

# School News

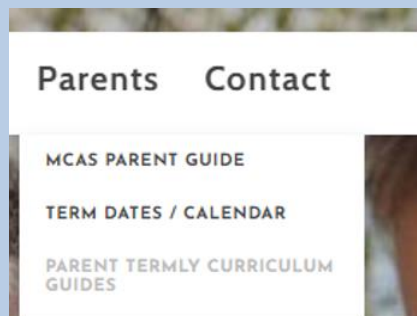
## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents/Carers,

May we start by taking this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year! Classes have settled back well to the normal routines of learning, and the children are enjoying their lessons.

Parent/Carer curriculum guides for the Spring term

Over the coming week you should receive an email containing information about your child's learning for this Spring term. This document outlines the exciting areas of learning to be studied and useful resources to support your child's learning at home. This document can also be found on our school website under the Parent tab at the top of the website:



Parent Survey January 2026

To help with our ongoing efforts to improve all areas of school life, it would be great to have some feedback from our parent community. Please could you spare a few minutes to answer the questions using the link below. This will be live for a week. The survey focuses on diversity and inclusion for all. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share you views with us.

Parent Survey - Spring 2026 – Fill in form

Weather

We continue to have very cold and wet weather and as such it is important that the children are wearing warm coats, Jumpers, hats, gloves, and scarves to school. We wouldn't want any children missing out on fresh airtime outside because they are too cold! Please remember to put your child's name on every item of clothing!

We wish you and your family a relaxing weekend ahead.

The Leadership Team

# *Important Information*

## **A Reminder About Parking Around School**

**We kindly ask parents and carers to be mindful of how they park around the school gates and on local roads. Please help us maintain positive relationships with our local community and, most importantly, keep our pupils safe. Thank you for your cooperation and support.**

### **Absence**

If your child is too ill to attend school, this must be reported to us by no later than **9.00am**. Please telephone the school, press one and leave a message on the voicemail box stating your child's full name, class, the reason for absence and when we can expect them to return to school (if known).

Home Visits will be carried out for any child that is absent for 3 or more school days without reason.

If your child has an injury and has been given medical advice that we need to follow as a school, please bring them to the school office for 8.15am on their first day back at school following the injury so that we can complete a risk assessment.

**Thank you for your cooperation**



**CHANCE TO SHINE  
STREET**



**SOFT BALL CRICKET**

**BE ACTIVE  
MAKE FRIENDS  
DEVELOP SKILLS  
PAY NOTHING!**



**WEEKLY INDOOR SESSIONS**

**FUN, FAST AND FREE**

**NO EXPERIENCE OR EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

**WEAR WHAT YOU WANT**

**QUALIFIED COACHES**

**FUN INDOOR CRICKET ACTIVITIES AND GAMES  
5.00-6.00PM EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME  
FOR AGES 8-16  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME**

**TREETOPS SCHOOL SPORTS HALL  
TREETOPS APPROACH, GRAYS  
RM16 2WU**

**RUN BY ESSEX CRICKET IN THE COMMUNITY, FUNDED BY CHANCE TO SHINE**

**TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR CONTACT  
[IAN.GRAY@ESSEXCRICKET.ORG.UK](mailto:IAN.GRAY@ESSEXCRICKET.ORG.UK)**

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!



WE MADE AN  
ASTONISHING £769 TO  
SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

EAST TILBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL PFA

# We need you...



Please label all children's school uniform. This helps us return lost property to the correct child and prevents parents from having to replace missing uniform as often. This is particularly important as the weather is colder and children are wearing jumpers/cardigans to school.



Our Year 1 classes are getting creative and are in need of junk modelling materials. If you have any of the following items at home, we'd love to have them:

- Toilet roll tubes
- Cereal boxes
- Egg boxes
- Any other clean, recyclable craft materials

Please hand them in to the Year 1 teachers or drop them off at the school office.

**Thank you for your support!**

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school each day. If you are struggling with this, please contact Mrs Jarvis or Mrs Allen.

Thank You



## Mud Kitchen Donations Needed!

We're on the lookout for any **old pots, pans, baking trays, and plastic or wooden utensils** to help stock our mud kitchen! If you have any kitchen items you no longer need, we'd love to give them a second life in our outdoor play area.



# SEND in Focus

## Speech and Language Drop-in Advice Sessions



Do you have any concerns about your child's speech? If your child is not already under the care of the Speech and Language Services, you are able to gain advice and support by self-referring through: [drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk)

Once you have made contact the service, they will send a link where you can 'choose and book' an appointment at a time and place that is convenient for you and, following the drop-in session you will be emailed with the outcome of the session and a link to the advice that has been provided.

If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Mylam

# Specialist Health Visiting Team Advice Line

**Tuesdays  
and  
Thursdays**

**Between  
09:30am  
11:30am**

**0300 300  
1816**

## Who Can Call?

Parents, Carers and Professionals for Children with additional needs that require specialist health advice and support, who are currently/previously known to the Community Paediatricians.



*For more information on the Specialist Health Visiting Team, please scan the QR code.*

**NELFT**

**NHS**



# THURROCK SEND AND AP LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP SEND INSPECTION - SURVEY

Thurrock SEND and AP Local Area Partnership have been informed that His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (HMCI) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be inspected under section 20 of the Children Act 2004 from 8 December to 12 December 2025.

The inspectors want to hear from as many children and young people with SEND, their families, and practitioners as possible.

Please find QR Code link to the survey. The survey is open now and will close at 9am on 2 December 2025.



Should anyone have any access difficulties, please print, complete and send back to [Ofstedinspection@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Ofstedinspection@thurrock.gov.uk)

# Diary Dates

w/b 12th January 2026	Teacher run clubs start back.
Tuesday 13th January 2026	Year 4 start swimming
W/b Monday 16th February 2026	Half Term
Monday 23rd February 2026	Trust Day
Tuesday 24th February 2026	Young Voices @ 02
w/b Monday 9th March 2026	Parent consultation week R,1,2 Mon /Tues KS2 Wed/Thurs
Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays
Monday 4th May 2026	Bank Holiday
w/b Monday 25th May 2026	Half Term
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	Year 6 swimming
Wednesday 8th July 2026	Open Evening
Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July 2026	INSET days

# Do you need support?

## East Tilbury Primary Schools Online Pastoral Support.

We are very excited to launch our new Pastoral service to our school community. From today you can access support by completing a simple and quick online form.

We have been working hard over the last few months to set up extra support for our families which is very much needed at this challenging time. If you require support, then please do not hesitate to reach out. We are hoping this service will be a fantastic addition to the support we can provide for our school community. Please reach out if you need anything, we are always here to offer you support.

To make the process simple we have created a QR Code (at the top of the poster) which you can just scan, and this will take you directly to the form.

## WE CAN HELP WITH

- Food
- School Uniform
- Hygiene Products
- Wellbeing

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

[www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk](http://www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)



# READERS OF THE WEEK

2RS  
&  
5SA

## Congratulations

Each week, teachers keep track of how many pupils have read at home **at least five times**. The class with the highest number of regular readers is celebrated during our **Friday Celebration Assembly**. Let's keep up the great reading habits!

# Class News

## Reception

All of the children have very much enjoyed seeing their friends and being back at school after an exciting half term holiday!

In Phonics this week we have started learning our Phase 3 sounds, starting with j and v. We are trying our best to write short captions and phrases using our known sounds to write words as well as remembering to include finger spaces in between each word.

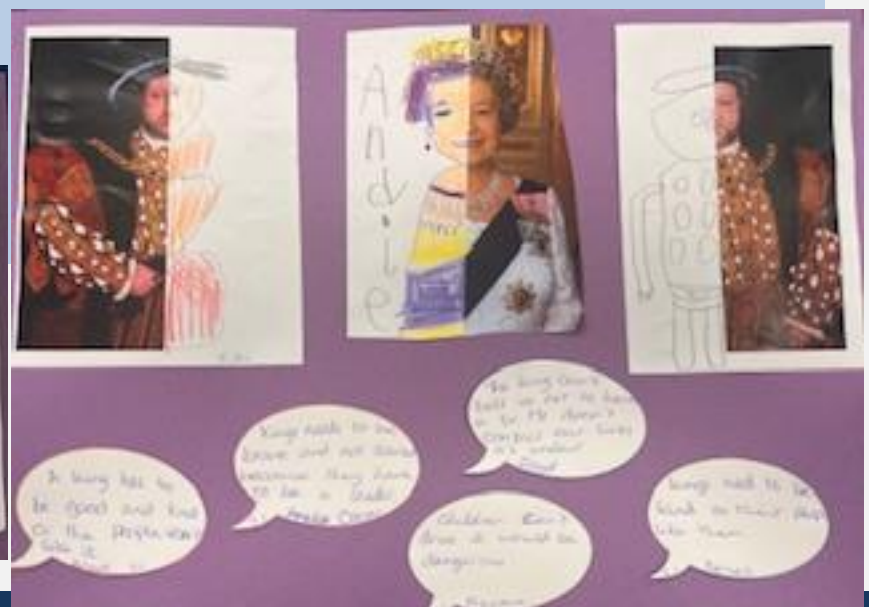
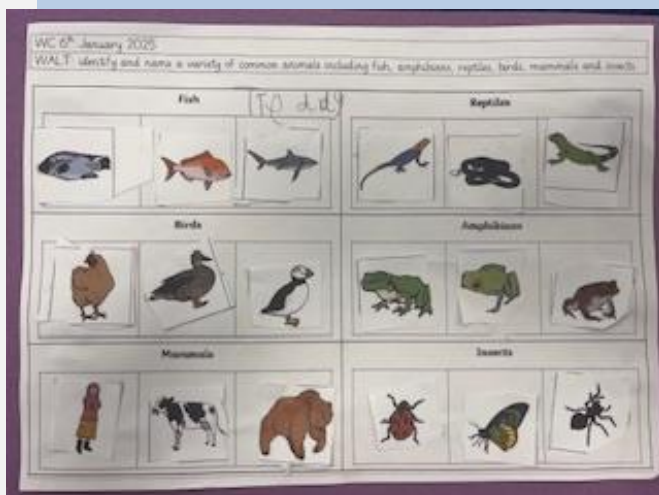
In Maths we have been looking at 3D shapes, where we have been looking at their names and properties. We were investigating which shapes would be the best to make a wall and why and we are getting much more confident and explaining our reasoning for our thinking.

As this half term we are focusing on 'Fantasy and Adventure' we have been using the story 'Supertato' as a creative basis for our learning this week. Here are a few pictures of what we have been up to!



## Year One

We have been very excited to return to school after the festive break and start a brand-new year of learning! In History, we have begun learning about kings and queens from the past and enjoyed talking about what makes a good monarch. In Science, we started our topic on animals, where we played a fun game and learnt how animals can be grouped and classified. We are looking forward to lots more exciting learning this term!



# Class News

## Year Two

Year 2 have returned to school with fantastic enthusiasm and a real eagerness to learn. It has been lovely to see the children settle back into routines so quickly and dive straight into their new topics.

In English, the children have begun exploring narrative writing through the story *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. Using Plop's adventures as inspiration, they are now working towards writing their own narratives. To support this, the class have been investigating the features of barn owls—looking closely at their appearance, habitats, and behaviours. This has helped them build a deeper understanding of Plop and his family, enriching their descriptive writing.

In maths, Year 2 have been learning to tell the time on analogue clocks. They have been practising reading **quarter past**, **half past**, and **quarter to**, using these skills to solve time-related problems and take part in practical activities around the classroom. To end the week, the children enjoyed a fantastic **African drumming session!** This special workshop linked brilliantly with our geography learning on African culture. The children loved exploring rhythm, call-and-response patterns, and the sounds of traditional drums.

It has been a busy, exciting first week back, and we are very proud of how confidently Year 2 have started the term.

## Year Three

We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for an exciting Spring Term. Our Year 3 students have hit the ground running with some fantastic new topics:

- **Maths:** We have begun our unit on **Measurement**, where pupils are developing practical skills in measuring lengths and perimeters using various tools.
- **English:** The children are exploring the enchanting world of *The Magic Paintbrush* by Julia Donaldson. We will be using this beautiful story to inspire our own descriptive writing.
- **Foundation Subjects:** We have officially travelled back in time to **Ancient Rome!** Students have been introduced to the Roman Empire and its lasting impact on Britain.
- **PSHE:** This week, we held important discussions on how to **challenge stereotypes**. The children showed great maturity while exploring how to promote fairness and equality within our community. Can you guess which teacher each fact is about?

Spends a lot time in the shed

Mrs Courtnell

Goes paddle boarding often

Mrs Weston

Enjoys going to the opticians

Mrs Smith

Always cries at sad films

Miss Kingston

Has jumped off a cliff

Mr Rumble

# Class News

## *Year Four*

Welcome back to our Year Four newsletter for this week and a happy New Year! It has been a busy first week back and the children have been working hard! In English, we have started to look at biographies with our electrifying celebrity: Nikola Tesla, in preparation to create our own version, children have been learning all about him. In Maths, we have been looking at fractions and how they are contextually relevant to the world around us, as well as considering how important times tables are in order to work out equivalents. In Geography, we were looking at the 4 layers of the Earth, and we completed a drama activity to help us learn the correct order of these layers. A few children were acting as the inner core, then some more children linked up to form the outer core, a larger group connected to form the Earth's mantle and then the largest number of children joined around the outside of the previous 3 to create the crust of the Earth. Have an amazing weekend and please remember to practise your times tables in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check in June!



Important notice: Swimming starts next Tuesday (13.01.2026). Children must bring appropriate swimwear, a towel and a swimming cap. Goggles are optional; however, they must not cover the nose like snorkelling ones.

# Class News

## *Year Five*

This week, Year 5 have enjoyed an engaging and positive start to the spring term across a range of subjects. In mathematics, pupils began their learning on fractions by exploring how shapes can be divided into equal parts and by examining different representations of fractional values, while in English they identified the key features of a biography through paired work on Jane Goodall before carrying out research on David Attenborough, which will be used to support future written work. Alongside this, our new topic on the Maya civilization has been introduced through art, where pupils explored Maya patterns, imagery and architecture, studied the work of Mexican artist Diego Rivera and considered how his art was inspired by the Maya, before creating handmade tools from natural materials and painting Maya-inspired designs on tea-stained pages. Furthermore, in French, pupils commenced a unit on telling the date, focusing on accurately reading and understanding sentences that describe the day. We also encourage children to begin reading and practicing the songs for the play Rock Bottom, which has been shared on Google Classroom, and we look forward to releasing the cast list as soon as possible; we wish you a wonderful weekend and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

## *Year Six*

Year 6 have had an action packed week of creativity and curiosity. We kicked things off with our brand new English unit, where we've begun crafting narratives inspired by the short film Paperman. The children have spent the past few days building rich, atmospheric descriptions to capture the mood of our main character, Malcolm, and their imaginations have truly taken flight.

In History, we travelled back thousands of years and dived into the world of the Ancient Greeks. From legendary battles to groundbreaking ideas, pupils explored key events and used their discoveries to create fascinating timelines that brought the era to life.

Our British Values lesson added a thoughtful touch to the week as we worked together to build a "tree of liberty" in our class floor books. Each leaf represented an important value, reminding us of the principles that are important to us all.



# Reach for the Stars



Our 'Stars of the Week' are the children that have gone over and above in their efforts. We are very proud of them for their achievements and thought they deserved an extra-special mention!

RJG	Arham	For writing a phrase independently
RMB	Alrind	For his incredible effort writing a phrase independently
RES	Lydia	For her amazing blending and reading.
1SL	Lenny	For his excellent engagement with independent learning tasks.
1CD	Kiki	For her improved confidence and active participation in lessons.
1EC	Ruby	For her amazing effort with her maths this week
2BG	Louisa	For her excellent work in maths this week, within the new topic of time.
2NB	Frankie	For his improved confidence and engagement in celebrating his learning goals.
2RS	Kirrelle	For her effort in handwriting and the presentation of her work.
3TG	Demi	For regulating her emotions effectively this week
3CS	Emily	For showing fantastic fluency and expression
3MR	Abel	For reading out to the whole year group in PSHE this week
4ML	James	For his enthusiasm and participation in class discussions
4CP	Hadriel A	Settling in well to ETPS
4BA	George	For growing in confidence when sharing ideas and reading.
4KC	Charlie	For his growth in confidence with completing work independently.
5SG	Ellie P	For her enthusiasm in art this week.
5SA	Abdalmalek A	For great efforts towards his handwriting and presentation
5LC	Samuel D	For being a kind and thoughtful friend
6AB	Michael F	For his enthusiasm in maths lessons
6NM	Oscar	For showing commitment to his learning in all lessons this week
6TH	Lordfrey	For his fabulous engagement in learning this week.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

### 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

### 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

### 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

### 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

### 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

### 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

### 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

### 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

### 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

### 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

## Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



Thurrock  
Teacher Training

# Get into Teaching

## St Clare's School

Lead ITT provider in partnership with Tes institute are pleased to announce that trainee places are available for the academic year 2025/2026.

*'Our trainees success rate  
Securing QTS = 100%  
Employed = 100%'*



Our partner schools for  
2025/2026 include:

## Primary

Chadwell St. Mary, Deneholm, East Tilbury, Thameside, Stifford Clays, Horndon-on-the-hill, Stanford-le-Hope, Doddinghurst, Little Thurrock, Arthur Bugler, Warren Primary, Bonnygate Primary, Woodside Academy

## Secondary

Grays Convent, Marshalls Park, Ormiston Park Academy, St. Clare's School, William Edwards The Gateway Academy, Brentwood County High, Hathaway Academy, Orsett Heath Academy

"The Tes Institute course was brilliant, and I would recommend it to others who are thinking of entering a career in teaching"  
- 2024 Trainee

For all enquiries please contact:  
[thurrockteachertraining@osborne.coop](mailto:thurrockteachertraining@osborne.coop)

# Keep in Touch



Our school office is open to receive calls between 8:30am and 3pm.

Tel: 01375 846181

Email: [office.etp@osborne.coop](mailto:office.etp@osborne.coop)

East Tilbury Primary School

Princess Margaret Road  
East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8SB



We are also regularly updating our Facebook page and Twitter feed. Log on and have a look!



Twitter:  
[@EastTPrimary](https://twitter.com/EastTPrimary)



At East Tilbury Primary School our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are:

- Mrs Dawson

Due to the size of the school, we have the following designated staff who can deputise in the Headteacher's absence:

- Mr Gowland
- Mrs Jarvis
- Mrs Mylam
- Mrs Allen
- Mrs Sheridan

Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child? You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

**Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: 01375 652802. Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) 01375 372468. · Police Child Abuse Investigation Team 01277 266822 or call 999 if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection. · Childline 0800 11 11 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) · NSPCC 0808 800 5000 [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk); [www.facebook.com/nspcc](https://www.facebook.com/nspcc)**



**Tues 14:00-16:00:** St. Mary's Church hall, St. Mary's Church, Dock Rd, Grays, RM17 6EX.

**Tues 11:00-13:00:** St. John the Baptist Church, Tilbury, Dock Road, Tilbury, RM18 7PP

**Weds 11:00-13:00:** Gateway People's Centre, High Street, Stanford Le Hope, Essex, SS17 0EY

**Weds 13:00 -14:30:** Sockets Heath Baptist Church, Premier Avenue, Grays, RM16 2SB

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** St. Francis Centre, Somerset Rd, Linford, SS17 0QA

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Fri 10:12:00:** St. Stephen's Church of England, London Rd, Purfleet, RM19 1QD


**Sat 09:30-11:30:** Emmanuel Church of England, Sleepers Farm Rd, Chadwell St. Mary, RM16 4TP

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** Christian Gates of Praise International Christian Centre, 79-83 London Rd, RM175YF


Osborne Term Dates for 2025-26 (Approved by Trust Board 24/09/24)


September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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 = School Days

 = School Holidays

 = Bank Holidays

 = Weekends

 = additional autumn half term

 = Trust training day