



Parent Survey

Thank you to the parents who took the time to respond to our recent parent survey. Your input is instrumental in helping us improve as a school community.

The results were overwhelmingly positive, and I am delighted to share some highlights with you:

- **94% of you agree your child is happy at school.**
- **95% of you said that your child feels safe at this school.**
- **94% of you feel there is a good range of subjects available to your child.**
- **93% of you would recommend our school.**

These figures reflect the partnership we have with you, our parents and families, and the dedication of the staff at River, who ensure your children thrive.

The additional comments provided by parents, were uplifting.

- *“My child is constantly encompassed to achieve their potential and more. They are treated with respect and dignity and I trust River wholeheartedly with their good intentions and ambition for all students.”*
- *“Wide range of opportunities for all children, genuinely caring staff who have my child’s best interests at heart.”*
- *“An exciting and engaging curriculum and wider activities that help develop my children’s knowledge and understanding of the world. Opal play is amazing and both of my boys love it. The visits, visitors and assemblies strengthen the values in my children. My children feel happy, safe and confident and I am lucky that my children get to attend River Primary School.”*
- *“The senco department is unmatched. The teachers are all brilliant at what they do and have created a lovely learning environment for the children.”*

We know that River is a truly special school and we are so proud of the environment we are building together for the children.

The feedback provided also gave us valuable insights into areas we can improve. Some of these we have already been able to action, and others we will use to shape our future priorities.



Your suggestion	Our response
<i>Consideration to having end of term discos</i>	The PTFA are keen to work with us to offer this opportunity in the near future.
<i>To have space for children for breakfast club</i>	We have recently increased our capacity and have opened up more spaces at our Breakfast Club.
<i>Text reminder service to parents</i>	We understand there are a lot of events to keep on top of and our ‘Next Week at River’ weekly summary is designed to give you a snapshot of the communication. We hope this is helpful in acting as a reminder.
<i>Consider the frequency of communication by email to parents. Lots of emails, means I may miss something.</i>	
<i>Better pastoral support for families</i>	We are committed to pastoral care for children and families. Mrs Clarke, our pastoral TA, works closely with a number of children in school. We also signpost to external agencies. We will consider how we can expand our offer further.

Please know that your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome. The Headship team are available on the gate at the start or end of the day, if you ever want to share further feedback or discuss anything else.

This Term's THRIVE Award Winners...



These children have truly gone above and beyond in every way, showing our school values and often brightening our days with their big smiles! Their hard work and positive attitudes not only inspire their peers but also make our school community a better place. Congratulations to all our winners – we are so proud of you!

Well Done to Our Football Team!

We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate our amazing football team, who represented the Deal and Dover district at the Under 11s County Finals! The team's incredible spirit and determination shone through as they made it past the group stages and into the finals. Although we were narrowly knocked out after a nail-biting penalty shootout, we could not be prouder of our players. Their teamwork and sportsmanship were truly inspiring!




Parent Consultations

We hope you received your child's mid-term report via email. Parent consultations will take place on Wednesday 5th March and Thursday 6th March, to give you an opportunity to discuss this in more detail. Please use the emailed link to book an appointment with your child's teacher.

Parent Support

Are you looking for a chance to chat with other parents and specialists? Why not join the family groups coffee morning, at the SMILE centre, where time and space is created for parents of children with Special Needs and Disabilities to come together and share the joys and challenges of parenting a child with additional needs? [What We Do – Include Us 2 \(includesus2.org.uk\)](#)

This website has some brilliant links to free workshops (online and in person) which may support you and your child at home in a range of areas - [Health, Wellbeing and Personal Development courses | Kent Adult Education](#)



SEN Coffee Group

THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025 12-2PM

EYs and Primary School aged children (Year Groups Reception-6)

A support group for parents/carers of children with SEN.

The coffee groups are run by Cloe Atkins, our Specialist Support Worker for STLS (Specialist Teaching & Learning Service).

Angie O'Gorman, our Specialist Teacher in Communication and Interaction (C&I), will be in attendance for this date.

Contact Sophie Hammond to book your place: aspensmile@whitfield.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01304 829846

Location
SMILE Centre
Whitfield Aspen
School
Mayfield Road
Whitfield
CT16 3LJ

If you are looking for some useful tips on how to support your child with ASD to gain a better night's sleep, please visit the following website. There is a useful video and leaflet with tips and support with links to recent research which has been carried out - [Learning about Sleep with Autistic Teens: A synergy between researchers, emotional wellbeing practitioners, teachers and autistic young people - UCL Discovery](#)

We hope that you have a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 24th February.

Kind regards,

Mrs Victoria Alliston



Diary Dates

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

Fri 14th February 2025	Last day of Term 3
Monday 24th February 2025	First day of Term 4
Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th March 2025	Parent Consultations <i>Follow the emailed link to book.</i>
Thursday 6th March 2025	World Book Day <i>Details to follow. Please do not buy costumes.</i>
Monday 10th March – Friday 14th March 2025	British Science Week
Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th March 2025	EYFS 'Stay and Play' <i>Sign up sheet available from 03/03.</i>
Monday 24th March 2025	Year 3 Fort Trip <i>Details to follow.</i>
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Year 5 Theatre Trip
Friday 2nd May 2025	Year 5 Theme Park Trip <i>Details to follow.</i>

Academic Dates for 2024 - 2025

Staff Development Days Monday 2 nd June 2025 Monday 21 st July 2025 Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	Term Dates 2024- 2025 <u>Term 4</u> Monday 24 th February 2025 – Friday 4 th April 2025 <u>Term 5</u> Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 – Friday 23 rd May 2025 <u>Term 6</u> Tuesday 3 rd June 2025 – Friday 18 th July 2025
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Here are some local activities happening in our local community over the February half-term. If you are looking for things to do with your child/children over the holiday, please explore some of our local activities.

Dino Crafts at Betteshanger

15-16th February; 22nd - 23rd February

From: £6.00

Location: Betteshanger

Join our Forest School team for dino-themed forest school crafts in The Glass Room!

Whether you're crafting for fun, creating heartfelt gifts, or enjoying some quality time with loved ones, this experience is perfect for all ages.

[Dino Crafts - Betteshanger Country Park](#)



Half-term History Makers at Dover Castle

Date: Sat 15th February – Sun 23rd February 2025

Location: Dover Castle

Join characters from the past for heritage-inspired hijinks and hands-on shenanigans at Dover Castle this half term. Embark on a journey through time with Happening History's marvellous magic lantern show!

Witness the wonders of the first ever moving images and experience the magic that captivated audiences over a century ago. Join us for a day of entertainment, Victorian style.

Booking details can be found at:

[Half Term History Makers at Dover Castle | English Heritage](#)



Beach Scavenger Hunt – Samphire Hoe

Join ranger Paul for a walk to the beach to do the scavenger hunt challenge and discover the natural treasure the winter storms have brought in. Will you find a mermaid's purse, cuttlefish bones, a fossil or another treasure from the deep?

Location: Dover Castle

Date:

23rd February 2025

Time:

1:00pm - 2:30pm



For more details, please visit:

whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/events/whats-on/beach-scavenger-hunt-samphire-hoe

Mini Beast Hunt at the Beaney Museum

Visitors to Canterbury's free museum can join the hunt for minibeasts this half-term. Bugs have overrun the building and it's up to you to find them all and help clean up the museum by solving puzzles and collecting stamps.

For more details, please visit:

[Mischief at the Museum: The bugs that came too - Canterbury Museums & Galleries](#)

Other adventures:

[February half term](#)

[Family & kids | Dover District Leisure Centre](#)

[Holiday Courses | Dynamic Sports Coaching](#)

Howletts Animal Park

Explore one of Kent's biggest wildlife parks for less this half-term. During the school holidays, adults can bring up to three children for free and enjoy everything the park has to offer. There's more than 390 animals - including four adorable new lion cubs -, indoor arts and crafts and an immersive activity trail.

[Kids go Free - Howletts Wild Animal Park | Kent | The Aspinall Foundation](#)