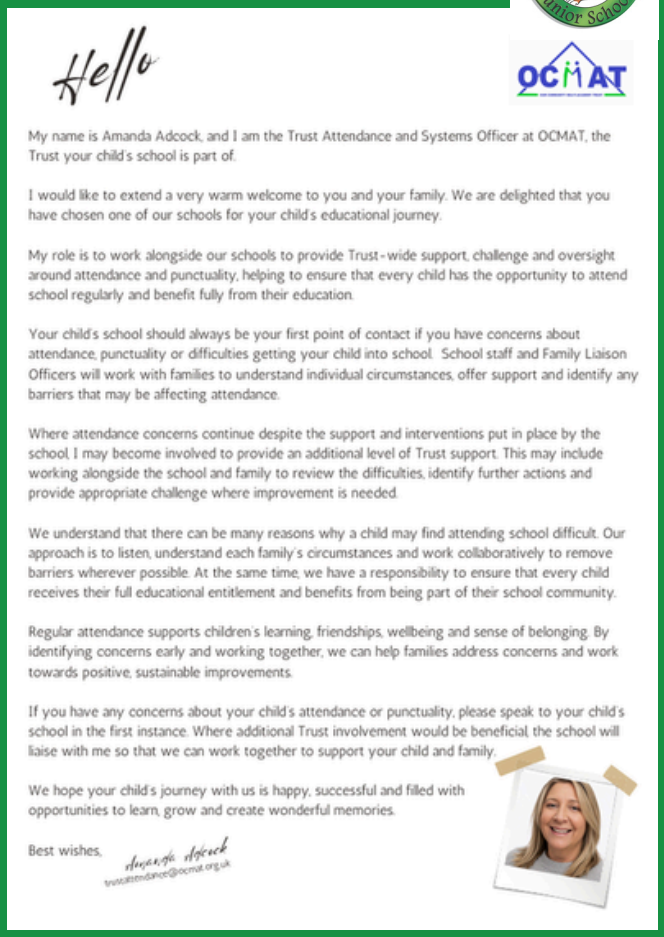


0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance









Hello

OCMAT

My name is Amanda Adcock, and I am the Trust Attendance and Systems Officer at OCMAT, the Trust your child's school is part of.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family. We are delighted that you have chosen one of our schools for your child's educational journey.

My role is to work alongside our schools to provide Trust-wide support, challenge and oversight around attendance and punctuality, helping to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend school regularly and benefit fully from their education.

Your child's school should always be your first point of contact if you have concerns about attendance, punctuality or difficulties getting your child into school. School staff and Family Liaison Officers will work with families to understand individual circumstances, offer support and identify any barriers that may be affecting attendance.

Where attendance concerns continue despite the support and interventions put in place by the school, I may become involved to provide an additional level of Trust support. This may include working alongside the school and family to review the difficulties, identify further actions and provide appropriate challenge where improvement is needed.

We understand that there can be many reasons why a child may find attending school difficult. Our approach is to listen, understand each family's circumstances and work collaboratively to remove barriers wherever possible. At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that every child receives their full educational entitlement and benefits from being part of their school community.

Regular attendance supports children's learning, friendships, wellbeing and sense of belonging. By identifying concerns early and working together, we can help families address concerns and work towards positive, sustainable improvements.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child's school in the first instance. Where additional Trust involvement would be beneficial, the school will liaise with me so that we can work together to support your child and family.

We hope your child's journey with us is happy, successful and filled with opportunities to learn, grow and create wonderful memories.

Best wishes,

Amanda Adcock
trustattendance@ocmat.org.uk





Dear Parents

We would like to kindly remind all families about the importance of being honest with the school regarding pupil absences during term time.

We fully understand that the cost of holidays during school breaks can be significantly higher. As school staff and parents ourselves, we appreciate and feel those pressures too. However, attendance at school is a legal requirement, and school registers are legal documents which must be completed accurately using the correct attendance codes.

When children return from holidays, they naturally want to share their experiences and excitement with their friends and teaching staff. Unfortunately, when a child has been told not to talk about their holiday because the absence was reported as illness, this can create confusion and upset for the child. It can also raise safeguarding concerns for the school, as we have a duty to ensure that all children are safe and accounted for at all times.

Honest communication helps us use our time and resources where they are most needed – supporting children's education and wellbeing.

We are not writing this to criticise families, but rather to ask for honesty and openness so that we can work together consistently and in the best interests of all children.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that any planned absence from school should be requested in advance so that it can be considered in line with the school's attendance policy. If your child will be absent due to a holiday during term time, please inform the school truthfully so that the absence can be recorded correctly.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Mrs Amanda Adcock
Trust Attendance Manager

OCMAT