Friday 20th November 2026

Minterne Messenger







As we move further into the term, it is beginning to feel a little festive around school. One of our much-loved annual traditions is now underway, with classes busy creating their decorative hoops to display in the hall. Each year, the children work to a different theme and this year's theme is wreaths. We are always amazed by the creativity, care and teamwork that go into these displays, and we look forward to seeing the hall transformed as each class adds their contribution.

The photographs below show some of our Year 3 pupils taking part in this special tradition for the very first time. They have embraced the activity with great enthusiasm and are already producing some wonderful designs. It is lovely to see the children working together and helping to create the festive atmosphere that makes this time of year so special at Minterne.

The festive excitement does not stop there. Year 5 are busy rehearsing for their Christmas performance, our singing assemblies are beginning to fill with the sound of well-practised carols, and our Dance Club pupils have been enthusiastically perfecting their moves to a selection of festive favourites, including a little Mariah Carey! There is a wonderful sense of anticipation building around the school, and it is a joy to see the children embracing the season with such enthusiasm.

We wish all of our families a happy and restful weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday for another busy week of learning and festive preparations.







SCHOOL DISCO TIME!

Join us for the FOM School Disco

Friday 27th November 2026

DISCO TIMES

Year 3 & 4: 3:45pm – 4:45pm

Year 5 & 6: 5:00pm – 6:15pm

ENTRY
£3.80 per child

ON THE NIGHT

Drinks, Snacks & Glow Items for Sale!

PHOTO BOOTH FUN!

Instant Photo Booth with Friends!

Photos printed instantly – No digital saving.

➡ Let us know: Happy to take part?

Or Prefer to opt out? ➡

We can't wait to dance the night away!

BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE

FRIENDS OF MINTERNE SCHOOL

Dates for your diary

DATE	WHAT'S HAPPENING?
MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER	PGL - 2ND INSTALLMENT DUE
TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER	RAINBOW THEATRE - YEAR 4 AM YEAR 6 PM (MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW)
WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 3 ROAD SAFETY TALK IN SCHOOL
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER	SCHOOL DISCO SEE PAGE 11 FOR FULL DETAILS
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER	NETBALL CLUB CANCELLED FITNESS CLUB CANCELLED
TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER	NEWSDAY TUESDAY - 8:30AM TO 8:50AM
FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER	YEAR 3 & ADAMS TUNSTALL CHRISTMAS TREE WALK (MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW)
FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER	FITNESS CLUB CANCELLED
WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER	ROCK STEADY CONCERT 2:45PM (FOR THOSE INVOLVED)
THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER	YEAR 3 LOCAL WALK
WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER	YEAR 5 PRODUCTION 1 PERFORMANCE AT 9:30AM 1 PERFORMANCE AT 6PM

BBC Children in Need

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THIS VERY WORTHWHILE CAUSE.

TOGETHER MINTERNE RAISED

£362!

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET DONATED IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

PLEASE DO SO USING THE QR CODE BELOW

OR VIA THIS LINK

Minterne Messenger

Working together with parents

HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU

Keeping you informed, connected and involved

HOW	WHAT IS COMMUNICATED	WHEN
NEWSDAY TUESDAY	Parents/carers can view pupil books from 8:30am. If you cannot attend, contact the class teacher to arrange an alternative time.	20th October 1st December 2nd February 9th March 18th May 15th June
HOME CONNECT	Information on your child's Accelerated Reader quizzes and reading. Parents receive a letter with instructions to sign up. Contact your child's class teacher if you need another copy.	Results sent by email after each quiz
PUPIL DIARIES	Record home reading (5x per week), notes to teachers or teaching assistants, spelling and tables test information.	Collected weekly or handed to an adult if you wish the teacher to see a note
SCHOOL WEBSITE	Comprehensive information about the curriculum, newsletters, term dates, policies, and general school information.	Ongoing
EMAIL	Contact teachers via your child's diary or email the school office. Office staff will direct your enquiry to the appropriate person. Email: office@minterne.kent.sch.uk	As needed

HOW	WHAT IS COMMUNICATED	WHEN
ARBOR APP	Letters and announcements, payments for trips, visitors, lunches, and club bookings. If you haven't signed up yet, look out for the link sent to you. Download the Arbor app to stay up to date with everything happening at Minterne. Contact the office for help if needed.	As needed
MINTERNE MESSENGER NEWSLETTER	Celebrations, achievements, key dates, weekly news, safety advice for families, and local events.	Weekly on Fridays
PARENTS' EVENING	Discuss your child's academic progress, attainment, and general updates with the class teacher and SENCO if required. Parents can also view pupil books in Term 3 and Term 5.	Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th January 2027 Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15 April 2027
REPORTS	Academic attainment, progress, general comments, and attendance.	Friday 18th December Thursday 25th March Friday 2nd July
TAPESTRY	Teachers and Year Leaders share photos, learning updates, and curriculum news. Parents can also share photos and news from home.	As needed

Learning for a lifetime

A polite reminder to please ensure that your child walks their bike, scooter, or any wheeled item once they are on school grounds. This applies to all children, including our younger pupils arriving from The Oaks.

This is important for health and safety reasons, as there are a large number of people on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times, including very young toddlers. We want to ensure that everyone remains safe and that no one is accidentally injured.
Children will also be reminded of this expectation in assembly on Monday, as part of our "Be Safe" school rule.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.





Have you emailed us?

We aim to respond to you within 72 hours.

Staff do not always have access to emails due to other working commitments; many of our staff run activities for our students both at lunchtime and afterschool.
It is therefore important to enable all staff sufficient time to read, investigate and respond to any communication.
Thank you.
When you do contact us on via any platform please clearly state your child's full name and class



WE CAN HELP

If your child has had a tricky time at school, we want to help as soon as possible.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP

Tell us what has happened so that we can provide support:

- office@minterne.kent.sch.uk
- Write a note in your child's diary
- Speak with Miss Nunn, our FLO
- Ask a teaching assistant on morning door duty to pass on a message to the class teacher







WE CAN HELP

Keeping your child at home after an incident can have a **negative** impact:

- Unsolved problems get bigger
- Friendships can suffer
- Missed learning makes it harder to return and catch up

STAFF WANT TO WORK WITH YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

family

Please use this link to view the latest Summer edition of the OCMAT Family Magazine.



YOU CAN FIND OUR PRIVACY NOTICE HERE

Our Lives News

OUR LIVES OCMAT WEBSITE

https://www.ourlivestv.co.uk/ocmat/









Please make your next payment of £110 by 23.11.26

Parent Information

MINTERNE
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Together, we can make a difference

PRELOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM

Good quality uniform, great for your child, better for our community and our planet.



SAVE MONEY
Quality uniform for less

BE SUSTAINABLE
Reuse, recycle and reduce waste

Thank you!

DONATE • BUY • SUPPORT

During the **SUMMER HOLIDAYS** the uniform will be **FREE** for anyone who needs it.

Uniform will be displayed at the **Methodist Church in Sittingbourne** during the Summer Holidays.

Uniform will be available for all schools in Sittingbourne.

Visit their Facebook page (Free, Preloved School Uniform Hub - Sittingbourne Methodists) for opening days/hours.

CONSIDERATE PARKING

Let's keep our school community safe, happy and respectful.

MINTERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL
learning for a lifetime

PARK SAFELY
Park carefully and legally. Do not park on yellow lines, zig zags or corners.

RESPECT OUR NEIGHBOURS
Park considerately and keep noise to a minimum. Let's be good neighbours.

DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS
Please keep driveways and access clear. Someone's home is someone's safety.

THINK OF OUR CHILDREN
Park a little further away and walk if you can. It's safer for everyone and a great way to start the day!

PLEASE KEEP DRIVEWAYS CLEAR

Thank you for being considerate!

Working together to keep Minterne Junior School a safe and happy place for all.

Thank you for your kindness and consideration.

TRUST-WIDE SCHEDULED EVENTS

2026-27

8 OCT 26
NATIONAL POETRY DAY EVENT
ALL SCHOOLS

DEC 26
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION
ALL SCHOOLS

W/B 21 MAR 27
ANNUAL SKIPPING COMPETITION
ALL SCHOOLS

MARCH 26
TIMES TABLE COMPETITION
FOR YEAR 4 CHILDREN ACROSS THE TRUST. AND FINALS ON 24 MARCH

MARCH & MAY
CHOIR PERFORMANCES
UNIVERSITY OF KENT, CANTERBURY. TRUST-WIDE PUPIL CHOIR FOR ALL SCHOOLS

19 MAY 27
ANNUAL DANCE FESTIVAL
SWALLOWS LEISURE CENTRE. FOR ALL SCHOOLS

24 JUN 27
CRICKET FESTIVAL
HOSTED AT MILSTEAD CRICKET CLUB, SITTINGBOURNE FOR YEARS 4,5,6

28 JUN 27
MULTI-SKILLS COMPETITION
FOR YEAR 1 AND 2 CHILDREN FOR ALL SCHOOLS

TERM 6
BOLLYWOOD BRASS BAND
ALL SCHOOLS

JULY-AUG 27
NATIONAL READ-ALOUD SUMMER CHALLENGE
ALL SCHOOLS WITH PARENT SIGN UP

TBC
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
HOSTED BY SELLING CE PRIMARY, FAVERSHAM FOR ALL SCHOOLS

OCMAT



OUR COMMUNITY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
ONE TRUST. ONE COMMUNITY. ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PUPILS.

OCMAT Our Community Multi Academy Trust



EMPOWER YOUR PARENTING JOURNEY

Upcoming courses designed especially for our OCMAT Parents, Carers & Grandparents in partnership with **Kent Adult Education**

Free courses on offer:

- Supporting Your Child's Anxiety
  21 September 9.30am (2 hours)
- Exploring Behaviour Strategies
  3 November, 12.30pm (2 hours)
- Supporting ADHD in the Home (4 week programme)
  11, 18 & 25 January and 1 February, 9.30am (2 hours)
- Family First Aid (3 week programme with child joining session 3)
  1, 8 & 15 March 2027, 12.30pm (2 hours)

Venue: Selling CE Primary School
The Street, Selling, Faversham
Kent ME13 9RQ

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY

www.ocmat.org.uk/Our-Parent-Courses/
emma.rannard@ocmat.org.uk

Parent Information



Parent Information

Admission to

Junior school in Kent 2027

KCC residents apply online at
kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Opens Friday 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027

For children born between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**, Transferring to Junior school in **September 2027**

What to do

Choose a school	Apply for a school place	Receiving your offer
It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form. Read the guide to Primary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. You can name up to three Junior schools, inside or outside of Kent. You are unable to name Primary schools on this application.	A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Friday 6 November 2026 and closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2027**. Other LA deadlines may differ. You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly. You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.	On offer day (**Friday 16 April 2027**) an email will be sent to you informing you of your offer. You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Friday 30 April 2027**. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email. If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you are moving, please email the team on one of the email addresses below for advice.

Key dates

Friday 6 November 2026	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.
Friday 15 January 2027	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Friday 16 April 2027	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after **4pm.**
Friday 30 April 2027	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Monday 17 May 2027	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals. You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.
The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.
Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council (KCC) if the child resides at a KCC address.
If your child does **not** reside at a KCC address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2027

Common misconceptions

For children born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023**, Transferring to Primary school in **September 2027.**

MYTH #1
Attending a nursery or pre-school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the associated school.

TRUTH
You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
★ Nurseries and primary schools are not linked for admissions purposes.

MYTH #2
A sibling attending the school will automatically guarantee your child a space at the same school.

TRUTH
You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
★ If eligible, your application may be considered under a school's 'sibling' oversubscription criteria.

MYTH #3
Attending an infant school will automatically guarantee a space for your child at the linked junior school.

TRUTH
You must still apply using the online application portal at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
★ Children do not automatically transfer to a junior school. Admissions are ranked according to the school's admission criteria, including any linked school arrangements.

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Need help?
Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Primary School Admissions
IMPORTANT DATES

For children born between 1 September 2022 & 31 August 2023

Friday 6 November 2026
Online applications open

↓

Friday 15 January 2027
Deadline to submit your online applications. Applications must be submitted by midnight

↓

Friday 16 April 2027 - National Offer Day
Parents will receive an email confirming their child's school offer after 4.00pm

↓

Friday 30 April 2027
Deadline to accept or decline your school offer

↓

Monday 17 May 2027
Deadline to lodge an appeal if you are unhappy with your school offer

How to apply
Kent residents can apply online through Kent County Council at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.
You can name up to 3 primary schools on your application, including schools outside Kent.
Please list your preferred schools in the order you would like them.
Need help? Email: primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Compassion . Community . Inclusion

OCHAT

Admission to

Secondary school in Kent 2027

KCC residents apply online at
kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
Opened Tuesday 1 September 2026 and closes at midnight on Monday 2 November 2026

For children born between **1 September 2015** and **31 August 2016**, Transferring to Secondary school in **September 2027**

What to do

Choose a school	Apply for a school place	Receiving your offer
It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form. Read the Guide to Secondary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions. You can name up to four Secondary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.	A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Tuesday 1 September 2026 and closes at midnight on Monday 2 November 2026.** Other LA deadlines may differ. If you already have an account set up from the Kent Test process, please use these login details. You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly and that the LA has received it. You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.	On offer day **(Monday 1 March 2027)** an email will be sent to you informing you of your offer. You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Monday 15 March 2027**. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email. If we have not offered your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list if your child is eligible for admission.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you are moving, please email the team on one of the email addresses below for advice.

Key dates

Tuesday 1st September 2026	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to register and apply.
Monday 2nd November 2026	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Monday 1st March 2027	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after **4pm.**
Monday 15th March 2027	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of eligible schools named on the original application.
Tuesday 13th April 2027	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September - appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals. You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.
The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.
Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council (KCC) if the child resides at a KCC address.

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Parent Information

Become a Parent/Community/ Foundation Governor

Make a Real Difference &
Play an Active Role in the Future of Our School



The Role of the Local Monitoring Council

The Local Monitoring Council (LMC) works collectively to ensure the success of our school. Every governor's first loyalty is to the school and its pupils. While governors support the headteacher and staff, they also act as a critical friend—providing challenge and support in equal measure. This is a strategic role, not an operational one. Governors do not manage the day-to-day running of the school; instead, they help shape its vision, ethos, and priorities.

The LMC plays a vital role in supporting the work of the school and the **Our Community Multi Academy Trust (OCMAT)**. Its responsibilities fall into three key areas:

- **Quality of Education** – Ensuring high standards of teaching and learning.
- **Distinctive Ethos and Character** – Preserving the school's values, traditions, and culture.
- **Community Engagement** – Maintaining strong communication and trust with parents and the wider community.

Governors monitor these areas and contribute to developing policies that make the school an efficient, caring, and fair environment for learning.

Why Become a Governor?

- Help shape decisions that impact pupils, families, and the wider school community.
- Gain valuable knowledge about governance and educational leadership.
- Contribute to improving outcomes for all children.

As a parent governor, you will:

- Represent the views, insights and experiences of parents at a strategic level.
  - Parent governors are normally elected for a four-year term of office.

As Community/Foundation Governor, you will:

- Bring an independent perspective to support school improvement and, as a Foundation Governor, help uphold the school's Christian vision and values.

Parent Governor:
Who can stand for election?
Any parent or carer of a pupil registered at the school is eligible to stand for election as a parent governor.
You do not need any specific qualifications or previous governance experience. We value a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives.

Community/Foundation Governor:
We welcome applications from any member of the local community aged 18 or over who are passionate about education, the development and wellbeing of children and young people, safeguarding, and supporting schools to provide the best possible outcomes for every pupil.
Foundation governors are appointed in accordance with the school's foundation arrangements. You do not need any specific qualifications or previous governance experience. We value a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives that can contribute to the success of the school.

The enclosed sheet summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor.

Skills we are looking for:

- Communication skills
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Strategic thinking
- Interest in education and children's wellbeing
- Professional or community experience
- Ability to ask questions and offer constructive challenge

To fulfil the role, you will need to:

- Attend three Local Monitoring Council meetings each year
- Read meeting papers and other information in advance
- Participate in induction training and ongoing development
- Undertake governor monitoring visits to gain first-hand insight into the school
- Uphold confidentiality and act in the best interests of the school and its pupils
- Work collaboratively with fellow governors, school leaders and the trust

How to Apply

If you would like to put your name forward, please submit the following to the Governance Professional by the stated deadline at Stacey.Tree@ocmat.org.uk. If you would like to receive more information, please email Stacey.

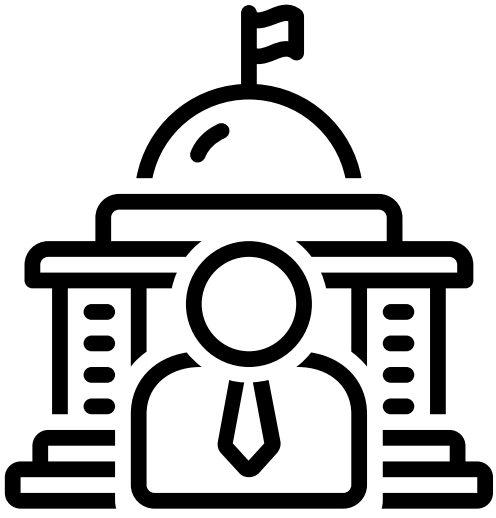
Personal Statement for parent election (maximum 250 words)
For parent governor roles, if more names are put forward than there are places, an election will be held. This will be shared with voters and should include:

- **Relevant skills and experience** that will support you in the role.
- **Your understanding of the role**, the commitment required, and your willingness to undertake relevant training and development.
- **If seeking re-election**, details of your previous contribution to the governing board.

Eligibility and disqualifications to serve as a local governor:

A person must be aged 18 or over at the date of their election or appointment.
A person shall be disqualified from holding office or continuing to hold office as trustee/local committee member if they:

- become incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering their own affairs;
- are absent without the permission of the trustees from all meetings held within a period of six months, and the trustees resolve that their office be vacated;
- have been declared bankrupt and/or their estate has been seized from their possession for the benefit of their creditors and the declaration or seizure has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order;
- are subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986; or
- are subject to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order);
- cease to be a trustee by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006;
- are disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision); or
- are otherwise found to be unsuitable by the Secretary of State;
- have been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which they were responsible; or to which they were privy; or which they, by their conduct, contributed to or facilitated;
- have, at any time, been convicted of any criminal offence, excluding any that have been spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 as amended, and excluding any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence except where a person has been convicted of any offence which falls under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011;
- have not provided to the chair of trustees a criminal records certificate at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997.





What's for lunch?

NOVEMBER TO MARCH 2027 — THE NOURISH MENU

NOURISH

BANG IN SOME BEANS! DISHES WITH ME NEXT TO THEM CONTAIN BEANS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE 2 November 23 November 14 December 18 January 8 February 8 March	Chicken Pie 1 Pesto & Pea Pasta 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Crushed Potatoes Cauliflower Carrots Ice Cream 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Fruit Pots VG	Beef Bolognaise Pasta Bake 1,3,7 Vegetable Chilli Skins VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Garlic Bread 1,3 Seasonal Vegetables Bananas & Chocolate Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Fruit Pots VG	Roast Gammon & Gravy Cheese & Potato Pie 1,3,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Rustic Roast Potatoes Cabbage Peas Fruit Jelly VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG	Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V Black Bean Jambalaya VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Sweetcorn Broccoli Rainbow Pasta 1 Beetroot Cake 1,3 VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG	Chicken Nuggets 1 Cheese & Tomato Pinwheel 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Chips Peas Baked Beans Carrot Sticks Oaty Biscuit 1,3,15 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG
WEEK TWO 9 November 30 November 4 January 25 January 22 February 15 March	BBQ Chicken Pesto Pasta Bake 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Rice, Carrots Peas Jam Tart 1,3 VG & Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Fruit Pots VG	Tomato & Broccoli Pasta 1 VG Buffalo Cauliflower Wings VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Cheesy Wedges 7 Seasonal Vegetables Strawberry Panna Cotta Milky Jelly 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Fruit Pots VG	Roast Chicken & Gravy Vegan Cowboy Hotpot 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Rustic Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots Crispy Cake 1,7,16 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG	Beef Stew & Dumpling 1,3 Herby Tomato Spaghetti 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Herby Bread 1,3 Green Beans Cauliflower Apple Crumble Bar 1,3 VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG	Salmon Fish Cake 1,8 Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Chips Peas Baked Beans Coleslaw 9 Banana Bread 1,3 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG
WEEK THREE 16 November 7 December 11 January 1 February 1 March 22 March	Macaroni Cheese 1,3,7 V Red Pepper & Bean Masala & Rice VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Garlic Bread 1,3 Cauliflower Green Beans Peach Crumble 1,3 VG & Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Fruit Pots VG	Chicken Noodles 1,3 BBQ Wrap Stack 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Potato Wedges Carrots Peas Caramel Mousse 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Fruit Pots VG	Pork Sausage 1,3,6 Quorn Sausage 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Rustic Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans Broccoli Fruit Jelly VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG	Minced Beef Cobbler 1,3 Herby Tomato Pasta 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Herby Bread 1,3 Seasonal Vegetables Chocolate Sponge Cake 1,3 VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1,3 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG	Fish Fingers 1,8 Cheese & Bean Burrito 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9 Chips, Peas Baked Beans Cucumber sticks Crispy Cookie 1,3,7,16 Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG

1 Wheat Gluten 2 Crustaceans 3 Soybean 4 Mustard 5 Sesame 6 Sulphites/Sulphur Dioxide 7 Milk 8 Fish 9 Egg 10 Peanuts 11 Molluscs 12 Celeriac/Celery 13 Nuts 14 Lupins 15 Oat Gluten 16 Barley Gluten VG Vegan V Vegetarian

AVAILABLE DAILY

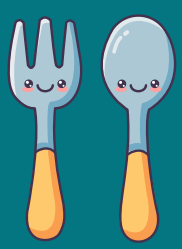
Selection of Salads 9, Homemade Bread 1,3. Some of our schools may use pre prepped potatoes or vegetables on occasions. These may contain sulphites and celeriac. Please discuss with your manager.

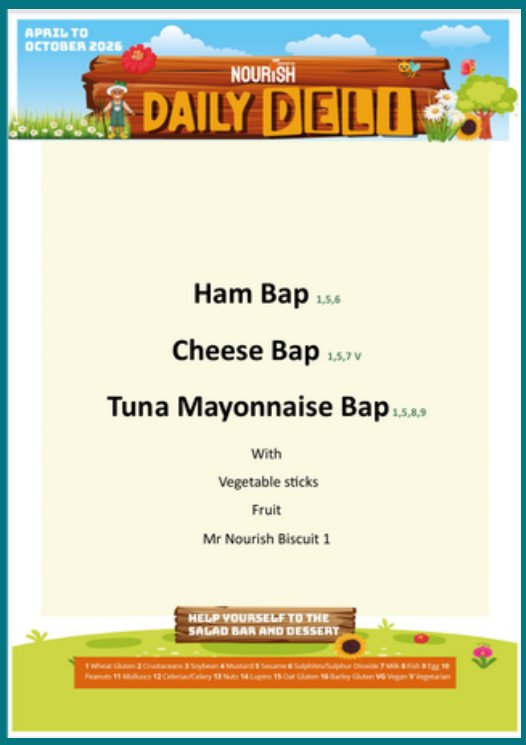


Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals





APRIL TO OCTOBER 2026

NOURISH

DAILY DELI

Ham Bap 1,5,6

Cheese Bap 1,5,7 V

Tuna Mayonnaise Bap 1,5,8,9

With

Vegetable sticks

Fruit

Mr Nourish Biscuit 1

HELP YOURSELF TO THE SALAD BAR AND DESSERT

1 Wheat Gluten 2 Crustaceans 3 Soybean 4 Mustard 5 Sesame 6 Sulphites/Sulphur Dioxide 7 Milk 8 Fish 9 Egg 10 Peanuts 11 Molluscs 12 Celeriac/Celery 13 Nuts 14 Lupins 15 Oat Gluten 16 Barley Gluten VG Vegan V Vegetarian



OUR SCHOOL IS NUT FREE!

We try to keep our school nut free but sometimes items containing nuts may be brought in, unknowingly, in packed lunch boxes.

To keep risks low we ask all parents to be aware and to NOT SEND YOUR CHILD with any food containing nuts.

NOURISH

GROW WITH US

Nourish, our catering company, are made aware of all food related allergies and their allergens are clearly stated on their menus.

What's for lunch?

Free School Meals
Important Update for Families

What's changing?
From **September 2026**, Free School Meals will be extended to include:
- ✔ All children in households receiving Universal Credit
- ✔ No income threshold applied

This means more families will be eligible.

Why register now?
Even though changes start in September 2026, we encourage families to apply now if eligible.
- ✔ Your child receives Free School Meals as soon as eligible
- ✔ Your school receives extra funding (Pupil Premium)
- ✔ Everything is ready ahead of the national changes

How to apply (Kent families)
Apply online through Kent County Council:
www.kent.gov.uk/free-school-meals
It's free and only takes a few minutes.

Not sure if you qualify?
It's always worth checking — many families are eligible without realising.

Compassion . Community . Inclusion

DON'T MISS OUT

NOURISH

FREE SCHOOL MEALS EXPANSION

No Income Cap, Income Threshold No Longer Applies



Key Details of the 2026 Expansion

No Income Cap: The previous £7,400 net earned income threshold no longer applies to the new expanded group.

Free school meals are now split into Two Benefit Categories:

Targeted FSM (for household earnings of £7,400 or less, which unlocks Pupil Premium funding) and
Expanded FSM (for earnings above £7,400, which provides the meal only).

How to Apply: While many local authorities automatically recheck or transition existing claims, families receiving Universal Credit who are not yet registered should submit an application through their local council or use online checkers like the Free School Meals Checker to confirm status.

Official Guidance: Read the complete policy updates and requirements on the GOV.UK Free School Meals Guidance page.

YOU COULD SAVE UP TO £550 A YEAR

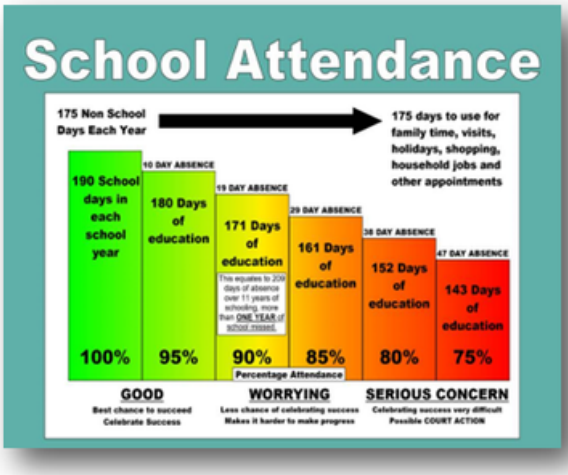


As you may be aware our school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Midmorning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children can reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised cost. If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/parents. If you register by 25/08/26 you could win a supermarket voucher or free milk for a year!



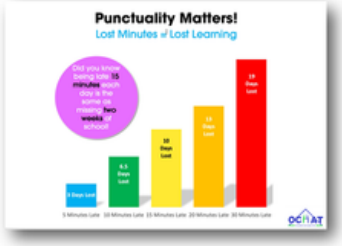
Attendance

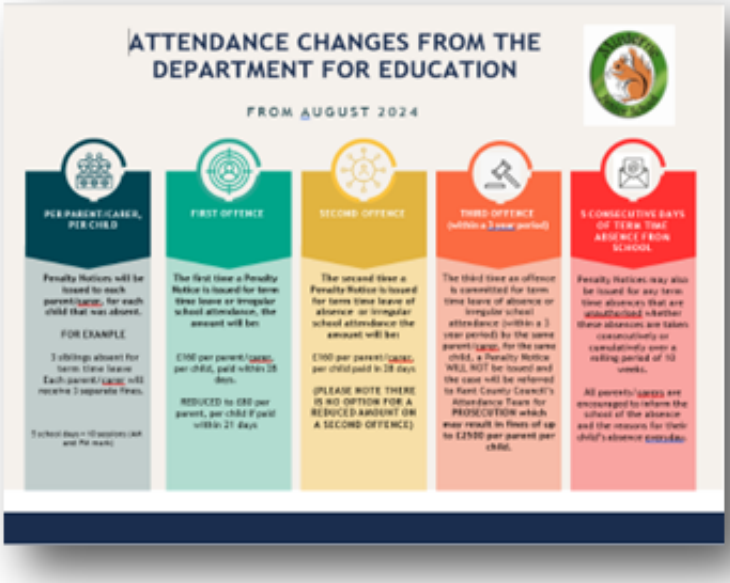
Minterne's attendance so far this year is 95.9%





0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance





Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

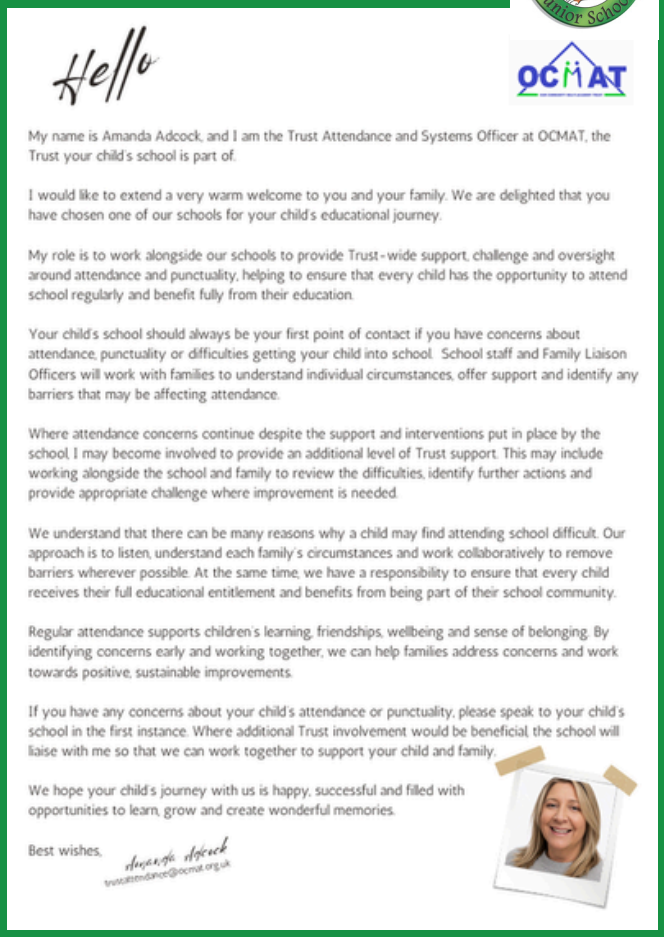
Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'





Hello

OCMAT

My name is Amanda Adcock, and I am the Trust Attendance and Systems Officer at OCMAT, the Trust your child's school is part of.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family. We are delighted that you have chosen one of our schools for your child's educational journey.

My role is to work alongside our schools to provide Trust-wide support, challenge and oversight around attendance and punctuality, helping to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend school regularly and benefit fully from their education.

Your child's school should always be your first point of contact if you have concerns about attendance, punctuality or difficulties getting your child into school. School staff and Family Liaison Officers will work with families to understand individual circumstances, offer support and identify any barriers that may be affecting attendance.

Where attendance concerns continue despite the support and interventions put in place by the school, I may become involved to provide an additional level of Trust support. This may include working alongside the school and family to review the difficulties, identify further actions and provide appropriate challenge where improvement is needed.

We understand that there can be many reasons why a child may find attending school difficult. Our approach is to listen, understand each family's circumstances and work collaboratively to remove barriers wherever possible. At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that every child receives their full educational entitlement and benefits from being part of their school community.

Regular attendance supports children's learning, friendships, wellbeing and sense of belonging. By identifying concerns early and working together, we can help families address concerns and work towards positive, sustainable improvements.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child's school in the first instance. Where additional Trust involvement would be beneficial, the school will liaise with me so that we can work together to support your child and family.

We hope your child's journey with us is happy, successful and filled with opportunities to learn, grow and create wonderful memories.

Best wishes,

Amanda Adcock
trustattendance@ocmat.org.uk





Dear Parents

We would like to kindly remind all families about the importance of being honest with the school regarding pupil absences during term time.

We fully understand that the cost of holidays during school breaks can be significantly higher. As school staff and parents ourselves, we appreciate and feel those pressures too. However, attendance at school is a legal requirement, and school registers are legal documents which must be completed accurately using the correct attendance codes.

When children return from holidays, they naturally want to share their experiences and excitement with their friends and teaching staff. Unfortunately, when a child has been told not to talk about their holiday because the absence was reported as illness, this can create confusion and upset for the child. It can also raise safeguarding concerns for the school, as we have a duty to ensure that all children are safe and accounted for at all times.

Honest communication helps us use our time and resources where they are most needed – supporting children's education and wellbeing.

We are not writing this to criticise families, but rather to ask for honesty and openness so that we can work together consistently and in the best interests of all children.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that any planned absence from school should be requested in advance so that it can be considered in line with the school's attendance policy. If your child will be absent due to a holiday during term time, please inform the school truthfully so that the absence can be recorded correctly.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Mrs Amanda Adcock
Trust Attendance Manager

OCMAT