

Head Teacher: Mr G Bartrum

July 2025
Issue 86

Rowhill School Mission Statement

Developing the responsible citizen for tomorrow by raising self-esteem and independence through education and care



In this issue

2. Sharks & Elephants
4. Mental Health Awareness Week
5. Careers Events
6. Holland & Barratt
7. "Talk for Writing"
8. Year 6's Residential
11. Swimming @ Faversham
12. Sports @ Rowhill
13. Meet Murphy
14. Summer Holiday Activities
17. Summer Holiday Game Ideas

Rowhill School Summer Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher



With the end of the school year fast approaching I wanted to take the time to express sincerest thanks to all our parents and carers for your continued support. Your presence is noted and very much appreciated as you take the time to support our school events such as the Primary Year 6 Assembly, Sports day, Parents evenings, Secondary celebration event and year 11 leavers assembly. Myself, Mrs Sarah Griffey and Mr Owen-Taylor would also like to thank all incumbent parents and carers for your support in a successful transition period. Although there were some ups and downs generally our four transition days went well and we look forward to welcoming new and current students back to school on Wednesday 3rd September.

At this time of year, we say goodbye to our year 11 students. Some have been with us for up to 9 years and we know it will be a wrench for them to leave. However, they are welcome back to visit us at anytime in the near future. Everyone at Rowhill School wishes all our leavers the very best for their onward journey. GCSE exam results are due out on Thursday August 21st at 9.00. Mr T Westcarr will email out results to all parents on that day. Good luck to everyone concerned.

As many of you will be aware I will now be staying in post until 31st December 2025. The new Headteacher Natalie Fitzgerald will be starting the role from Jan 1st 2026. This will now give us the opportunity to work together at a strategic level on areas of school development and planning as she will be able to come to the school at some point between September and December.

Sadly, from the 31st August 2025 the Specialist Teaching & Learning Service (STLS) will no longer be part of Rowhill School they will be under KCC's umbrella from September 1st 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kirby Woods and her team for all their excellent work and commitment to supporting Mainstream pupils with SEND. We wish you all the best for the future in your new roles.

A few reminders:

- Mobile phones are not to be in school, please click [here](#) to read further details
- Please click [here](#) for some Top Tips for Summer, created by Fola Sutherland, Rowhill's Occupational Therapist
- Please find a link to encourage students to incorporate more movement into their daily routine [tips to help get children moving for their mental health](#)

- Please find a link to KCC's Holiday Activities and Food Summer Programme [Holiday Activities and Food Summer Programme \(theeducationpeople.org\)](#)

- Families eligible for Free School Meals have had a supermarket voucher issued for £100

As always, thanks for your ongoing support and I look forward to working with you all in September.

Geoff Bartrum
Head Teacher

Term 5

Sharks and Elephants

Sharks VE Day Tea Party



Sharks and Elephants at Trosley Country Park



Sharks at Lower Bush Alpacas



Life Education came into school on Thursday 1st May and delivered a Relationship and Sex Education Workshop. The workshops were age related, years 3 and 4 took part in Changing Bodies and years 5 and 6 took part in Time for Change. Both workshops are about growing up and the aim of the workshops is:

- To help children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to make choices that will help them to live healthier, happier lives.
- To support schools to deliver PSHE (personal, social, health and economic), inline with the schools SCARF programme.



Attendance for Term 4

Well done to the classes that have come
1st, 2nd and 3rd

Primary Top Class



1st Place– Scorpions
2nd Place– Sharks
3rd Place – Pythons

Secondary Top Class



1st Place—T1
2nd Place—T4
3rd Place—T3

Tree of Self-Esteem

At Rowhill we love every opportunity to celebrate the positive work and achievements of our pupils, from the academic accomplishments to the day-to-day positive behaviours we see.

Tree of Self-Esteem – Term 4 comments

Danny – for helping others in your bicycle maintenance taster session.

Jensen – for helping others to make the right choice.

Kyron – was helpful to another pupil who had been hurt.

Danny, Ronnie & Braxton – for all their help in forest school

Tristan – for his generosity and kindness.

Precious – great taster session in Hair & Beauty.

Hayden – well done for the neat colouring on your worksheets.

Jack – for helping others to complete work.

Harry – for being thoughtful and kind, helping others.

Preston – looking after the school environment and being extremely helpful.

T5 – for all their hard work clearing wood from the car park.

T3 – for helping to build a new entrance into forest school.

Elephants & Sharks – for a fantastic day out at Shorne Country park.

Archie – using his manners, please and thank you and knocking on doors before entering.



Mental Health Awareness Week



We took part in
Wear it Green Day
during Mental Health
Awareness Week
15th May 2025



Wearing Green Together

For Mental Health Awareness Week

Today we gather, dressed in green,
A brighter sign you've never seen
For green means growth, and care, and grace,
A colour that can light a place.

In classrooms, halls, and in the yard,
We share a space that works so hard
To welcome, listen, help us grow,
To be ourselves, to learn, to know.

Today we pause, reflect, and see
The strength found in community.
A smile, a chat, a helping hand
These little things that help us stand.

It's in the way we say hello,
Or notice when someone feels low.
It's feeling safe to speak and to cry,
To ask for help, and know just why.

Each person here, both staff and peer,
Deserves to feel they're known and held dear.
Our friendships, kindness, who we are
They shine like bright and steady stars.

So wear your green with pride today,
And carry this beyond the month of May

That mental health is always part
Of how we think, and feel, and heart.

Together we can make it right—
A school where every soul feels light.
Where *you belong*, where *we all care*—
A place of hope, of love to share.

Term 6

Secondary Reward Trips



Transitional hub class charts reward trip – The top 10 learners for class charts attended Pizza Hut in Bluewater on Tuesday 10th June and enjoyed a nice buffet lunch.

Vocational hub class charts reward trip—The top 10 learners for class charts ordered a selection of Dominos Pizzas to school on Friday 13th June 2025.

Careers Events at Rowhill School



On Tuesday 17th and 24th June Simon Harris attended school to offer 1:1 career advice to year 10 learners. This process supports learners with their transition at the end of year 11 in helping them identify an appropriate career route. In October 2025 are year 11's will need to make choices of where they would like to go post 16, this will need to be selected through Kent Choices and the annual review process.

Youth Construction Trust has worked with the school on several occasions this academic year, mainly focussing on year 11's. However, on Wednesday 11th and 18th June, Jess from the organisation came in and delivered two workshops to a mixed group of year 8 and 9's. Youth Construction trust are a social mobility charity that inspires and enables young people to reach their full career potential by connecting them with employers and opportunities in construction and the built environment.



Supajam tour – We visited the post 16 centre on Wednesday 30th April. The purpose of our visit was for year 10 and 11's to see what options they have available, Supajam offers courses on Music and Performing Arts.

CXK Apprenticeship – is a charity that delivers career guidance and training programmes to support individuals to build the skills and confidence they need. On Thursday 8th May, a workshop was delivered to years 8 and 9 on apprenticeships.



Science Morning at Valence School

Jalen, Megan and Archie represented Rowhill School in a Science morning at Valence School. Here, they had mixtures that they had to separate using all the equipment at their disposal in a safe manner. They were encouraged to ask questions and find solutions to the problems they faced. Well done Jalen, Megan and Archie.



Work Experience Placement at Bluewater Holland & Barratt



Matthew, Logan & Charlie attended Holland & Barrett Bluewater on Friday 11th July for 2 hours. The placement involved:

- Re-stocking shelves
- Checking orders
- Tidying shelves

They had a great session and worked really hard. Great insight into the retail industry.



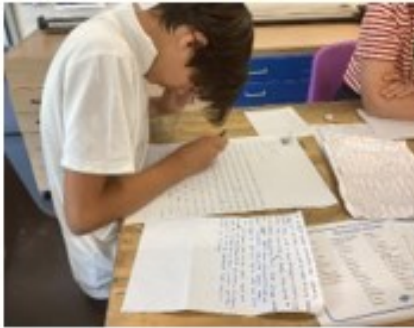
Level 1 Health and safety in the Construction environment



Congratulations to Reggie, Johnny, Blake, Zach and Henry for completing the Level 1 H&S in the construction environment qualification.

We wish you all the best for your future.





'Talk for Writing' Curriculum Day SAVE OUR SCHOOL!

The Primary and Transition Hubs took part (unknown to them at the time!) in a 'Talk for Writing' Curriculum Day. They were informed that a large superstore was trying to buy the school site.



The students attended special assemblies with our visitors, asked questions, argued for and against the development and produced persuasive letters and banners to save our school. Some amazing writing was produced on the day and the students enjoyed sharing their writing with their groups.

The day ended with a special message from King Charles, informing the students they had been successful in saving Rowhill School. It was such a fun day for all involved, the Rowhill spirit shone all day and ended with heart-warming cheers from the students when they found out their school was safe.



Year 6 Residential – June 2025



Fire Pit



Archery



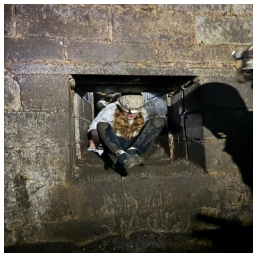
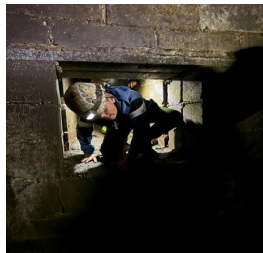
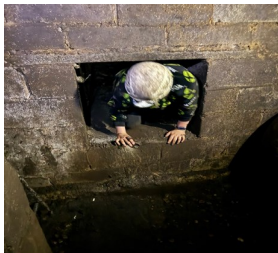
Time for Food



Shooting Practice



Into the Caves



Year 6 Leavers 2025



The Flying Seagull Project



The Flying Seagull Project is a UK-based charity founded by performer Ash Perrin in 2008. Their mission is simple but powerful: to bring laughter, joy, and creative play to children living in difficult circumstances. With a team of clowns, musicians, circus performers, and artists, they run energetic and engaging sessions in places like hospitals, refugee camps, schools, and shelters. Over the years, they've reached hundreds of thousands of children across more than 20 countries, creating safe, fun spaces where kids can just be kids, no matter what they're going through.

For children with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, this kind of joyful, pressure-free environment can make a huge difference. Many of these children struggle with anxiety, low confidence, or difficulty connecting with others. The Flying Seagull team doesn't just perform, they interact, listen, and adapt to each child's needs, encouraging self-expression through games, music, and movement. It's not about being perfect or getting things right—it's about joining in, laughing together, and feeling included.

At Rowhill School, primary students with SEMH needs have had the chance to take part in Flying Seagull sessions, and the impact has been clear. Children who might normally shy away from group activities are drawn in by the energy and silliness of the performers. There's a noticeable lift in mood and confidence, and many children come out of their shell during these sessions. Staff have seen quieter pupils smiling, joining in, and even leading parts of the activities. For some, it's a rare moment to feel fully accepted, celebrated, and free.

The beauty of The Flying Seagull Project is that it makes therapy feel like play. It creates a space where children can relax, let go of stress, and experience connection in a way that feels natural and safe. For students at Rowhill and many others, these moments of laughter and joy aren't just fun, they're deeply meaningful, helping to build emotional resilience, trust, and a sense of belonging.



Year 11's Leavers Assembly

On Thursday 26th June we said good bye to our year 11's, by having an afternoon celebration. Each learner had an advocate and were presented with their record of achievement and hoodie. On Friday 27th June all year 11's went on a trip with their form group and tutor. We wish all the year 11's the best of luck and hope they keep in touch.



Thank you Angela Lyamani for making the leavers biscuits .

JohnBoy Smith Shield



- Congratulations to Henry Dyke. Disciplined and determined in his studies this academic year. His name has been added onto the John Smith Shield.



Well done Henry!

ACP Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award



Three ACP students have spent the last year completing their bronze award. They had to complete a set number of hours learning a skill, they completed a first aid course. A sporting activity, including boxing. Carry out volunteering in the community, they worked every Wednesday at Hopehill Scout Camp doing gardening and maintenance.

They also had to learn to set up a camp, prepare food and repack tents etc. Following this the students had to complete a 20-mile hike spread over two days, carrying all their equipment and navigating themselves along a planned route. They were supported by staff, who met them at checkpoints along the way. The students had to walk over two of the hottest days so far this year, it was very hard going for them but, all three completed the hike and, on reflection all of them are very proud of their achievements.



- Will you be 13½ years or over by September 2025?
- Do you want to learn new life skills?
- Are you committed and will take on a challenge?
- Build up your confidence strengthen opportunities of skills for employment.

Taster Session

Wed 10th Sept 2025

1:25pm

Please Contact Ben Inman:
(01474) 705377
Inmanb@rowhill.sch.co.uk



Swimming at Faversham



A warm welcome from secondary iCT. Wow what a year. It was goodbye in September to Sue the TA in iCT with me for ten of my 11 years. This obviously made a huge difference as she had enormous experience in iCT and helped develop it into the power house it became with Rowhill having its wonderful success in NCFE qualifications, the introduction of code. The year I arrived was the year computer science was introduced to the National curriculum and I had the unenviable job of writing this unknown quantity into a workable SEN scheme, scary yes challenging yes but so much fun to the amazing array of code programme we have now. I would also like to say thank you to Isaac, one of my many TA supports who pointed the way to me moving with the times and introducing this past two terms Vlogging and the possibility of our own podcast station.

The bit I am most proud of is the depth of e-safety we are able to offer now, it has been a bit of a crusade for me as it is a subject I feel so strongly about. Keep flying the iCT flag and enjoy the fastest developing subject on the planet. Thank you also to all the support staff you are amazing.

All the best

Mrs Butterfly, Ruby the dog and the ever-present web crawler.

Visit iCT room 9 for more information



Sports at Rowhill



Exciting Sports Day at the DYG Games!

We had an incredible time at this year's DYG Games, competing against six different schools in a variety of events including cricket, boccia, curling, archery, sprint races (60m & 80m), javelin, shot put, long jump, and speed jumps.

Our students performed exceptionally well, finishing in 2nd place overall out of the six competing schools. This achievement is a reflection of their hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship.

All participants should be immensely proud of their efforts and contributions to the games. Congratulations to all Rowhill School students



Rowhill Sports Day 2025 was extremely successful, filled with excitement, team spirit, and unforgettable moments of achievement. Through thrilling races to impressive displays of skill and determination, every pupil gave their best and made the day one to remember. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the event. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the spectators whose presence, encouragement, and support created such a positive and energetic atmosphere. Your involvement truly made the day special for everyone. This year, three additional awards were introduced to celebrate our PE core values of determination, resilience, and respect—qualities shown by all pupils on the day, and while every student was deserving, special congratulations go to the selected winners; next year promises to be even more exciting!



🐾 Meet Murphy! Our New Fluffy Team Member! 🐾



Say hello to Murphy the Cocker Spaniel, the newest superstar joining our therapy team!

🐾 Over Terms 5 and 6, Murphy has been getting comfy and confident in school.

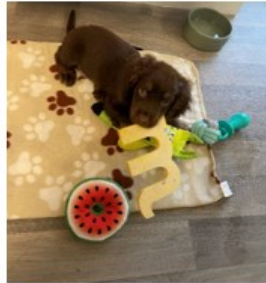
🎓 On 4th July, he earned his Bronze Award as a certified School Dog Mentor!

Murphy will be supported in school by his caring owner Helen (Therapeutic Lead) and Joanne (Attendance Officer).

📅 Starting September 2025, Murphy will be supporting and bringing smiles to children all across the school through the power of animal-assisted interventions!



Get ready for cuddles, calm, and canine companionship! 🐾❤️



For more information about the dog mentor programme, you can visit their website: The dog mentor / rowhill school gets another dog mentor



New Pupils - Transition Day's – x4 Thursdays during term 6

Transition days allow your child to transition from home, a different school or an old classroom to their new classroom. It's a chance for them to meet their new teacher, get to know their new classmates and learn about their new class environment. The days have been a great success and we look forward to seeing you all in September 2025!

Please note that Amy Ward is now Amy Goodrich and her new email address from September will be:-

goodricha@rowhill.kent.sch.uk

New Menu for September

(Please note that school dinners are £2.30 per day or £11.50 per week)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Sasages with red onion gravy	Chicken Neapolitan with whole meal pasta	Roast pork with apple sauce	Shepherds pie	Battered/breaded cod goujons
	Veggie sausages with red onion gravy	Quorn & five bean casserole with brown rice	Vegetable tagine with cous cous	Macaroni cheese with crispy topping	Mediterranean quiche
	Mash potatoes	Roasted mixed vegetables	Roast potatoes	Herby bread slice	Chips
	Carrots	Roasted mixed vegetables	Creamed butternut & swede	Cabbage	Baked beans
	Peas	Apple & peach crumble with custard	Broccoli	Baton Carrots	Peas
Lemon & mixed berry cake		Strawberry mousse with fruit salad	Jam tart with custard	Ice cream (frozen yogurt for serveries)	

Week 2	Chicken pizza	Sausage & apple herb plait	Roast beef with yorkshire pudding	Chicken & butternut curry with rice	Fish fingers in a sub roll
	Margherita pizza	Falafel with tomato sauce	Quorn fillet with yorkshire pudding	Wholemeal pasta vegetable milanaise	Caribbean spiced pasta
	½ jacket potato	Creamed potatoes	Roast potatoes		Diced herb potatoes
	Funky salad	Baked beans	Cauliflower	Sweetcorn	Coleslaw
	Sweetcorn	Peas	Cabbage	Green beans	Peas
	Peaches & pears with chocolate sauce	Chilli chocolate, beetroot brownie	Frozen yogurt	Sultana cake with custard	Jam & coconut sponge

Week 3	Pork meatballs in BBQ sauce	Chicken & sweetcorn pie	Roast turkey with sage & onion stuffing	Beef bolognaise with pasta twist	Breaded salmon/Breaded white fillet fish
	Lentil & sweet potato curry	Sweet & sour vegetables with wholegrain noodles	Vegetable crumble	Vegetable wellington with white onion sauce	Southern style quorn burger
	Rice	New potatoes	Roast potatoes	½ Jacket potato	Chips
	Broccoli	Cabbage	Baked Butternut	Root vegetable mash	Baked beans
	Sweetcorn	Carrots	Broccoli	Green beans	Peas and sweetcorn
	Fruit jam doffins	Fruit jelly	Chocolate Krispies	Pear & cocoa sponge with custard	Biscuits with milk

Freshly baked bread, filled jacket potatoes, salad, fresh fruit and yogurts are available daily

Online Cashless Payment Portal

As I am sure you are aware, we are endeavouring to become a 'cashless school'. If you have not already registered for our secure online payment portal Scopay, please can you contact the school office who will provide you with the information that you need to set this up. Going forward, we would be very grateful if all payments for dinner money and trips could be made online, however in exceptional circumstances we will still accept cash.

Summer Holiday Activities

Pegasus Playscheme are a long-established specialist summer scheme and they offer a summer activity programme for children aged 8 to 21 with disabilities and complex needs. Activities including bowling, arts and crafts, sailing, swimming, canoeing and sea safari. The activities change daily and must be booked and paid for in advance. Spaces cost £30 per day and are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Contact details

Sarah

07968 621374

slinersarah@gmail.com

pegasusplayscheme.com

HAF Information for families

The HAF Programme offers families of children aged 4 to 16, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals (FSM), opportunities to access a range of free activities in the Easter, summer, and Christmas holidays.

- Ashford
- Canterbury
- Dartford
- Dover
- Folkstone & Hythe
- Gravesend
- Maidstone
- Sevenoaks
- Swale
- Thanet
- Tonbridge Malling
- Tunbridge Wells

Contact - KentHAF@theeducationpeople.org

Sensory packs

Families on certain income assessed benefits can access Sensory packs with a range of sensory equipment, from sensory tents to bubble tubes. These packs are 80% funded and a £20 or £22 contribution is required, depending on which pack you go for. They can be accessed here:

[Sensory Packs | Equipment for Disabled Children](#)

[Sensory Packs | Equipment for Disabled Children](#)

[Autism Sensory Packs | Caudwell Children](#)



Guide to managing children's screen time

internet matters.org

10 tips to get in control with your child's screen time

Important Sun Safety Information



Dear Parents/Carers,

The warm weather is finally here! As we embrace the sunshine, we want to share some important sun safety tips to ensure that our children stay safe and comfortable while at Rowhill School.

Firstly, we highly recommend that pupils bring and wear a suitable sun hat when outside and drink water throughout the day to stay hydrated. Cooler clothing, such as shorts and school summer dresses, will also help keep them comfortable.

Please ensure all children have had a strong sunscreen applied before they come to school in the morning. For most children, a long-lasting (8-hour) 50+ sunscreen will protect them all day. However, for those parents who feel that their child needs extra protection, sunscreen will be allowed in school.

If you would like your child to reapply sun cream during the day, we ask that pupils bring a roll-on sun cream for personal use (rather than a squirty bottle). This should be clearly named and handed to the class teacher to avoid any potential allergic reactions or sharing among pupils. We kindly request that you show your child at home how to correctly apply their roll-on sun cream, paying particular attention to the eye area. Pupils can reapply their sun cream at lunchtime or before afternoon PE, and we would like them to do this themselves. Teachers will supervise the application process to ensure it is done correctly.

Additionally, we encourage all children to bring hats and water bottles to school. On very hot days, like today, we will limit time spent outside to ensure children can cool down and avoid overheating. We will also encourage children to spend time in the shade during lunchtime breaks.

We have received positive feedback regarding the Soltan Kids Protect & Moisturise Suncare Roll-On SPF50+, which is available from Boots. It may be a good option for your child.

We are aware that some parents are concerned about the ingredient Prunus Amygdalus Dulcis Oil (almond oil) found in some products, such as Nivea. Nivea has released a statement assuring that they have refined the product to remove any allergic potential. You can read more about this at <https://www.nivea.co.uk/allergy>.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our children safe and happy in the sun.

Kindest regards,

Mr Owen-Taylor

Daniel Owen-Taylor (BA Hons) PGCE
Deputy Head- Primary
Vocational Quality Nominee

Staying Safe Online

At Rowhill school we are very keen for our students to safely experience the wonders of technology. As well as using all of the basic software programmes such as; Word, Power point, Excel, Publisher and Database, we cover block coding in Computer science.

We also take online safety very seriously.

In the Primary and Transition Hubs we make wallet cards with details of helplines, and encourage our students to give them to people who may need help.





Self-regulation strategies for kids

By Fola Sutherland

Occupational Therapist & Sensory Integration Practitioner

What is self-regulation? It is essentially the ability to control your emotions, behaviours and responses. It can help to manage difficult situations, deal with challenges and achieve your goals. It involves some level of reflection and understanding of emotions, too.

This is something both children and adults struggle with from time to time. Here are some tips which may support your children in developing this essential life skill.

Recognise emotions – Just like we teach kids how to ride a bike, or drink from a cup. We need to teach them how to manage their emotions. This starts with being able to recognise and label different emotions. Happy, scared, excited, angry etc.

Identify triggers – Try to observe your child in different situations and settings, and start to notice what triggers emotional dysregulation and meltdowns. This is a key first step in understanding their behaviour.

Develop a toolkit – Self-regulation does not mean a child is **always** happy and calm. It simply means that they have a coping toolkit. This toolkit helps get them to a better emotional state and regain control of their behaviour.

Teach calming strategies – yoga, exercise, deep breathing or taking a walk in nature are things which can boost serotonin and help to calm children down.

Provide sensory input – Sensory input such as tactile (touch, hugs, textures), vestibular (swinging, rocking), proprioceptive (deep pressure, massage, weighted items), auditory (calming music, white noise, ear defenders), can all be calming and regulating to our nervous system. It is important to identify with your child which of these they like and dislike in order to better support them.

I hope you find some of these tips helpful. If you wish to discuss anything further, please

Resources

Kooth offers emotional and mental health support to 11–19 year olds. www.kooth.com



Childline: no problem is too big or too small. Children and young people can call free on 0800 1111 or get in touch online. www.childline.org.uk



National Online Safety: help equip school staff, parents, and pupils with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers. National Online Safety - Family Toolbox



Family Link is a highly recommended app that lets you set digital ground rules for your child using devices. It is compatible with android and apple products.



The Kent Resilience Hub

The Kent Resilience Hub is a resource that helps young people, parents and carers, staff and practitioners to understand emotional wellbeing and resilience. <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/>



OSI Online Support and Intervention for Child Anxiety

NELFT NHS NHS Foundation Trust

OSI - ONLINE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AROUND CHILDHOOD ANXIETY

Being away from caregivers General worries School worries

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ANXIETY?

Bedtime fears Social worries Phobias (e.g. spiders, dogs, injections) & more

OSI (Online Support and Intervention) is an online platform designed to help parents to learn tools and techniques to help their child (aged 5 to 12 years old) to overcome difficulties with anxiety.

Parents work through weekly online modules that contain videos, quizzes, and interactive worksheets. Parents are also supported by a weekly telephone/videocall appointment with a practitioner.

You can access OSI at a convenient time for you using any electronic device!

Best care by the best people

OSI Online Support and Intervention for Child Anxiety

NELFT NHS NHS Foundation Trust

OSI - ONLINE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AROUND CHILDHOOD ANXIETY

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS / CARERS

"My son's anxiety has noticeably declined, and I feel much more confident...we worked together on a specific goal and I have to say it was life changing. I even used it for my daughter about a fear she had and again, I can say that it worked for her too."

"It has been tremendously worthwhile for us, and I have a happier child now as a result."

GET IN TOUCH:

Scan the QR code for more information on OSI.

If your child attends one of our schools, and you are interested in learning more about OSI and whether this is the right support for you, please email our team at: EWTanESTenquiries@nelft.nhs.uk

Best care by the best people

Summer Holiday Game Ideas

With the Summer Holidays fast approaching, I thought it might be helpful to share a list of simple, low-cost activity and game ideas to help keep the children happy and occupied.

This list is designed to support you as parents during the long break, whether you're juggling work, planning family time, or simply looking for ways to keep the children entertained. Some of you might like to use it as a checklist, while others may enjoy letting your child pick the activities, they're most excited to try.

Many of the ideas can be done independently, ideal for when you need to focus on work and there are plenty that you can enjoy together once your day winds down.

I hope you and your children find joy, connection, and a little creative fun through these activities. Enjoy the holidays!

Liz Ward

Play Therapist

Imaginative Games with Household Items
Hide and Seek – Classic, fun, and encourages movement and observation.
Sheet Forts – Use bed sheets, cushions, and chairs to build dens or castles.
Let's Make a Band – Use pots, pans, wooden spoons, and Tupperware as instruments.
Parachute Play – Use a bed sheet to lift, wave, or bounce soft toys together.
Observation & Imaginative Play
I Spy (with Colours) – "I spy with my little eye something that is... green!"
What Can You Hear? – Sit quietly together and name the sounds you notice.
Copy Me – Take turns making a silly face, sound, or movement and the other copies.
Mirror Game – Face each other and mirror movements like a reflection
Indoor Adventure
Indoor Treasure Hunt – Hide small items or toys and give clues.
Obstacle Course – Use cushions, chairs, tunnels (or under tables) for a mini indoor course.
Role Play Café/Shop – Pretend to run a café, shop or post office with toy food or real tins.
Creative & Sensory
Junk Modelling – Use clean recycling materials to build robots, castles, or cars.
Drawing Prompts – "Draw your dream house", "Invent a new animal", or "Design a superhero".
Sorting & Organising – Ask children to sort items by colour, size, or type (e.g. buttons, pasta, socks).
Water Play – Sink, or in garden with plastic tub or bowl with cups, ladles, and safe kitchen tools.
Low-Mess Fun
Busy Box – Fill a box with puzzles, stickers, colouring sheets, or small toys. Encourage your child to spend time with their busy box while you do a task.
Lego/Block Challenges – "Build a zoo", "Build the tallest tower", or "Create a bridge".
Sticker Scenes – Use stickers to create scenes on paper (e.g. garden, beach, space). <i>The Works have a big variety to choose from.</i>
Sensory Tray – Use dry rice, pasta, or flour with cups, scoops, and spoons for exploration.
Quiet Brain Work
Memory Game – Lay out objects on a tray, cover, remove one – guess what's missing!
Puzzle Time – Jigsaws or matching cards keep them engaged.
Books & Audio Stories – Listening to stories or exploring picture books independently. Whilst listening to an audio story you could colour in or use fidget/sensory toys. Ask what the story was about, what was their favourite part. You can access free ones on YouTube.

Term Dates 2025—2026

Term 1

Monday 01 September 2025 – Training Day school closed to pupils

Tuesday 02 September 2025 – Training Day School closed to pupils

Wednesday 03 September 2025 – Friday 17 October 2025

Break – Monday 20 October 2025 – Friday 24 October 2025

Term 2

Monday 27 October 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025

Monday 17 November 2025 – Training Day school closed to pupils

Christmas Break: Monday 22 December 2025– Friday 02 January 2026

2025 - Term 3

Monday 05 January 2026 – Training Day school closed to pupils

Tuesday 06 January 2026 – Friday 13 February 2026

Break – Monday 16 February 2026 – Friday 20 February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23 February 2026 – Thursday 02 April 2026

Easter Break – Friday 03 April 2026 – Friday 17 April 2026

(Bank Holiday – Friday 03 April 2026 & Monday 06 April 2026)

Term 5

Monday 20 April 2026—Training Day school closed to pupils

Tuesday 21 April 2026 – Friday 22 May 2026

Break – Monday 25 May 2026 – Friday 29 May 2026

(Bank Holiday – Monday 04 May 2026 & Monday 25 May 2026)

Term 6

Monday 01 June 2026 – Tuesday 21 July 2026

**We look forward to
welcoming our students
back on Wednesday 3rd
September**