



Term 2 Round Up...

As we reach the end of this long 8-week term, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that we have accomplished together.

In recent weeks, we have hosted a variety of events that showcase the talents and creativity of our children. Our Early Years Christmas celebration gave children their first taste of performing to a large audience in our school, bringing together families to enjoy the festive spirit. The Year 1 nativity was another highlight, with our young performers shining brightly on stage, bringing the story to life with their enthusiasm and charm. Year 2 also impressed us with their 'Step into Christmas' Wake and Shake performance yesterday, energising the audience with their lively routines. Our winter music concert was a fantastic display of musical talent, with children from various year groups showcasing their skills.

Family learning sessions for EYFS and Year 4 have provided wonderful opportunities for parents to engage in their children's learning. Year 4 enjoyed their trip to Maidstone Museum, where they had the chance to see the only mummy in Kent. This experience brought their history lessons to life! Year 5 also delved into the wonders of the universe during their Space Workshop.

Our Design Technology projects have been fully embraced by Year 3 and Year 6. Year 3 designed and created their very own magnetic games, demonstrating their creativity and problem-solving skills. Year 6 put their knowledge of electrical circuits to the test by designing and making wire buzzer games. The children are incredibly proud of their final products.

We have also welcomed prospective new parents to our school through a number of tours. These highlighted the wealth of learning opportunities available to our children. It was a pleasure to share our school community with them.

As we look forward to the next term, we are excited about exploring new topics and continuing to inspire children on their learning journey.

This Term's THRIVE Award Winners...



Our THRIVE awards celebrate those who have been recognised for embodying our school values. By celebrating these behaviours, we reinforce our commitment to creating a community filled with respect, responsibility, and kindness. Congratulations to all our winners—your hard work and commitment truly make a difference!

Snow Globe Fun

What a truly wonderful day we had for our Christmas dinner and jumper day! The festive spirit was incredible, with children donning their most colourful jumpers and enjoying a delicious meal together. This year, the children also had use of a huge inflatable snow globe, generously donated by one of our reception



parents, which quickly became the highlight of the day. Also, thank you to Santa, who took time out of his busy preparations to support the PTFA by visiting us! Many children shared that it was the best day ever!

OPAL

Thank you to all the parents who continue to support OPAL. As we navigate through the winter months, we recognise that outdoor play can be challenging due to the mud and cold. However, we continue to see the benefits of outdoor play and learning. Through OPAL, our children are developing essential skills such as problem-solving, creativity, and social interactions. These experiences not only enhance their physical well-being but also positively impact their classroom learning in the afternoons. We know that many of you have asked when you are able to come in to play again, this is something we hope to be able to organise soon.

Fundraising Update: Tesco Stronger Starts Scheme

As schools continue to face budget constraints, fundraising plays a crucial role in continuing to provide our children with enriching opportunities. We are excited to announce that River Primary has been accepted into the Tesco Stronger Starts, blue tokens scheme.

Please help the school by collecting blue tokens during your Tesco shopping trips from mid-January 2026 until the end of March 2026 in both the Whitfield store and Deal Tesco Express.



Support for families

If you need some support during the festive season, or indeed at any time, please check our school website which has a wealth of information and sources of support for you and your children.

[River Primary School - Support for Families](#)

We appreciate Christmas can be a stressful time for many families and there is a quick reference for support for adults below:

COPING AT CHRISTMAS
Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.

 0300 123 3393 Helpline mind.org.uk	 85258 here for you 24/7 Text SHOUT to 85258 24/7 text service giveusashout.org	 116 123 24/7 helpline samaritans.org
 Text YM to 85258 24/7 text service youngminds.org.uk	 0800 58 58 58 Helpline for men thecalmzone.net	 0800 068 4141 Under 35s Helpline papyrus-uk.org

We wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.

Kind regards,

Mrs Victoria Alliston



Diary Dates

Please make sure you take note of the Staff Development days for the year and term dates.

Thursday 18th December 2025	Last Day of Term 2
Friday 19th December 2025	Staff Development Day
Monday 5th January 2026	Start of Term 3
Thursday 15th January 2026	Year 1 Family Learning 2.15pm
Tuesday 20th January 2026	EYFS Wildwood Trip
Tuesday 27th January 2026	Year 5 Canterbury Trip
Monday 2nd February 2026	Year 1 Zoo Trip

Our website calendar is always up to date with what is going on in school. [River Primary School - Calendar](#)

Academic Dates for 2025-2026

Staff Development Days	Term Dates 2025-2026
Monday 1 st September 2025	<u>Term 1</u> 2 nd September 2025 – 17 th October 2025
Friday 19 th December 2025	<u>Term 2</u> 27 th October 2025 – 18 th December 2025
Monday 1 st June 2026	<u>Term 3</u> 5 th January 2026 – 13 th February 2026
Monday 20 th July 2026	<u>Term 4</u> 23 rd February 2026 – 2 nd April 2026
Tuesday 21 st July 2026	<u>Term 5</u> 20 th April 2026 – 22 nd May 2026
	<u>Term 6</u> 2 nd June 2026 – 17 th July 2026