

Term 1

Newsletter



Thursday 3rd September 2026

Welcome Back Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful and restful summer break and that the children are returning to school feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back today and I am particularly delighted to welcome our new Year 3 children and their families to the St Laurence community. I am also very pleased to welcome Ms Ditchburn, who joins us as our new Year 6 teacher.

As we begin a new academic year, this newsletter is intended to provide you with key information, including term dates for the year ahead and important dates for the next 2 terms leading up to Christmas.

As a Church of England school, our vision and values are an important part of who we are. Our school story is The Lost Sheep, which reminds us of the importance of every individual being valued and cared for. Our core values - hope, joy, resilience, forgiveness and love - are rooted in this story and underpin all that we do. This year, we are also proud to share our school tagline: Seen, Known, Loved, which captures our commitment to ensuring every child feels valued, understood and supported. Our updated vision, values & school story can be found at the end of this document.

Looking ahead, parents' evening will take place towards the end of this term. Booking details will be shared nearer the time, with appointments available via MCAS a couple of weeks in advance.

We are also excited to continue offering Forest School opportunities for all pupils this year. Sessions will take place at Northbourne Primary School on Tuesdays, with each class

attending at different points throughout the year - starting with Joss Bay this term. Children will travel by minibuss and should come to school in their PE kits on these days, wearing long sleeves and trousers. Wellies and waterproof overalls will be provided.

I look forward to another successful year working in partnership with you all.

With warmest wishes,

Louise Buckland
(Head Teacher)



PE DAYS TERM 1

Botany Bay - Miss Champion/Miss Blades	Monday
Palm Bay - Miss McQuillen	Wednesday
Joss Bay - Mr Spencer	Thursday
Eppe Bay - Ms Ditchburn	Tuesday

JOY HOPE LOVE FORGIVENESS RESILIENCE

Term Dates

SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2026 - 2027

Term 1

First day of term: *Tuesday, 1st September 2026 – This is an INSET day (children are NOT in school)*
Wednesday, 2nd September 2026 – This is an INSET day (children are NOT in school)

CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026

Last day of Term: Friday, 23rd October 2026

Holiday: Monday, 26th October 2026 to Friday, 30th October 2026

Term 2

First day of term: Monday, 2nd November 2026

Last day of term: Friday, 18th December 2026

Holiday: Monday, 21st December 2026 to Friday, 1st January 2027

Term 3

Monday, 4th January 2027 – This is an INSET day (children are NOT in school)

First day of term: Tuesday, 5th January 2027

Last day of term: Friday, 12th February 2027

Holiday: Monday, 15th February 2027 to Friday, 19th February 2027

Term 4

First day of term: Monday, 22nd February 2027

Last day of term: Thursday, 25th March 2027

Holiday: Friday, 26th March 2027 to Friday, 9th April 2027

Term 5

First day of term: Monday, 12th April 2027

Bank Holiday Monday: 3rd May 2027

Last day of term: Thursday, 27th May 2027

PLEASE NOTE: Friday, 28th May 2027 – This is an INSET day (children are NOT in school)

Holiday: Monday, 31st May 2027 to Friday, 4th June 2027

Term 6

First day of term: Monday, 7th June 2027

Last day of term: Tuesday, 20th July 2027

PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday, 21st July 2027 – This is an INSET DAY (children are NOT in school)

Key Dates for Term 1

Please also refer to your child's Class Dojo page for any year group specific trips, visits, workshops or events relevant to their class.

Thursday 3 rd September	Children back to school
Thursday 10 th September	Kent Test for registered Y6
Thursday 8 th October	Film Night (3.20-5pm) Bookable on MCAS nearer the time
Friday 9 th October	World Mental Health Day (non-uniform - wear yellow)
Wednesday 14 th October	Rock Kidz Workshop (dress as a rock star)
Thursday 15 th October	Y6 Kent Test Results
Monday 19 th October	Parents' Evening (3.40-6pm)
Tuesday 20 th October	Parents' Evening (3.40-6pm)
Friday 23 rd October	9.15am Harvest Festival in Church led by Palm Bay End of Term 1 (finish as normal at 3.20pm)



A gentle reminder regarding our whole school trip to the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury to see Peter Pan on Thursday 3rd December 2026.

Payments (£16, inclusive of train travel) can be made via MCAS, which is now live. Please note that the deadline for payment is Friday 11th September.

Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 2 nd November	Children back to school (Maths Theme Day)
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)

WHAT'S NEW

It has been a busy summer at St Laurence, with lots of exciting changes taking place around our school! We have welcomed some fantastic new playground installations, planted new trees to bring even more greenery to our grounds and added some beautiful wall art to brighten up our spaces. We have also had new blinds fitted in all of our classrooms, giving them a fresh new look ready for the year ahead. It has been wonderful to see our school continuing to develop and improve, creating an even more welcoming, inspiring and enjoyable environment for our children.



OUR VISION AND STORY

VISION



Our school is a supportive and inclusive community where every person is seen, known and loved as a unique child of God. Through a nurturing, purposeful and enriching curriculum, we enable each child to grow in knowledge, skills and character, becoming hopeful, joyful and resilient learners who flourish now and in the future. With forgiveness, fresh starts and strong relationships, we foster a community where all are valued.



Seen



Known



Loved

OUR STORY : THE LOST SHEEP - LUKE 15:1 - 6

- 1 One day, when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus,
2 the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, “This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!”
3 So Jesus told them this parable:
4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it.
5 When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders
6 and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, ‘I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!’”

WHAT THE STORY MEANS FOR US

Our story is shaped by Jesus’ parable of ‘The Lost Sheep’.
In the parable, the shepherd knows his sheep and notices when one is missing. He leaves the ninety-nine, searches for the one who is lost and rejoices when it is found. This is the kind of community we seek to be: a place where every child and adult is seen, known and loved; where no one is overlooked in times of struggle; and where all are welcomed with forgiveness, dignity and fresh starts.



This parable reminds us that every person matters to God and that all members of our community, children, staff, families and Governors, belong and can flourish.

The parable also teaches us that our roles are not fixed. At times, we may feel like the lost sheep, needing care and guidance. At other times, we are called to be like the shepherd, noticing and responding with care and compassion. Sometimes, we are among the ninety-nine, learning to trust in a love that is constant and shared equally by all.

OUR VALUES



LOVE

We notice everyone and make sure no one is left behind.
One sheep mattered so much that the shepherd went out to find it.



HOPE

We never give up on ourselves or each other. Even when one sheep was lost, the shepherd believed it could be found.



JOY

We celebrate the good in ourselves, others and our community.
The shepherd, the 99 sheep and the whole community celebrated when the lost sheep returned.



FORGIVENESS

We try to understand what has happened, forgive each other and welcome one another back so we can start again. Just as the lost sheep was welcomed back into the flock, everyone deserves forgiveness, understanding and the chance to begin again.



RESILIENCE

We keep trying and support each other to find our way, even when things feel hard. Searching continued until the missing sheep was found.



Seen

You are noticed and recognised; you are never overlooked.



Known

You are understood as an individual: who you are, your story and your needs.



Loved

You are valued, cared for and held within a community where you belong.