



River Primary School

Part of the Lydden and River Primary Schools Federation

Headteacher : Mrs V Alliston

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Issue No 1

Website: www.river.kent.sch.uk

Friday 18th September 2026

Welcome Back!

What a fantastic start we have had to the new school year! It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to River, as well as saying a very special hello to those joining our school community for the first time.

The first few weeks of term are always an important time for children to settle in, build new relationships and reconnect with friends and familiar adults. Across the school, children have been busy getting to know their new classrooms and teachers, while remembering the routines and expectations that help make River a happy, safe and successful place to learn.

We have an exciting year ahead, with lots already planned! From trips, visitors, special events and memorable learning experiences, there will be plenty for our children to look forward to. We look forward to working together with our families throughout the year and sharing all the wonderful things our children achieve.

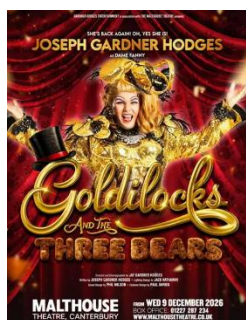


Keep Up to Date with Your Child's Learning

[River Primary School - Class Pages](#)

Please remember that our class pages are updated every term to give families an overview of the exciting learning taking place in school. You'll find information about the topics and key areas of learning your child will be exploring, helping you to know what they are learning about and providing opportunities to continue conversations and learning at home.

Have You Heard? We're Off to the Panto!



Oh yes we are! We are incredibly excited to be taking the whole school to the Malthouse Theatre in Canterbury this December for a very special Christmas pantomime experience!

Please remember that consent and payment should be completed via ParentPay. We would be grateful if families could complete this as soon as possible to help us finalise arrangements.

We're already counting down!

Word Guerilla is Coming to River

We're really excited to welcome author and performance poet David Bowden, aka 'Word Guerilla', to school next week! He'll be delivering inspiring workshops and assemblies for our children, celebrating words, imagination and creativity.

If you'd like to pre-order one of his books to add to the excitement of his visit, please see the information sent via email.

Keeping Children Safe Online

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe online, we ask all parents and carers to read and discuss the school's Acceptable Use Policies with your child included in this email and on our website. [River Primary School - Policies](#) These policies help children understand how to use technology safely and responsibly, both in school and at home.

Online safety continues to be an important part of our safeguarding work, particularly as children increasingly use a wide range of devices, games, apps and online platforms. Our school safeguarding arrangements recognise the importance of supporting families with keeping children safe online.

Please take some time to talk with your child about:

- keeping personal information private;
- being kind and respectful online;
- what to do if something online makes them uncomfortable or worried;
- telling a trusted adult if they see something that concerns them; and
- using devices, games and apps in accordance with age restrictions and family rules.

Thank you for supporting us in keeping our children safe both in school and at home.

Allergy Safety – Updated Guidance

Following the introduction of Benedict's Law and updated guidance for schools, we have reviewed and strengthened our arrangements for managing allergies and responding to allergic reactions in school. As part of these arrangements, we now have spare adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) readily accessible in school for emergency use, alongside clear procedures to support a prompt and effective response should a child experience a serious allergic reaction.

Our updated Allergy Policy can be found on the school website, [River Primary School - Policies](#) together with further information about how we manage allergies and work to keep all of our children safe. Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility, and we appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain an allergy-aware school community.

Please ensure that the school is kept up to date with any changes to your child's medical needs.

Kind regards,

Mrs Victoria Alliston



Diary Dates

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

Wednesday 23rd September 2026	Year 3 and 4 Yoga Year 4 Times Table Family Learning 2pm
Thursday 24th September 2026	Word Guerilla Workshops
Friday 25th September 2026	Word Guerilla Workshops Flu immunisations
Thursday 24th – Tuesday 29th September 2026	Book Fair for Families in the Hall 3.25pm
Monday 28th September 2026	EYFS Stay and Play <i>Please sign up for 1 of these sessions</i>

Tuesday 29th September 2026	Individual School Photo
Wednesday 30th September 2026	Year 3 and 4 Yoga
Thursday 1st October 2026	Restart a Heart Day Year 2 Forest School EYFS Stay and Play <i>Please sign up for 1 of these sessions</i>
Friday 2nd October 2026	Year 3 Forest School Year 5 Samphire Project Visitor Talk
Monday 5th October 2026	Year 5 Ootiboo Maths Workshops
Wednesday 7th October 2026	Year 3 and 4 Yoga
Thursday 8th October 2026	Year 2 Castles Trip
Friday 9th October 2026	Year 4 Forest School
Monday 12th October 2026	Year 6 Ootiboo Maths Workshops
Wednesday 14th October 2026	Year 3 and 4 Yoga
Friday 16th October 2026	Year 1 Forest School
Monday 19th October 2026	EYFS and Year 6 NHS Screening
Tuesday 10th October 2026	Parent Consultations <i>Details to Follow</i>
Wednesday 21st October 2026	Year 3 Museum Trip
Thursday 22nd October 2026	Year R Forest School Parent Consultations <i>Details to Follow</i>
Friday 23rd October 2026	Staff Development Day

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](#)