



Term 1 Learning Summary

What a busy and exciting first term we have had! Alongside their everyday learning, our children have enjoyed a range of experiences designed to broaden their horizons, develop new skills and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Some of our highlights have included:

- Samphire Charity visiting Year 5 to explore migration and immigration, helping children develop empathy and understanding of others' experiences.
- Word Guerilla inspiring Years 1–6 through exciting poetry assemblies and creative writing workshops.
- Ootiboo Money Workshops giving Years 5 and 6 valuable real-life skills in managing and understanding money.
- Celebrating Differences through assemblies exploring neurodiversity, Black History Month and the importance of valuing everyone.
- Restart a Heart sessions raising CPR awareness among our Key Stage 2 children.
- Allergy Awareness learning across the school, helping children understand how to keep others safe.
- World Mental Health Day, when we wore blue to show our support for local charity South Kent Mind.

These experiences are an important part of life at River, helping our children grow into confident, curious, caring and respectful young people.

This Term's THRIVE Award Winners...



A huge well done to all our THRIVE Award winners this term! We are incredibly proud of the way you have demonstrated our school values through your actions, attitudes and kindness towards others. You are wonderful role models for our school community.

Secondary School Admissions – Year 6 Reminder

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline for secondary school applications is fast approaching!

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2027, you must submit your application online by midnight on **Monday 2nd November 2026**.

Applications can be completed via the Kent County Council website:

www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

Please ensure your application is submitted before the deadline, as late applications may affect your child's chances of securing a place at one of your preferred schools.



OPAL Donations – Thank You!

This week, we held an OPAL donation non uniform day, and we would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for your incredible generosity! These contributions go a long way in helping us continue to develop and sustain exciting, creative and enriching play opportunities for all our children.

Our OPAL journey is all about making playtimes the very best they can be, and your continued support makes such a difference.



Poppy Appeal – Supporting the Royal British Legion

From Tuesday 3rd November, our School Council will be on the playground at breaktimes throughout the week, selling poppies and a range of poppy merchandise to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

The suggested donations are:

Poppy – Voluntary donation

Zip Pull – 50p

Key Ring – £1

Slap Band – £1 (limited to one per child)

Wrist Band – £1

Pencil – £1



On Wednesday 11th November, to mark Remembrance Day, children who belong to uniformed organisations such as Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers, Squirrels, Cubs or Scouts are welcome to wear their service uniform to school.

Thank you for supporting this important cause and helping our children understand the significance of remembrance.

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



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

A reminder that consent and payment must be completed via **ParentPay by Friday 6th November 2026.**

We would be grateful if all families could complete this before the deadline to help us finalise arrangements. We can't wait to share this magical Christmas experience with the children!

Community Survey

Dover Pride in Place is bringing up to £20 million of investment to Buckland and St Radigunds over the next 10 years. We want local residents to help shape how this funding is used and what improvements matter most to our community.

If you live, work or spend time in the area, we'd love to hear your views. Please take a few minutes to complete our community survey and help shape future projects, activities and investment in your neighbourhood. Complete the survey here: [Pride in Place Residents' Survey](#)

Your views matter! Thank you for helping us build stronger communities.

Wishing all our River families a wonderful half term – we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 3rd November!

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 23rd October 2026	Staff Development Day
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October 2026	Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2026	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 3rd November 2026	First Day Back of Term 2
Wednesday 4th November 2026	Year 6 Morpurgo Forest School
Friday 6th November 2026	EYFS Traditional Tale Dress Up
Wednesday 11th November 2026	Year 6 Spielberg Forest School Remembrance Day <i>Children can wear 'service' uniform e.g. Cubs/Brownies</i>
Thursday 12th November 2026	Year 1 Forest School
Friday 13th November 2026	Year 4 Maidstone Trip Children in Need <i>Details to Follow</i>
Monday 16th – Friday 20th November 2026	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th November 2026	Year 5 Forest School Year 6 Spielberg Horse Riding Experience Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 17th November 2026	Year 4 Forest School Year 6 Lantern Workshop
Friday 20th November 2026	EYFS Forest School Parent Coffee Afternoon 2pm <i>Zones of Regulation/Managing Emotions</i>
Monday 23rd November 2026	Year 6 Morpurgo Horse Riding Experience
Thursday 3rd December	Christmas Music Concert <i>Details to Follow</i>
Monday 7th December 2026	EYFS Christmas Celebration <i>2.30pm</i>
Tuesday 8th December 2026	Year 2 Forest School
Wednesday 9th December 2026	Christmas Disco <i>EYFS/KS1 3.15-4.30pm (come to school in disco clothes)</i> <i>KS2 4.45-6.00pm</i>
Thursday 10th December 2026	Year 1 Nativity <i>2.30pm</i>
Tuesday 15th December 2026	Panto Visit 1
Wednesday 16th December 2026	Christmas Lunch <i>Wear your Christmas Jumper and Festive Accessories</i>
Thursday 17th December 2026	Panto Visit 2
Friday 18th December 2026	Last Day of Term 2
Monday 4th January 2027	First Day of Term 3

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 1 st September 2026	<u>Term 1</u> 1 st September – 23 rd October 2026
Friday 23 rd October 2026	<u>Term 2</u> 2 nd November – 18 th December 2026
Monday 2 nd November 2026	<u>Term 3</u> 4 th January – 12 th February 2027
Monday 7 th June 2027	<u>Term 4</u> 22 nd February – 25 th March 2027
Tuesday 8 th 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

Thank you!

River Primary School

We would like to offer our sincere thanks for raising an incredible £164.10 in aid of South Kent Mind through your non-school uniform day on Friday 9th October 2026.

We are incredibly grateful that you chose to support your local Mind. As an independent local charity, the money you have raised will help us continue providing vital mental health and wellbeing support to people across our South Kent communities.

Thank you to all staff, colleagues, parents and children who donated and took part.

Your support makes a real difference to local mental health.

With very best wishes and grateful thanks,

South Kent Mind

 **mind South Kent**
Registered Charity no. 1089472



School Tours

Is your child due to start school in September 2022?

We warmly invite prospective parents and carers to visit our school, meet our team and see our wonderful learning environment for yourself.



TOUR DATES

Tuesday 3rd November	4pm
Wednesday 4th November	1.30pm
Thursday 12th November	11am
Monday 16th November	11am
Tuesday 1st December	4pm
Tuesday 8th December	11am
Wednesday 9th December	1.30pm



Please contact the school office to book on
01304 822516
or office@river.kent.sch.uk



Team Work



Health



Responsibility



Integrity



Empathy



Value Everyone