



Friday 4th September 2026

Minterne Messenger

Welcome Back to a New School Year

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week and to see our children looking so smart in their new uniforms. The school has been filled with excitement, enthusiasm and plenty of smiles as pupils have settled into their new classes. They have made a fantastic start to the year and it has been a pleasure to see how keen and happy they are to be back with their friends and teachers.

Over the summer holidays, our staff team have worked incredibly hard preparing classrooms, resources and learning environments to ensure that everything is ready for a successful year ahead. We are very grateful for all their efforts and are delighted to see the school buzzing with activity once again.

As children adjust to the routines and expectations of being back at school, you may notice that they become more tired over the next few weeks. This is completely normal, particularly for our youngest pupils and those settling into new classes. Maintaining consistent bedtime and morning routines can make a huge difference and will help children feel rested, ready to learn and able to make the most of each school day.

Throughout September, both pupils and staff will continue to settle into new routines and establish positive habits that will support learning throughout the year.

We would like to invite parents and carers to meet their child's new class teacher on Wednesday 16 September, from 3.45pm until 6.00pm. This will be an informal drop-in session, so there is no need to book an appointment. It will provide an opportunity to visit the classroom, introduce yourself and find out more about the year ahead.

There will also be an opportunity to see your child's work on Newsday Tuesday, beginning on 20 October. We know how proud children are of their achievements and we look forward to welcoming parents and carers into school to celebrate their learning

On the following page, you will find a reminder of the different ways we communicate with families at Minterne, helping us to keep everyone informed throughout the year.

In today's assembly, we shared New Beginnings by Tony Walsh. Its inspiring and uplifting message captures the optimism, hope and sense of possibility that a new school year brings. It perfectly reflects what we want for our pupils at Minterne as they embark on another exciting year of learning and growth. We encourage you to click on this [link](#) and watch Tony Walsh perform the poem. It is a powerful reminder that each new beginning offers fresh opportunities for us all.



Working together with parents



HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU

Keeping you informed, connected and involved



HOW	WHAT IS COMMUNICATED	WHEN	HOW	WHAT IS COMMUNICATED	WHEN
 NEWSDAY TUESDAY	Parents/carers can view pupil books from 8:30am. If you cannot attend, contact the class teacher to arrange an alternative time.	 Tuesdays	 ARBOR APP	Letters and announcements, payments for trips, visitors, lunches, and club bookings. If you haven't signed up yet, look out for the link sent to you. Download the Arbor app to stay up to date with everything happening at Minterne. Contact the office for help if needed.	 As needed
 HOME CONNECT	Information on your child's Accelerated Reader quizzes and reading. Parents receive a letter with instructions to sign up. Contact your child's class teacher if you need another copy.	 Results sent by email after each quiz	 MINTERNE MESSENGER NEWSLETTER	Celebrations, achievements, key dates, weekly news, safety advice for families, and local events.	 Weekly on Fridays
 PUPIL DIARIES	Record home reading (5x per week), notes to teachers or teaching assistants, spelling and tables test information.	 Collected weekly or handed to an adult if you wish the teacher to see a note	 PARENTS' EVENING	Discuss your child's academic progress, attainment, and general updates with the class teacher and SENCO if required. Parents can also view pupil books in Term 3 and Term 5.	 To be confirmed
 SCHOOL WEBSITE	Comprehensive information about the curriculum, newsletters, term dates, policies, and general school information.	 Ongoing	 REPORTS	Academic attainment, progress, general comments, and attendance.	 To be confirmed
 EMAIL	Contact teachers via your child's diary or email the school office. Office staff will direct your enquiry to the appropriate person. Email: office@minterne.kent.sch.uk	 As needed	 TAPESTRY	Teachers and Year Leaders share photos, learning updates, and curriculum news. Parents can also share photos and news from home.	 As needed

Learning for a lifetime





OUR YEAR OF FUNDRAISING

TOGETHER WE RAISED AN AMAZING

FOAM FINGERS



£190.52

NOVEMBER
DISCO



£1,303.65

FEBRUARY
DISCO



£1,296.56

JULY DISCO



£1,769.51

FILM NIGHT



£664.17

XMAS SHOP



£909.68

XMAS CARDS/
GIFTS



£230.29

CALENDARS



£63.03

MOTHER'S DAY SHOP



£882.95

DUCK RACE



£238.00

FATHER'S DAY SHOP



£833.66

SPORTS DAY
REFRESHMENTS



£106.56

NON UNIFORM DAYS



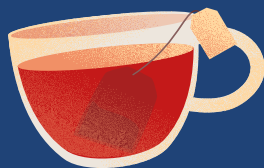
£919.97

★ = GRAND TOTAL = ★
£9,408.55 ★

Thank you to everyone who has supported,
donated and helped at our events this year.
We couldn't do it without you! ♥

♥ RAISING FUNDS ♥ SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN ♥ STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Y6 LONDON PROJECT



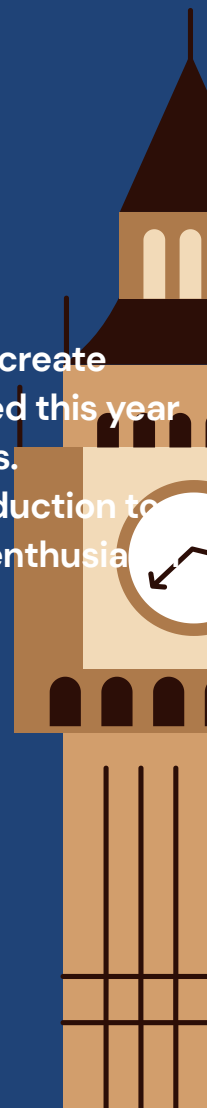
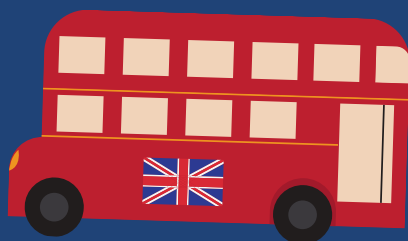
McKellen Class Celebrate London!

Over the summer, we gave our soon-to-be Year 6 pupils the opportunity to create something of their choice that represented London. McKellen Class have excelled this year and have produced three fantastic models of iconic London landmarks.

What a wonderful way to start their final year at Minterne and an exciting introduction to their new topic on London. We are incredibly proud of the creativity, effort and enthusiasm they have shown.

Well done, Oliver, Molly and Joshua!

Mrs Kirby



CONSIDERATE PARKING

Let's keep our school community
safe, happy and respectful. ♥



PARK SAFELY

Park carefully and legally.
Do not park on yellow lines,
zig zags or corners.



RESPECT OUR NEIGHBOURS

Park considerately and keep
noise to a minimum.
Let's be good neighbours.



DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS

Please keep driveways
and access clear.
Someone's home is
someone's safety.



THINK OF OUR CHILDREN

Park a little further away
and walk if you can.
It's safer for everyone and
a great way to start the day!



Working together to keep Minterne Junior School
a safe and happy place for all. ♥

Thank you for your kindness and consideration. ➦



WE CAN HELP

If your child has had a tricky time at school, we want to help as soon as possible.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP

Tell us what has happened so that we can provide support:

- ✉ office@minterne.kent.sch.uk
- ✍ Write a note in your child's diary
- 💬 Speak with Miss Nunn, our FLO
- 💬 Ask a teaching assistant on morning door duty to pass on a message to the class teacher



WE CAN HELP

Keeping your child at home after an incident can have a **negative** impact:

- Unsolved problems get bigger
- Friendships can suffer
- Missed learning makes it harder to return and catch up

**STAFF WANT TO WORK WITH
YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL **WANT TO SELL** RIDDLES ROAD GREEN SPACE

 W3W///shout.depend.trees

**THIS IS OUR GREEN SPACE
ONCE IT'S GONE
IT'S GONE FOREVER**

DEADLINE
24 SEPT
**HAVE YOUR SAY
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!**



WE CAN STOP THIS BUT ONLY IF WE SPEAK UP AND MAKE NOISE!

1. Complete the online response form
2. Email KCC: openspacelanddisposalnoticefeedback@kent.gov.uk
3. Post your objections to Investment and Disposals,
Property Strategy,
Deputy Chief Executive's Department,
Kent County Council,
Sessions House,
Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1XQ



THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who have sent in donations – your generosity is greatly appreciated.

As some donations were kindly dropped off at the office, we haven't always been able to identify who they came from. If we haven't had the opportunity to thank you personally, please know that we are incredibly grateful for helping us provide appropriate support for the children next year.

Can you help?

**WOODEN TOYS/PICTURE BOOKS
NEEDED PLEASE**



Wooden building blocks and construction sets
Simple puzzles and shape sorters
Wooden vehicles, animals or small-world figures
Play food, tea sets or role-play items
Stacking, threading or sorting toys

picture books

Help!

WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ANY DONATIONS THAT CAN HELP SUPPORT SOME OF OUR CHILDREN JOINING IN SEPTEMBER
THANK YOU!
MRS SPALDING, SENCO



YOU CAN FIND OUR PRIVACY
NOTICE [HERE](#)



<https://www.ourlivesstv.co.uk/ocmat/>

A polite reminder to please ensure that your child walks their bike, scooter, or any wheeled item once they are on school grounds. This applies to all children, including our younger pupils arriving from The Oaks.

This is important for health and safety reasons, as there are a large number of people on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times, including very young toddlers. We want to ensure that everyone remains safe and that no one is accidentally injured. Children will also be reminded of this expectation in assembly on Monday, as part of our “Be Safe” school rule.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.





Please use this link to view the latest Summer edition of the OCMAT Family Magazine.

**Have you emailed us?
We aim to respond to you
within 72 hours.**

Staff do not always have access to emails due to other working commitments; many of our staff run activities for our students both at lunchtime and afterschool. It is therefore important to enable all staff sufficient time to read, investigate and respond to any communication.

Thank you.

When you do contact us on via any platform please clearly state your child's full name and class



Deposits for PGL are now being taken, please go to Arbor to make payment which will secure you child's place for PGL 2027

(Please note deposits are non refundable)



Together, we
can make a difference 

PRELOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM

**Good quality uniform,
great for your child,
better for our community
and our planet.**



SAVE MONEY
Quality uniform
for less



BE SUSTAINABLE
Reuse, recycle
and reduce waste



DONATE • BUY • SUPPORT





During the **SUMMER HOLIDAYS**
the uniform will be **FREE**
for anyone who needs it.



Uniform will be displayed at
the **Methodist Church**
in **Sittingbourne** during
the Summer Holidays.



Uniform will be available
for all schools in **Sittingbourne**.



Visit their Facebook page
(Free, Preloved School Uniform
Hub - Sittingbourne Methodists)
for opening days/hours.










Are you a working parent?

Do you need support with childcare costs for your primary school aged children before and after the school day? You may be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare.

Scan the QR codes for more details.



**Tax-Free
Childcare**



**Universal Credit
Childcare**



Or call the Kent Children and Families
Information Service: **03000 41 23 23**



Or email:
kentcfis@theeducationpeople.org







On behalf of





Our Community Multi
Academy Trust



EMPOWER YOUR PARENTING JOURNEY

Upcoming courses designed especially for
our OCMAT Parents, Carers & Grandparents
in partnership with **Kent Adult Education**

Free courses on offer:

- ✓ **Supporting Your Child's Anxiety**
21 September 9.30am (2 hours)
- ✓ **Exploring Behaviour Strategies**
3 November, 12.30pm (2 hours)
- ✓ **Supporting ADHD in the Home (4 week programme)**
11, 18 & 25 January and 1 February, 9.30am (2 hours)
- ✓ **Family First Aid (3 week programme with child joining session 3)**
1, 8 & 15 March 2027, 12.30pm (2 hours)

Venue: Selling CE Primary School
The Street, Selling, Faversham
Kent ME13 9RQ

**BOOK YOUR PLACE
TODAY**

 www.ocmat.org.uk/Our-Parent-Courses/

 emma.rannard@ocmat.org.uk





Dates for your diary

Date	What's happening?
THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER	KENT TEST
FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER	SWIMMING STARTS FOR GLENNIE CLASS YEAR 4
FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER	PGL DEPOSIT DEADLINE
TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER	INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS
WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER	FLU IMMUNISATIONS
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER	END OF TERM 1
FRIDAY 11TH JUNE TO MONDAY 14TH JUNE 2027	PROVISIONAL PGL TRIP FOR 2027 MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

What's for lunch?

Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £13,100 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit can be paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to: kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



APRIL TO OCTOBER 2026

NOURISH DAILY DELI

Ham Bap 1,5,6

Cheese Bap 1,5,7 V

Tuna Mayonnaise Bap 1,5,8,9

With

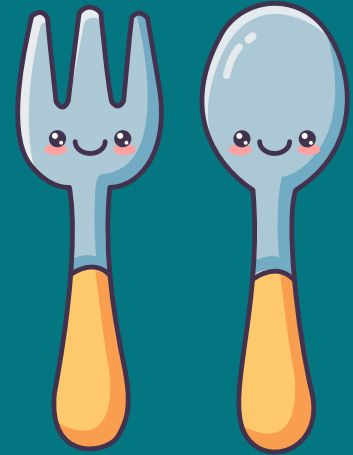
Vegetable sticks

Fruit

Mr Nourish Biscuit 1

HELP YOURSELF TO THE SALAD BAR AND DESSERT

1 Wheat 2 Gluten 3 Crustaceans 4 Soybean 5 Mustard 6 Sesame 7 Sulphites/Sulphur Dioxide 8 Milk 9 Fish 10 Egg 11 Peanuts 12 Molluscs 13 Celery/Celery 14 Nuts 15 Lupins 16 Barley 17 Gluten 18 Barley 19 Gluten 20 Vegan 21 Vegetarian



APRIL TO OCTOBER 2026					
NOURISH					
SPRING INTO SUMMER MENU					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE					
13 April	Beef Bolognaise Pasta 1	Macaroni Cheese 1,7 V	Roast Gammon & Gravy	Chicken Korma	Fish Fingers 1,8
4 May	Cheese & Pesto Swirl 1,7 V	Chick Pea & Spinach Biryani VG	Meatfree Meatballs & Gravy 6 VG	Herby Tomato Pasta 1 VG	Wrap Stack 1,7 V
1 June	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9
22 June	Baked Wedges	Carrots	Rustic Roast Potatoes	Rice	Chips
13 July	Seasonal Vegetables	Mixed Peppers	Cabbage	Green Beans	Sweetcorn & Peas
31 August	Ice Cream 7	Toffee Tart 1,7 & Custard 7	Swede	Carrots	Coleslaw 9
21 September	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Fruit Jelly VG	Chocolate Orange Cake 1 VG	Lemon Drizzle Biscuit 1,6 VG
12 October	Fruit Pots VG	Fruit Pots VG	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Yoghurt 3,7
			Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG	Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG	Fruit Pots VG
WEEK TWO					
20 April	Cheesy Cauliflower Pasta 1,7 V	Minced Beef Curry	Roast Chicken & Gravy	Chicken Fajita 1	Salmon Fish Cake 1,8
11 May	Vegetable Burger in a Bun 1,5,6 VG	Pesto & Pea Pasta 1 VG	Samosa Puff 1 VG	Tomato Spaghetti 1 VG	Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V
8 June	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9
29 June	Baked Wedges,	Rice	Rustic Roast Potatoes	Rice	Chips,
20 July	Carrots,	Seasonal Vegetables	Broccoli	Tomato Salsa	Peas,
7 September	Peas	Summer Trifle 1,7	Carrots	Green Beans	Grated Carrot
28 September	Honey Cake 1 & Custard 7	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Cornflake Cookie 1,7,16	Carrot & Orange Cake 1 VG	Oaty Biscuit 1,15 VG
19 October	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Fruit Pots VG	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Yoghurt 3,7
	Fruit Pots VG		Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG	Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG	Fruit Pots VG
WEEK THREE					
27 April	Mild Chilli Beef	Chicken Pie 1	BRUNCH	Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V	Fish Fingers 1,8
18 May	Tomato & Herb Penne Pasta 1 VG	Vegetable Stir Fried Noodles 1 VG	Pork Sausage & Bacon 1,3,6	Loaded Cajun Bean Wedges VG	Cheese & Bean Parcel 1,7 V
15 June	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Or Vegetable Sausage 1 VG	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9	Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9
6 July	Rice	Crushed Potatoes	Brunch Hash Potatoes	Rainbow Rice	Chips,
14 September	Peas	Seasonal Vegetables	Baked Beans	Sweetcorn	Pears, Baked Beans
5 October	Mixed Peppers	Ice Cream 7	Mushrooms & Tomatoes	Coleslaw 9	Cucumber Sticks
	Jam Roly Poly 1,6 VG & Custard 7	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Fruit Jelly VG	Sultana Cake 1 VG	Caramel Cookie 1,7 V
	Fruit Pots VG	Fruit Pots VG	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG	Yoghurt 3,7,
			Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG	Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG	Fruit Pots VG

1 Wheat 2 Gluten 3 Crustaceans 4 Soybean 5 Mustard 6 Sesame 7 Sulphites/Sulphur Dioxide 8 Milk 9 Fish 10 Egg 11 Peanuts 12 Molluscs 13 Celery/Celery 14 Nuts 15 Lupins 16 Barley 17 Gluten 18 Barley 19 Gluten 20 Vegan 21 Vegetarian

Selection of Salads 9, Homemade Bread 1,3. Some of our schools may use pre prepped potatoes or vegetables on occasions. These may contain sulphites and celeriac. Please discuss with your manager.

AVAILABLE DAILY

What's for lunch?



**OUR SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE!**

We try to keep our school nut free but sometimes items containing nuts may be brought in, unknowingly, in packed lunch boxes.

 To keep risks low we ask all parents to be aware and to **NOT SEND YOUR CHILD** with any food containing nuts.



NOURISH
GROW WITH US

Nourish, our catering company, are made aware of all food related allergies and their allergens are clearly stated on their menus.



What's for lunch?

Free School Meals Important Update for Families

What's changing?

From **September 2026**, Free School Meals will be extended to include:

- ✓ All children in households receiving Universal Credit
- ✓ No income threshold applied

This means more families will be eligible.

Why register now?

Even though changes start in September 2026, we encourage families to apply now if eligible.

- ✓ Your child receives Free School Meals as soon as eligible
- ✓ Your school receives extra funding (Pupil Premium)
- ✓ Everything is ready ahead of the national changes

How to apply (Kent families)

Apply online through Kent County Council:

www.kent.gov.uk/free-school-meals

It's free and only takes a few minutes.

Not sure if you qualify?

It's always worth checking — many families are eligible without realising.

Compassion . Community . Inclusion

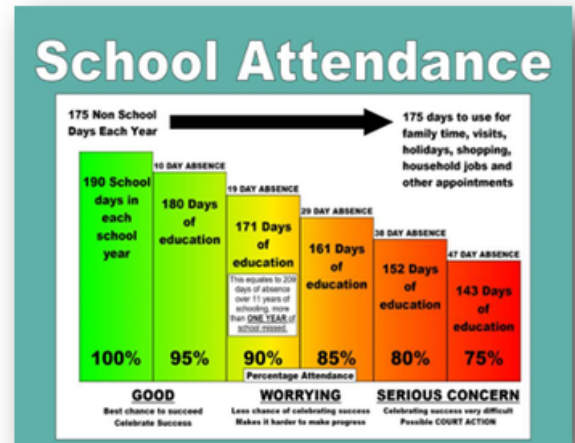


As you may be aware our school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Midmorning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children can reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised cost. If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/parents. If you register by 25/08/26 you could win a supermarket voucher or free milk for a year!



Attendance

Minterne's attendance so far this year is 97.43%



UK Health Security Agency NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Throatworms	Strep throat

SCAN ME
 Advice and guidance
 To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrcodes.nhs.uk>

0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance



ATTENDANCE CHANGES FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

FROM AUGUST 2024

PER PARENT/CHILD, PER CHILD	FIRST OFFENCE	SECOND OFFENCE	THIRD OFFENCE (within 3 year period)	5 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF 15 MINUTE ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
Penalty Notices will be issued to each parent/child, for each child that was absent.	The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave of absence or irregular school attendance, the parent will be:	The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave of absence or irregular school attendance the parent will be:	The third time an offence is committed for term time leave of absence or irregular school attendance (within a 3 year period) for the same child, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued and the case will be referred to Kent County Council's Attendance Team for PROSECUTION which may result in fines of up to £2,500 per parent per child.	Penalty Notices may also be issued for any term time absence that are substantial whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 weeks. All parents/children are encouraged to inform the school of the absence and the reasons for their child's absence.
3 siblings absent for term time leave. Each parent/child will receive 3 separate fines.	£100 per parent/child, per child, paid within 15 days.	£100 per parent/child, per child paid in 28 days.		
	(PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO OPTION FOR A REDUCED AMOUNT ON A SECOND OFFENCE)			

On time,

NOT LATE!



They deserve a calm start!

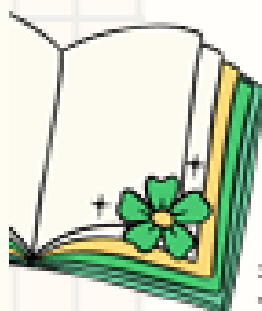
On time, every day, ready to learn!



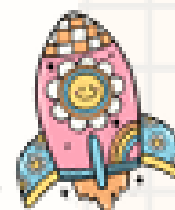
Dear Parents

We would like to kindly remind all families about the importance of being honest with the school regarding pupil absences during term time.

We fully understand that the cost of holidays during school breaks can be significantly higher. As school staff and parents ourselves, we appreciate and feel those pressures too. However, attendance at school is a legal requirement, and school registers are legal documents which must be completed accurately using the correct attendance codes.



When children return from holidays, they naturally want to share their experiences and excitement with their friends and teaching staff. Unfortunately, when a child has been told not to talk about their holiday because the absence was reported as illness, this can create confusion and upset for the child. It can also raise safeguarding concerns for the school, as we have a duty to ensure that all children are safe and accounted for at all times.



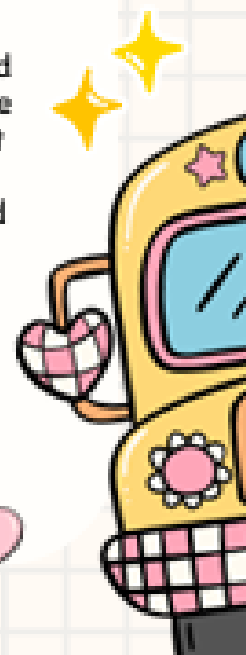
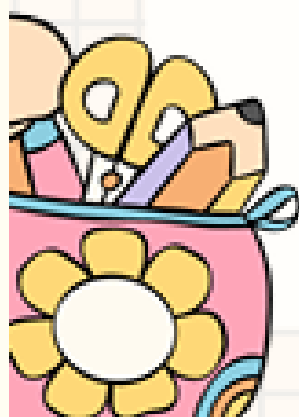
Honest communication helps us use our time and resources where they are most needed – supporting children's education and wellbeing.

We are not writing this to criticise families, but rather to ask for honesty and openness so that we can work together consistently and in the best interests of all children.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that any planned absence from school should be requested in advance so that it can be considered in line with the school's attendance policy. If your child will be absent due to a holiday during term time, please inform the school truthfully so that the absence can be recorded correctly.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Mrs Amanda Adcock
Trust Attendance Manager



Minterne's Gold Award

Minterne have successfully achieved the School Games Gold Award for the 3rd year running!

This shows the school's commitment to being active (both competitive and non-competitive) and the dedication to keeping our young people fit and healthy! Thank you to all children and parents who have supported and attended sporting events this year.

