

Term 6

Newsletter



Monday 13th July 2026

Welcome to our Term 6 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and memorable Term 6 it has been! The past few weeks have been packed with additional activities, special events and plenty of opportunities for our children to shine - and with a final week still ahead of us, there is even more to look forward to as we round off the year together.

We have certainly experienced some extreme weather this term. During the recent heatwave, I would like to thank both our pupils and staff for the way they adapted so positively. We made good use of our air-conditioned spaces and adjusted routines to ensure everyone remained safe, comfortable and able to continue learning effectively. The resilience and flexibility shown across the school community was truly commendable.

The unpredictable weather didn't stop there! After two postponed attempts, we were delighted that our Sports Day was finally able to go ahead - third time lucky! Even then, we were greeted with rain for the first ten minutes, but in true spirit, the sun soon appeared and the events continued with great enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see such determination, teamwork and encouragement from all of the children and we are grateful to families for their patience and support.

Our school values of hope, joy, resilience, forgiveness and love have been evident in so many moments this term. We have seen resilience in the way children and staff have adapted to the heat and changing plans, joy in the laughter and energy of Sports Day and love in the encouragement children show one another each day. As we near the end of term, there is a real sense of hope as children look ahead to their next steps, alongside forgiveness as they continue to learn, grow and support one another. These values remain at the heart of our school community.

This sense of hope has been especially clear during our transition days. Children have enjoyed time in their new classes, beginning to build relationships with their new teachers and growing in confidence for the year ahead.

It is always a poignant moment, seeing just how much they have grown - both academically and personally - and a privilege to be part of their journey.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and restful summer when it arrives. It has been a genuine joy to see the children grow, learn and flourish throughout the year. Thank you, as always, for entrusting us with the most important people in your lives. We do not take that responsibility lightly and we are deeply grateful for your continued trust and partnership.

To our Year 6 families, we wish you all the very best as you move on to the next stage of your journey. Your children leave us as confident, capable young people and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. They will always be a valued part of our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new school year.

With warmest wishes,

Louise Buckland
(Head Teacher)



JOY

HOPE

LOVE

FORGIVENESS

RESILIENCE

News



Sports Day

What a fantastic Sports Day we had at St Laurence! The children showed great enthusiasm, determination and team spirit throughout the afternoon, and it was wonderful to see everyone cheering each other on.

Congratulations to Air House, who were our overall winners this year - a brilliant achievement and very well deserved.

Thank you to all of the staff and families who helped to make the afternoon such a success. It was a true celebration of teamwork, effort and school spirit.

Pro-Strike Fundraising



Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our pupils and families, we raised an incredible £2,702. We are extremely proud of every child who took part and there was a real sense of excitement as prizes were awarded and achievements celebrated across the school.

The funds raised will go towards enhancing playtime resources, helping us to continue making break times active, fun and engaging for all children.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event - your contributions make a real difference and continue to show the strength of our school community.

Staffing News

I am delighted to share that Ms Anna Ditchburn (Ms D) will be joining us from September from Newington to teach Year 6 and take on the role of English and Humanities Lead. Ms D is an experienced teacher and I look forward to welcoming her to our school community.

I am pleased to confirm that Miss Champion will continue as Botany Bay class teacher, providing maternity cover until Miss Blades returns in early December, ensuring continuity for the children.

I would also like to wish Mr Bottle all the very best as he leaves us for pastures new at Royal Harbour and to thank him for his dedication and commitment during his time with us. We also say a fond farewell to Kerry, one of our much-loved cleaners, as she retires. Kerry and Mr Bottle have been a valued members of our team and will be greatly missed by staff and children alike.

Staff/Governors Vs Year 6 Match

Year 6 took on the staff in our end-of-year football match and it was definitely one to remember!

With four teams of children battling it out against the adults, there was plenty of skill, determination, teamwork - and a few questionable staff tactics on display! With just five minutes to go, the score was 6-6, but in a dramatic finish the staff edged ahead, with the final score ending 6-8 to the teachers.

It was a fantastic morning full of fun, laughter and brilliant sportsmanship. Well done Year 6 - you certainly made the staff work hard for that win!



Highlights

Just a few of our highlights from across the term



Sports Day



Gold Trip



Croquet



Life Skills Afternoon Tea



Road Safety

Science Jamboree



Tennis Workshops



Leavers' Fest



Beach Carousel



Fire Station Visit



Prayer Spaces

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Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Bella, who entered a national Young Writers competition to write a poem about wildlife and has had her work published in the Wild Wonders – Blue & Green Planet anthology.

Not only this, she has successfully passed her Grade 2 ballet exam with a Merit, achieving an impressive score of 83. A fantastic achievement - well done Bella!



I'm delighted to share that Logan has won a trophy at his football presentation for Most Improved Player.

Logan has been playing for East Kent Football Club for just over a year now and it is lovely to hear how far he has come in that time.



His coach shared how, when he first joined, he was quite timid and often hesitant to join in matches, but over the year his confidence and skills have really grown - and this award is a wonderful recognition of that progress. A fantastic achievement and very well deserved. Keep it up Logan!

Congratulations to Alice in Palm Bay class, who took part in the 5k Pretty Muddy race in Maidstone on Saturday 4th July.

Alice showed fantastic determination and enthusiasm throughout the event, completing the course and getting thoroughly stuck in!

She also helped raise over £200 for Cancer Research UK, which is an incredible achievement and a wonderful contribution to such an important cause.

A fantastic effort all round - well done Alice!



JOY HOPE LOVE FORGIVENESS RESILIENCE

Pupil Achievements



Bertie started the year in Thanet Swim Academy and he's now ending the year after making tons of progress as part of the Junior Transition team for Thanet Swim Squad. His favourite achievement as part of this journey is learning to dive from the starting blocks!



Congratulations to Eloise, who was part of the Deal Tournament winning team.

Playing as goalkeeper, Eloise took part in eight matches and kept an impressive eight clean sheets—an outstanding achievement.

A fantastic performance and a wonderful contribution to her team's success. Well done Eloise!



We were delighted to host our Millionaires' Tea Party this term, celebrating those children who have read over 1,000,000 words this year.

It was a special occasion, with pupils joining myself and members of our Governing Body to recognise their fantastic commitment to reading.

A huge well done to all of the children who achieved this impressive milestone and thank you to our dedicated librarians for supporting and inspiring a love of reading across the school.

A special mention must go to Mia who has now read an incredible 2,000,000 words - an outstanding achievement. Well done!

Key Dates for Term 1

Please also refer to your child's year group newsletter at the start of Term 1 for information about 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)
Friday 9 th October	World Mental Health Day (wear yellow)
Wednesday 14 th October	Rock Kidz Workshop (dress as a rock star)
Thursday 15 th October	Kent Test Results
Monday 19 th October	Parents' Evening (3.40-6pm)
Tuesday 21 st October	Parents' Evening (3.40-6pm)
Friday 23 rd October	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.

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)