



Newsletter



Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World

Friday 2nd October
Term 1 Week 5



(PC) = Parents & Carers are invited

SCHOOL DATES For your Calendar

TUESDAY 6 TH OCTOBER	Year 4 trip to Howletts
TUESDAY 6 TH OCTOBER	Fletcher Class Harvest Festival (PC)
WEDNESDAY 7 TH OCTOBER	Dahl Class Harvest Festival (PC)
THURSDAY 8 TH OCTOBER	Morpurgo Class Harvest Festival (PC)
THURSDAY 8 TH OCTOBER	Hello Yellow Day
FRIDAY 9 TH OCTOBER	Potter Class Harvest Festival (PC)
FRIDAY 9 TH OCTOBER	Individual School Photographs
TUESDAY 13 TH OCTOBER	Year 5 Space Dome Workshop
FRIDAY 16 TH OCTOBER	Year 4 Egyptian Dress Up Day
MONDAY 19 TH OCTOBER	Parent/teacher meetings 3.30-5.30pm (PC)
WEDNESDAY 21 ST OCTOBER	Parent/teacher meetings 4.30-7.30pm (PC)

An events calendar for Terms 1 & 2 is
available on the school websites.

Message from Mr. Head!

I can't quite believe September has been and gone already. Where did that month go? It has been another brilliant week across The Willesborough Schools, and we're keeping our fingers crossed that the sunshine continues well into October! This week, we kicked off our Community Week with a visit from Steve Cooper, who leads the charity Cry in the Dark. We have proudly supported the charity for many years and will continue to do so this year through our Christmas Shoebox Appeal, with donations being sent to children in Romania. More information about how you can get involved will follow soon.

We have also started collecting donations for our Harvest displays across both schools. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. If you would still like to donate, please feel free to send items into school.

Next week promises to be just as busy, with lots to look forward to!

Year 3 Harvest Festival assemblies

Throughout next week, we are delighted to welcome our Year 3 parents and carers to their child's Harvest Festival assembly. This year, our Harvest donations will support the InSpire Café at St Mary's Church, Willesborough. If you would like to contribute, please bring your donation along with you or send it into school.

- Tuesday 6th October: Fletcher Class
- Wednesday 7th October: Dahl Class
- Thursday 8th October: Morpurgo Class
- Friday 9th October: Potter Class

All Harvest Festival assemblies will begin at 2:30pm.

Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day

Next Thursday 8th October, we will be marking World Mental Health Day by inviting all pupils and staff to wear non-school uniform with something yellow.

The day is an opportunity for us to come together as a school community, raise awareness of mental health and reinforce the importance of looking after our own well-being and supporting those around us.

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so using the YoungMinds – The Willesborough Schools fundraising link. <https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraisers/willesboroughschools/hello-yellow>

Individual School Photos

On Friday 9th October, a professional photographer will be visiting both schools to take individual photographs of all pupils.

For families who would like sibling photographs, the photographers will be available in the Junior School Hall from 7:45am. These will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

We expect this to be busy, so we kindly ask parents and carers to:

- supervise their children while waiting;
- allow plenty of time; and
- refrain from parking on the school site.

Have a lovely weekend!

Tom Head

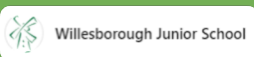
LEADERSHIP

ASPIRATION

DETERMINATION

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405



Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
Infants Email: office@willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk

Infants Telephone: 01233 624165

Attendance Update

We are delighted that both the Infant and Junior Schools are currently exceeding our attendance target of 96%. This is a fantastic start to the school year and reflects the commitment of our pupils and families to making every school day count. Good attendance has such an important impact on children's learning, wellbeing and progress, so thank you for your continued support in getting children into school every day and on time. Let's keep this positive start going! As always, if you are experiencing any difficulties with your child's attendance, please contact us. We are here to support families and work together to overcome any barriers.



THIS WEEK:

JUNIORS: 96.3%
INFANTS: 96%



THIS YEAR:

JUNIORS: 96.7%
INFANTS: 96%



Term Dates for 2026 / 2027

Autumn Term 1 (T1):

Start: Wednesday 2nd September
End: Friday 23rd October
Half Term: 26th October – 30th October

Autumn Term 2 (T2):

Start: Monday 2nd November
End: Friday 18th December
Christmas Holiday: 21st December – 1st January

Spring Term 1 (T3):

Start: Monday 4th January
End: Friday 12th February
Half Term: 15th February – 19th February

Spring Term 2 (T4):

Start: Monday 22nd February
End: Thursday 25th March
Easter Holiday: 26th March – 9th April

Summer Term 1 (T5):

Start: Monday 12th April
End: Friday 28th May
Half Term: 31st May – 4th June

Summer Term 2 (T6):

Start: Monday 7th June
End: Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days for 2026/2027

Tuesday 1st September **Friday 23rd October** **Friday 18th December** **Friday 28th May** **Wednesday 21st July**

Staff Development Days for 2027/2028

We know some families like to plan well ahead, so we will add the staff development days for the next school year here when they are finalised at a later date.

MacMillan Cake Sale Fundraising

We had an incredible turnout for the cake sale last week, with the school council doing an excellent job of running it under Miss Cox's supervision. We'd like to thank all families who donated cakes, whether store bought or baked at home, and, of course, everyone who kindly donated money to buy a cake. We are very proud to reveal that the final total from the cake sale and our staff tombola was £251! This is an incredible achievement in support of an important cause that's also close to many in our community. We hope you will join us in sharing pride in and thanks for this result.

Music Mark

We are proud to announce that the Infant School has received the Music Mark award!



Goodbye to Mrs Fitzpatrick

We'd like to wish Mrs Fitzpatrick, our Emotional Learning Support Assistant (ELSA) at the Junior School, all the very best as she leaves us for pastures new. Thank you for all your help and support.

New school gates

We would like to remind families of the following important information:

- **Please note that vehicular access to the site for parents/carers is not permitted between 8am and 4.30pm except by prior agreement.**
- The Highfield Road gate will remain closed to **all** vehicular access/egress between the existing signposted times of 8.25am-9am and 2.45pm-3.30pm. This is for the safety of staff, families and children.
- The pedestrian access at both ends of the site will still be kept open as usual during the normal school drop off and pick up times – there will be no need to use the intercom to request access.
- Driving in to the site to collect your child from After School Club after 4.30pm is permitted and the vehicle gates will be open.
- To exit onto Church Road, simply press the green button on the pedestal near the gate to unlock it and pull the gate open.
- The pedestrian gates do not open automatically. Please be careful when pulling and pushing these gates as they are metal and the locking system protrudes from the gates. **Improper use risks injury.** We have taken measures to reduce this, but please be aware when leaving through these gates.



OPEN SESSIONS

WILLESBOROUGH INFANT SCHOOL

Monday 9th November 9-10am

Tuesday 10th November 9-10am

Wednesday 11th November 9-10am

Thursday 12th November 9-10am

Thursday 19th November 6-7pm

Come and see what Willesborough can offer your child starting EYFS in 2027!

Call 01233 624165 to book your place.

Wonder - Inspire - Shine

Leadership, Aspiration, Determination, Responsibility, Respect.

Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World



Willesborough Schools - Food & Nutrition Guide

Healthy Meals & Snacks



4 Main Food Groups



Varied Menus



Water Accessible

Strictly NO NUTS or Sesame

STRICTLY NO NUTS OR SESAME



Healthy Packed Lunches

Include these:

- ✓ Starchy Carb
- ✓ Protein Source
- ✓ Dairy Item
- ✓ Portion of Fruit & Veg

NO these:

- ✗ Fizzy Drinks
- ✗ Sweets & Chocolate
- ✗ Crisps
- ✗ Nut Spreads (e.g., Peanut Butter, Nutella)

Allergies & Safety



14 Allergens Tracked

(e.g., egg, fish, soy)



Safety Lanyards



Individual Healthcare Plans

Sign of the Week

(Makaton)

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World

I get by with a little.....



Can you practice together at home?

[Click here to watch a short video showing this week's sign.](#)

[You can also find interesting information about Makaton on our website by clicking here.](#)

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a way of supporting communication using signs and symbols alongside speech.

Using signs can help make spoken language clearer and give children another way to express themselves while they are developing their communication skills.

Using Makaton does not stop children from talking. In fact, using signs alongside speech can help support communication and speech development.

Makaton can be used by everyone, not just children who have communication difficulties.

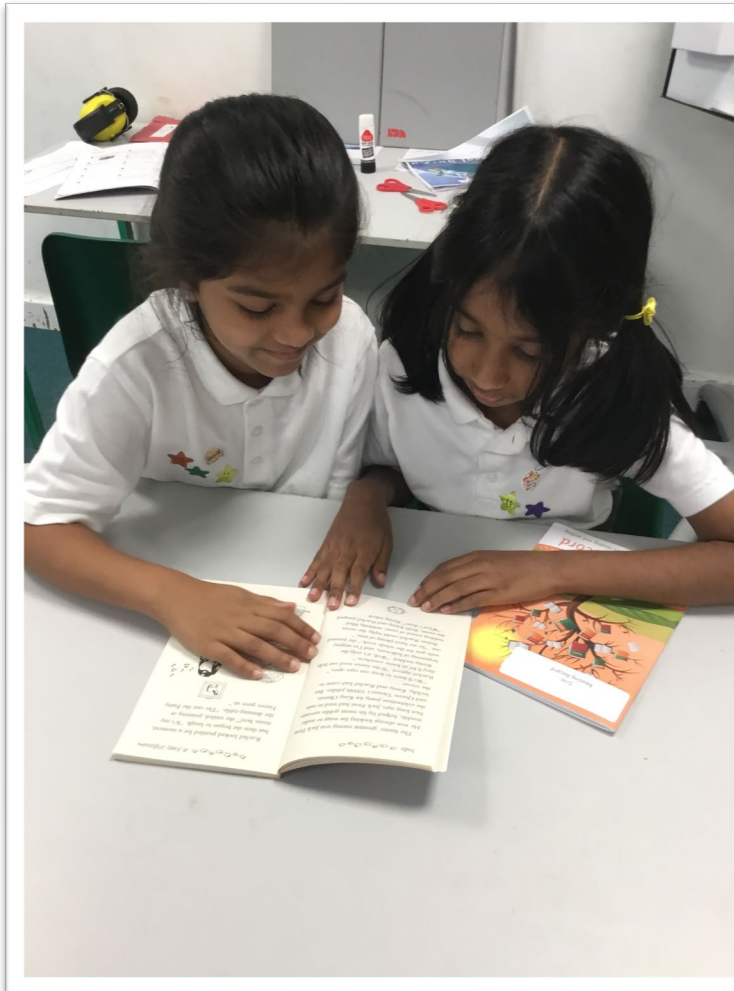
Using Makaton can help us to:

- Communicate with one another
- Express feelings and emotions
 - Support spoken language
- Make communication easier to understand
 - Build connections with others
 - Help everyone feel included

Miss Shaw and Miss Cox started their Mini Masterchef after-school club yesterday with great success. Their first class was based on the story Handa's Surprise. The children safely cut different fruits and taught different techniques to prep each kind. They then used what they learned to make their own fruit kebabs to take home!



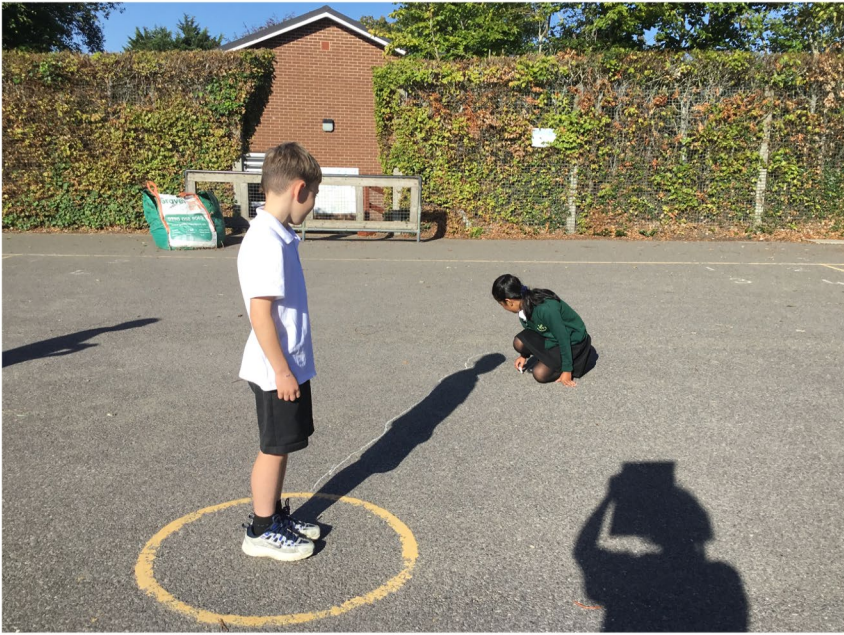
We all know that reading is important, but it can also be really fun! Whether it's discovering exciting stories or learning interesting facts about our favourite things,



Sun and Shadows

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World

Last week we didn't get the chance to include these photos and thought it would be a shame for you to miss them, so here they are. Franklin Class in Year 5 asked the question "how can shadows show that the earth is rotating?" and decided to answer it with an experiment! Miss Wells and the class went outside every hour to measure the size and direction of Lennox's shadow.



LEADERSHIP



Willesborough Junior School

ASPIRATION

Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

DETERMINATION

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Willesborough Infant School

Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
Infants Email: office@willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk

Infants Telephone: 01233 624165



WOW Badges

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World

Willesborough Outstanding Work (WOW) badges are awarded in recognition of an excellent piece of work in any area of learning. The work is framed and displayed in 'The Hub' at the Junior School and in the corridor at the Infant School.

Here is a list of this week's worthy winners!



WEEKLY

WOW

AWARDS

Year R Badgers	Iyla	Year 3 Fletcher	Casper
Year R Rabbits	Nayra	Year 3 Potter	Ellie
Year R Owls	Malakai	Year 4 Monet	Annet
Year R Robins	Thea	Year 4 Doodle	Jacob
Year 1 Lions	Hannah	Year 4 Kahlo	Emily
Year 1 Giraffes	Daisy	Year 4 Turner	Sophia
Year 1 Elephants	Ralphy	Year 5 Franklin	Brianna
Year 1 Pandas	Elaine	Year 5 Hepburn	Hadley
Year 2 Turtles	Jay	Year 5 Turing	Grace
Year 2 Penguins	Alfie	Year 5 Earhart	Ridhika
Year 2 Leopards	Harlie-Rose	Year 6 Thunberg	Isiah
Year 2 Tigers	Olivia	Year 6 Wolff	Myla
Year 3 Morpurgo	Olivia	Year 6 Obama	Rosa
Year 3 Dahl	Ralph	Year 6 Parks	Esther

Great job everyone!
Keep up the AMAZING work!

Value Awards

Our core value awards are awarded in recognition of excellent behaviour, especially in relation to one of the school's core values. Well done to this week's students who have shown the following values...



Year 3 Morpurgo	Kamso	LEADERSHIP
Year 3 Dahl	Alex	RESPECT
Year 3 Fletcher	Darcie	ASPIRATION
Year 3 Potter	Isaac	RESPECT
Year 4 Monet	Oliver	DETERMINATION
Year 4 Doodle	Emma	RESPECT
Year 4 Kahlo	Aliesha	RESPONSIBILITY
Year 4 Turner	Hui-Yan	RESPECT
Year 5 Franklin	Lainie	DETERMINATION
Year 5 Hepburn	Josh	LEADERSHIP
Year 5 Turing	Max	DETERMINATION
Year 5 Earhart	Leo	DETERMINATION
Year 6 Thunberg	Jacob	RESPECT
Year 6 Wolff	Lea	LEADERSHIP
Year 6 Obama	Shayan	RESPECT
Year 6 Parks	Saileela	DETERMINATION



Shine Awards

The 'Shine' award is presented to children who have shown an exceptional commitment to behaviour throughout the week. They may have been excellent listeners who have supported their peers; they may have shown empathy towards their peers or may have shown a great commitment to behaviour for learning. It could be a multitude of reasons! The children receive a special 'You Shine' badge which they wear with pride.



Year R Badgers	Maleeke
Year R Rabbits	Teddy
Year R Owls	Jacob
Year R Robins	Nellie
Year 1 Lions	Samuel
Year 1 Giraffes	David
Year 1 Elephants	Nala
Year 1 Pandas	Niyaan
Year 2 Turtles	Carleigh
Year 2 Penguins	Grayson
Year 2 Leopards	Bodhi
Year 2 Tigers	Ava-Mae



Book Battles

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World



Reading Challenge!



At Willesborough Junior School, we have the exciting reading challenge! Children are required to read their library books **4 x 20 mins each week**. Each 'read' needs to be signed into their reading record book. This 'four or more' challenge allows the children to compete weekly in the 'Book Battle' against the other classes in their year group, and this is celebrated each week in our celebration assembly.



Find out below which class have had the most children read four or more times this week!

**YR 3
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
POTTER

MORPURGO



VS

DAHL



VS

FLETCHER



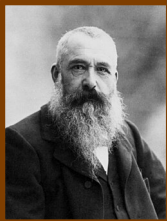
VS

POTTER



**YR 4
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
TURNER

MONET



VS

DOODLE



VS

KAHLO



VS

TURNER



**YR 5
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
HEPBURN

FRANKLIN



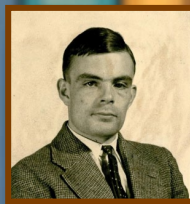
VS

HEPBURN



VS

TURING



VS

EARHART



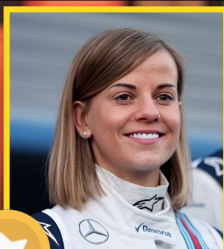
**YR 6
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
WOLFF

THUNBERG



VS

WOLFF



VS

OBAMA



VS

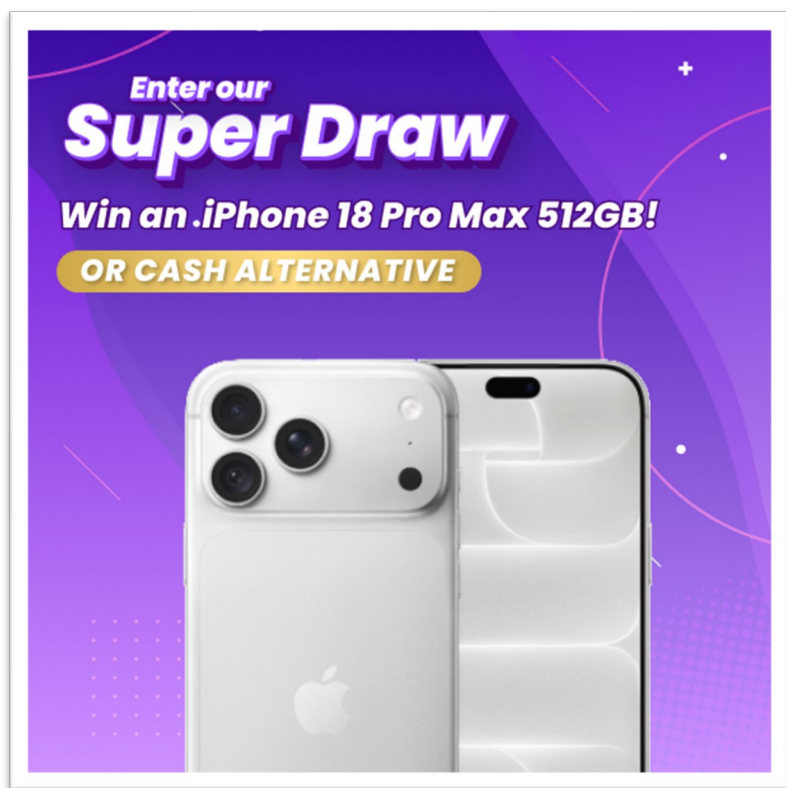
PARKS





Support Us

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World



[Click here to buy tickets for our school lottery!](#)

For every ticket you play, 40% goes directly to our schools.

There are smaller cash prizes, or you could win the £25,000 cash jackpot! They also have the Super Draw prize of an iPhone 18 Pro Max 512GB or £1,000!

Congratulations to Mx B from Ashford who won £21.25 in the last draw!

The more people enter, the higher the guaranteed win is!



octopus energy

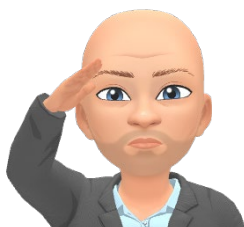
If you're thinking of changing energy suppliers to Octopus Energy, you can get £50 for yourself and £50 for the schools if you use our referral link:

<https://thewillesboroughschools.octopus.energy>

Please note that this is not a recommendation or endorsement, it is just a way to support the schools.



THANK YOU



Don't forget, you can donate unwanted clothes, shoes, textiles, bed linen, soft toys, scarves and more at our clothing banks!

This helps to raise money for the schools, too!

LEADERSHIP



ASPIRATION

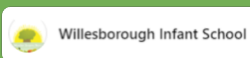
Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

DETERMINATION

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
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Infants Telephone: 01233 624165

**HELLO
YELLOW
2026**

Thursday 8th October

The Willesborough
Schools'
Fundraiser for
Young Minds Trust



**WORLD
MENTAL
HEALTH DAY**

#HelloYellow
YOUNGMINDS

#HelloYellow



M&S

YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1016968) and Scotland (SC039700)

Admission to Secondary school in Kent 2027

KCC residents apply online at
[**kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions**](https://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 <u>www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions</u>. 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 <u>www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions</u> 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 <u>kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk</u>
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 <u>www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals</u> . You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email [**kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk**](mailto:kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk)

Full information booklet can also be viewed online at [**kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions**](https://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. If your child does **not** reside at a KCC address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.





BOOK DONATIONS WELCOME

Our school has signed up with national charity the Children's Book Project to receive donations of good quality, gently used books from local families. These will be used across the school. Books can be dropped at reception.

Spread the word and look for us on their map!
childrensbookproject.co.uk/donate-books/

Registered charity 1183092

Children's
Book
Project



Stepping Up

5-11 Years

Join us for a fun, confidence-building course for children aged 5-11. Over six sessions, they will explore emotions, build friendships, and learn practical skills through creative activities, games, and discussions in a safe, friendly environment.

The Willow Family Hub



DAY: Thursday



Time: 3.45pm - 5.15pm



Address: Halstow Way, Ashford, Kent TN23 4EY

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk/ 03000 418800

Booking required – contact your Family Hub.



Visit your local Family Hub today



[Kent.gov.uk/familyhub](https://kent.gov.uk/familyhub)



KentFamilyHub





Time to shine Junior's

A group for SEND children and young people aged 7-11 years to socialise and learn new skills in a safe, relaxed environment. This group is for children and young People who may find it difficult to access mainstream groups and would like some support to build their confidence.

The group numbers are lower to meet the needs of everyone attending and to create a calmer environment.

Waterside Family Hub



DAY: Monday



Time: 4.00pm - 5.15pm



Address: Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Booking required – link in the description.

You do not need to have a diagnosis to attend this session



Visit your local Family Hub today



[Kent.gov.uk/familyhub](https://kent.gov.uk/familyhub)



[KentFamilyHub](https://www.facebook.com/KentFamilyHub)





The 1st Ashford Boys' Brigade and girls' association are inviting you to try something new and meet other children and young people.

The group provides opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun, and caring environment. There are opportunities to develop skills, build confidence, make friends, work towards awards, make a difference in the local community and of course have fun.

The Brigades **meet at Ashford Baptist Church, St Johns Lane, Ashford TN23 1PS**, the groups meet every Thursday, the ages and times are:

Anchors 4 – 8 yrs old: 6:15 – 7:30pm

Juniors 8 – 11 yrs old: 6:15 – 7:30pm

Company 11- 14 yrs old: 7:30 – 9:15pm

Seniors 14 – 18 yrs old: 7:30 – 9:15pm

We are back for the new academic year this Thursday 19th September. Any Thursday is open to new members. So, we hope to see you this Thursday or sometime soon. Please spread the word

Find out more about The Boy's Brigade at www.boys-brigade.org.uk



FREE Wilder Wellbeing for adults at RSPB Dungeness, TN29 9PN.

Enjoy gentle walks, tap into your senses and learn relaxation techniques to experience the benefits of nature in a small group setting.

WILDER WELLBEING: For Parents and Carers of SEND children and young people

Every Thursday 24th September to 29th October, 11 am–1pm

WILDER WELLBEING: For adults healing from grief.

Every Thursday 24th September to 29th October, 2–4pm

**To find out more visit kwtg.uk/wellbeing or email
wilderwellbeing@kentwildlife.org.uk**

We ask that you commit to attending as many of the six sessions as possible. Speak to us if you need support with funding transport, we may be able to assist



The perfect way for girls
aged 5-11 to get involved
with football



#LET
GIRLS
PLAY



Kennington Juniors FC is
teaming up with England
Football to give girls the
chance to play, make
friends and have fun
playing football.

Scan me to book
your first session!



FIRST SESSION FREE

Saturdays 9-10am | Ball Lane, Kennington TN25 4EB



**Football
Fun
Factory**

FOOTBALL, **FUN** & DEVELOPMENT IN ASHFORD



**BUILD SKILLS
MAKE FRIENDS
BE ACTIVE**



**IMPROVE
FOOTBALL SKILLS**



**BOOST
CONFIDENCE**



**MAKE
FRIENDS**



**STAY
ACTIVE**

📍 **LOCATIONS & TIMES** 📍



MONDAY EVENINGS



**ASHFORD
HOCKEY CLUB**



17:00 - 18:00



TUESDAY EVENINGS



**HIGHWORTH
SCHOOL**



17:30 - 18:30



FRIDAY EVENINGS



**WYE VILLAGE
MUGA**



17:00 - 18:00



**AGES
5 - 12 YEARS**
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:
HEAD COACH RICHARD MILLS
07919 274090



**SCAN
TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE**



richardmills@thefootballfunfactory.co.uk





PLAY
LEARN
GROW
♥

Tots Football Fun

Football Fun with Inflatables

SMALL
PLAYERS
BIG
DREAMS
♥



📍 Norton Knatchbull Grammar School

📅 Every Sunday Morning • 9am



Ages 18 Months - 5 Years



All Abilities Welcome

3 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS