



Oldway Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

Website: www.oldwayschool.co.uk

Telephone: 01803 557190

Email: oldwayoffice@rivieraet.co.uk

Weekly Attendance

Whole School 93.55%

Top Class Attendance

1st - Elberry Cove - 97.14%

2nd - Oyster Cove - 96.63%

3rd - Meadfoot - 95.63%

Shells - 92.29%

Broadsands - 95.60%

Goodrington - 95.11%

Preston Sands - 92.21%

Livermead Sands - 93.25%

Torre Abbey - 95.47%

Fairy Cove - 95.00%

Saltern Cove - 94.82%

Babbacombe Beach - 93.14%

Oddicombe Beach - 94.73%

Maidencombe Beach - 83.09%

Anstey's Cove - 95.59%

Beacon Cove - 95.63%

Hope Cove - 90.64%

Berry Head - 91.76%

Breakwater Beach - 79.86%

Churston Cove - 92.96%

Fishcombe Cove - 94.16%

St Mary's Bay - 91.76%

Attendance at school is vital for learning. If your child's attendance is less than 95%, their learning will be affected by their absence.

Head of School Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous season of Christmas festivities in school! It's such a lovely time of year for performances and community events and a fantastic opportunity for pupils to shine beyond the normal curriculum.

Oldway Christmas Fair was a resounding success, despite the very wet weather, and we're grateful for the support of our school community. We will now work alongside OSF to spend the money for the benefit of all of our pupils.

We've also enjoyed many community events that have embraced our school value of 'kindness'. Every child was involved in making community Christmas cards, our school choir has visited the Oldway Garden Volunteers, our Nursery children have visited a local care home, our KS2 pupils and families have enjoyed a warm welcome at Christ Church and a great deal of Christmas joy has been shared through our performances. We are also grateful to all of the community organisation that have donated food and Christmas hampers.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 5th January.

Emma Bamber
(Head of School)



School Opening Times

The school gates are open at the following times:

Morning opening times: 8:30 - 8:45am

Morning registration: 8:45am

Afternoon opening times: 3:10 - 3:30pm

Please be aware that the staff car park is closed to anyone apart from disabled badge holders from 8:00am - 3:30pm

Festive Friday

We had the best Festive Friday at Oldway - Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and our Rudolph Run to raise funds for Rowcroft Hospice. It really was a special day for our school community and we hope to have raised lots of money for Rowcroft.



Parent and Carer Survey

During the year, we collect pupil, parent and staff voice through surveys. We are grateful for the responses to the 'Oldway Parents and Carer Survey'.

And we love to hear such positive feedback!

'The school is very keen to develop my child's behavior and character .The teachers are friendly and helpful.'

'It's super friendly, my son's teacher is approachable, understanding, and kind and I couldn't wish for anymore.'

'Teachers are approachable and caring. Great communication too.'

'Lots of lovely staff. Really supportive and it feels like we are part of a community'

'The expectations of behaviour and rules. This is just as important if not more than academic achievement.'

'The teachers are fantastic! The facilities are great- my kids are really happy there.'

Our response to your comments about communication...

You said you would like more streamlined communication.

We have started 'This week at Oldway' to address this.

You said you would like more consistent communication on Seesaw.

We have reviewed our use of Seesaw and asked teachers to post at least weekly across the school.

You said you would like honest communication and clear pathways to raise concerns.

We are committed to being open to feedback and concerns. We continue to staffing our gates as much as possible to allow easy access to SLT. Staff are asked to respond to Seesaw messages in a timely manner and the office email address is an efficient way to communicate with senior leaders.

You said that communication about first aid incidents could be improved.

We have invested in new software to record incidents and communicate with parents. This will be rolled out in early 2026.

You asked for improved communication around SEND.

We are still providing half termly coffee events to ensure opportunity for communication. SENDCo is always able to be contacted by email.

“Oldway is a friendly
and inclusive school.
Pupils are proud to
attend.”



Ofsted report, June
2024

Visits to the school are
welcomed - please contact
the school office to book a
tour: 01803 557190



Education
Trust

**ADMISSIONS for
September 2026
now OPEN**



If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022
they should start school in September 2026.

What you need to do:

1. Read the TIPS & guidance booklet on the Torbay Council website.
2. Apply online from 1st November 2025:

[Torbay Council Admissions](#)

OR

Contact Torbay Council to request an electronic form -

E: pupil.services@torbay.gov.uk; T: 01803 208908

3. Submit your application by 15th January 2026.

'Hot Chocolate with the Head'

Another fabulous half term celebrating 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' with our super star pupils who demonstrate Oldway's school values of Aspiration, Responsibility and Kindness. It is the perfect way to end the week, celebrating the reasons each child has been nominated by their teachers.



Classroom Excellence

At Oldway, our vision is that every child has the best experience possible. We work hard to improve every element of school life.

In September, we launched an initiative called 'Classroom Excellence' based on the principles of Doug Lemov's 'Teach like a Champion'. The aim is to use evidence informed research to make teaching and learning as effective as possible. Our teachers meet each week to explore the research and think about how this can be adapted into teaching and learning at Oldway for our children. Recently, we have been developing our approach to Oracy, and focusing on increasing the opportunities for talk in class.

Choral response is a highly effective technique within the broader framework of oracy development, primarily used to build confidence, embed key knowledge, and ensure full-class participation in speaking activities. It is particularly useful for modeling and rehearsing new or complex vocabulary, technical terms, phrases, or definitions. Saying words aloud repeatedly helps embed them in students' long-term memory, increasing the likelihood they will use them in their own verbal and written work.



My Turn, Your Turn

'My turn, your turn' is a teaching strategy used in oracy to model and practice spoken language, especially for building full sentences and vocabulary. It involves a teacher or student saying a sentence ("my turn"), and then the class repeating it together ("your turn"). The strategy can be adapted to different learning stages, from choral repetition for exact phrases to more independent responses. This starts in our phonics programme (RWI) and continues through the school.

Turn and talk is an effective, low-stakes pedagogical strategy used to develop students' oracy skills by providing a structured opportunity to verbally process and articulate their ideas with a partner before sharing with the wider class



Community Christmas Cheer

At Oldway, we love to share kindness with our community. Our Shells Nursery had a wonderful visit to Grange-Lea Residential Home to spread some Christmas joy. We handed out the Christmas cards we had made and sang some songs. Every class at Oldway has created beautiful Christmas cards that have been shared with local care homes, the breakfast club and a Carols and Mince Pies event. These cards have brought joy to many people across our community.





THANK YOU

**TO ALL THE PARENTS
FOR HELPING US RAISE**

£2,500

**★ AT THE OLDWAY ★
★ CHRISTMAS FAIR ★**

**★ OLDWAY SCHOOL ★
★ FUNDRAISERS ★**

**★ FOR ORGANISING A
★ FANTASTIC EVENT ★**



Year 3 and 4 INSITE Days

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed having their adults in school to share Insite morning. The children modelled the digestive system, using bananas, biscuits, water, orange juice and the foot cut from a pair of tights, and were able to explain each stage to their adults. They finished the morning by creating written explanations, text maps, annotated diagrams or letters. They then presented their learning about the digestive system to another family.

For their Insite morning, Year 3 put everyone in the Christmas mood. The adults learned about our recent D&T project all about engineering. Using the design brief, research and plan from lessons in class, they created moving Christmas cards. The children used either a single or double lever inside the card by using fixed or loose pivots. The children and their adults had a fantastic time and produced some amazing cards.

Thank you to everyone that came and supported the year 3 and 4 pupils.



Letters to Heaven

The Coop have recently set up a “Letters to Heaven” post box, designed as a gentle way for children to express their feelings and stay connected with loved ones who have passed away. The post box provides a safe and thoughtful space where pupils can write letters, draw pictures or share memories. Many families have found this to be a comforting activity that helps children explore their emotions and cope with loss in a healthy, creative way. The post box is situated outside the funeral home door so can be accessed anytime including evenings and weekends.



Paignton Academy Sports Festival

Babbacombe Beach showcased their skills at the Paignton Academy Sports Festival. They took part in a variety of indoor athletic events, including high jump and an obstacle course.

Every class from year 1 - 6 get the opportunity to take part in these Sports Festivals throughout the year, with different sports being showcased each term.



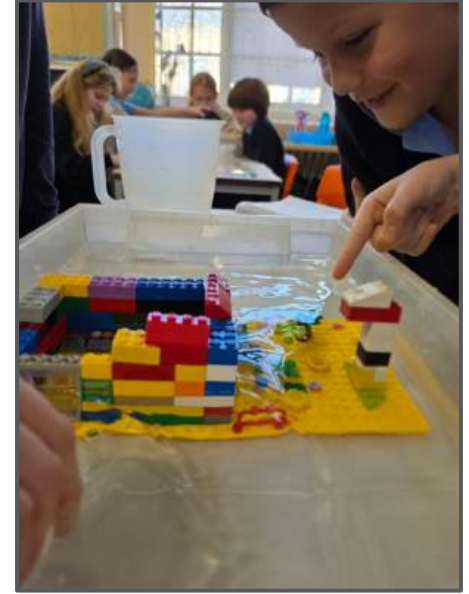
OWL Adventures

Our Nursery children had the exciting opportunity to show off our OWL (Oldway Wild Learning) area to other nurseries! Everyone had great fun making lots of Christmas decorations. The Reception children also had a lot of fun acting out the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. There were so many chances to use rich language, build confidence, and develop their oracy skills through play and storytelling.



Breakwater LEGO Cities

The children in Breakwater Beach built their own LEGO cities and explored what happens when a flood sweeps through them, linking to their class book *Flooded* by Mariajo Ilustrajo. As the water began to rise, the children used powerful verbs and adjectives in their writing to show how the atmosphere in their city changed.



Nursery Insite

Shells Nursery had two amazing Insite sessions. They sang the songs they have been learning in class for their parents and carers. They also took part in lots of Christmas crafts including making snowmen biscuits, reindeer food and a pipe cleaner wreath.



Eco Friendly Christmas

Our Oldway Eco Council were selected to decorate one of the 8 trees within the Bay of Lights Illumination Trail 2025. The eco council met to design and make a range of sustainable decorations for our lovely tree. The KS1 members of our eco council had a very special job of decorating our tree with all of our beautiful decorations. Our tree will be part of the Illumination Trail, so keep your eyes peeled if you visit! What a wonderful opportunity to be a part of our local community.



Inspiring Art

Breakwater Beach have been exploring the work of Katherine Harvey and Ifeoma Anyaeji, two artists who use plastic waste to create inspiring art pieces. Their work opened our eyes to just how much waste exists in the world - and how powerfully art can highlight the importance of rethinking, reusing and recycling plastics.





To the Pupil and Staff of
Oldway Primary

YOUR SCHOOL RAISED

£329.46p

for the

2025 POPPY APPEAL



On behalf of
The Royal British Legion
Paignton Branch
Thank You

Blossoms Winter Concert

Our school choir performed beautifully at the Blossoms Winter Concert and represented Oldway fantastically. Many thanks to Mrs Layland and Mrs Rendell who generously gave their time on Friday evening and to all of our families who supported this event. The highlight was a performance of a song written by Mrs Rendell, our very talented music lead.



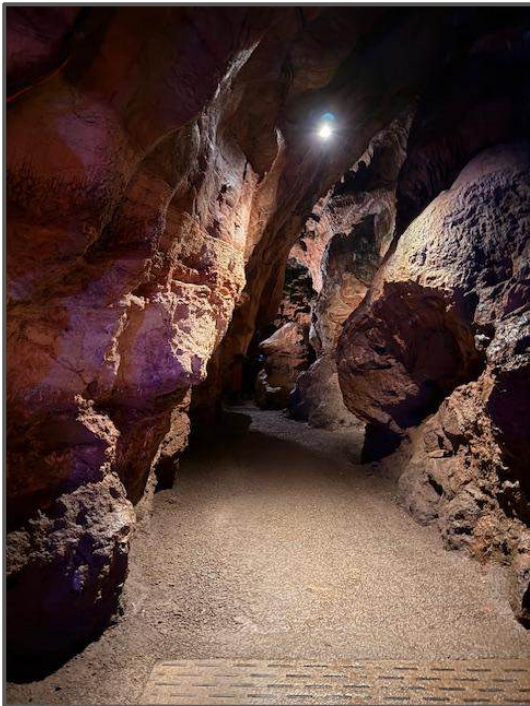
Children in Need

Thank you for the generous donations on Friday 14th November for Children in Need. We raised an amazing £393.55 for the charity.



Exploring the Caves

Year 3 had a fantastic day at Kent's Cavern. They learnt all about the Stone Age, and how the Stone Age people lived. They held artefacts, including replica skulls and a real Stone Age hand axe. Later, they walked through the caves, learning how they were formed and that people and animals lived outside. Our pupils asked thoughtful and inquisitive questions and were complimented on their behaviour by staff and members of the public at Kent's Cavern.



Paignton Pudding Riots!

Year 2 enjoyed visiting Paignton library to learn about more about our local history. We were fortunate to have expert, Jo, Iris and Lesley from the Paignton Heritage Society who told us about the influence of Brunel and the introduction of the railway. We also learnt about the Paignton Pudding Riot - where a 1.5 ton celebratory pudding was destroyed by an unruly crowd of around 18,000 people! Thank you to the Paignton Heritage Society who are always keen to help us to enrich our history curriculum at Oldway.



Mermaids and Bubbles

The first sessions of Mermaids and Bubbles have been a huge success. If you are interested in joining this club, please see the poster in this newsletter.



Football News

League Fixtures

Oldway Year 5/6 Girls' played a league fixtures event at Paignton Academy in November. The girls put on excellent displays of teamwork and skill in these first competitive games of the season. A special mention goes to Qiao Qiao, who played in goal in her first ever competitive match, pulling off an outstanding penalty save within the first minute.

Thank you to all the families who came along to offer their support.

Oldway 2-0 Roselands (Skyla x2)

Oldway 3-0 Curledge Street (Prim and Skyla x2)

Player of the matches: Qiao Qiao



We are looking for a local business to sponsor our football teams. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the school office on oldwayoffice@rivieraet.co.uk or 01803 557190.

Football News

National League Trust Cup

The Year 5/6 Girls' team also played in the National League Trust Cup, led by Torquay United Community Sports Trust, with schools from across the local area competing.

A massive well done to all of the players who braved the cold to play. They showcased excellent resilience and Miss Lewis was very proud of them.

They had a brilliant morning playing football, winning 4 of their 6 matches and scoring an impressive 9 goals in the process!

Oldway 0-1 Sherwell Valley

Oldway 3-0 Kingsteignton (Skylar x2, Skyla)

Oldway 0-0 Furzeham

Oldway 1-0 Galmpton (Skyla)

Oldway 3-0 Bishopsteignton (Skyla x2, Ava)

Oldway 1-0 Watcombe (Skylar)

Players of the tournament: Qiao Qiao and Skyla



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Football News

Last week, Oldway took two Year 5/6 Boys' teams to play a couple of friendly 6-a-side matches at White Rock Primary School.

It was great fun and the boys thoroughly enjoyed representing the school, scoring 6 goals in the process.

White Rock were victorious in both matches; scoring some fantastic goals along the way. Mr Hallett was very impressed by the resilience shown by both of the Oldway teams, battling (and smiling!) until the end.

Our goals were scored by Carter x4, Noah and Addison

Players of the matches: Carter and Addison



We are looking for a local business to sponsor our football teams. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the school office on oldwayoffice@rivieraet.co.uk or 01803 557190.

Football News

League Matches

The Year 3/4 team played their first round of league games at Paignton Academy last week. All games played were wonderfully entertaining with a mountain of goals in all games. Both teams played incredibly well, showing great skill and teamwork. We are all really pleased with their performances. They did the school proud.

Oldway (Blue)

Oldway Blue 4-3 Oldway Yellow (Lenny, Romi, Harry, Rex)

Oldway Blue 6-1 Kings Ash (Lenny, Romi, Harry, Obi, Rex)

Oldway (Yellow)

Oldway Yellow 3-4 Oldway Blue (Mason x2, Jesse)

Oldway Yellow 3-5 Preston (Mason x2, Albie)

Players of the matches: Carter and Addison





You can now follow us on Instagram!



#oldwayprimaryschool



TORBAY
COUNCIL



InfoBites for Parents-Carers: Supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs



This guide was co-created for the Torbay SEND Locality Project with input from SEND Family Voice Torbay, Children & Family Health Devon, and Torbay Council – including the Educational Psychology Service, Early Years, and Children’s Services Learning Academy.
Learning&DevelopmentHub@torbay.gov.uk

the Beach Hut Grotto

at devonmade.

Saturday 6th December · 10am - 3pm
Friday 12th December · 5pm - 8pm (Festive Event)
Saturday 20th December · 10am - 3pm



www.devonmade.co.uk

No booking needed - just turn up!
£5 per child - includes a locally made gift

Complimentary spaces available for families who might need a little extra help this Christmas. If you'd like one or to sponsor a free child place get in touch!

**Devonmade · 142 Torquay Road
Paignton · TQ3 2AH**



scan to find
out more

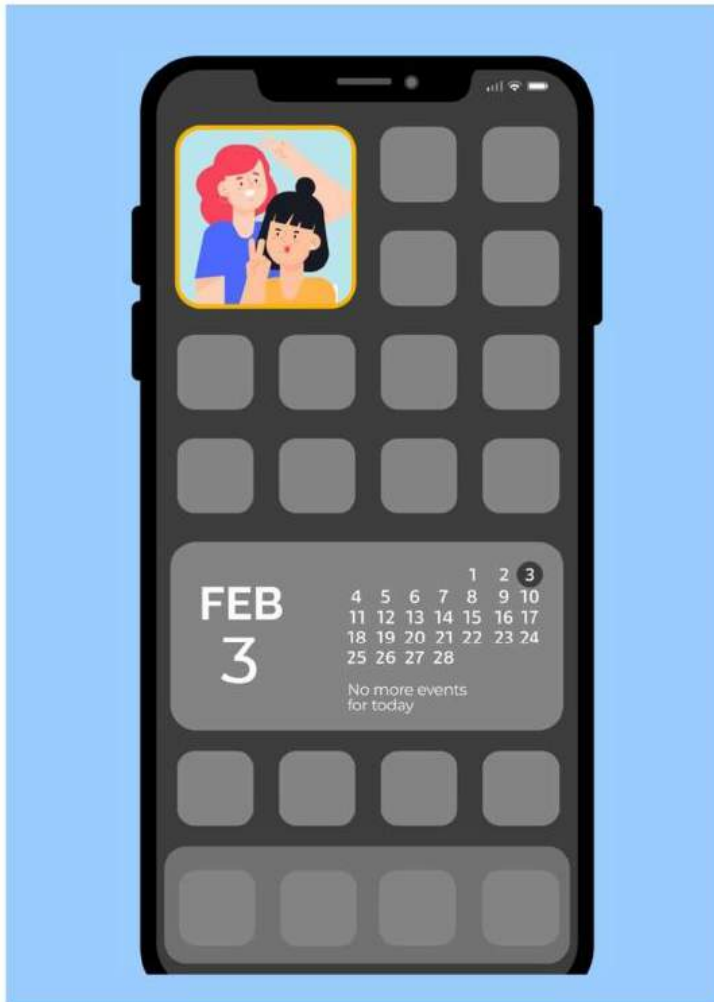


Torbay Education Support Service

Because every child matters

Working with Torbay Council and Torbay's Schools

TESS News 25th November 2025



What is Locket?

You may not have heard of Locket, but there's a strong possibility the young people in your care have. This guide will provide you with all the information and advice you need to keep the young people in your care safer.

Locket is a widget that is designed to let people share photos instantly with other users they have connected with. Instead of sending photos via an app, the photos automatically appear on the other person's phone screen on the 'widget'. It's a bit like a private social media platform right there on your home screen. Locket is free to download but offers in-app purchases.

Users can choose up to 20 friends to connect with, all of whom must also have downloaded the Locket Widget app. Once connected, the users' photos are shared with each other via their phone's home screen widget. **Essentially, users are allowing contacts to place pictures directly onto each other's iPhone home screen.**

Risks

Weak Age Verification

No Parental Controls

Image Sharing – Once an image is sent, there is no way to retrieve or delete it. The other user will have access to the photo in their history and on their widget. Once it has been sent, there isn't a way to take it back via the widget.

Full article and guidance for parents

[What is Locket? - Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#)



MERMAIDS & BUBBLES MERMAID SWIM SCHOOL

Join our **mermaid swim school** and
learn to swim like a mermaid!

Sundays from 5pm
Oldway Primary School

Choose your session at:

<https://bookwhen.com/mermaids-and-bubbles>

Spaces each week are limited so book early!



[@mermaidsandbubblesdevon](https://www.instagram.com/mermaidsandbubblesdevon)

*Always be yourself! Unless you can be a mermaid.
Then always be a mermaid!*

Attendance & Punctuality

Making sure your child goes to school on time is really important for their learning. If they're late a lot, it can cause some issues.

It's important for children to be on time for school because it helps them do their best in learning. Being punctual means forming good habits for the future. So, it's a big deal that your child gets to school on time.

Here's the deal: according to the Department for Education's rules, there's a specific time in the morning when schools stop marking who's there. If your child shows up after that time, they won't just get a late mark – they'll be marked as absent (*unauthorised absence*) for the whole morning.

If your child is late because of something important, like a doctor's appointment, the school will understand that. However, if there's no good reason, they'll mark it as an unauthorised absence.

So, it's best to be on time! Here are some things you might want to know:

Why does my child get marked absent for the whole morning even if they came before lunch? If your child arrives after a certain time in the morning, the school has to mark them absent (unauthorised absence) for the whole morning. It's a rule they have to follow.

Can I get a fine if my child is late a lot? Yes, if your child has 10 or more times of being late (unauthorised absences) without a good reason, you might get a fine.

It seems a bit strict that my child gets a late mark if they are just a couple of minutes late. Schools have rules about being on time, and being even a little late can count as not being on time. It's important to try to leave early to avoid being late.

What if our whole family overslept, and it's not my child's fault? Even if it's not your child's fault, being late because of oversleeping is still counted. They might get a late mark or be marked as absent (unauthorised absence), depending on how late they are.

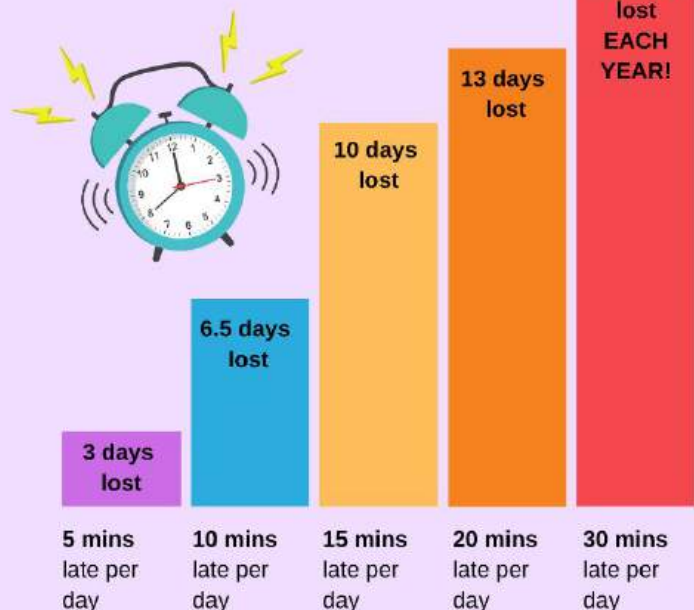
What if there's a traffic jam or something else that's not my fault? The school usually can't change the rules for one person, but if there's a big problem, like heavy snow causing delays for many people, they can make allowances.

What if I tell the school my child will be late? Do they still get a late mark? Yes, they might still get a late mark, but it's good if you tell the school. They'll know you're aware, and it helps if you say when your child will arrive and why they're late.

Do I have to tell the school if I know my child will be late? It's really helpful if you do. If your child is very late, telling the school might help them understand why and maybe say it's okay.

What if I am trying to get my child to school on time but they don't want to go? If your child is refusing to go to school on time, you can contact the school. They have a team that can work out why and maybe help your child and you.

LOST MINUTES = LOST LEARNING!



If a pupil arrives late, but before 9.05, they will be marked as late (L)

If a pupil arrives after 9.05 they will be marked as absent for that session (U)



**Absence line: 01803 557190 option 1
Absence line (text only): 07775 680213**

Autumn Term 2025	Non-Pupil Day	Tuesday 2nd September 2025
	Non-Pupil Day	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
	First day	Thursday 4th September 2025
	Half Term	Monday 27th October - Monday 3rd November 2025 inclusive
	Non-Pupil Day	Monday 3rd November 2025
	Last day	Friday 19th December 2025
	Christmas holidays	Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026 inclusive

Spring Term 2026	First Day	Monday 5th January 2026
	Half Term	Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026
	Last day	Thursday 2nd April 2026
	Easter holidays	Friday 3rd – Friday 17th April 2026

Summer Term 2026	First day	Monday 20th April 2026
	Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
	Half term	Monday 25th May - Monday 1st June 2026 inclusive
	Non-Pupil Day	Monday 1st June 2026
	Non-Pupil Day	Tuesday 2nd June 2026
	Last day	Tuesday 21st July 2026
	Non-Pupil Day	Wednesday 22nd July 2026
	Summer holidays	Thursday 23rd July - Friday 4th September 2026 inclusive

Oldway School Uniform

Please see our school uniform detailed below. You can purchase items school uniform with the school logo from [Riviera School Days](#) and we also promote unbranded school items from local supermarkets.

Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Navy V-neck jumper/sweatshirt/ cardigan● Charcoal grey or black trousers/ skirt/ pinafore dress● Light blue short sleeved polo shirt
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Navy V-neck jumper/sweatshirt/ cardigan● Charcoal grey or black trousers/ shorts or skirt/ pinafore dress● Light blue short sleeved polo shirt● Blue gingham dress
Sports kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Light blue PE shirt available● Navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings● Trainers (not plimsolls) <p>On PE days, we would like children to still wear an Oldway jumper or cardigan. We recommend that the children wear tracksuit bottoms/ leggings in the winter months. We request that children DON'T wear a tracksuit top.</p>

