

MESSAGE FROM MR ROWDEN

As we reach the end of Term 1, it is hard to believe just how much we have packed into what has been a very busy and successful term. From exciting learning opportunities to welcoming new members into our school community, the weeks have certainly flown by.

Our new Preschool and Reception children have taken school life in their stride and have settled wonderfully well. We are incredibly proud of how confidently they have embraced new routines, friendships and learning experiences since joining us.

This week, we were delighted to welcome a group of Japanese student teachers to the school. They spent time with our Year 4 pupils, teaching them how to count in Japanese and helping them to develop their origami skills. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a different culture and language, and they thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Many of you will be aware that our Ofsted inspection took place earlier this term. At the time of writing, we have not yet received the final report. We therefore anticipate being able to share this with families during Term 2 and will do so as soon as it is available.

As we break for the half-term holiday, I would like to thank our children, staff and families for their continued support throughout the term. We began Term 1 in glorious sunshine and end it on a rather windy and rainy day, which seems a fitting reminder of how quickly the seasons change.

We wish all our families a restful, enjoyable and safe half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 2.



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

All runners must sign in on arrival and collect a race number before coming to collect their running vest.

IN THIS ISSUE

Reminders:

- **Club Payments**
- **Year R Dance Workshop**
- **Year 3 Swimming Lessons**
- **Year 5 Space Workshop**

Secondary School Applications

PTFA Christmas Design Project

Reception Intake September 2027

Club Places Still Available

Term 2 - P.E. Days

Term 2 - Forest School

Year 3 Parent Share

BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition

Japanese Culture Day at Chaucer College

Cup Winners

Attendance Week Winners

Dates for your Diary
& Upcoming Events



Club Payments

If your child is attending a club from Term 2, payment is now due. Payments can be made via ParentPay, which can be accessed through the Reach More Parents (Weduc) app. The cost is £5.00 per club, per child, for the term. If your child attends Extended School on the day of their club or is eligible for Pupil Premium, you will not receive a payment request. Please ensure payment is made by Friday 6 November to secure your child's place. Thank you for your support.

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.



Secondary School Applications

Just a reminder to all parents of Year 6 children (whether they took the Kent Test or not) that the deadline for completing your Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) is **Monday 2nd November**.
All the information you need about applying for a secondary school place can be found on the **KCC secondary admissions page**. Thank you, The Year 6 team.

PTFA Christmas Design Project

We are delighted to be running our popular PTFA Christmas Design Project once again this year.
Over the past few years, children have enjoyed creating festive artwork that can be transformed into a range of personalised products, including Christmas cards, gift tags, wrapping paper and mugs. Thanks to the support of our families, this project has helped raise valuable funds for the school, and we are pleased to be working with IQ Cards again this year.

Children will create their designs in school during the first week of next term. **Please remember that purchasing any products is completely optional, and there is no expectation or obligation to place an order.** Information about viewing designs and ordering products will be shared with families at a later date.

If you do not wish for your child to take part in creating the artwork, please contact the School Office at **office@blean.kent.sch.uk**, providing your child's name and class, no later than **Monday 2 November**.

Thank you for your continued support of the PTFA and our school community.

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
FULL 10th November at 1:30pm
FULL 18th November at 9:15am
FULL 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.



Club Places Still Available

We still have a few places available in some of our Term 2 clubs:

- **Active Games** (Years 1 & 2) - Fridays, 8:00am-8:30am - 5 spaces
- **Book Club** (Years 5 & 6) - Lunchtime, Thursdays & Fridays - 7 spaces
- **Film & Colouring** (Years 3 & 4) - Tuesdays until 4:30pm - 14 spaces
- **Singing Club** (Years 3-6) - Mondays - 3 spaces

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact the school office if you would like your child to join one of these clubs by either emailing **office@blean.kent.sch.uk** or calling **01227 471254**.

Term 2 - P.E Days

Below is the schedule for each year group's P.E.days for Term 2:

Year R: Friday

Year 1: Tuesday + Thursday

Year 2: Tuesday + Friday

Year 3: Wednesday + Thursday

Year 4: Monday + Wednesday

Year 5: Tuesday + Friday

Year 6: Monday + Thursday

Term 2 - Forest School

Please see the dates below for Forest School in Term 2 for KS2:

Year 3

Ohana – 6th, 20th Nov, 4th and 17th Dec

Irie – 13th, 27th Nov, 11th Dec

Year 4

Tomodachi – 3rd, 17th Nov, 1st, 15th Dec

Amigo – 10th , 24th Nov, 8th Dec

Year 5

Sisu – 2nd, 16th, 30th Nov, 14th Dec

Kavod – 9th, 23rd Nov, 7th Dec

Year 6

Timon – 4th, 18th Nov, 2nd, 16th Dec

Latif – 11th, 25th Nov, 9th Dec

Evergreens

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Nov

3rd, 10th Dec

Your child will need to wear:

- A long-sleeved top
- Full-length trousers
- Wellies, sturdy shoes, or boots

Other recommended items:

- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Hat, scarf, gloves for colder days
- Extra layers in case of cold or wet weather

Please be aware that clothing is likely to get muddy or wet. Avoid sending anything valuable or that you wouldn't want soiled and make sure all clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with your child's name.



Year 3 Parent Share

Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic Parent Share, working alongside their families to design and build their own wind turbines. The children shared their knowledge of renewable energy while demonstrating creativity, collaboration and problem-solving skills. It was wonderful to see children and parents learning, experimenting and having fun together!





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.**

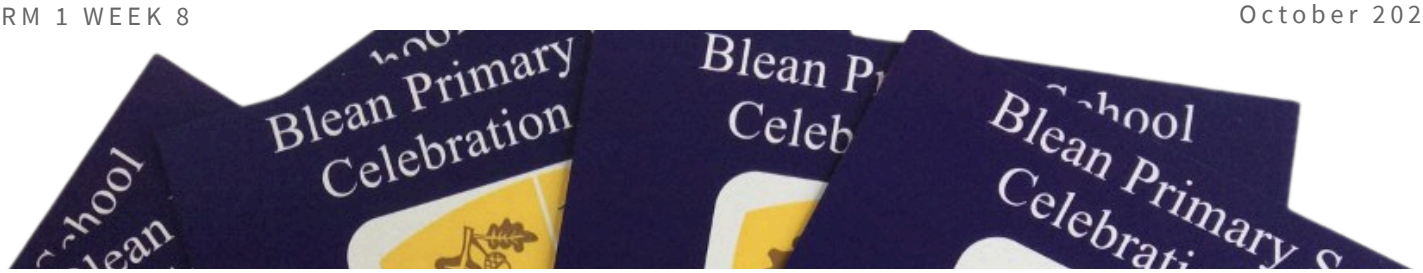
Enjoy an afternoon of hands-on cultural activities, including origami, Japanese calligraphy, a tea experience, super ball scooping, a chopstick challenge, and a fun photo booth where you can try on a kimono and take a commemorative photo. Light Japanese finger foods will also be available throughout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



CUP WINNERS

Saplings - Gregory for always making good choices.
Amici - Nicholas for showing a resilient attitude towards writing a fact book.
Rafiki - Arlo for amazing effort in his learning.
Amor - Evie-Jean for trying hard in our Maths all week.
Aroha - Evelyn for being a fantastic role model.
Esperanza - Finn for his attitude to his learning and improved focus.
Upendo - Lochlann for his use of interesting vocabulary.
Irie - Serene for being kind to others and being an excellent role model.
Ohana - **Nora** for such beautiful presentation in all her books, and for all her hard work this term.
Amigo - Nancy for a fantastic non-chronological report on frogs.
Tomodachi - Reuben for always demonstrating exemplary learning behaviour.
Kavod - Nikolas for fantastic Maths thinking.
Sisu - Isabelle for making Mr Humphreys extremely proud due to your positive learning attitude.
Latif - Henry, Riley & Rohan for great collaboration when creating a Crime & Punishment board game in D.T.
Timon - Jacob for good responses to reading.
Evergreens - Rosie for resilience and curiosity writing her historical narrative based on Windrush.

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

Year 1
98%

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

Rowan
94%

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

Year 6 Latif Class
19 children

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For term dates please click here.

Term 2	**02/11/2026 - 18/12/2026**
First Day of Term 2	**02.11.2026**
Year 6 Parent Share	03.11.2026
New Entrant Tour	05.11.2026
Year 5 Space Workshop	06.11.2026
New Entrant Tour	09.11.2026
Year R Dance Workshop	09.11.2026
New Entrant Tour	10.11.2026

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
Year 1 - Tuesday & Thursday
Year 2 - Tuesday & Friday
Year 3 - Wednesday & Thurdsay
Year 4 - Monday & Wednesday
Year 5 - Tuesday & Friday
Year 6 - Monday & Thursday

Forest School Dates

Year 3
Ohana - 6th, 20th Nov, 4th and 17th Dec
Irie - 13th, 27th Nov, 11th Dec

Year 4
Tomodachi - 3rd, 17th Nov, 1st, 15th Dec
Amigo - 10th , 24th Nov, 8th Dec

Year 5
Sisu - 2nd, 16th, 30th Nov, 14th Dec
Kavod - 9th, 23rd Nov, 7th Dec

Year 6
Timon - 4th, 18th Nov, 2nd, 16th Dec
Latif - 11th, 25th Nov, 9th Dec

Evergreens
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Nov 3rd, 10th Dec