



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

NEWSLETTER

23rd January 2026

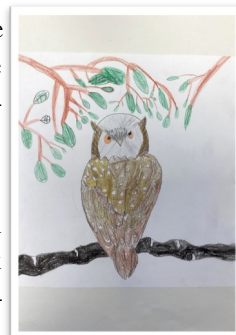


Heart and Hand

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Wonderful Week at School

We were treated to a *wonderful assembly* this morning from Rabbit Class. The children confidently retold the story of *Owl Babies*, shared fascinating facts about owls, performed a groovy owl song, and showcased some truly amazing owl artwork. What I loved most about the artwork was how different each piece was — every child brought their own ideas, and their attention to detail was absolutely phenomenal. Well done, Rabbit Class!



Year 4 enjoyed a visit to the Roman Museum and The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, which proved to be a highly informative experience that enhanced their learning and supported their curriculum. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to support the trip — your help made this valuable experience possible.

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends Association, the children were also treated to a pantomime performance of *Beauty and the Beast*. The children *loved* it and were so appreciative of this very special treat. We are incredibly grateful to our wider community for supporting opportunities like this, which give our children memorable experiences as part of their school life.

We also welcomed a peer review this week as part of our collaboration. School leaders from other schools joined us to review our maths provision. They were not only impressed with the strength of our maths teaching, but also commented on the children's excellent learning behaviours and positive attitudes to learning. A huge well done to Team Lady Joanna. We are very proud of you.

A Few Important Reminders

Please can we remind all parents not to park in the Village Hall car park or drive into the staff car park when dropping off or collecting children from Thrive. These are private car parks, and the land is owned by the Children's Playing Field Trust. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe and respectful of our shared spaces.

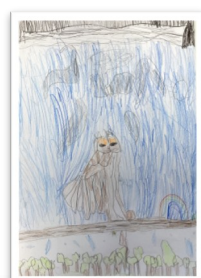
Safeguarding

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe, we would like to remind parents about the importance of online safety at home.

We understand that some children have access to mobile phones, tablets, or other internet-enabled devices. For example, in a Year 3 online safety lesson yesterday, many children said they had their own mobile phones and access to WHATSAPP (please see our online safety section for information about WHATSAPP [Child Protection | Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](#)). While these can be valuable tools, they also require close supervision and appropriate parental controls to ensure children are accessing age-appropriate content. For excellent guidance and information, please do read the NSPCC guidance: [Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend

Rachael Foster
Headteacher



Notices

- **APPOINTMENTS.** Please make routine appointments such as optician, GP and dental fully outside of school time. If you have an unavoidable appointments during the day, please ensure you have completed the form [Attendance & Punctuality | Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](#) , provided proof of the appointment and given as much notice as possible. If you have more than one child, please do try to arrange alternative pick up for the child not attending the appointment, to avoid them missing school for a sibling's appointment.
- **LATE COLLECTION** Please collect your child promptly from school at 3:15pm (EYFS/KS1) or 3:20pm (KS2) if they do not have a club/Thrive. Children collected late will wait in the office area for a short time, but will be placed in Thrive if parents do not arrive and parents would be charged at this point. All children collected late must sign out on the screen and advise a member of the office team prior to leaving.

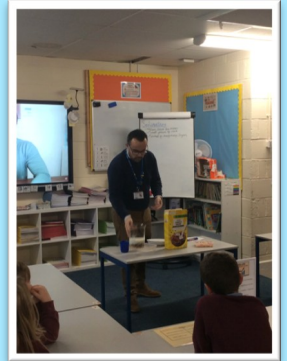
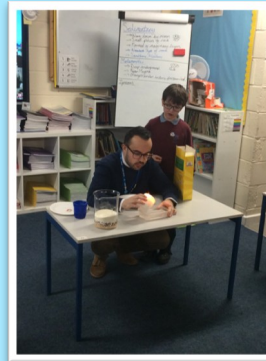
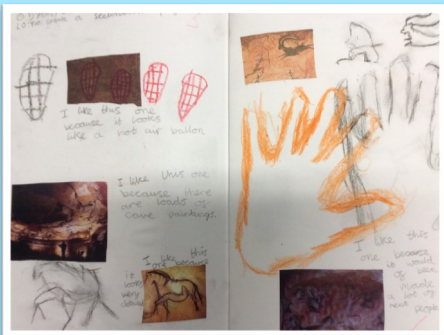
SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 3

Over the last few weeks, Year 3 have been on a huge and incredible learning journey which has included the commencement of swimming lessons, learning about sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks as well as travelling all the way back to the Stone Age!



The children have been thoroughly enjoying their Friday afternoon swimming sessions and it is clearly a highlight of the week for them. Learning about different types of rocks has been an exciting learning moment for them too, as they witnessed Starburst Sweets being made into the three classifications of rock and even got to have a go themselves!

The Stone Age has been the focus of our work in English as we have been writing a diary entry of a boy who travels back to the Stone Age which has linked brilliantly to our History and Art work where the children have enjoyed making their own Stone Age art using pastels and charcoal. Next stop, The Bronze and Iron Age!



Winter Mini Challenge

Keep the magic of reading going with this free reading challenge! Why not challenge your friends and family to complete it over the holidays?

Taking part is simple: Read three or more books between **1 December - 20 February** and add them to your profile (remember to choose your avatar!).

Reaching your reading goal will unlock a limited-edition online badge and certificate of achievement to print off and treasure! Plus, once you complete the Winter Mini Challenge you will be entered into a *PRIZE DRAW* to win amazing books!

To get going, visit: [Winter Mini Challenge - The Reading Agency](https://www.readingagency.co.uk/winter-mini-challenge)



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

TERM DATES 2026 – 2027 PUPIL VERSION

Tuesday 1 st September 2026	START OF TERM 1
Friday 16 th October 2026	END OF TERM 1
Monday 19 th October 2026	Staff Development Day 1
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Staff Development Day 2
Wednesday 21 st October 2026	Staff Development Day 3
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Staff Development Day 4
Friday 23 rd October 2026	Staff Development Day 5
Monday 2 nd November 2026	START OF TERM 2
Friday 18 th December 2026	END OF TERM 2
Monday 4 th January 2027	START OF TERM 3
Friday 12 th February 2027	END OF TERM 3
Monday 22 nd February 2027	START OF TERM 4
Thursday 25 th March 2027	END OF TERM 4
Monday 12 th April 2027	START OF TERM 5
Monday 3 rd May 2027	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 28 th May 2027	END OF TERM 5
Monday 7 th June 2027	START OF TERM 6
Wednesday 21 st July 2027	END OF TERM 6

CHANGE TO LUNCH MENU THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY



We love to hear about achievements, events and activities our brilliant children are taking part in, please email a photo and some information to Mrs Cox at office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

The results are in for our attendance awards for this week!

Attendance

- ♦ 3rd Place - Woodpecker Class
- ♦ 2nd Place - Kingfisher Class
- ♦ 1st Place - Squirrel Class

Well done to Woodpecker Class and Kingfisher Class for a great effort - and to our winners, Squirrel Class, who have been awarded 15 minutes of free play time and a certificate!

We are excited to see who will win each week! Please remember, attendance for every child should be above 97%.

Mrs Read, Pastoral Support Mentor



NON UNIFORM DAY - THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2026

On **Thursday 6th February**, we will be inviting children to come to school wearing **play clothes (non-school uniform)** to support the development of our **OPAL outdoor play provision**.

In return, we kindly ask for a **donation towards OPAL**, which could be:

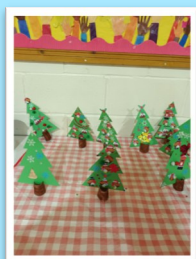
- A **pre-loved item** you may already have at home, or
- An item from our **OPAL wish list**

A list of items we are currently in need of will be created and shared with you **early next week**, along with clear information about **where and how donations can be dropped off at school on the day**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us enrich play opportunities for all children.

THRIVE WRAPAROUND CARE

This week in Thrive we have had lots of fun playing games and doing jigsaws. Next week in Thrive we will be starting an art project for a Thrive mural, using paint!



Staff car park

We politely request that parents do not use the staff car park when dropping children off or collecting them from Thrive for safeguarding purposes.

Ad hoc bookings

Ad hoc bookings can be made via ParentPay. At the time of booking, please select specific days/dates which you would like your child to attend. ParentPay requires payment for the selected sessions at the time of booking. We politely request that you give 48 hours' notice at the time of booking. This notice period is essential for safeguarding purposes and to ensure that the correct staff:child ratio is provided. We will try and accommodate emergency requests wherever possible, but these cannot be guaranteed. If an ad hoc booking is cancelled with less than 48 hours' notice, you will not be entitled to a refund.

Outdoor PE

If your child has outdoor PE on the same day that they are in Thrive, we politely request that they bring a change of clothes with them and appropriate footwear, should they need to change.

SCIENCE CLUB

This week in Science Club the children were looking at how the pigment from the Skittles diffuses into the water and all about the rules of diffusion!





Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Parent Sessions

Coffee Morning



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

9:00-10:30am, Thursday 5th February 2026

The Emotional Wellbeing Team would like to invite you to an upcoming parent coffee morning for an **informal chat** over tea and biscuits! Please complete the form at

[EMOTIONAL WELLBEING COFFEE MORNING - THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2026. 9:30AM-10:30AM – Fill out form](#)

We are **specially trained** to work with parents and schools to **support children with their mental health** and well-being. **Come along to find out how we can support your child and their school.**

We look forward to meeting you!





Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

DIARY DATES

see school calendar for times and information

[Calendar](#) | [Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](#)



Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand

Jan-26	
Friday 30th January	Parrot Class Assembly
Friday 30th January	Y3 Swimming (4 of 10 sessions)
Friday 30th January	Food bank collections before and after school
Feb-26	
Friday 6th February	Y3 Swimming (5 of 10 sessions)
Wednesday 4th February	Mini Reports sent home via Arbor
Friday 6th February	Wagtail Class Assembly
Friday 6th February	NSPCC Number Day
Friday 6th February	Cake Sale Year 4
Friday 6th February	Non uniform day in exchange for items for OPAL
Monday 9th February	Y1 Parent Share 2:30pm
Thursday 12th February	Danceathon with Miss Selwood
Friday 13th February	Y3 Swimming (6 of 10 sessions)
Friday 13th February	Term 3 Ends
Monday 23rd February	Term 4 Starts
Tuesday 24th February	Year R Hearing Screening
Friday 27th February	Y3 Swimming (7 of 10 sessions)
Friday 27th February	Hedgehog Class Assembly
Friday 27th February	Food bank collections before and after school
Mar-26	
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day - (Literacy team)
Friday 6th March	Y3 Swimming (8 of 10 sessions)
Friday 6th March	Puffin Class Assembly
7th- 16th March	STEM Week
Friday 13th March	Y3 Swimming (9 of 10 sessions)
Monday 16th March	GBDO Dance Competition, Chatham
Wednesday 18th March	RockSteady concert - parents will be invited
Friday 13th March	Squirrel Class Assembly
Friday 20th March	Y3 Swimming (10 of 10 sessions)
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 24th March	Parent Consultations 4-6:30pm
Thursday 26th March	Parent Consultations 4-6:30pm
Thursday 26th March	Accelerated Reader tombola prize draw in assembly and AR workshop
Friday 27th March	Chaffinch Class Assembly
Friday 27th March	Year 3 Cake Sale
Friday 27th March	Food bank collections before and after school
Apr-26	
Thursday 2nd April	Term 4 Ends
Monday 20th April	Term 5 Starts
Friday 24th April	Food bank collections before and after school

May-26	
Monday 4th May	May Day Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 11th May	KS2 SATS
Tuesday 12th May	KS2 SATS
Wednesday 13th May	KS2 SATS
Thursday 14th May	KS2 SATS
Friday 15th May	Year 2 Cake Sale
Monday 18th-Friday 22nd May	Y6 Intensive swimming catch up sessions (all week)
Date TBC	Y5 Parent Meeting - Secondary Transfer (PESE) 6:30pm
Tuesday 19th May	Sports Day
Wednesday 20th May	Vision Screening and hearing screenings for children who require 2nd check
Friday 22nd May	Food bank collections before and after school
Friday 22nd May	Term 5 Ends
Jun-26	
Monday 1st June	Term 6 Start
Date TBC	Y4 Greek Day, Rainbow Theatre visit.
Monday 1st-Friday 5th June	Multiplication tables Checks
Monday 8th June	School class photos
Monday 8th - Friday 12th June	Phonics Screener
Saturday 13th June	School Summer Fayre
Monday 15th-Friday 19th June	Y5 Bikeability (will not be on Sports Day reserve date if this is required)
Tuesday 16th June	Sports Day reserve date
Friday 19th June	Friends' Event for Father's Day
Friday 26th June	Food bank collections before and after school
Tuesday 30th June	Year 3 Trip to Canterbury Cathedral
Jul-26	
Monday 29th June -Friday 3rd July	Secondary School Transition Week
Wednesday 1st July	RockSteady concert - parents will be invited
Friday 3rd July	Fox Class Assembly
Friday 3rd July	School Disco
Tuesday 7th July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 8th July	Year 6 Production 9:30am and 7pm
Friday 10th July	Year 6 Production 9:30am and 7pm
Friday 10th July	Year 1 Cake Sale
Tuesday 14th July	Class Transition Afternoon
Thursday 16th July	Open Evening 6-7:30pm (Thrive ending 5:15pm)
Friday 17th July	Y6 BBQ
Friday 17th July	Food bank collections before and after school
Monday 20th July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Tuesday 21st July	Term 6 Ends



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

SCHOOL DAY INFORMATION



Learning for the Head.

Heart and Hand

Attendance & Punctuality - how do you measure up?

If you have any concerns or would like to know your child's current attendance, please email Mrs Cox at office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Children are required by law to attend school for 190 days or 38 weeks per school year. The Government states that every pupil's absence should be at least 95%

Attendance during one school year	Equals - days absent from required 190 days per school year	Equals - sessions absent from required 190 days per school year	Approximate number of weeks missed per school year
95%	9.5 days	19 sessions	2 weeks
90%	19 days	38 sessions	4 weeks
85%	28.5 days	57 sessions	6 weeks
80%	38 days	76 sessions	7.5 weeks
75%	47.5 days	95 sessions	9.5 weeks
70%	57 days	114 sessions	11.5 weeks
65%	66.5 days	133 sessions	13 weeks
60%	76 days	152 sessions	15 weeks
55%	85.5 days	171 sessions	17 weeks
50%	95 days	190 sessions	19 weeks

PUNCTUALITY It is really important to ensure your child is arriving on time to school each day. Arriving late causes disruption to the whole class and can be stressful for your child, and may mean that your child misses out on vital learning sessions, including phonics.

The school gates open at 8:35 each morning and children are expected to be at their desks, ready to learn by no later than 8:45am. Children arriving after 8:45am must sign in at the office and will have their minutes late recorded and will be marked as late on the register. Children arriving after 9am when the registers have closed will have their minutes recorded and will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

TIME / APPROXIMATE DAYS MISSED OVER SCHOOL YEAR (190 DAYS/38 WEEKS).					
No. Minutes Late	1 x per week	2 x per week	3 x per week	4 x per week	5 x per week
5	190 minutes 3 hours 10 minutes half a school day	380 minutes 6 hours 20 minutes 1 school day	570 minutes 9 hours 30 minutes 1.5 school days	760 minutes 12 hours 40 minutes 2 school days	950 minutes 15 hours 50 minutes 2.5 school days
10	380 minutes 6 hours 20 minutes 1 school day	760 minutes 12 hours 40 minutes 2 school days	1,140 minutes 19 hours 3 school days	1,520 minutes 25 hours 20 minutes 4 school days	1,900 minutes 31 hours 40 minutes 5 school days
15	570 minutes 9 hours 30 minutes 1.5 school days	1,140 minutes 19 hours 3 school days	1,710 minutes 28 hours 30 minutes 4.5 school days	2,280 minutes 38 hours 6 school days	2,850 minutes 47 hours 30 minutes 7.5 school days
20	760 minutes 12 hours 40 minutes 2 school days	1,520 minutes 25 hours 20 minutes 4 school days	2,280 minutes 38 hours 6 school days	3,040 minutes 50 hours 40 minutes 8 school days	3,800 minutes 63 hours 20 minutes 10 school days
25	950 minutes 15 hours 50 minutes 2.5 school days	1,900 minutes 31 hours 40 minutes 5 school days	2,850 minutes 47 hours 30 minutes 7.5 school days	3,800 minutes 63 hours 20 minutes 10 school days	4,750 minutes 79 hours 10 minutes 12.5 school days
30	1,140 minutes 19 hours 3 school days	2,280 minutes 38 hours 6 school days	3,420 minutes 57 hours 9 school days	4,560 minutes 76 hours 12 school days	5,700 minutes 95 hours 15 school days

Walking home permission - (Year 5 & Year 6)

If you are happy for your Year 5 or Year 6 child to walk themselves home from school, you will first need to let us know by completing the online form at <https://forms.office.com/e/rGpbWZtywP> or by scanning the QR code. We would ask that all parents in these year groups complete the form so that we have your preference recorded correctly. A new form must be completed each school year.

Please note that if your Y5 or Y6 child has a mobile phone for their walk to school, they must hand this in to the teacher each morning and collect at the end of the school day.

CLUBS. If your child attends a club after school and is unable to attend one week, you must ensure that you have let the school office know either by telephoning the office or emailing clubs@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

SCHOOL LUNCHES Could we remind parents that school lunches must be ordered first thing in the morning. If your child is coming into school late because of an appointment, you need to let us know first thing if they need a school meal. The Kitchen work to small margins and may not have spare meals available if you have not booked them in, especially for specific requirements such as gluten free or vegetarian. Please also note that we try to be nut free as we have several children who are allergic. Please check labels for packed lunches and snacks.

***Please also check your ParentPay accounts and make sure that these are in credit at the start of each week. The caterer has a no debt policy.**

LATE ARRIVALS / LATE COLLECTION

If your child will be late to school (after 8:45am) please ensure you have advised the school office. Upon arrival your child must sign in at the school reception so that their lunch option can be recorded and they are added to the fire register. If you are likely to be late

DROPPING OFF / PICKING UP

We ask that parents let the office know if you will be late dropping off to school or collecting your child from school or Wraparound care.

We would also ask that parents refrain from dropping off on Bridge Street, park considerably in and around the village and village hall car park and do not block driveways or other cars. Disabled bays should only be used by people who have authorisation to do so and the staff car park should not be used by parents dropping off or picking up at any time, including for Thrive Wraparound Care. Please remember that there are children walking around these areas and drive slowly. The Village Hall Committee have requested that parents parking in the Village Hall Car park leave quickly and that the car park is clear by 9am

To avoid congestion in the car park, you may wish to park further away and walk to school. There is a free car park near the train station and next to Co-op, and plenty of road side parking around the village. Tom at the Tickled Trout has also said that he is happy for parents to use the pub car park for drop offs and pick ups (and he's also on hand if you need a coffee).

APPOINTMENTS/VISITS

We would ask that parents book all appointments for pupils outside of school hours, including routine GP, Optician or dental checks. There are 13 weeks of holiday per year and evenings and weekends, so please do utilise these times for routine appointments. We do understand that it can be difficult to re-arrange hospital appointments, but if it is possible to make these outside of school hours, this would be helpful.

For all unavoidable appointments, and for any Y5 & Y6 School/transition visits, you must complete an 'appointment absence form' which is available from the school website at www.ladyj.kent.sch.uk/attendance-punctuality or from the school office.

All appointment requests must be submitted to the school office, to avoid absences being recorded as unauthorised, and as much notice as possible should be given. **Please note that copies of appointment letters should be submitted with absence requests.

ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME

Absence during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and may result in a fine and we cannot authorise time off for term-time holidays. Should an absence be unavoidable, please fill in the Absence form, giving as much notice and detail as possible, and attach a copy of any hospital letters confirming appointment. Forms are available from the school office or via www.ladyj.kent.sch.uk/attendance-punctuality and should be either sent in with your child or emailed to the absence email at absence@ladyj.kent.sch.uk.

ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS

If your child is going to be absent from school due to sickness, you do need to let us know by no later than 9am on **each** day your child is going to be absent.

If your child is unwell, or if there is a reason why your child cannot attend school, please either telephone on 01233 812781 or email the school at absence@ladyj.kent.sch.uk, otherwise an unauthorised absence may be recorded.

We have, following requests from parents and from NHS and Gov.uk, updated our guidelines regarding absences due to vomiting and/or diarrhoea. If your child has either of these symptoms they must remain at home until they have had 48 hours clear of symptoms.

SCHOOL CROSSING. To ensure safety for all of our pupils, we would ask that all children cross Bridge Street with Mr Nettleship at the designated school crossing opposite the school.



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

CONTACTS & TERM DATES 25/26



Learning for the Head,

Heart and Hand

TEACHER CONTACT DETAILS

You may contact your child's teacher(s) by emailing at the below addresses

Reception

Mrs Banner	Bumblebee Class	n.banner@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Oliver	Butterfly Class	p.oliver@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Hollingworth	Butterfly Class	r.hollingworth@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 1

Mrs Irle	Hedgehog Class	m.irle@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Ms Dolder	Fox Class	r.dolder@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 2

Mrs Ward	Rabbit Class	s.ward@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Miss Lewis	Rabbit Class	l.lewis@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Miss Teesdale	Squirrel Class	m.teesdale@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 3

Mrs Williams	Chaffinch Class	k.law-williams@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Whitewood	Chaffinch Class	l.whitewood@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mr Phillips	Blackbird Class	l.phillips@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 4

Mrs Boden	Kingfisher Class	r.boden@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Kwouk	Parrot Class	b.kwouk@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 5

Mr Godden	Puffin Class	j.godden@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Lloyd	Swift Class	r.lloyd@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Coxall	Swift Class	h.coxall@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 6

Mrs Kemp	Wagtail Class	dm.kemp@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Parker	Woodpecker Class	j.parker@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Ms Burrell	Woodpecker Class	e.burrell@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

School Office Telephone: 01233 812781

Office Manager/ Admissions/ Attendance:	Mrs Cox	office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk Admissions@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
School Business Manager	Mrs Stephens	sbm@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
PA to SLT	Mrs Swan	s.swan@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Inclusion Lead	Mrs Weiss	k.weiss@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
SENCo	Mrs Weiss	k.weiss@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Pastoral Support Mentor	Mrs Read	j.read@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Absences- appointments/ illness:	Office Team	absence@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Clubs/ Reception:	Mrs Baron	clubs@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Thrive	Mrs Godden	thrive@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

TERM DATES

If you would like to subscribe to updates for the school calendar, please visit our website at [Calendar Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](#) and click on the 'Subscribe to this Calendar' button.

TERM DATES

2025 - 2026

START OF TERM 1	Monday 1 st September 2025
END OF TERM 1	Friday 17 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 1	Monday 27 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 2	Tuesday 28 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 3	Wednesday 29 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 4	Thursday 30 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 5	Friday 31 st October 2025
START OF TERM 2	Monday 3 rd November 2025
END OF TERM 2	Friday 19 th December 2025
START OF TERM 3	Monday 5 th January 2026
END OF TERM 3	Friday 13 th February 2026
START OF TERM 4	Monday 23 rd February 2026
END OF TERM 4	Thursday 2 nd April 2026
START OF TERM 5	Monday 20 th April 2026
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 4 th May 2026
END OF TERM 5	Friday 22 nd May 2026
START OF TERM 6	Monday 1 st June 2026
END OF TERM 6	Tuesday 21 st July 2026