



Istead Rise Primary Celebration Newsletter

Friday 31st October 2025



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Thursday 6th November
Parent Consultations

Wednesday 12th
November
School Photographer
Individual Photos



Monday 8th December
Year's 5 & 6
Christmas Carol Concert
St Barnabas Church
10am

Friday 12th December
Year's 3 & 4
Christmas Carol Concert
St Barnabas Church
1.30pm

Wednesday 17th
December Christmas
Dinner & Jumper Day

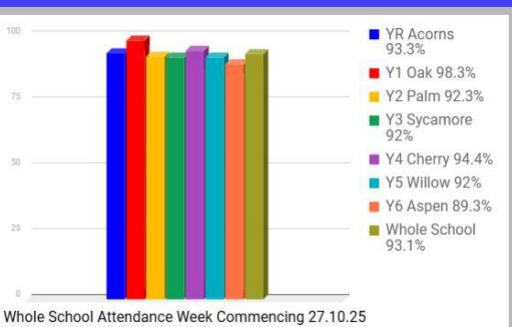
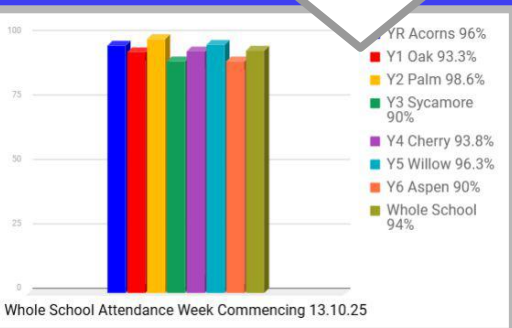
Friday 19th December
End of Term 2

Monday 5th January 2026
INSET Day
School Closed

Tuesday 6th January
Term 3 Begins

Attendance Class Awards

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| W/C 13.10.25 | W/C 27.10.25 |
| KS1 - Year 2 | KS1 - Year 1 |
| KS2 - Year 5 | KS2 - Year 4 |

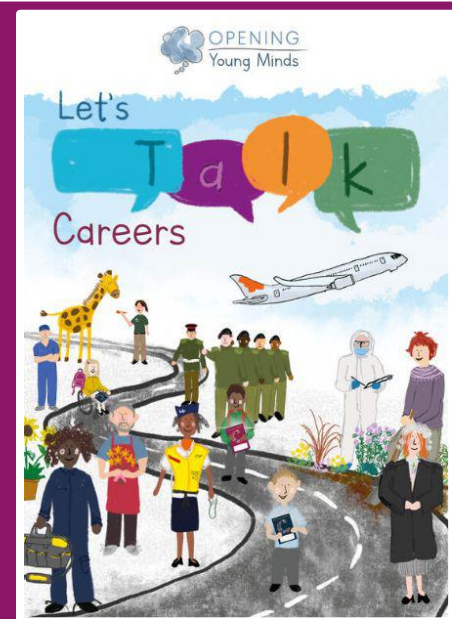


A New Careers Curriculum

From this term, we are delighted to be strengthening our already ambitious and varied curriculum by adding regular lessons on careers. Every class, from Year R to Year 6, will be learning about different careers, the vital skills which are needed for different roles, and the challenges which some careers encounter.

Lessons will involve children discussing the essential and sub-skills of these jobs, and developing their own skills of communication, problem solving, collaboration and creativity. This careers curriculum aims to build on the success of last year's Aspiration's Term, when visitors spoke to our pupils about their different jobs.

Children who have completed some of these lessons already, are enjoying learning about fashion designers, ecologists and architects.



As a school, we will be participating with the following: Wearing odd socks on Friday 14th November with our school uniform, carrying out school and class assemblies during Anti-bullying week, attending Anti-Bullying workshops and a theatre show on Friday 21st November.



Charlotte of Year 5 recently took part in a circusque showcase with her circus skills class. There were 10 acts in total and Charlotte performed an amazing aerial hoop and pole routine. Well done Charlotte from all of us at Istead Rise Primary!



The link below will take you to a copy of November's Online Safety Newsletter

[Online Safety Newsletter November 25](#)

Online Safety Newsletter Nov 2025

CapCut
CapCut is a video editing app. Their videos are intended for those over the age of 13 (those under the age of 18 must have consent from their parents/legal guardians). It is rated as 13+ on the App Store.

WhatsApp Update
School WhatsApp groups
Are you part of a parent WhatsApp group at your child's school? These groups can be useful for sharing information and reminders, but it is important to use them thoughtfully. Here are some tips on how we can ensure they remain positive and respectful.

1. Be considerate – we know messages can sometimes be misinterpreted so carefully think about what you share. These groups should not be used to share criticism of the school, staff or other parents and children. Any concerns should always be discussed with the school directly.
2. Don't type out numbers – avoid sharing one group within the group.
3. Protect privacy – do not share photos or videos of other children.
4. Think before you send – be mindful of the time and if the message is necessary for everyone.

Our children watch how we communicate, so let's model healthy, online communication to them.

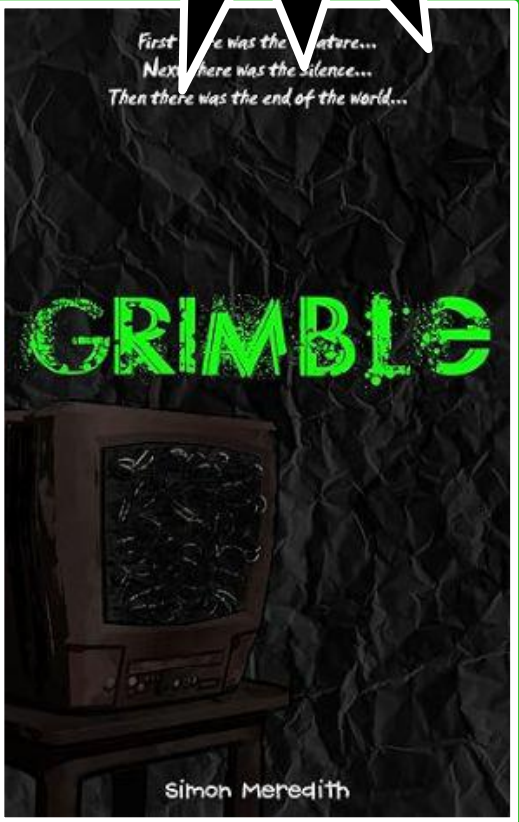
WhatsApp Channels
Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. If your child is using WhatsApp, then you should be aware of WhatsApp Channels. Channels are a one-way broadcast tool used by companies and individuals to send updates to followers. WhatsApp Channels can be found on the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will not be age appropriate and may include adult content.

You cannot switch off access to channels and there is no age rating associated with the channels so you will have to access them to know what the content truly is. Clickable highlight what you should be aware of: <https://www.kidsplace.org.uk/news/2024/04/25/whatsapp-channels-what-you-should-know/>

Find out more about WhatsApp channels in general here: <https://life.whatsapp.com/256695957613>

We are delighted to inform you that the debut novel 'Grimble' by our own Mr Meredith has been published and is now available, should you wish to purchase a copy, on Amazon (both Kindle edition and as a paperback). Our current Year 5 pupils experienced it prior to publication as a guided reading text last year and are very excited by this news!

You can purchase your very own copy from Amazon via this link! [Grimble](#)



The chair went out from under me and I hit the floor hard enough to knock the air from my lungs. I lay there, stunned, blinking up at the ceiling... and something blinked back.

Two eyes, deep and red like dying embers, stared down at me from the plaster above. They weren't reflections. They weren't tricks of the light. They were there—watching. And they blinked again. My breath caught. For a split second, I thought I'd hit my head too hard, that this was some weird concussion dream. But then, it let out a high-pitched giggle, dry and whispery, like dead leaves scraping across glass. It didn't have a mouth, but somehow, I heard it.

And that was how it began...with the arrival of a strange creature in my house. A creature I named 'Grimble'. It would end, however, with the fate of the world hanging in the balance, as a battle which had waged for centuries, across multiple worlds and dimensions, came to my sleepy little town. And all that stood in its way was me and my friends in the Chess Club.

Simon Meredith

SEND

Kent's Local Offer



The majority of children with SEND, whether they have a diagnosis or not, will have their educational needs supported through the application of the inclusive strategies which form the basis of Quality First Teaching. Some children utilise inclusive and adaptive strategies and resources detailed in the Mainstream Core Standards - Kent's standards for support in mainstream schools. If a child at Istead Rise requires support which is "over and above" or "additional to" what is normally available in a mainstream environment, possibly in the form of a specific intervention, then they may also have a Personalised Plan in place which details this, and they will be included on the SEND register as a recognition of this level of need.

A warm welcome back for Term 2 to all our parents and children with SEND. Weekly SEND surgeries continue throughout the term on Wednesday afternoons. If you'd like to discuss anything SEND and Inclusion related, Mrs Andreou has appointments available. Please book via the school office.

Parent Consultations are on Thursday 6th November. Your child's teacher will discuss SEND provision with you. If your child has a Personalised Plan, this reviewed and renewed Plan will have been sent home at the end of Term 1. Appointments are available to book (via the office) if you would like to have additional time to talk about SEND provision with Mrs Andreou.

IASK support families of children and young people (0 to 25 years) with special educational needs or disabilities. They hope to empower children, young people and their parents to make informed choices about their education, outcomes and help to communicate views and opinions confidently.

They are a free, confidential and impartial service based in Kent. Staff and volunteers are independently trained in SEND. Their advice and support is confidential and impartial. They are not on anybody's side.

steering group, which includes parents, young people, representatives from local voluntary groups, children's services, parent/carer forum, education and social care.

They also support schools in working with parents



Kent PACT is a parent carer forum set up for parents of children and young adults with disabilities and additional needs.

What is a Parent Carer Forum?

Parent/Carer Forums (PCFs) are run by parents for parents.

The aim of PCFs is to ensure that the needs of the parents and carers of disabled children in the county are being met.

This is achieved by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education, health providers and other services to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

PCFs cannot act as case workers or advocates, they are simply the link between parents and carers and the Local Authority. We need to work together to ensure that communication links remain open and transparent.



Year R



Term 2:

Reception class have made a fantastic start to the new term and have settled straight back into routines. This term we are looking at celebrations and festivals. We will be learning about the different ways people celebrate all over the world, and how we celebrate different occasions. We have been very busy already and are looking forward to the exciting term ahead.



Bikeability: Last term the children took part in bikeability balance. They learnt new skills or developed existing ones such as balancing, steering and stopping. Reception class were so excited and they showed incredible listening skills and perseverance

Year R



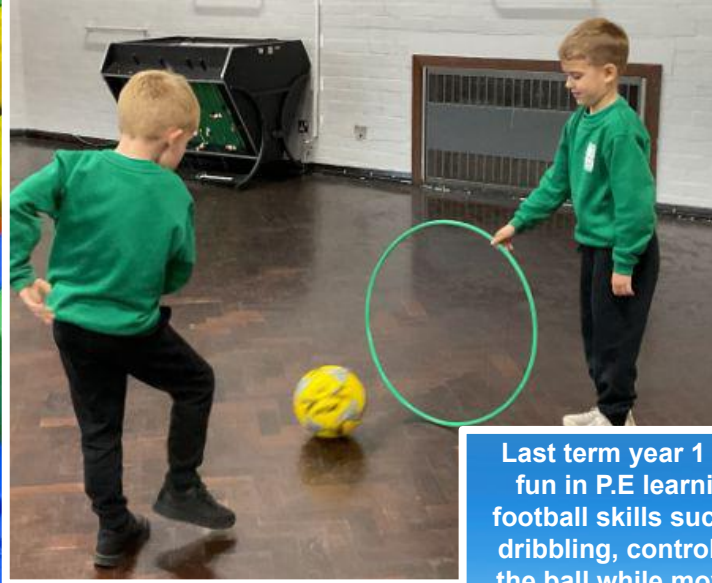
To support the understanding of a repeated pattern, the children learnt and danced to the song 'In and out the dusty bluebells'



Maths: At the end of last term, in Maths, we were looking at ABAB patterns. Reception class used paint sticks to create their own.. Mrs Davies made some of her own 'incorrect' patterns and the children were able to correct them independently.

Understanding of the World: The children really enjoyed looking at the world map and finding out where all of our fruit comes from. We looked at the journey a banana makes before it reaches us. The children were amazed to see how far it comes.

Year 1



Last term year 1 had fun in P.E learning football skills such as dribbling, controlling the ball while moving as well as working on agility and coordination.



In Art the children enjoyed learning about Bridget Riley and how she used lines to create her art. The children created their own piece of Bridget Riley artwork naming it 'Rainy Day'.



Year 2



Year 2 had an incredible start to Term 2 with a fun-filled and immersive learning day! To start things off, the children stepped back in time to hear the story of the Great Fire of London. Everyone gathered around a crackling campfire, where we listened to the dramatic story of how the fire began and spread across the city. To make the experience even more memorable, the children had a go at cooking bread and finished the morning by roasting marshmallows over the flames!

In the afternoon, we put our Design and Technology skills to the test with a building challenge. Working in teams, they competed to create the tallest freestanding structure they could. There was lots of teamwork, problem solving, and laughter along the way. The winning team managed an impressive height of 2.17 meters- a fantastic achievement! It was a wonderful first day back, full of creativity, teamwork, and excitement. What a brilliant way to begin the new term!



Year 3



Year 3 have made a fantastic start to Term 2. In English we have just finished writing a book review of 'The Sheep-Pig', the children did a wonderful job especially with expressing their opinions. In Maths we continue learning column addition and subtraction. In Science we started our new topic; Forces - our first lesson was an investigation of the processes required to change an object's shape, speed and direction. The children had fun applying forces to the twelve objects and exploring words to describe how it changed. In History we are learning about the Stone Age, in our first lesson we used computers to research information to order the events from the Early Stone Age up to the Roman invasion of Britain.



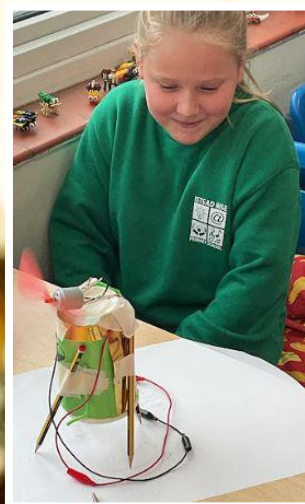
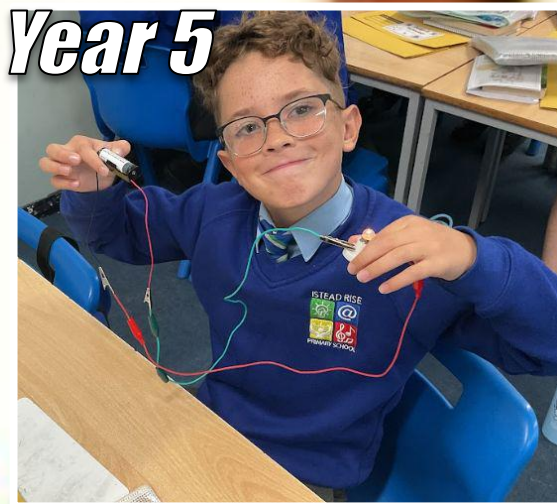
Year 4



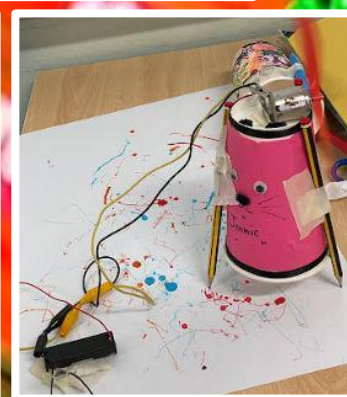
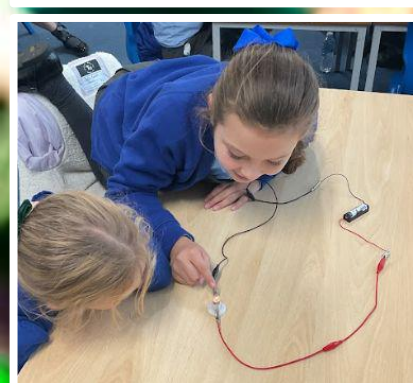
It has been a great start to Term 2! In English, we are continuing with our descriptive writing sequence from last term about the emergence of an enormous Norwegian Troll. While in Maths, we have worked through our unit on Area this week. Next week we begin our longest unit on multiplication and division. In DT, we have started looking at structures and how triangles are a better choice for strength, especially in corners. In History this week we have started our unit on the Anglo-Saxons, looking initially at why they invaded Britain, where they came from and when. We also looked at how Britain was divided into Seven Kingdoms. In RE this term, we are continuing our work on pilgrimages, focussing on Christianity. In Science we started our electricity unit by looking at what electricity is, how electrons can be transferred and how they move.



Year 5



In PSHE we used all we had learned over the term, about working as a team to create a set of rules to follow. We put these rules into action as we worked in groups to try and build the tallest towers.



Year 5 had a fantastic end to term 1. In DT they designed some amazing Doddlers and then got to work, making their designs come to life. Unfortunately, they didn't work quite as well as we hoped, but after some discussions we thought of ways we could improve them to make them even better next time.

Year 5

On the last day of term 1 we were lucky enough to visit the Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara in Gravesend, as part of our RE learning on Sikhism. The children had a brilliant time, learning all about the Gurdwara and Sikhism, asking well thought out sensible questions and behaved impeccably. A highlight of the trip was the visit to the langar hall, where they got to try roti and daal, which was definitely a hit and went down a treat.



Year 6



Spending time in the library



Year 6 have been busy in the first week of the new term! We have started a new English learning sequence where we will be writing a description based on an extreme weather event.

In History, we will be starting our new topic all about the Victorians which will be very interesting.

Year 6 have worked so hard in maths this week. We have recapped the method for short division and also learnt how to carry out long division with remainders as decimals or fractions.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES THIS CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Join us for an exciting Christmas Market where you'll find unique gifts, a magical atmosphere and festive spirit!

KIDS CRAFT ACTIVITY * CRAFT & STALLS
ELF VISIT AND KIDS GAMES * FACE PAINTER

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
2PM TILL 5PM

FREE ENTRY

Istead Rise Community Centre
Worcester Close, Istead Rise DA13 9LB



Young Risers

Santa's Grotto

ho ho ho

30TH NOV

2-5PM

Tickets £5.00

Per child

ISTEAD RISE COMMUNITY CENTRE
WORCESTER CLOSE, ISTEAD RISE, DA13 9LB

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
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beckie.francis@yrps.co.uk

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W/E 17.10
Winning Class
 1st Year 4
 2nd Year 5
 3rd Year 3

W/E 31.10
Winning Class
 1st Year 5
 2nd Year 4
 3rd Year 6

W/E 17.10
Most Valuable Player
 1st Tyler G - Year 4
 2nd Khenyang - Year 64
 3rd Sienna - Year 4

W/E 31.10
Most Valuable Player
 1st George W - Year 5
 2nd Tyler G - Year 4
 3rd Khenyang - Year 4



Gold Athletics

W/E 31.10
Khenyang - Year 4



Bronze Peg Up Points

W/E 17.10

Aubany, Arlo, Seren, Rei, Oscar, Olivia, Neda, Nathan,
 Milan, Lennon, Jaxon, Archie, Adriana, Jacob T,
 Frank, Ellie, Eliza, Elena, Daisy, Charlie, Benjamin,
 Belle & Ava of Year 3



Core Values Congratulations To All Our Winners

Week Ending 17.09



Year R

Jason for Independence, Ava Rose & Isla for Perseverance

Year 1

William & Harry for Independence, George H for Perseverance

Year 2

Joshua for Self Reflection & Mazie for Independence

Year 3

Valerie & Jaxon for Self Reflection, Elena for Independence

Year 4

Theo B for Self Reflection, Amber for Perseverance & Tyler for Independence

Year 5

Constance for Perseverance, Bobby for Respect & Harry for Independence

Year 6

Samuel Yanis & Joshua for Self Reflection, Delphine for Perseverance

Week Ending 31.10

Year R

Benji & Patrick for Independence, Josie for Perseverance

Year 1

Isaac & Tris for Perseverance, Cruze for Independence

Year 2

Ikyro for Self Reflection, Jeremias for Respect & Mia for Perseverance

Year 3

Eliza for Independence, Seren for Perseverance & Benjamin for Respect

Year 4

Theo H, Felix & Samantha for Independence

Year 5

Darcey & Lyla for Respect, Stanley for Independence

Year 6

Elvie & Freddie for Perseverance, Maya for Respect

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FREE PARKING: SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS



At The heart of the New Story Theatre Company is storytelling through theatre, which provides space for creativity and collaboration.

Children are involved in the writing and performing of an original production, including prop making, costume design and set design. They are also involved in making decisions on staging, lighting, visuals effects and soundtracks. The project culminates in a performance for parents later in the school year.

New Story Theatre Company meets every Tuesday in the school from 3.15pm until 4.45pm. If your child would like a taster session, please contact Martin Smyth directly. For further information, please email: marlin@newstorytheatre.com

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE AS THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL



We know that as a parent, nothing matters more than your child's safety and wellbeing. As the school term begins, we understand this can bring worries about safety both inside and outside school.

Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit works with partners and communities to keep children safe by reducing and preventing violence. We support parents in having the right conversations and helping them spot if their child may be involved in violence or bullying.

Our back-to-school guide outlines year-round tools to help your child stay safe, take action and make the right choices.

▶ Watch Sophie's story a parent's experience

Tools to help you

Not sure how to support your child or young person? Our range of guides can help:

- Evidence: understanding emails
- A guide to knife harm: feel more confident in conversations.

Having the right conversations

Talking with young people or young adults about knives and weapons can be difficult, whether you are a parent, guardian or carer. Our toolkit can help you prepare for a conversation with your child about carrying knives.

[View the toolkit on our website.](#)

Free sports activities

We work with Sports Connect to provide free local out-of-school activities that support physical and mental health while keeping children and young people out of trouble through creative and interactive sessions.

[Visit the Sports Connect website.](#)

CLOCK IT CHECK IT CHANGE IT

Being an active bystander: Clock It, Check It, Change It

Many young people witness unacceptable behaviour in and outside school, and you can empower them to safely step in and make a change.

Free resources from our Clock It, Check It, Change It campaign support conversations with young people about responding when they see or anticipate violent incidents.

[Access the resources on our website](#)



Our team can provide advice and guidance all year round.
vw.programme.delivery@kent.police.uk
kentandmedwayvrui.co.uk



VRU Doc 05_ParentsOnPage.v1



ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS!



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- ▶ Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
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rocksteadymusicsschool.com

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For children in Years
3, 4, 5 & 6



Contact Chris
07940 046124 or downschris6@aol.com

NOVEMBER TO
MARCH 2026

GROW WITH US
NOURISH



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK ONE

3 Nov
24 Nov
15 Dec
19 Jan
9 Feb
9 March
30 March

Chicken Pie 1
Pesto & Pea Pasta 1,7 V
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Crushed Potato
Cauliflower,
Carrots

Strawberry Mousse 7
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Fruit Pots VG

Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V
Bean Biryani VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Rainbow Pasta 1
Seasonal Vegetables

Toffee Apple Pudding 1 VG & Custard 7
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Fruit Pots VG

Roast Turkey & Gravy
Broccoli Tots 1,7 V
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Rustic Roast Potatoes or Jollof Rice
Cabbage,
Peas

Fruit Jelly VG
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG

Beef Bolognese Pasta Bake 1,7
Loaded Bean Chilli Wedges VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Green Beans
Grated Carrots

Parsnip Brownie 1 VG
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG

Chicken Sausages 1,6
Vegetable Sausage VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Chips,
Sweetcorn, Baked Beans
Cucumber Sticks

Oaty Cookie 1,15 VG
Yoghurt 3,7
Fruit Pots VG

WEEK TWO

10 Nov
1 Dec
5 Jan
26 Jan
23 Feb
16 March

Caribbean Brown Chicken
Tomato Spaghetti 1 VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Rice,
Carrots,
Peas

Chocolate Ice Cream 7
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Fruit Pots VG

Cheese & Broccoli Pasta Bake 1,7 V
Buffalo Cauliflower Wings
& Wedges VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Seasonal Vegetables

Plum Pudding 1VG & Custard 7
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Fruit Pots VG

Roast Chicken & Gravy
Ratatouille Puff 1,3 VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Rustic Roast Potatoes or Jollof Rice
Broccoli,
Carrots

Crispy Cake 1,3,7,16
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG

Beef Stew & Dumpling 1
Pesto Pasta Bake 1,7 V
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Cauliflower,
Green Beans

Apple & Cinnamon Pinwheel 1 VG
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG

Salmon Bites 1,8
Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Chips,
Peas,
Coleslaw 9

Marble Cookie 1 VG
Yoghurt 3,7
Fruit Pots VG

WEEK THREE

17 Nov
8 Dec
12 Jan
2 Feb
2 March
23 March
27 Oct

Macaroni Cheese 1,7 V
Sweet Potato & Chick Pea Curry VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Rice,
Green Beans,
Mixed Salad

Peach Crumble 1 VG & Custard 7
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Fruit Pots VG

Chicken Noodles 1
BBQ Vegetable Burrito 1 VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Sweetcorn,
Peppers

Chocolate Rice Pudding 7
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Fruit Pots VG

Savoury Minced Beef & Yorkshire
Puddings 1,7,9
Vegan Sausage Roll 1 VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Rustic Roast Potatoes,
Green Beans,
Carrots

Fruit Jelly VG
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG

Beef Cottage Pie
Herby Tomato Pasta 1 VG
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Seasonal Vegetables

Beetroot Cake 1 VG
Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG
Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG

Fish Fingers 1,8
Cheese, Carrot & Tomato Swirl 1,7 V
Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9

Chips,
Peas, Baked Beans,
Grated Carrot

Caramel Flapjack 1,7,15 V
Yoghurt 3,7
Fruit Pots VG

Primary 3 NP

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

**AVAILABLE
DAILY**

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.

