



River Primary School

Part of the Lydden and River Primary Schools Federation

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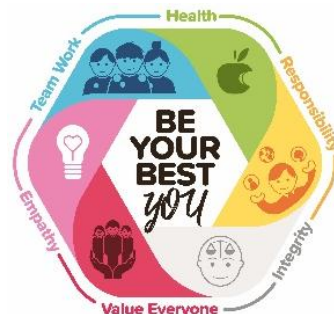
Issue No 12

Friday 17th July 2026

End of Year Message

As another school year draws to a close, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. From the first day in September to the final week of term, our children have continued to amaze us with their curiosity, determination and kindness, making River Primary a wonderful place to learn and grow.

As Headteacher, I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such an exceptional team of staff. Their dedication extends far beyond the classroom. Every day they bring enthusiasm and compassion, ensuring every child feels valued, supported and inspired to achieve their very best. Whether teaching, supporting learning, keeping our school running smoothly behind the scenes or maintaining our beautiful environment, every member of our team plays a vital role in making River the special community it is.



Sports Day Results

Following our fantastic Sports Days, the final results have now been announced, and it couldn't have been closer! With just **one point** separating first and second place, the competition went right down to the wire. Congratulations to all of our house teams for their incredible effort and enthusiasm throughout the day, and a special well done to our winning house!

The overall winners are **Frandham**

Overall Sports Day winners

	Limekiln	Frandham	Coxhill	Holmstone
EYFS Year 1/2	1673	1616	1514	1485
Year 3/4	2704	2652	2495	2477
Year 5/6	2850	2960	2769	2561
Total	7227	7228	6778	6523
	2nd	1st	3rd	4th

This Term's THRIVE award winners...



Your hard work, dedication, and positive attitudes have truly shone through, and it's fantastic to see your efforts recognised. A huge well done for embodying the spirit of our school community and values!

We look forward to celebrating more THRIVE award winners next year.

Forest School – Term 1

Please take note of your child's Term 1 Forest School dates. please remember that children should come to school wearing appropriate clothing and footwear on their allocated Forest School day.

This includes long sleeves, long trousers and sturdy, closed toe shoes (trainers/boots) or wellies where appropriate.

Read Aloud Challenge

As this year is the 'National Year of Reading', we have signed up to take part in the National Read Aloud Challenge 2026, powered by Fonetti.



Throughout the challenge, children engage in independent reading using the app 'Fonetti'. The aim is to enhance reading skills during the summer break, aiming to prevent the typical 'summer slump' while fostering a genuine passion for reading.

During the challenge period, the children will join the school team aiming to read as many books as possible whilst earning certificates for reaching various milestones.

Register your child for FREE at: <https://readaloudchallenge.co.uk/join/MTXJ-YLFM-MATO>

Staff News

Sadly, at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Watson, who is leaving River Primary after 11 wonderful years to begin an exciting new role at a local special school. Mrs Watson has made a lasting impact on so many children and families during her time with us, and while she will be greatly missed, we wish her every success and happiness in this next chapter of her career. Good luck, Mrs Watson!

Goodbye and Good Luck Year 6



As our Year 6 children prepare to leave River Primary School, we would like to say how incredibly proud we are of everything they have achieved. They have been fantastic role models, embracing every opportunity, showing kindness and resilience. They have made a lasting contribution to our school community.

As you take your next steps into secondary school, remember the message that has been at the heart of your time at River: **Be Your Best You**. Have the confidence to embrace new opportunities, believe in yourselves, show kindness to others and never stop striving to achieve your very best. We wish every one of you happiness, success and exciting adventures in the years ahead.

We wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer break. We can't wait to welcome everyone back on **Wednesday 2nd September**, refreshed, recharged and ready for another exciting year of learning together!

Kind regards,

Mrs Victoria Alliston



Diary Dates

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

Friday 17th July 2026	Last Day of Term School finishes at 1.45pm EYFS – Year 5 School finishes at 1.55pm Year 6
Tuesday 1st September 2026	Staff Development Day <i>School Closed for Children</i>
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	First Day of Term 1
Thursday 10th September 2026	Y6 Kent Test
Friday 11th September 2026	Y5 Forest School

Tuesday 15th September 2026	Y1 Local Walk
Friday 18th September 2026	Y5 Forest School
Thursday 24th September 2026	'Word Guerilla' Assembly and Workshops Y1 – Y6
Friday 25th September 2026	
Tuesday 29th September 2026	School Photos
Thursday 1st October 2026	Y2 Forest School
Friday 2nd October 2026	Y3 Forest School
Monday 5th October 2026	Y5 Maths Workshops from Ootiboo
Friday 9th October 2026	Y4 Forest School
Friday 16th October 2026	Y1 Forest School
Thursday 22nd October 2026	EYFS Forest School Last Day of Term 1
Friday 23rd October 2026	Staff Development Day <i>School Closed for Children</i>
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026	Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2026	Staff Development Day <i>School Closed for Children</i>
Tuesday 3rd November 2026	First Day Term 2

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

Academic Dates for 2026-2027

Staff Development Days	Term Dates 2026 - 2027
Tuesday 1st September 2026	<u>Term 1</u> 1 st September – 23 rd October 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026	<u>Term 2</u> 2 nd November – 18 th December 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026	<u>Term 3</u> 4 th January – 12 th February 2027
Monday 7th June 2027	<u>Term 4</u> 22 nd February – 25 th March 2027
Tuesday 8th June 2027	<u>Term 5</u> 12 th April – 28 th May 2027
	<u>Term 6</u> 7 th June – 21 st July 2027

Kent Term Dates : [Determined School Term dates for 2026-27](#)