

MESSAGE FROM MR ROWDEN

We are delighted to announce our new School Ambassadors for this year. Over the past few weeks, our Year 6 pupils have been busy taking part in a voting process alongside staff, and I am pleased to share that our ambassadors are **Isaac, Eliza, James, Marlene, Edward, Nell, Finlay and Vasiliki.**

Throughout the year, they will play an important role in representing our school community. They will help to welcome visitors, give tours of the school, and showcase all that makes our school such a special place. They will also be leading and delivering their very own assembly later in the year.

A huge congratulations to our newly appointed ambassadors and a heartfelt thank you to all of the pupils who put themselves forward for the role. We were incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, confidence and commitment shown by everyone involved. We look forward to seeing our ambassadors flourish in their new roles over the coming year.

Cross Country

Kent College are running Cross Country events once again this season at their Junior School.
The next event is on **Saturday 7th November.** Registration is from 9:15am and races are from 10am.
Races at Kent College Junior School
The event will begin with nursery (approx. 150m) then EYFS (approx. 250m), Year 1 and Year 2 (both approx. 600m) Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 (all approx. 1000m)

On the day:

Runners will need to wear trainers (or running shoes), and suitable sport clothing.
(Running vests will be given on the day to show you are a Blean Runner!)
All runners need to sign in at the tables when you arrive and receive a number. You can then come to me for a running top - I will be under the tree at the top of the hill near the sign-in table.
Parking can be difficult so please arrive with plenty of time. If you can walk, cycle or car share it always helps.
Sign in closes **BEFORE** the first race of the event.

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Parent Consultations

We would like to invite you to attend our Parent Consultation Evening on either **Tuesday 20th October or Thursday 22nd October**. (Pre-School Parent Consultations will be sent out separately).

The Consultations will be held in the school hall and will run from 3.40pm – 6.40pm

Appointments can be booked using your **Parent Booking Account**. Appointments will be live and available to to book from today, **Friday 9th October at 4.00pm** and will close on **Monday 19th October at noon**.

If you have any difficulties accessing your Parent Booking account, please contact the school office by either emailing **office@blean.kent.sch.uk** or telephoning **01227 471254**.

Year 3 Swimming Lessons

Year 3 will begin a block of 10 weekly swimming lessons at Whitstable Leisure Centre from 8th January 2027. Children will be grouped according to their swimming ability on arrival, ensuring lessons are suitable for their current level. The school will cover the cost of pool hire and instructors. We are asking parents for a contribution towards transport costs of £67.50 per child. If you have any difficulty making this payment, please contact Mrs Jones (Business Manager) in confidence.

Can you **please complete this short form** to tell us about your child's current swimming ability and to share any concerns you may have about swimming. Please complete the form by **Monday 30th November**.

We are also looking for **parent volunteers** to accompany the children on the coach, remain at the pool during the lesson, and return with the class afterwards. If you are able to help and already hold a Blean DBS check, please email **office@blean.kent.sch.uk**.

Reception Intake September 2027

If your child was born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023**, they will be due to start school next September. Please go to **Kent Primary Admissions** for further information or email **primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk** or call 03000 412 121. The online application process opens on **Friday 6th November 2026 and closes on Friday 15th January 2027.**

We are pleased to announce will be holding tours on the following dates:

Thursday 5th November at 1:30pm
Monday 9th November at 9:15am
Tuesday 10th November at 1:30pm
Wednesday 18th November at 9:15am
Wednesday 25th November at 1:30pm
Wednesday 2nd December at 1:30pm
Thursday 7th January at 9:15am

To book a place on one of our tours, please contact the school office on **01227 471254, Option 5** or email **office@blean.kent.sch.uk**. If you have a sibling due to start school next September, please could you email the school office if you intend to apply for a place at Blean, even if you do not intend to join one of our tours.



Safe and Courteous Parking

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be mindful of where they park when dropping off and collecting children along the Whitstable Road. Please ensure the entrance to the visitors' car park is kept clear at all times, particularly during the busy morning drop-off period. If you are dropping off your child in the morning, please do not stop or park in a way that blocks the entrance or prevents other vehicles from entering or leaving.

Unfortunately, there was a near miss this week and we have had visitors unable to access the car park. These incidents highlight the importance of keeping access routes clear and being mindful of everyone who needs to enter and leave the school site safely.

The safety of our children, families and staff must always come first. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to keep our school site safe, accessible and welcoming for everyone.

Year R & Year 6 - School Health Team Visit

The School Health Service will be visiting school on **Friday 20th November** to carry out the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) for children in **Year R and Year 6**.

The programme involves measuring children's height and weight as part of a national initiative to monitor child growth and development. Measurements are carried out sensitively and confidentially by trained healthcare professionals.

The measurements will take place during the school day, starting from 9:00am, and no special preparation is required.

Year R Braiswick Photo Order Collection - Change of Date

Braiswick will be collecting any physical photo orders from the school office on **Monday 19th October.** Please ensure that if you wish to purchase your child's photo, this is completed online or returned to the school office before this date. Thank you.

Board Games Wanted

As the weather begins to turn and we head into the winter months, there will inevitably be more occasions when children need to stay indoors for wet play and lunchtime activities.

To help keep our children engaged, entertained and enjoying time with their friends, we are looking to replenish our collection of board games and tabletop activities.

If you have any board games in good condition with all pieces complete that are suitable for primary-aged children, we would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you for your support.



Ordering School Meals

ParentPay is now fully operational and can be accessed via your Reach More Parent account. Nourish is currently uploading outstanding meal charges from the start of term. Please check your account regularly as these are added.

All school meals, including paid meals, Universal Infant Free School Meals and Free School Meals, must be booked through ParentPay. Children will still select their meal choice with their teacher during morning registration.

Please note:

- School meals cost £3.00 per meal and must be paid for in advance.
- Accounts must remain in credit and will not be permitted to run into debt.
- If an account falls into debt, parents/carers will be asked to provide a packed lunch until the balance is cleared.

Thank you for your patience and support. Please contact the school office if you need assistance accessing ParentPay.

The Big Future Survey - Have Your Say

The Children's Commissioner is inviting children and young people across England to take part in The Big Future survey.

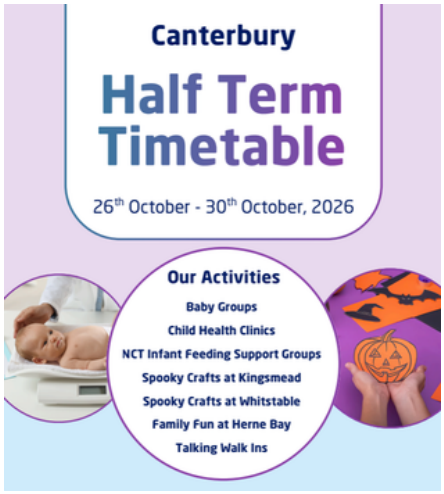
This is a wonderful opportunity for children to share their experiences, hopes, dreams and ideas for the future. Every child's voice matters, and the responses will help shape a picture of childhood that will be shared with Government.

We would really encourage our pupils and families to get involved and make their voices heard!

Take part in **The Big Future survey here**.

Half Term Family Hub Timetable









DON'T MISS OUT

NOURISH GROW WITH US

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.

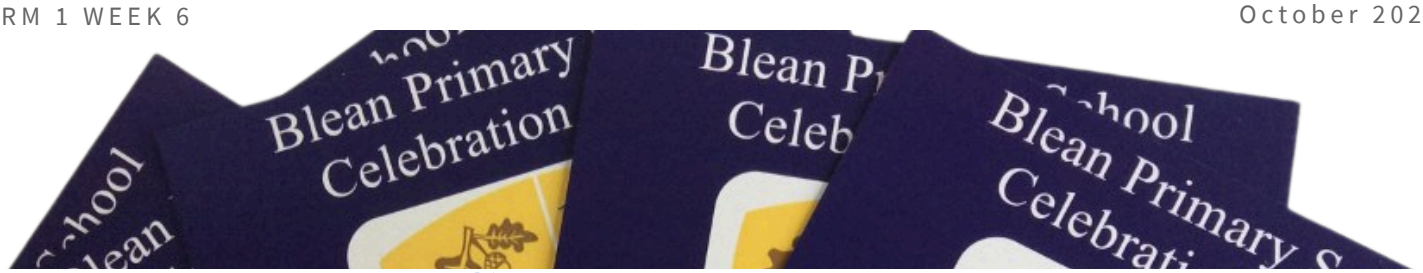
Free school meals are now split into Two Benefit Categories:

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



CUP WINNERS

Saplings - Owen for settling into Saplings so well and always being kind and helpful.
Amici - Imogen for creating an excellent Van Gogh inspired painting.
Rafiki - Otto for being ready to learn.
Amor - Hailey for writing super sentences about a toy in our English lessons! Well done!
Aroha - Luna-May for being a great role model to her friends.
Esperanza - Andrew for his resilience when writing and his attitude to his learning.
Upendo - Ken for demonstrating quick thinking in Maths.
Irie - Grace for working amazingly well and showing fantastic understanding when adding 10s across 100.
Ohana - **Phoenix** for such a brilliant start to Year 3.
Amigo - Luna for a brilliant series of poems on an autumn leaf.
Tomodachi - Lincoln For always being Ready and Respectful in his learning and **Mason** for excellent work in Maths and English.
Kavod - Tommy for his hardworking attitude.
Sisu - Josie for outstanding effort in English writing and making Mr Humphreys proud.
Latif - Etienne for demonstrating effortful learning in all areas.
Timon - Henry and Aoife for thoughtful responses to History learning.
Evergreens - Fabian for being a kind friend to our new starter.

We are pleased to inform you that this week's attendance winners are...

Year 2
98.5%

We are pleased to inform you that this week's attendance House winners are...

Beech
98.8%

We are pleased to inform you the Walk once a Week winners are...

Year 6 Latif Class
20 children

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For term dates please click here.

Term 1	**01/09/2026 - 23/10/2026**
Kent Test Results	15.10.2026
Year 3 Parent Share	16.10.2026
Year 6 Bikability: Level 2	19.10.2026
Second-Hand Uniform Sale	19.10.2026
Braisiwick to collect Year R Photo Orders	19.10.2026
Parent Consultations	20.10.2026
Year 1 Parent Share	21.10.2026
Parent Consultations	22.10.2026

Inset Days 2026/27

01.09.2026 22.02.2027
19.07.2027 20.07.2027
21.07.2027

P.E Days

Year R - Friday - **TERM 2 ONWARDS**
Year 1 - Tuesday & Thursday
Year 2 - Tuesday & Friday
Year 3 - Wednesday & Friday
Year 4 - Monday & Wednesday
Year 5 - Tuesday & Thursday
Year 6 - Monday & Thursday

Forest School Dates

Year 3
Irie - 19th Oct
Ohana - 12th Oct

Year 4
Amigo - 20th Oct
Tomodachi - 13th Oct

Year 5
Kavod - 23rd Oct
Sisu - 16th Oct

Year 6
Latif - 21st Oct
Timon - 14th Oct

Evergreens
15th & 22nd Oct