



# Headteacher Newsletter

## Friday 17th October 2025

Term 1 has flown by!

The children and staff have worked so hard and deserve a well-earned rest. I am so proud of how they (and you!) have embraced the changes to behaviour expectations, uniform, and home learning this term.

I hope that you found your Parents' Evening appointment helpful and had a good opportunity to talk about your child's progress. Please remember that we have an open-door policy and are always here and keen to work closely with you to support your children in every way we can.

This week, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Blackman, who has been part of the West Borough community for over 20 years. During her time with us, she has taken on many roles and supported countless children with care and dedication.

Mrs Blackman is now following her passion for helping children who benefit from a different approach to education. She will be spending more time at the Flexi-Dyslexia School, where she will continue to make a wonderful difference.

We wish her every success and happiness for the future. She will be greatly missed!

Enjoy the half term break and I look forward to seeing you again on **Monday 27th October**.

**Mrs Jury-Sofi**

## Dates for the Diary

**Monday 27th October** - Term 2 begins

**Tuesday 28th October** - Flu vaccinations for Years R - 6

**Wednesday 29th October** - 9:30am - 10:30am - Year R September 2026 Open Day Tours

**Wednesday 29th October** - 1:30pm - 2:30pm - Year R September 2026 Open Day Tours

**Thursday 30th October** - 9:30am - 10:30am - Year R September 2026 Open Day Tours

**Thursday 30th October** - 1:30pm - 2:30pm - Year R September 2026 Open Day Tours

**Friday 31st October** - 9:30am - 10:30am - Year R September 2026 Open Day Tours

**Friday 31st October** - 1:30pm - 2:30pm - Year R September 2026 Open Day Tours

**Thursday 13th November** - School Photographs

**Wednesday 10th December** - Pupil of the Term Celebration (Invitation only)

**Thursday 11th December** - Nursery Christmas Sing-a-Long (Time TBC)

**Tuesday 16th December** - Year R Wriggly Nativity (9.30am)

**Wednesday 17th December** - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Carol Service (2.15pm)

## Other Year Group Performances

**Thursday 12th February 2026** - Year 5 Performance

**Tuesday 24th March 2026** - Year 3 & 4 Performance

**Year 6 Production** - Term 6 (Date TBC)

After careful consideration, it has been decided that only EYFS and Key Stage 1 will be performing at Christmas this year

This change comes as part of a new approach to spread our events more evenly throughout the school year, helping to reduce pressure on both children and staff during the busy festive season. We believe this will allow each year group to shine in their own time, and ensure that each performance is a happy and relaxed experience for everyone involved.



### Some sad news...

It is with great sadness that I have to share the news that **Bea**, our beloved school dog, belonging to Miss Meakin-Scott, has passed away. Bea has been an integral part of the West Borough community for nearly 8 years. She was much-loved and touched the hearts of everyone who met her. Bea was also mentioned in our recent Nurture Report **"Nurture breakfast has made a huge difference. The children arrive and have time to share their worries, have time to talk and spend time with Bea (the school dog) before transitioning to the classroom."** This shows the huge impact that Bea has had on everyone.

Miss Meakin-Scott is understandably devastated by her loss, and we know that Bea will be deeply missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. We have chosen not to share this news with the children at school, but would encourage you to talk with your child/children about this over the half term break.

It is important that the children have the opportunity to share their feelings and memories of Bea, so next term we will celebrate the happy memories we have of Bea. If your child would like to draw a picture, or write a note about their memories, please send them to the school office. I will then collate them and present Miss Meakin-Scott with a book of memories.



## Pupil of the Term Celebration



Our first Pupil of the Term Celebration was a great success. Huge congratulations to the following children who were chosen by their teachers to be our first recipients to receive this prestigious award.

**Nursery** - Stanley & Milo

**Silver Birch** - Sylvia

**Bonsai** - Charlie

**Cedar** - Nolan

**Cherry** - Lyra

**Ebony** - Rose

**Elm** - Maria

**Hawthorn** - George

**Hornbeam** - Raffi

**Larch** - Eva

**Lime** - Carter

**Magnolia** - Dominic

**Maple** - Oakley

**Walnut** - Samuel

**Willow** - Noah

## School Uniform

Thank you again for embracing our new rules and guidelines, especially with regards to the wearing of ear-rings.

I have seen huge improvements in the uniform that children are wearing. Please continue to support us in our goals for everyone to be **'Ready, Respectful and Safe.'**

## Behaviour Reminder - Changes for Term 2

As highlighted in my last newsletter, our behaviour principles are focussing on the following:

1. **'Ready' - Ready is the right time, right place and the right attitude.** Readiness for all things including being ready for learning, ready to listen, ready to go to lunch etc.
2. **'Respectful' - Respectful is caring for ourselves, our people and our environment.** When people are respectful, they are showing respect to their peers, to adults, to their environment, to themselves.
3. **'Safe' - Safe is taking actions that look after myself and others.** Being safe at school leads to everyone feeling safe in the learning environment, safe with the people around them and safe in the activities in which they are taking part in.

I am really impressed at how our children and teachers have embraced the changes.

### New for Term 2

After reviewing how we support children's behaviour, I wanted to let you know about a change coming up for Term 2.

We will no longer be using white and grey behaviour cards after half term. While these cards have been useful in the past, we want to move towards a system that places greater emphasis on:

- **Positive behaviour recognition** – celebrating when children demonstrate our school values.
- **Restorative approaches** – helping children to reflect on their choices and repair relationships.
- **Consistency** – making sure expectations are clear and applied fairly across the school.

Our aim is to ensure that children feel supported to make positive choices and that behaviour management is both fair and meaningful. Teachers and support staff will continue to have clear strategies to address concerns, but the focus will be on encouraging, guiding, and recognising positive behaviour rather than relying on card systems.

Staff will continue to log behaviour incidents and these will be tracked by the leadership team.

As a school, we believe in:

- **Early intervention:** Addressing small issues before they escalate.

- **Restorative conversations:** Guiding children to reflect on choices, understand impact, and repair relationships.
- **Parental engagement:** Keeping parents informed and involved in strategies to support their child.
- **Individual Behaviour Plans:** For repeated or serious behaviour, personalised behaviour support plans will be used.

Class Teachers will be your first port of call if your child has been involved in any behaviour incidents. If they feel that it is necessary, they will speak to you at the end of the day, send a message on Class Dojo or call you. If behaviour escalates or is more serious, a member of the leadership team might also be involved.

We use a tiered approach to behaviour.

### **Tier 1: Universal (for all pupils)**

#### **Proactive, preventative strategies applied to all.**

- Clear behaviour expectations are taught and displayed
- Use of Zones of Regulation or The Colour Monster (EYFS)
- Consistent routines
- Positive reinforcement
- Whole-school assemblies promoting values & behaviour themes
- Consistent language and expectations. **(Ready, Respectful, Safe)**
- Behaviour tracking for patterns, not just incidents.

### **Tier 2: Targeted (for some pupils)**

#### **Extra support for some children**

- Small group social skills or emotional regulation sessions. This might be through Nurture Sessions.
- Check-in with a trusted adult daily.
- Short-term behaviour plan with clear goals.
- Closer communication with parents to support strategies at home.
- Mentoring or buddy systems.

### **Tier 3: Intensive (for a few pupils)**

#### **Personalised, specialist interventions.**

- Individual Behaviour Support Plan with tailored strategies.
- Possible involvement of SENCO, or external agencies
- Adaptations to environment or timetable if needed.
- Parental/carers involvement and shared planning.

We will keep parents informed as the new system embeds and welcome your feedback as we move forward.



Admission to

# Primary school in Kent 2026

Apply online at

[kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Opens Friday 7 November 2025 and closes at  
midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026

For children born between  
1 September 2021  
and 31 August 2022,  
Transferring to Primary school  
in September 2026

## What to do

### Choose a school

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](https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions).

You can name up to three Primary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.

### Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens Friday 7 November 2025 and closes at midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026.

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 a confirmation email that your application has been correctly submitted.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

### Receiving your offer

On offer day (Thursday 16 April 2026) an email will be sent after 4pm informing you of your offer.

You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by Thursday 30 April 2026.

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 have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.

## Key dates

Friday 7 November 2025	Online application process opens. Go to <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions">www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions</a> to register and apply.
Thursday 15 January 2026	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to <a href="mailto:kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk">kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk</a>
Thursday 16 April 2026	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
Thursday 30 April 2026	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.
Wednesday 13 May 2026	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals">www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals</a> . You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

## Need help?

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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 if the child resides at a Kent address. If your child does not reside at a Kent address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.



# Admission to Junior school in Kent 2026

Apply online at  
[kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Opens Friday 7 November 2025 and closes  
at midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026

For children born between  
1 September 2018  
and 31 August 2019,  
Transferring to Junior school  
in September 2026

What to do

## Choose a school

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](https://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.

## Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens Friday 7 November 2025 and closes at midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026.

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Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council if the child resides at a Kent address. If your child does **not** reside at a Kent address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.



MAIDSTONE  
MUSEUM

# Young Artist Award 2026

The MMF Art Prize



## Is art your thing?

If you're aged 25 and under,  
we would love to see your work!

The Young Artist Award (The MMF Art Prize)  
is open to young artists from Kent and Sussex.

There are two age categories to enter -  
15 to 25 years and 14 years and under.

The winners of each category will receive  
£150 and the runners-up will receive £100,


**so give it a go!**

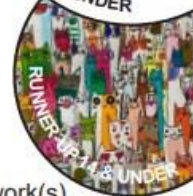
### 2026 theme: 'Place'

(consider the relationship between us and our environment, exploring  
landscapes, urban spaces, and the impact of location on identity and culture).

**Deadline: Sunday 23 November 2025.**

Find out more, download an entry form and submit your artwork(s)  
for the Young Artist Award 2026 from [museum.maidstone.gov.uk](https://museum.maidstone.gov.uk)

 Follow us on Instagram @MaidstoneYAA



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