

Term 1

Newsletter



Term 1

Monday 12th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of our first half term, it has been wonderful to see how quickly everyone has settled into the new school year. Our Year 3 children have made a fantastic start to life at St Laurence and all of our pupils have settled so well into their new classes and routines. There is already a real sense of belonging across the school.

One of the things I have particularly enjoyed this term is seeing our children taking greater responsibility and having a genuine voice in our school community. We are already seeing the impact! Botany Bay class thought about how to support children who might feel lonely or have no one to play with. Their ideas led to the introduction of our new Friendship Stop on the playground - a lovely example of pupil voice turning into action. Our School Council has also been busy gathering ideas from classmates about wet play resources, before heading to Smyths to choose new toys for everyone to enjoy. It is wonderful to see children making decisions that benefit our whole school community.

Our Year 5 children have been enjoying their Forest School sessions at Northbourne Primary School this term, making the most of the opportunity to learn and explore outdoors. Palm Bay have also started their keyboard lessons, developing their musical skills and enjoying the opportunity to make music together.

I am delighted to confirm that our whole-school pantomime trip to the Marlowe Theatre to see Peter Pan on Thursday 3rd December is able to go ahead! We are really looking forward to taking all of our pupils for what promises to be a fantastic afternoon of Christmas fun. More information about the arrangements will be shared with families nearer the time.

Bookings are now live on MCAS for our upcoming Parents' Evenings on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October.

I cannot emphasise enough how important these meetings are, providing a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and how we can work together to support them. I strongly encourage all families to book an appointment. Our Book Fair will also be running during both evenings, so do pop along and have a browse!

There has certainly been a lot packed into our first half term, and I am so pleased with the positive start everyone has made. Our values of hope, joy, resilience, forgiveness and love are already being seen in so many different ways as our children grow in confidence, take responsibility and look out for one another.

I hope you all have a lovely half-term break when it arrives. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy and exciting term.

With warmest wishes,
Louise Buckland
(Head Teacher)



Seen



Known



Loved

PE DAYS TERM 2

Botany Bay - Miss Champion/Miss Blades	Monday
Palm Bay - Miss McQuillen	Wednesday
Joss Bay - Mr Spencer	Friday (Swimming)
Epple Bay - Ms Ditchburn	Tuesday

Forest school will continue for Year 5 on Tuesdays - please see information from Mr Spencer for specific details

ROCK KIDZ ON TOUR

DATE CHANGE!

Sadly, due to staff sickness at Rock Kidz, their visit has had to be postponed until

MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER.

So, there's no need to dust off the leather jackets, sunglasses and rock star hairdos just yet – you've got a little longer to prepare!

We'll see you all ready to rock on 30th November!

The poster features a rock-themed background with spotlights, stars, and guitars. The text is presented in various styles: bold block letters for the title, a yellow sticky note for the date change, a white speech bubble for the explanation, and a red banner for the new date. The bottom section includes a yellow box for additional advice and a black banner for the final announcement.

JOY HOPE LOVE FORGIVENESS RESILIENCE

News

Cross Country Event



We were incredibly proud of the pupils who represented St Laurence at the cross-country event at Upton Primary School on Saturday 3rd October. They showed real grit and resilience, keeping going when the races were challenging, while also doing a brilliant job of cheering and encouraging one another along the way.

Every pupil received a medal for taking part, which was a lovely way to celebrate their efforts. Well done to everyone who represented our school—we look forward to the next cross-country event in May, when we hope even more pupils will be inspired to get involved!



Staffing News

This half term, we say a very fond farewell to Mrs Kirk, who has been part of the St Laurence team as a Teaching Assistant for over a decade. I would like to thank her for her incredible commitment, dedication and care for our children over the years. She has been a much-valued member of our school community and will be greatly missed.

We wish Mrs Kirk all the very best as she heads off on her next adventure, travelling in her motor home! We hope she has an amazing time and makes lots of wonderful memories along the way. We are currently recruiting for her replacement and will share further details once an appointment has been made.



World Mental Health Day

We marked World Mental Health Day last week with a wonderful sea of yellow across the school!

We talked about the fact that everyone has mental health, just as everyone has physical health, and that both need to be looked after. The children explored some of the things that can help us to feel happy and calm as well as the importance of talking to someone we trust when things feel difficult.

It was lovely to see the children engaging so positively with these conversations and thinking about how we can look after not only our own wellbeing, but also support and look out for the people around us. A big thank you to everyone who joined in by wearing yellow and helping us to mark such an important day. ❤️



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News



Positive Playtimes

Our new playground additions have been a huge hit with the children! From our newly painted bike track and Snakes and Ladders to giant Connect 4, giant Twister and some new swing balls, there's been plenty of fun to be had at breaktimes and lunchtimes!

Sadly, our much-loved bikes are starting to see better days, so we're now saving up the proceeds from our Frozen Fridays (and soon-to-be Hot Chocolate Fridays!) to purchase some new ones.

And who knows? Our enthusiastic pupil leaders might just have a few more fundraising ideas up their sleeves to help us reach our target even sooner. Watch this space!



Pupil Leadership

Introducing our brand new House Captains, School Council, Eco Warriors, Worship Shepherds and Librarians!

We have been working really hard to develop and expand our pupil leadership opportunities this year. We believe it is so important for children to have a voice, take on responsibilities and play an active role in school life.

These roles help our pupils grow in confidence, develop important leadership skills and recognise that they can make a real difference to our school community. We are incredibly proud of all the children who have stepped up to take on these roles this year!



JOY

HOPE

LOVE

FORGIVENESS

RESILIENCE

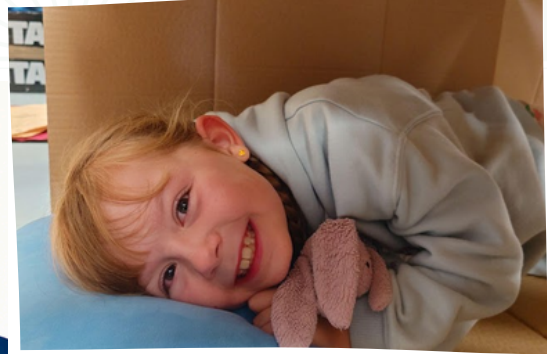
Pupil Achievements

Cardboard Sleepout

Alice took part in a sponsored cardboard sleepout with her Scout group on Saturday to raise money for Porchlight, a charity supporting people affected by homelessness.

She showed fantastic commitment and kindness, and was all smiles when the adults left her for the night!

Alice has currently raised **over £50** for this wonderful cause.



Brownies Achievement

Freya joined Brownies last year and has been working hard on appointed tasks from Brown Owl.

As a result of her hard work and determination, she was rewarded 3 new badges over the summer break.

We are so proud of Freya and all her efforts.



Well done, Freya!

On Your Bike, Mia!

A huge well done to Mia, who has achieved a fantastic milestone this week by learning to ride a bike without stabilisers for the very first time!

Having previously taken a tumble and lost her confidence, Mia showed brilliant resilience and determination by giving it another go. And she didn't do things by halves – she went straight onto an adult-sized bike, complete with gears!

What a wonderful example of perseverance and not giving up. Enjoy your new bike, Mia!

**Dream it
Do it • Ride it!**



Seen



Known



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Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 2 nd November	Children back to school (Maths Theme Day - wear numbers)
Tuesday 10 th November	New Age Kurling Workshops (PE kits for whole school)
Wednesday 11 th November	Children may wear uniforms for organised groups such as Cubs, Cadets, Brownies etc
Monday 16 th November	Anti-Bullying Week (wear odd socks on Monday 16 th Nov)
Thursday 19 th November	Inter-House Multi-Sports Competition (PE kits for whole school)
Friday 20 th November	Children in Need (monetary donation to wear spots or PJs)
Thursday 26 th November	Y6 Kent Life Trip
Friday 27 th November	Individual Photographs
Thursday 3 rd December	Marlowe Pantomime Visit
Friday 4 th December	Non-uniform (donations of sweets for Festive Bazaar)
Thursday 10 th December	Film Night (3.20-5pm) Bookable on MCAS nearer the time
Friday 11 th December	Festive Bazaar (pupil only event) Non-uniform (donations of cakes for Festive Bazaar)
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day
Friday 18 th December	9.15am Xmas Service in Church led by Botany Bay End of Term 2 (finish at 1.30pm)



Parent Workshop

Me and My Child: Understanding Resilience

30/11/2026 12:30pm—14:30pm

*Workshop
timings
change from
term to
term

Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers to reflect and generate ideas of how you can be a positive role model of resilience for your child?**

You are invited to a **workshop about understanding resilience and its importance in your child's development. It will help you to consider factors which can help to build your child's' resilience in the context of caring relationships.**

If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:**

[Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You can create an account for free. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school.

Currently, this workshop is only available to parents/carers of children attending an EWT/EST school. Please speak to your child's school or check our website for our list of schools. If you require materials in another language or have any other access needs then please email: kmmh.ewtandestenquiries@nhs.net



We look forward to meeting you



Emotional Wellbeing team Kent
Emotional Support team Medway



St Laurence-in-Thamet
CE Junior Academy

SEEN • KNOWN • LOVED

OPEN DAYS

Join us and see what makes our school so special.



Open Morning

Thursday 12 November 2026
9:15am – 10:00am
(45 minute session)



Open Evening

Monday 16 November 2026
3:45pm – 4:30pm
(45 minute session)



Meet
our team



Explore
our school



Ask us
anything

We can't wait to welcome you!

ST LAURENCE-IN-THANET CE JUNIOR ACADEMY



We are now offering
two options for our

Wraparound Care!

OPTION 1



3.20 - 4.30

£4.00

OPTION 2



3.20 - 5.45



Includes a
light meal



£7.50



Both booking options will show on the
My Child At School app on the main
dashboard under **Wraparound Care**.



Children
Thrive
Here



St Laurence-in-Thanel
CE Junior Academy



Brighter
futures
together



PARENT GOVERNORS

WE NEED YOU!

Make
a difference

Your voice. Their future.

Training and
support
provided

A brighter
tomorrow
together



Interested? Speak to the School Office

Seen – Known – Loved

