

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 10 June 2024



Schools News

Stan's 102nd Birthday

Kings Park nursing home contacted us in May with a goal for one of their residents ... they wanted Stan to receive at least 102 different birthday cards for his special day, and present to him in a lovely gift box on his birthday as a special surprise for him.

A call was put out to our pupils, the art room was full over one lunch time with pupils busy making their cards, it was really lovely to see so many of them coming together to help! They managed to make 132 birthday cards for Stan!

On Tuesday 4 June a group of pupils together with Mrs Clark and Mrs Barter visited the home and presented Stan with his cards.

Thank you to all of the pupils that got involved, we couldn't have done that without them!



Reporting arrangements

At Castleman Academy Trust, we are always looking to improve our offer to our children and families. We are keen to better understand how families feel about our reporting arrangements and are seeking your views on our current reporting systems and your suggestions for improvements and developments. Here is a link to a survey we would be grateful if you would complete by 17th June 2024. <https://forms.office.com/e/LaW1kw8uwX> The results will be analysed, and your suggestions used to help us improve our reporting arrangements. Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to hearing all your ideas!

Rhonda Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Castleman Academy Trust

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School Orchestra and Fundraising

When it comes to music lessons, we're proud that we provide every pupil with nearly 1 hour of specialist music, as a timetabled lesson every week. The pupils are incredibly lucky, with access to a wide variety of instruments & music styles, including music technology. Along with the freedom to explore, discover, create & inspire one another.

In an ideal world, we would also offer extra free instrumental tuition for every child in the school too, that way they could have a focussed 1-1 or small group lesson with one of our visiting Peripatetic music team. This would allow for extra time to grow in confidence with their instrument & focus on skills, knowledge & technique, outside of 30 other pupils in the same space. Unfortunately, at the present time, we are not in a position to be able to do this. Gone are the days of past with free lessons from the Government. Pupils that wish to have peripatetic tuition have to have the lessons paid for by their family members.

At the end of this term, we will sadly have five musicians from our Orchestra departing to start their new journeys at their Upper School. The question is- who will replace them?! The answer is- without many of our pupils learning those instruments- no one! Fortunately, we have some amazing pupils at Ferndown Middle, who 'walk & talk' values that are at the core of our school.

One of our Flautists, Evie came up with the idea that she wanted to do something about this. She wanted to provide pupils with funding to use towards the cost of instrumental tuition. So, our Orchestra will continue to grow in numbers. A plan with her local Church evolved, she got two of her friends on board- and they set out to bring a little light into the world.

I'm delighted to say, from Evie's idea- grew great success. After a cake sale at St Anthony's Church last Sunday- £240 was raised! A variety of sweet treats were on offer, with a sprinkle of curiosity, determination, strategic thinking & planning, immense kindness, courage & bravery. These funds are very gratefully received, and will be used for pupils, who might otherwise find access to pay for tuition a challenge. Congratulations to Evie, Alessandra & Weza. And huge heartfelt thanks to you all- and to everyone who donated.

Very best wishes
Mr S Welcomme
Co-ordinator of Music



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The Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year Awards 2024 with ABRSM – nominate an inspiring teacher!

Nominations are now open for The Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year Awards in partnership with the UK's leading music exam board ABRSM recognise and reward incredible music teachers.

During the parent workshops we received lots of positive feedback about Mr Welcomme inspiring students so parents may feel like they would like to nominate him for this award.

If you nominate him, we could win £3,000 of musical equipment for our school.

Teachers can be nominated into ONE of the following categories:

1. Teachers of Primary School Age
2. Teachers of Secondary/High School Age
3. SEND Music Teachers
4. Visiting Music Teachers
5. Best Music Learning Initiative

As a Middle School - we fall across the Primary & Secondary category, so technically, he could be entered for both-double the chance of a win. You may also want to nominate in another one of the categories for our peri teachers for example.

The five category winners will each receive £3,000 to spend on musical instrument and equipment of their choice for their school, all thanks to **Viking**. **Entries close on Friday 12 July 2024.**

How to submit a nomination

1. Go to win.classicfm.com/teacher-of-the-year-2024
2. In the text boxes provided, provide the name, address, and email address of the teacher you are nominating, and the name and address of the school they are affiliated with, if applicable. Please note you must have obtained the consent of the person you're nominating.
3. In the forms provided, describe in 500 words or less why the teacher you are nominating deserves recognition; and in 500 words or less, provide a list of examples of the great work they have done.
4. Register your details.

All eligible submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges including one independent judge, according to the teacher's impact, their ambition and ability to inspire, and how they have been a role model for great teaching practice.



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Summer Reading Challenge



Joining the Summer Reading Challenge

Children sign up through their local Dorset library and receive a collector's poster. They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer, collecting special stickers. Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a medal when they have read 6 books, and a certificate is sent to school in the Autumn term.



Illustrations by Natalie Quirk and logo artwork by Lucia Leonard. All © The Reading Agency 2024.



2024 Summer Reading Challenge, Marvellous Makers

The Summer Reading Challenge is a FREE holiday activity for children. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence.

This year's Challenge is all about creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone! Children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite creative arts, and access free activities at the library. We can't wait to get creative!

The Summer Reading Challenge is developed by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries. This year's theme has been developed in partnership with Create, a leading charity bringing the creative arts to those who need it most. The bespoke illustrations for Marvellous Makers are created by the brilliant illustrator, Natalie Quirk.

Library events



Libraries will have events planned throughout the summer for children to come to. Keep checking our web pages as more events are added all the time.
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/whats-on-in-dorset-libraries>



The Challenge starts on Saturday 6 July

Schools online author event with John Dougherty to launch the Summer Reading Challenge 3 July 9.15 - 10 am



How the Summer Reading Challenge benefits children

- helps with reading confidence and independence
- prevents the summer reading 'dip'
- helps with the successful transition between year groups and key stages
- encourages family engagement with reading



Our Library Service mission is to **Inspire, Connect and Enable** our communities



SKILLS & LEARNING
 Adult Community Education



FN1531F Autism Awareness

A FREE short course for parents, Grandparents, and carers of children under 16

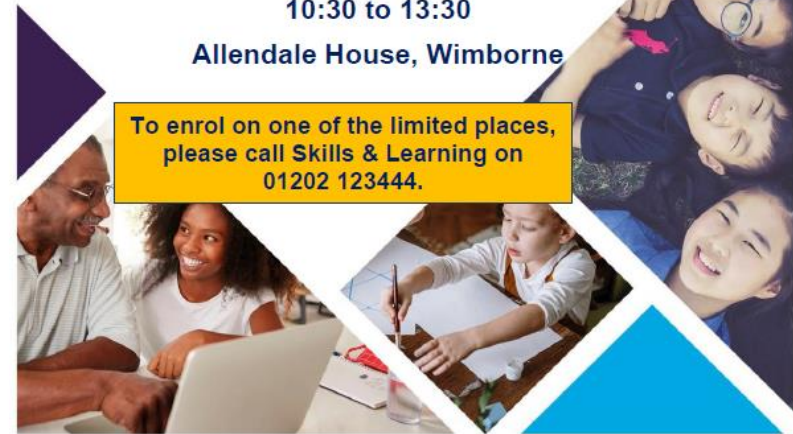
This friendly 3-hour introduction will help you to develop a greater understanding and awareness of Autism.

Friday 21st June 2024

10:30 to 13:30

Allendale House, Wimborne

To enrol on one of the limited places, please call Skills & Learning on 01202 123444.



01202 123444 www.skillsandlearningace.com enquiries@salbcp.com



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Careers Newsletter Summer 2024

Careers Presentation



At the end of last term, the KS3 pupils were given a presentation by Mr Brodie. He left school at 18 and pursued a job in the theatre industry. His presentation was inspiring, and he showed the pupils clips of stage productions, like School of Rock, Dirty Dancing and Wicked. He talked to them about how his hobby, love of acting, led to an interest in behind the scenes theatre jobs and from then on, the sky has been the limit. He has travelled the world and continues to develop his career.

Y7 Careers Visit – Butchers Coppice

The Year 7 pupils had an amazing two days at Butchers Coppice. As well as learning about the different career paths the adults had followed, they also tried a range of new experiences like zip lines, abseiling, Cavebus, Leap of Faith, crate stacking and tomahawk throwing.

The groups showed great transferable skills like enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a determination to face some daunting challenges and everyone seems to have had fun. Pupils will follow up this visit with more careers teaching in the classroom.

My thanks go to the staff at Butchers Coppice, most of whom are volunteers and the teaching and support staff who gave up their time too to make the trip a great success.

Remember Xello

Ferndown Middle School uses software called Xello to help deliver our careers programme. This software enables students to work individually on any mobile device, whether in school or at home, to explore career options for the future. Both Year 7 and Year 8 have used Xello. As parents, you too can access Xello. This could provide you with the chance to discuss future goals for your child. Please ask your child to give you a demonstration!



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Future Events

Our careers curriculum still has much to offer our KS3 pupils this term.

We have an HR consultant from Oyster Recruitment coming in to show the pupils what a CV should contain, the aim of this is for the pupils to identify areas they are doing well in and some areas they will need to develop. There is also a careers presentation from Hilton Hotels where the pupils will gain an insight into a range of jobs in the hospitality sector. The talk will inform the pupils about the qualifications, skills and attitudes they are looking for.

The local church has also offered to come in and talk about jobs within the church.

Year 7 will also be given a careers talk from one of our governors.

There is a careers morning at Ferndown Upper School planned for Year 8 on 18th July. The children will have a chance to explore the school and a range of career themed talks and activities will be covered.

External visitors enhance our curriculum and open the pupils' eyes to the many career paths and options available. My thanks to everyone who has given up their time to help.

Another Plea For Help

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to businesses, employers and parents who have come into school and talked about their company or job.

Going forward we need more businesses and employers to spend about 20 minutes talking to the KS3 pupils about future career options. Please contact the school if you can help with this.

Mrs Baynham

Careers Leader

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Wellbeing

Attached to the newsletter is a guide to knife harm for parents and carers containing facts to help you feel more confident when talking to your child about knife crime.

This guide was produced in collaboration between the Ben Kinsella Trust and the Kent & Medway Violence Reduction Unit.

It can be extremely worrying to think that your child is involved in something as dangerous as knife or gun crime. They may not be carrying a weapon themselves but are associated with people who are. The natural reaction is to panic – but this won't resolve the situation and could push your child away.



Whatever the reason a young person is involved in knife crime, it is likely to have something to do with fear. Even if they don't admit it, a young person getting involved in weapons will be frightened, and continuously looking over their shoulder. They will be waiting for the police to stop and search them, or to be confronted by others, and in the end will be grateful for a 'way out' of that lifestyle.

What can you do?

Learn about the law:

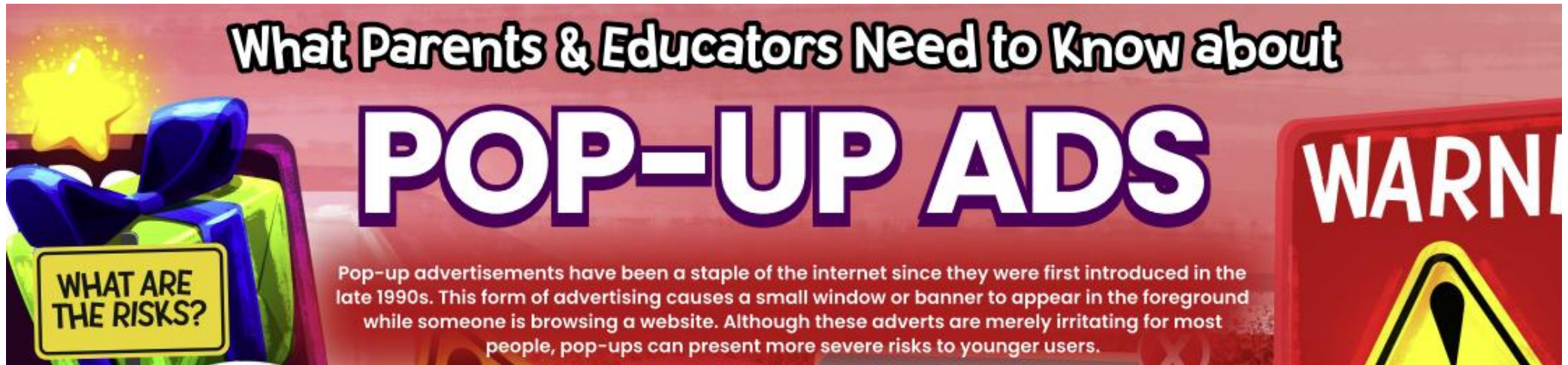
- Carrying a knife or a gun is illegal.
- Police are legally allowed to use their powers to stop and search someone if they believe a weapon is being carried.
- Having a criminal record could stop your child gaining entry into a university, getting a job, and could even place restrictions on them travelling to some countries.

Make your child aware of the consequences:

- Carrying a weapon increases the risk of them being injured themselves.
- They could go to jail for up to 4 years if they're found in possession of a knife or 5 years for a gun, even if they're carrying it for someone else.
- In a worst case scenario, they could end up using the weapon and seriously hurting someone.
- There are tips and advice on how best to start this conversation with a young person about knives and knife harm below.

Talk to the parents of your child's friends:

- If you're worried, parents of your child's friends probably are too. They may see your child in different places, hanging out with different friends and could help you get a better understanding of the situation. By working together, you could raise awareness of the issue.



A study from the University of Michigan reviewed 135 different apps aimed at children and found that 100% of free apps and 88% of paid apps (many of which were labelled 'educational'), included pop-up advertisements. With some pop-ups being associated with deceptive marketing and potential scams, it can be concerning to see just how prevalent these online features are.

Despite the risks pop-up advertising poses to people online – especially children – there is plenty you can do to minimise the threat. This week's guide explains the safety concerns of pop-ups in detail and lets you know how to help children and young people enjoy their time online, without worrying about being taken in by such marketing.

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Key Dates

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

Wed 12 June 2024	Year 8 Alcohol Awareness
Thurs 13 June 2024	Challenging behaviour at home KS2 workshop
Fri 28 June 2024	Transfer Day
Tues 2 July 2024	KS2 Book Look
Wed 3 July 2024	KS3 Book Look
Wed 3 July 2024	Sports Day

Residential and Visits

17 - 21 June 2024	Year 8 Residential to Woodmill Outdoor Activity Centre
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Do you know about...



free school meals



If your child qualifies for free school meals, they will have a **healthy meal every school day**, and can get:

- access to **free holiday clubs**
- **extra money for their school** towards more teachers and activities

You could save over **£450** a year!

It's easy to find out if you qualify - complete our confidential checker at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals or phone **01305 221090**

Pupil Premium

If your child is in reception to year 2 and you receive qualifying benefits, **you could get extra £££'s for your school!**

Apply for the Pupil Premium at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium

[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 [website](#).

The Dorset Parent Guide to support your child's Special Educational Needs
0 to 25 years



[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](#)

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Extra-Curricular Clubs Summer Term 2, from 4 June to 19 July 2024

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	Cricket – All Years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH/SG
	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	30 mins	12:40–1:10	Music Room	SW
	Gymnastics – Year 5 only	30 mins	12.15 – 12.35	Gym	XS
Monday After School	Rippa Rugby - Years 5, 6 and 7 (External club paid) 10 Jun to 15 Jul Welcome to Rippa Rugby	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	External
	Orchestra – Invite only	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Music Room	SW
	Tennis (External club paid) 10 Jun to 15 Jul Live4tennisbookingform Collection outside the school reception office	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
Tuesday Lunchtime	Spanish – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	LA15	FS
	Athletics, Year 5 & 6	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
	Singing – All Years	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	Youth Club (Year 7 invite only)	45 mins	12.15–1.00	Youth Club	LB
	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) 16 Apr to 16 Jul TeamThemebooking	1 hour	15.25–16.25	Gym	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	Rounders – All Years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH/SG
	Gardening Club – All years Max 12 pupils, sign up with Mrs Cooper	30 mins	12.30 – 1.00	Tranquillity	LC/TW

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	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	Singing – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Music Room	MB
	Samba - All years	25 mins	12:45–1:10	Music Room	SW
	Art Club – All years 20 pupils, sign-up sheet on Art door	30 mins	12.15–12.45	PA10	NC
Thursday Lunchtime	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SG
	Ukulele– All years	30 mins	12.40-1.10	Music Room	SW
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	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	
	Computers – All Years – Scratch, APP Lab or Lego Mindstorms Max 15 places, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30–1.00	PA03	MM
Thursday After school	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
	Athletics – Years 7 & 8	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	SH/SG
	Arts and Crafts – All years 10 places – Sign up with AM/LP	1 hour	15.20-16.20	PA12	AM/LP
Friday Lunchtime	Football – Year 5	30 mins	12.40-13.10	Field	MW
	Dance – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Hall	KZ
	DT Club – All years - opportunity to complete unfinished practical work First 12 pupils each week	30 mins	12.15-12.45	PA11	AM
	Eco Club – All years	30 mins	12.15 –12.45	LA11	ML
	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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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 [link](#) 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 | \(fernmid.dorset.sch.uk\)](https://www.fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)

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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	
Half-term	Monday 23 to Friday 27 October 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	
Half-term	Monday 12 to Friday 16 February 2024	
Spring term ends	Thursday 28 March 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	
Inset Day	Monday 3 June 2024	
Summer term ends	Friday 19 July 2024	
Inset Day	Monday 22 July 2024	
Inset Day	Tuesday 23 July 2024	

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Term Dates 2024 - 2025

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

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

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