### Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 25 March 2024



### Mrs Allen's Retirement

The school has begun saying goodbye to Mrs Allen this week.

Her retirement marks a significant milestone, which we celebrated with an assembly that brought together pupils and staff in her honour.

The school orchestra played Disney songs and year 6 sang 'When I grow up' from the Matilda musical which is a poignant reminder of the aspirations and dreams that educators like Mrs. Allen help to nurture.

Mr Welcomme amused both pupils and staff and talked about what has happened over the past 17 years since Mrs Allen has been our Headteacher when social media was in its infancy, and smartphones were not yet ubiquitous.

"Before Lady Gaga, One Direction, Harry Styles, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift & when Ariana Grande was just 13 years old & just started out on Broadway. Leona Lewis had just won the X Factor. When Myspace was bigger than Facebook, planking was a thing & everyone learnt 'The Cup Song'. Countless changes of policies & practices in education and law."

"6 Prime Ministers, 4 US Presidents (incl. 1st Black US President), Queen Elizabeth II Diamond & Platinum Jubilee & sadly, her passing. The ascension of King Charles III, Royal Weddings (& divorces), introduction of plastic money, leaving of the EU, and COVID-19".

"Advances of technology - The first I-pad & I-phone. When Pokémon Go was introduced, no Minecraft, no Fortnite, no Tik Tok, Instagram, WhatsApp. No Spotify, no Amazon Prime, Netflix wasn't available in the UK. No Disney +, no Snapchat, no Amazon music, and no Apple music."

It was a lovely way to bridge the past with hope for the future, as Mrs. Allen steps into the next chapter of her life.

The children presented Mrs Allen with a poster of fingerprints which they have contributed towards. We would especially like to thank Mrs Clarke for her ingenious work in creating this unique gift.





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### **School News**

### Last day of the Spring term - Thursday 28 March 2024

Please remember that pupils will be finishing earlier at 1.30 pm.

### Lost property and equipment

Next week all pupils will be asked to empty their lockers and take their PE kits home. Please encourage your child to check for any lost property in the school hall and their classrooms. Any unclaimed, unnamed items will be disposed of appropriately at the end of next week.

#### **Book Looks**

Thank you to everyone who came into school this week to look at your children's books, we hope you found it informative.

### Mobile phones and smart devices

The School strongly advises that mobile devices should not be brought into school at all. The School accepts that there may be particular circumstances in which a parent wishes their child to have a personal mobile device for their journey to and from school.

Personal mobile devices which are brought into school must be turned off (not placed on silent) and handed it during morning registration or to the office if arriving late. All phones must be clearly labelled with the child's name. All phones will be locked away during the school day. Phones are then collected from the hall at the end of the day. They must remain turned off and out of sight until the child has left the school grounds.

Where a personal mobile device is brought into school, it is entirely at the pupil's and parents' own risk. If a personal mobile device is seen by a member of staff, that member of staff will be required to confiscate it immediately. In that way, the device will not be a distraction to either the owner or other pupils.

It is forbidden to record photographic images (still or video) or sound recordings of staff or pupils at any time without their explicit permission. Any pupil caught filming another person and/or uploading images or video onto the Internet, or suspected of having done so, or in possession of inappropriate material will have the matter reported to their parents, the School Standards Board and possibly the police where appropriate.

In accordance with the Trust's Email Acceptable Usage Policy and E -Safety Policy, the School reserves the right to search the content of any confiscated device where there is a reasonable suspicion that it may contain undesirable material, including those which promote pornography, racism violence or bullying.

Mobile devices with the ability to function interactively without connection to a phone are not permitted in school (e.g. Apple watches and other smart devices). This is because the data and information stored within the device remains whether in 'flight mode' or not, potentially leading to distraction or misuse. Mobile devices with the ability to work 'offline' (such as Fitbits etc) must be switched to the offline mode and be disconnected from the smart device (usually the phone). If a pupil is seen to be accessing external communication through such devices, it will be confiscated in line with this policy.

### Policies | (fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)





### Online Messaging

It is coming to our attention that there is an increase in online messaging that is unpleasant and sometimes threatening. This is not acceptable behaviour, and we urge you to report in the first instance to CEOP Police via the link: https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/



# Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors





### Music

After a very busy end to 2023, you would think 2024 would slow down. Well, it's been as busy as ever for FMS music department! You may have previously read about the enormous achievement of 45 of our singers at the end of January. They performed as part of an 8000 strong choir for Young Voices at the O2 Arena in London. Since then, it's been fabulous to see an increase of curious learners who wish to try out different instruments at break & lunchtimes. A great way to explore, be inspired & develop a further love for music. The music room is also a great place to meet new people & have fun, while learning & being creative.

As ever, it's been fantastic, and an absolute privilege to see the joy of music in evident in our pupils. Theirs confidence continue to develop, and their passion for musical excellence shines- week on week. Both in class & in music clubs, the children have worked on developing their musicianship skills, celebrating their character, and displaying their 'curious learner' side. They support one another through challenges and often surprise themselves when they reflect on the knowledge they've acquired, & the progress they've made in a short space of time. The positive effects and transformational impact music has on pupils, has been so important to many of our pupils, and exactly the reason why its place in the curriculum should continue to be valued so highly.

I must say a huge 'Thank You' to Mrs Allen for continued support with music at FMS. Not just while I've been here, but across the last 17 years as Headteacher. You've allowed the children the opportunity to experience the rich culture that music brings, delivered across a variety of platforms in multiple different ways. Very best wishes to you on your well- deserved retirement!

Across all years, the children have engaged well with activities from across a range of eras, cultural styles & traditions-and have been working towards performance opportunities.

### Year 5

Pupils in Year 5 have been extra lucky this term. They've enjoyed being immersed in the culture of Chinese New Year, and the events & celebrations that surround it. I've been able to share my own experiences of living & teaching in Hong Kong amidst some very challenging times. The focus has been on sharing my experience of leading a children's Chinese Drumming group for Chinese New Year celebrations in Hong Kong.

The children have learnt different rhythms from the Chinese Lion Dance routine, as well as an array of detail about Chinese New Year celebrations across South East Asia. Pupils have used Japanese Taiko Drums & bachi in their lessons, to play the rhythms. They have explored different rhythmic notation & started to compose their own structured pieces of music, using notes from the pentatonic scale. The children have also learnt to count to four in Mandarin, as well as how to say Happy Chinese New Year in Mandarin & wish each other well in Cantonese, the traditional language of Hong Kong.



#### Year 6

Year 6 have had an exciting new start to the New Year in the form of Musical Theatre! In class, pupils have explored a mix of playing, singing & acting roles from different musicals from the last 100 years. Starting with learning about the legendary Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Cary Grant & Debbie Reynolds, amongst others. They have also stretched into the more modern age of musicals. Pupils have been working on their own mini performances of different songs from some famous Story Musicals. This has included The Wiz, Fame, School of rock, Matilda, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Grease.



To immerse the children in reality, they have even had a small insight experience of what it's like to be in an audition for a show. Some of the children found my impression of being a director hilarious!

To help further your childs interest further and to give them an extra opportunity to develop their musical theatre skills, they might like to come along to our Music Theatre club on Monday lunchtimes. They can see me for a lunch pass if they'd like to come along & see what all the fuss is about!

#### Year 7

In Year 7, pupils have returned to the study of some of the great composers from Western Europe - this time, from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (the Romantic era of Music). They have revisited reading music from the stave, as well as developing their confidence with note names & lengths. They've also played a mix of simple & more challenging melodies with different time signatures from works by Tchaikovsky, Brahms & Beethoven. The children have continued to develop not only their existing instrumental skills, but also tried their hand with playing different instruments.



They have listened to a variety of pieces from some of the greatest musicians from the era, and have discussed the context of the pieces, composers & the world at that point in history. The children have learnt about the expansion of the orchestra during the Romantic era and the transformation of sound that pushed the boundaries of what would have been deemed unacceptable in the previous Classical era that the children explored in Year 6. It's been fantastic to also share works from 'hidden figure' female composers across the year. Link to the Spotify Playlist that went out is below.

Please note that clicking the links will take you to an external site over which, we have no control. By clicking the link to the Spotify Playlist, you do so at your own risk.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0dFFglFgx6yNdc0IYIOXXZ?si=lq8b28S6SIuI0Fld101AJg&pi=e-50foETcQSBm1

#### Year 8



Pupils in Year 8 have been exploring the many different avenues of songwriting. The children have started to get to grips with what a DAW is (Digital Audio Workstation) and have developed a basic working knowledge of how to use MPC Beats music production software to create their very own hit songs. They've returned to previous knowledge about chords and have been applying them in different ways.

They've experimented with playing notes of the chords in different orders, and across multiple instruments, as well as all together. Pupils have expanded their knowledge & understanding of how they form different chords, and combined this with knowledge about key signatures, and the circle of fifths.

Listening to songs from a variety of genres & styles has helped to expand the children's knowledge & awareness of songwriting from different starting points, which sets the tone for them to compose freely, a song in the style of their own choice. The children have also been linking their knowledge & skills with real world scenarios, as they consider the reality of what it's like to work in the music industry. They've learnt about copyright, licensing, collaboration agreements and understanding how payment is broken down to make sure everyone involved in the songwriting & performing process gets paid. They've also explored the pros & cons of selling music via a distribution website, as opposed to having their own website, and selling music via only one means.

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### Parents & family members

A huge thank you for continued support from Parents & family members for your encouragement for your child taking an interest in music and learning an instrument. If there are any parents or family members who are fellow musicians, I'd love to hear from you! Rather than the children having to listen to me all the time, it'd be great to have someone else speak with them & inspire them to take action for their future. Do we have anyone who's experienced working first hand in the music industry? Anyone in a band? Orchestra? Secret composers for TV & film? Do you know anyone who does?

If you are or know someone who could help inspire our youngsters. Please get in touch via Class Charts or the School Office.

#### Exam Success!

Some of our pupils have celebrated their hard work & dedication, with the fabulous news that they have passed their graded music exams. Tutored, supported & entered for their exams by their visiting peripatetic music teacher, these pupils are a fantastic inspiration for others. Not just from their lovely certificates, but the months and many hours preparation for exams like these. The children's resilience, adaptability and perseverance are a shining example of our core values here at Ferndown Middle School. Congratulations to everyone involved!

### Music for wellbeing

More than ever, music is so important to so many of our children. This website is a fantastic resource to help ease stress, anxiety and to customise playlists to help relax

https://www.recoverycollegeonline.co.uk/recovery-wellbeing/music/

### **Music Trips**

Some of our pupils were fortunate to be able to experience the brilliance of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, playing music from legendary film composers John Williams & Hans Zimmer. At a live concert at the Lighthouse Centre for the Arts in Poole, some of our pupils were in awe as it was their first live Orchestra experience.

### Musical activities & opportunities outside of School

Please have a look at the websites below for other music activities in the close area (West Howe/Poole) that may take your child's interest:

### For those interested in Music production (like we do with MPC Beats in music lessons):

For ages 12+ Bournemouth Academy of Modern Music (BAMM) at Absolute Music Production Club on Sundays. The chance to gain an RSL's Rockschool Music Production grade. The next intake is May 2023. You need to go through the application process online. <a href="https://www.bamodernmusic.com/production-club">https://www.bamodernmusic.com/production-club</a>

### Under 16s Band Jam

For pupils who want to play in a band and have mastered their first few chords, beats or scales on their instrument: <a href="https://www.bamodernmusic.com/band-jam-under-16s">https://www.bamodernmusic.com/band-jam-under-16s</a>

I look forward to sharing further musical successes with you in the future.

Very best wishes,

Mr Welcomme



### Sports News

### Monday 4th March Year 7&8 Girls PEDSSA Football v Allenbourn at home

In the cold and wet conditions our girls battled to a deserved victory against Allenbourn. We played some super football and managed to secure a victory. The girls played ever so well and were always on the front foot and should be extremely proud of their performance. Well played girls. We thank Allenbourn for making the visit to us on a cold and wet Monday.

### Thursday 7th March – Year 6 Rippa Rugby Festival at Chapel Gate

It was an absolute pleasure to attend this amazing rugby event at Chapel Gate organised by Rippa Rugby. There were many schools present, and our pupils enjoyed a fabulous morning's rugby. In some free-flowing rugby, we managed to win every match we played. This was a great achievement as we played some schools with some great rugby pedigree and our pupils were extremely proud of their performance when they returned to school. Mr Widger was glowing of not only the skill level but the respect and sportsmanship from our team towards the officials and other teams. We thank Stuart Gallacher from Rippa Rugby for hosting this brilliant event. We also congratulate all that took part and thank Mr Widger for leading the team in this event.

### Tuesday 19th March - Year 5&6 Dorset Girls Football League at home

In the fourth time of asking we managed to host this event in welcoming Muscliffe, Blandford and Emmanuel to our school. Typically, the rain was present but that did not deter us from a brilliant afternoon of football. We won our first match against Muscliffe and scored some great goals.

In our second game we defeated Blandford and scored some lovely goals. We had to win our final match against Emmanuel to progress to the County Finals. We raced into an early lead and doubled the lead after half time. This enabled us to win the match 2-0 and qualify for the county semi-finals. This is a deserved achievement from our girls as they have produced some excellent football this season. Well played – I am ever so proud of you, and you should be too. We thank all that visited us and were so patient to and flexible to get this competition played. Also, a special thank you to our Year 8 Sports Leaders who officiated with such a professional attitude.

### 21st March 2023 - Year 6 Dorset Schools Football County Cup Semi Final v Emmanuel Middle School

We hosted our friends from Emmanuel Middle School in this eagerly anticipated Semi-Final in the Dorset Schools Football Cup. Both teams have had great results to get this far and in a tense first half the scores could not be separated, and it was 0-0 at half time. In the second half things opened up a little but much of the match was extremely tight and both teams tried but could not score. Extra time loomed and in extra time Bailey for poked a shot that rolled agonisingly against the post and bounced to safety.

The deadlock could not be broken, and the game went to the dreaded penalty shootout. Emmanuel missed one penalty and we scored our penalties to send us into wild jubilant scenes. We won 5-4 in the shootout. Our boys were respectful to our opponents and shook their hands and we thank Mr Brennan and Emmanuel for contributing to a tense match befitting of the occasion. Penalties are never a nice way to lose, especially in a semi-final and we congratulate both teams for stepping up and being brave in showing the character to take a penalty. Well played Ferndown Middle. Your efforts are massively appreciated and I'm extremely proud of your dedication to our school. Congratulations in reaching the Dorset Schools Football Final, you massively deserve it.

Yours in sport, Mr Higgins





Wellbeing



Children can often be guarded about their emotions or any difficulties they're experiencing. This reticence can extend to chats with their parents. A study by the Office for National Statistics found that 64% of children reported regularly talking to their mum about "things that matter", and even fewer (45%) held conversations of the same kind with their dad.

It's incredibly important, of course, for young people to have someone to confide in when they're confused, upset or unsure of themselves – and to know that they can do so without fear of being judged or punished. This week, guide explores how to encourage open and honest discussions with children, empowering them to open up if they need help.

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### **Key Dates**

Below are some of the key dates for the next half term.

Wed 27 March 2024 Year 8 Arson Awareness Day

Thurs 28 March 2024 Last day of term, pupils finishing at 1.30 pm

Wed 24 April 2024 Year 8 HPV Immunisations

Fri 29 March 2024 First day of Easter break

Fri 26 April 2024 Tutor group and year 8 photos

Mon 13 May – Thurs 16 May 2024 KS2 SATs

**Residential and Visits** 

20 - 24 May 2024 Year 6 Residential to Hooke Court

20 - 23 May 2024 Year 7 Residential to Butchers Coppice

17 - 21 June 2024 Year 8 Residential to Woodmill Outdoor Activity Centre



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The Dorset Parent Guide to support your child's special education needs

A copy of the Dorset Parent Guide to support your child's special education needs can be found on our <u>website</u>.



### Dorset Education Advice Line (DEAL)

Dorset Education Advice Line is a phone line for parents, carers and professionals who support children who may have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

This advice line is part of Dorset Councils Local Offer to children, young people and families and will work alongside existing services such as SENDIASS and the Education Psychology helpline.

Further details and a contact form can be found on the following link:

Dorset Education Advice Line (DEAL) - Dorset Council



Extra-Curricular Clubs Spring Term 2, from 19 February to 28 March 2024

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
	Boys Football – Years 6, 7 & 8	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Field	SH
Monday Lunchtime	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	Music Theatre Group - All years (Full)	30 mins	12:40-1:10	Music Room	SW
	Netball – Year 5 & 6	50 mins	15.30–16.20	Playground/Gym	SG & AC
Manday After School	Rippa Rugby - Years 5, 6 and 7 (External club paid) 19 Feb to 25 Mar  Welcome to Rippa Rugby	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	External
Monday After School	Orchestra – Invite only	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Music Room	SW
	Tennis (External club paid) <u>Live4tennisbookingform</u> 19 Feb to 25 Mar Collection outside the school reception office	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
	Girls Football – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SG
	Gymnastics – All years	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Gym	SH
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45-1.10	Library	GB
Tuesday Lunchtime	Young Voices practice (Full)	30 mins	12.40-1.10	Music Room	SW
	Youth Club (Year 7 invite only)	30 mins	12.15-12.30	Youth Club	LB
	French for Holiday – All years	30 mins	12.15-12.45	LA15	FS
	STEM Club – Years 7 & 8 First 10 to sign up with Miss Dale	30 mins	12.35–13.05	PA02	KD/NBA
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball (External club paid) 9 Jan to 26 Mar <u>TeamTheme Booking Form</u>	1 hour	15.25–16.25	Gym	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
	Basketball – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Field	SG
Wednesday Lunchtime	Running Club – All years	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Field	SH
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB



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	Samba - All years	25 mins	12:45–1:10	Music Room	SW
	Choir – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Music Room	NP
	Spanish – All years	20 mins	12.50–1.10	LA6	EBS
	Computers – Years 6, 7 & 8	20 1111113	12.30-1.10	LAO	LDS
	Max 15 places, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30-1.00	PA03	MM
	Craft Club – All years	25 '	12.40.1.15	140	5)4/
	First 15 children on the day, no need to sign up	25 mins	12.40-1.15	LA9	EW
	Art Club – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	PA10	NC
	20 pupils, sign-up sheet on Art door				
	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SG
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
Thursday Lunchtime	The Ark – All years With Miriam Biggs local youth worker. A club where they explore the Christian faith through games, crafts, and fun	30 mins	12.40-1.10	LA13	MB, VG
	Science – Year 5 (Sign up with Mrs Johns)	35 mins	12.35-1.10	PA2	CJ
	School Council – Every other Thursday	1 hour	12.15-1.15	PA4	BR
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Thursday After school	Roleplaying Club – Alternate KS2/3	1 hour	15.20–16.20	LA3	AM
301001	Arts and Crafts – All years 10 places – Sign up with AM/LP	1 hour	15.20-16.20	PA12	AM/LP
	Football – Year 5	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	MW
	Young Voices practice (Full)	30 mins	12.40-1.10	Music Room	SW
Friday Lunchtime	DT Club – All years - opportunity to complete unfinished practical work First 12 pupils each week	30 mins	12.15-12.45	PA11	AM
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	Eco Club – All years	30 mins	12.15 –12.45	LA11	ML
	Dance – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Hall	KZ



### Please note the following:

- Please read through the choices with your child and ensure they are clear on where the club is held and the joining instructions.
- Please be aware that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure the child knows that they are attending an after-school club.
- Parental permission is required for your child to attend an after-school club, please use this <u>link</u> to confirm your consent.
- Please make arrangements to collect children following an after-school club and make sure that the child is aware of these arrangements.
- We will endeavour not to cancel after-school clubs at short notice if however, this is necessary; either ParentMail, telephone call, or SMS will notify parents.
- External club arrangements are with the club and not the school.

### **Breakfast Club**



The breakfast club runs each morning for pupils across all year groups. Cost: £3.25 per breakfast.

Start time 7.30 am (Pupils need to arrive no later than 7.40 am and must sign in at reception). Finish time 8.30 am.

It is a fun and sociable environment where pupils enjoy a varied breakfast in the company of other pupils.

A selection of cereals, toast and drinks are provided.

Booking forms can be found on the school website: Breakfast Club | (fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)



### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

### Winter Term Dates 2023

Inset Day	Friday 1 September 2023	Bank holidays in the autumn term
Autumn term starts	Monday 4 September 2023	Monday 25 December 2023
Half-term	Monday 23 to Friday 27 October 2023	Tuesday 26 December 2023
Autumn term ends	Friday 15 December 2023	
Christmas holidays	Monday 18 December to Monday 1 January 2024	

### Spring Term Dates 2024

Spring term starts	Tuesday 2 January 2024	Bank holidays in the spring term
Inset Day	Friday 9 February 2024	New Year's Day: Monday 1 January 2024
Half-term	Monday 12 to Friday 16 February 2024	Good Friday: Friday 29 March 2024
Spring term ends	Thursday 28 March 2024	• Easter Monday: Monday 1 April 2024
Easter holiday	Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April 2024	

### Summer Term Dates 2024

Summer term starts	Monday 15 April 2024	Bank holidays in the summer term
Half-term	Monday 27 to 31 May 2024	Early May bank holiday: Monday 6 May 2024
Inset Day	Monday 3 June 2024	Spring bank holiday: Monday 27 May 2024
Summer term ends	Friday 19 July 2024	Summer bank holiday: Monday 26 August 2024
Inset Day	Monday 22 July 2024	
Inset Day	Tuesday 23 July 2024	





### Term Dates 2024 - 2025

		Autumn Term Monday 2 September 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024		
	Autumn	Staff Training Day	Monday 2 September 2024	
			Tuesday 3 September 2024	
	Term	Welcome Back to School	Wednesday 4 September 2024	
Half Term Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 Novem	Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024			
	2024	Last Day of Term	Friday 20 December 2024	
		Christmas Holidays	Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025	

Spring	Spring Term Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025		
Spring	Welcome Back to School	Monday 6 January 2025	
Term	Half Term	Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025	
2025	Last Day of Term	Friday 04 April 2025	
2025	Easter Holiday	Monday 7 April 2025 to Monday 21 April 2025	

	Summer Term Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Tuesday 22 July 2025		
	Welcome Back to School	Tuesday 22 April 2025	
Summer	Bank Holiday	Monday 5 May 2025	
Half Term Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30	Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025		
Term	Staff Training Day	Monday 30 June 2025	
2025	Last Day of Term	Friday 18 July 2025	
	Staff Training Day	Monday 21 July 2025	
	Staff Training Day	Tuesday 22 July 2025	