

MESSAGE FROM MR ROWDEN

As we move into the penultimate week of term, I continue to be incredibly proud of the resilience and positive learning behaviours shown by our children. It has been fantastic to welcome our Reception children to whole-school assemblies. They have joined in so confidently and showed just how well they have settled into school life. It is clear that they are now a valued part of our school community and are already demonstrating our Blean Bees every day. I also had the pleasure of meeting our new Year 6 School Ambassadors this week. They spoke with confidence and enthusiasm about their new roles and are looking forward to representing the school. Next week, they will introduce themselves to the rest of the school and will be helping me welcome visitors and show them around. I know they will do a fantastic job and be excellent role models for our younger children.

As the weather begins to change, please could I remind families to ensure children come to school with suitable outdoor clothing, including a waterproof coat on wet days. We aim to get children outside whenever possible, so having the right clothing helps them stay comfortable and enjoy their time outdoors whatever the weather.

Have a lovely weekend.

Cross Country

Kent College Junior School is hosting another Cross Country event on **Saturday 7th November.**

Registration opens at 9:15am, with races starting at 10:00am.

Race distances:

- Nursery: approx. 150m
- EYFS: approx. 250m
- Years 1 & 2: approx. 600m
- Years 3, 4, 5 & 6: approx. 1000m

Important information:

- Children should wear trainers/running shoes and suitable sports clothing.
- Blean running vests will be provided on the day.
- All runners must sign in on arrival and collect a race number before coming to collect their running vest.
- Parking can be limited, so please allow plenty of time to arrive.
- Sign-in closes before the first race begins.



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Year R Braiswick Photo Order Collection

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.

Year R Dance Workshop

Next term, Year R will be asking, "How do people celebrate?" We would therefore love to welcome "West End in Schools" into our school to lead a Diwali Dance workshop with our children on **Monday 9th November**. This will be an exciting opportunity for us to learn and retell the story of Rama and Sita through movement and dance.

The cost of the workshop will be £5.50 and will take place in our school hall with the rest of our school day remaining as usual. Payments can be made through Parent Pay via your Reach More Parents account. **Payment is due by 4th November.** Thank you

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**.

Year 5 Space Workshop

Next term, Year 5 will be learning about 'The Earth in Space'. We are pleased to let you know that we have booked a Virtual Reality session for each Year 5 class with a company called Education Group on **Friday 6th November.**

During the session, the pupils will wear individual virtual reality headsets and will be able to explore our solar system on a guided virtual reality tour. In order to pay for this experience, we are asking for a donation of £9.75 per child. Payment can be made through ParentPay via your Reach More Parents account. **Payment is due by 3rd November**. Thank you.



Clubs - Last Week of Term

Please be aware that next week, commencing Monday 19th October, **all after-school clubs will be cancelled.**
Extended School will continue to run as normal.
This includes Martial Arts and Tennis Club, which will **not take place next week.**
Rocksteady lessons will continue as normal.

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**. Appointment bookings 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**.

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:

FULL 5th November at 1:30pm
FULL 9th November at 9:15am
10th November at 1:30pm
18th November at 9:15am
25th November at 1:30pm
2nd December at 1:30pm
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.



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.

BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition



The BBC are currently running a story-writing competition for 5 - 11 year olds. Entries can be submitted between now and 9pm on Friday 6th November.

This competition celebrates children's creativity and imagination, encouraging children from across the UK to create an original story in 500 words or fewer.

Prizes include book vouchers for the winners and books for the school library.

Please **follow this link** for further details, including how to enter online. It will be great to see who will take up this creative challenge and get their imaginations to work! Mrs Prior

Japanese Culture Day at Chaucer College

Families are invited to experience the sights, sounds and traditions of Japan at Japanese Culture Day at Chaucer College on 15 November 2026, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

Enjoy an afternoon of hands-on cultural activities, including origami, Japanese calligraphy, a tea experience, super ball scooping, a chopstick challenge, and a fun photo booth where you can try on a kimono and take a commemorative photo. Light Japanese finger foods will also be available throughout the day.

📅 Timetable

- 12:00pm - 3:00pm – Japanese Culture Activities
- 2:00pm - 2:30pm – Taiko Drum Performance by HIBIKI (Kent Japanese School) in the Lecture Theatre
- 3:00pm – Event Closes



This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to learn about and celebrate Japanese culture in a fun, interactive and family-friendly environment.



Forest School Newsletter

We have had some fantastic Forest School sessions this term so far! It has been wonderful to watch the children use their imaginations and come up with some brilliant ideas. We have had a cinema, coffee shops, a tree house, a bakery and lots of 'cool' dens, alongside many other exciting activities!



The children are continuing to use our Forest School rules to help keep themselves and others safe while taking part in activities.

A **BIG thank you** to all our parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring the children come to Forest School with appropriate clothing. As the weather gets colder, wearing layers is a must! **Please remember to pack spare socks, gloves and a warm hat to help keep the children cosy on colder days.**

If you need any help sourcing suitable clothing, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office. We are always happy to help. Thank you for your continued support! Forest School Team

Wildlife Calendar & Events

🦔 Autumn Nature Moments

Find out what to look out for in nature this autumn with the **Wildlife Trusts' guide** to their Top 10 Autumn Nature Moments. It's packed with ideas to help families enjoy the season outdoors.

🐦 Birds to Spot This Month

Keep your eyes on the skies! The **RSPB's October Birds of the Month** introduces some of the winter migrant birds arriving in the UK and how to identify them.

🍄 Amazing Fungi

Autumn is the perfect time to discover the **incredible world of fungi**. Learn about the different types you might find on a woodland walk and why they're so important to nature.



CUP WINNERS

Saplings - Amelie for coming into pre-school happily and making friends.
Amici - Finbar for showing responsibility.
Rafiki - Alya for fantastic behaviour for learning.
Amor - Anayza for recognising lots of our new phonics.
Aroha - Amber for being safe and making Aroha class proud.
Esperanza - Dara for always listening on the carpet and being a great role model.
Upendo - Aoife for effort in both English and Maths.
Irie - Philippa for a beautifully written persuasive letter.
Ohana - **Florence** for brilliant independent work in Maths.
Amigo - Benson for being respectful and collaborating.
Tomodachi - Farley for perserverence in Maths - particularly column addition and subtraction.
Kavod - Poppy for being so kind and supportive to her class.
Sisu - Prudence & Katie for collaborating very positively during their science investigation this week.
Latif - Sochika for excellent contributions to our Science learning about microorganisms.
Timon - Eric for working hard to develop his writing.
Evergreens - Malcolm for joining everyone in Evergreens, making friends and settling in so wonderfully.

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

Year 4
98.4%

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

Beech
99.4%

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

Year 6 Latif Class
18 children

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For term dates please click here.

Term 1	**01/09/2026 - 23/10/2026**
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
End of Term 1	**23.10.2026**

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

Year 4
Amigo - 20th Oct

Year 5
Kavod - 23rd Oct

Year 6
Latif - 21st Oct

Evergreens
22nd Oct