

Welcome Back

Start of Term 1 Newsletter

We hope you had a fun and relaxing summer break! It's great to be back, and we're excited to start a new school year together. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we cannot wait to see your smiling faces.

I would like to welcome our new Rainbow parents. Every term I will send a New Term letter with key dates and then every **Thursday** you will receive a Weekly Bulletin which gives you further information on new events in school and within the local community each term. Please do join us on X (Twitter) as we share photos every week on learning within each class.



School Plan

One of the biggest updates is to our **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)** curriculum. We've added new topics to help children build stronger social skills and gain a better understanding of the world around them.

Each term will focus on a special theme. These themes will be explored in assemblies through stories and books, and also in PSHE lessons. The themes for the year are:

- **Autumn Term:** *Friendship and Neurodiversity*
- **Spring Term:** *Families/identity and Mindfulness and resilience*
- **Summer Term:** *Feelings, grief and loss and Communities*

We're excited to see how these themes will help children grow in confidence, empathy, and understanding throughout the year.

I will be sharing more of the school plan with you by the end of the week.



INSET days

1st and 2nd September 2025

19th and 22nd June 2026

10th July 2026

Up and coming dates for Term 1

11.9.25 PESE Kent Test

1.10.25 Flu vaccinations

10.10.25 Harvest (in school event)

14.10.25 Parent Consultation

16.10.25 Parent Consultation

20.10.25 Half Term

Further ahead dates:

18.6.26 Sports Day

DETERMINATION

EQUALITY

INSPIRATION

RESPECT



COURAGE

EXCELLENCE

FRIENDSHIP

Improvements to the School Environment

Over the summer—and even before the holidays began—we’ve been busy making some fantastic improvements to our school environment!

We started with Year 6, Mrs McCluskey and Mrs Culver visited a school that uses *flexible seating*, which means children can choose from a variety of seating options like bar stools, wobble stools, computer chairs, moulded chairs, and soft seats. Thanks to some amazing furniture donations, we’ve transformed the Year 6 classroom into a more grown-up and flexible learning space. The Year 6 pupils are incredibly proud of their new environment!



We’ve also used a generous donation from **The Lenham Focus** to buy wobble stools for all year groups, standing desks for Years 3–6, and more ear defenders to support focused learning.



Other exciting updates include:

- A new reading bench



- A new learning booth for Year 5



- Upgraded tables in the Saxon Suite
- New ceilings and lighting throughout the school

We can't wait for the children to see and enjoy these changes. It's all part of making our school a place where everyone feels

Forest School

We are very excited to announce that we have teamed up with Harrietsham Primary School to be able to deliver Forest School.

We will be buying some of the lovely Mrs Bradley's time so that all year groups can benefit from Forest School.

At Forest School, children have lots of fun, but, we also learn lots of important skills, such as:

Confidence & Self-esteem

Teamwork and Problem Solving

Risk Management - Boundaries, Risk Taking, Safety

Plus lots more.



We cannot wait to get started. We will be asking for contributions towards this fantastic experience.



School Opening

The school gate will be open in time for Zumba/daily mile to start at 8:35. As the weather is still looking positive we will continue both on the school field. Please leave children at the top of the path.

Rainbow children will go straight into class- no Zumba/daily mile yet! Please leave your child at the temporary fence.

OPENING HOURS



Morning Snack for Key Stage 2 children

As part of our ongoing commitment to your child's well-being, we would like to highlight the importance of providing a healthy morning snack for pupils in Years 3-6.

To support a balanced diet, please consider the following healthy snack options:

- **Vegetables/Vegetable Sticks:** Such as celery, cucumber, peppers, or carrot.
- **Cheese:** A piece of cheddar cheese or a Babybel cheese round.
- **Fruit:** Fresh or dried options like pineapple, mango, kiwi, plain raisins, apricots, blueberries, or banana slices.
- **Wholegrain Snacks:** Bread sticks, plain pretzels, banana bread, malt loaf, oat/rice cakes, and small pitta breads.
- **Yoghurt:** A healthy and convenient option.

We aim for a common-sense approach to snack time, prioritizing health and nutrition. As such, we kindly ask that **no chocolates, sweets, or crisps be sent for breaktime**. By adhering to these guidelines, we can ensure that all children have access to nutritious snacks that support their learning and well-being.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE A NUT-FREE SCHOOL!

If you have a questions please contact the school office:

office@lenham.kent.sch.uk





Tougher online rules for tech

The Online Safety Act has new rules that aim to make the internet safer for everyone. The rules were set out by Ofcom, which is an organisation that oversees TV, radio and the internet. Although the rules affect everyone, there is a strong focus on the wellbeing of children; and from 25 July, technology companies are legally required to protect children from harmful content on their websites and apps.

A 2023 review by the children's charity NSPCC found that many children in the UK had been exposed to "harmful content" online. This means anything that causes a person distress or harm.

Companies such as Google, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube must now check the age of the person accessing their site or app and apply age limits. When people access sites with content that is inappropriate for young people, they will have to prove their identity using checks such as providing photo ID or facial age estimation. This is where technology looks at a photo or video of someone's face to work out their age.

Email-based age checks are another option. This technology checks a person's email address to see what other sites it has been used on, to estimate their age. YouTube, for example, is guessing its users' ages by looking at which videos they watch and search for, and how long their account has been active.

The rules also say companies must do more to weed out harmful content. The website or app's terms of service also need to be easy for children to understand. Companies can be fined if they don't follow the new rules – up to £18 million or 10% of how much money they make, whichever is bigger. Senior managers at tech companies could go to prison if they repeatedly ignore Ofcom's warnings.

Although many charities welcomed the new regulations, some people thought they were not strong enough. The NSPCC told the BBC there was not enough protection around private messaging apps. Others say they are worried about age-checking technologies, which people might be able to get around.



Most social media has age restrictions.

How to stay safe online

Regulation is making the internet safer, but there are also several things you can do.

- Keep private information to yourself. Images and information shared online do not always stay private and can be shared by other people.
- Only chat and interact with people you know in real life, and tell your parents or another adult if a stranger contacts you.
- Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading unknown files.
- Trust your instincts and tell your parents or a trusted adult if you see anything online that makes you feel uncomfortable.

