

Spring Term – Newsletter 3



Headteachers update

Dear Families,

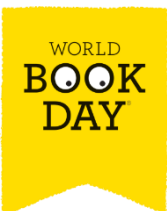
It has been a brilliant half term so far with the children settling in beautifully, as always. I can't believe there is only 4 weeks left until the Spring holidays! The children's learning has been incredible and their determination and drive is truly inspirational. Our children are so kind and respectful towards one another, the future of Owlsmoor's community is definitely in safe hands 😊.

Staffing is never easy in schools and sadly we will be losing Miss Hadley. Miss Hadley has been an integral part of Owlsmoor for just shy of 12 years. She is moving to grow her leadership skills further and follow her passion of SEND. Miss Hadley will be taking up a post at Kennel Lane School where I know she will be a huge success. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Miss Hadley the very best of luck in her new role.

We also said good bye to our own Mrs. Thornton who has made the difficult decision to leave the education sector altogether. Mrs. Thornton had been working with both individual children and most recently in Kingfishers and Wrens. We will miss both Mrs. Thornton and Miss Hadley immensely but it is never goodbye here at Owlsmoor only Au Revoir and I am sure we will see them very soon.

I am pleased to say that our over own Mrs. Bruce will be taking on the Lower Key Stage 2 Phase Leader role vacated as of Easter from Miss. Hadley. We are also welcoming Mr. Rock to the Owlsmoor team, apart from having one of the coolest names in teaching, Mr. Rock is an experienced teacher from Wokingham, having taught across both KS1 and KS2 and will be taking over the reins in Flamingos. We are very excited by both our new appointments 😊.

I would like to give a big shout out to Jamil and Noah for their help with the organisation and promotion of our 'Craze' Friday's. The children have relished the opportunities to bring in something from home and also to showcase their talents. I was blown away by how quickly Seth in Year 6 solved the Rubix Cube... simply amazing. School Council will be leading on the Craze choices over the coming months and I cannot wait to see what the children choose! A really positive start 😊.



Lastly, just a couple of reminders... Our World Book day is **Friday 8th March** – children can dress up as their favourite book character if they wish to. Red Nose Day is **Friday 15th March** and we will be having a non-uniform day to raise as much money as we can for Comic Relief, more information will follow.

Thank you all again for all your support, it is very much appreciated.

Take care and keep safe.

Mr. Cope



Maths and English Superstars

A huge congratulations to our Maths and Writing Superstars for the month – keep up the good work 😊.

Class	Maths Superstars	Writing Superstars
Mrs Reed	Ollie Timberlake	Matilda Jackson
Mrs Wood	Logan Keenan	Lacey Rance
Miss Tomlinson / Mrs Garrod	Charlie Chaplin	Daniel Walduck
Miss Parr	Ida Todd	Leo Passingham
Miss Wakelin	Reuben Hunter	Max Archer
Ms Gardiner	Harry Brown	Olivia Wang
Mrs Read/Miss Holness	Harrison Pearce	Freddie Haynes-Taylor
Mrs Bruce/ Mrs Plumtree	William Brockway	Lucas Thompson
Mr Francis	Le'la Poly'nyi	Daniel Ryan
Miss Hadley	Emmeline Walduck	Rose Hathaway
Miss Megrath	Emily Cullum	Josie Legg
Miss Bess	Imi Lee	Katie Yates
Mr Taylor	Max Newman-Maidment	Cheryl Tang Chan
Mrs Panesar	Freddie Hare	Evelyn Murphy
Mr Stevens	Oscar Dransfield	Tallulah Thomson
Mr Saunders	Kiarash Bashokooh	Lucy Dickinson

Fred in the Shed was a hit!

HUGE thank you to the PTA for organising Fred in the Shed for the children. The event was fantastic and the children and the staff had a great time... we could not recognise Mr. Francis!



Animals

This half term our topic is Animals. We will be looking at a different group of animals each week. Last week we learnt about the animals we would find on a farm, we talked about what they eat, where they live and what their babies are called. We enjoyed playing in the farm shop selling the different produce. This week we have been learning about jungle animals. We have learnt what a jungle is and what animals we might find there. We loved pretending to be jungle explorers and learning about the animals through songs. We have also really enjoyed the small world tables and acting as the different animals and making lots of animal noises. We created our own animal tracks using the paint and sorted the animals into farm animals and jungle animals.



Number fun

Over the last few weeks, we have been learning our numbers to six. We have been showing off our amazing counting skills by counting out the correct amount of objects for a given number. We have been recognising our numbers and counting out the correct number of objects for each numeral. We have also been showing how well we understand each number by explaining the different ways that we can make it up.





P.E.

In P.E. we have been learning about spacial awareness and how we can move in different ways without bumping into each other. We have moved like the different animals that we have been learning about and been jumping, hopping and skipping. We have also been practising our throwing and catching skills, by throwing the bean bag into a target or to our partner so that they could catch it.

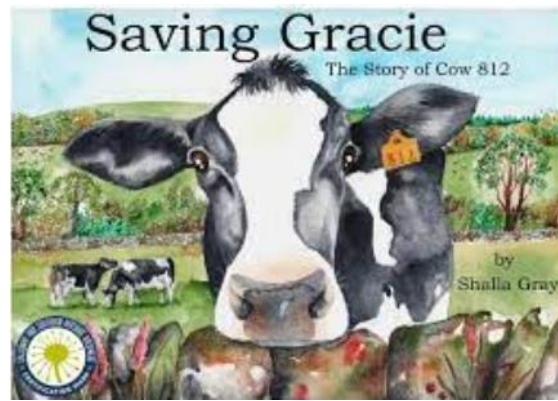


Next week, we will be using 'The Little Mermaid' as we move onto animals that we will find 'Under the Sea'.

Miss Grant and the Team

Parent Consultations

Our 'Parent Consultation' is on **Wednesday 27th March**. The school will close at 12:00 noon for everyone including Nursery and the meetings will be held via TEAMS. You will be able to book your appointments very soon through the school website. Details on how to do this will be sent home in the coming weeks.



Reception have been learning about Dairy farming this week and have loved learning how to milk a cow, role play in a farm shop and the highlight for them was making their own butter from cream. They then tasted it on a cracker at snack time and were very pleased with their efforts. It took lots of shakes in a glass jar to make the butter, but the children were very pleased with the end result.



The children wrote such amazing stories about Gracie and her friends using all their phonic knowledge to help them.

We ended the week off with learning about the process of making ice-cream in a factory and getting to taste ice-cream in a cone. I think the unanimous decision was it was very, very yummy!



In maths we have been learning about measuring height and length. We drew around the children's wingspan, made playdough snakes and had a competition to see who could put the string in order from longest to shortest! The children also enjoyed building their own towers and using cubes to measure how tall they could make it before it fell.





Next week we are reading the story of 'Mrs Armitage on wheels' as we will be learning about inventors. We would love the children to have the opportunity to make their own inventions. Please could we ask you to have a look at the weekend for any junk modelling resources you may have at home (bottle tops, boxes, toilet rolls, pringle tubes, egg boxes, ribbons, material, foil) so that the children can explore different materials and build their invention. It would be brilliant if we can have the resources brought into school from Monday. Thank you!

Reception team.

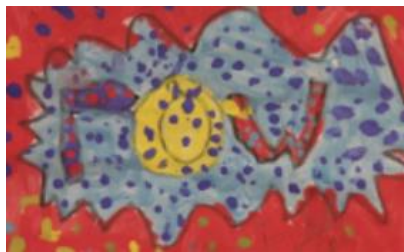
Year 1

Whoosh! Superheroes to the rescue.

What a super start to the half-term. The children have fully embraced our new topic 'I need a Hero' (Good old Bonnie Tyler 😊) and have been so excited to begin their learning under the theme of 'Superheroes'.

Pop Art Producers.

In our creative areas the children have been exploring the art movement of 'Pop art'. They have explored the artist Roy Lichtenstein and created their own pop art superhero words. The children showed off their creative skills using bright primary colours and other features of pop art.



Pumpkin Patch.

In our outdoor area, the children have started to explore planting and growing.

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They spent time with Miss Tomlinson thinking about what a plant needs to be able to grow. They were very excited to be able to plant some pumpkin seeds, a few of them are very optimistic in the hope we will have our very own pumpkin patch!



A gentle reminder-

please can you return any clothes that your child borrows from their class.

If you have any old clothes that you could donate (Ages 5/6), we would be very grateful. 😊

Thank you for your ongoing support this half term - Year 1 Team

Year 2

Year 2 have had a brilliant time learning all about Japan and have had experiences of trying Japanese food (whilst using chopsticks), making origami and even trading Pokémon cards! Thank you to the Pokémon Club who came to visit us to teach the children how to trade cards.



Since the children have returned from their half term break, they have read the text 'On Sudden Hill' and used it as inspiration to create their own story prop out of a cardboard box. It was so lovely to see how excited the children were to use their imagination to bring their ideas to life – the story props have also been very useful during wet playtime!



Next week is Book Week, where the children will be exposed to a range of different genres with a focus on villains that appear in traditional tales. The children are welcome to bring in a favourite book of theirs to show the class. Over the week, we will be sharing our reading journey and we look forward to finding out about all the exciting texts the children enjoy reading at home.

Could your child please bring in a shoe box or cereal box to make a suitcase for their chosen villain in class. They will be making these on Thursday 7th March – could these items please be brought in before then. Additionally, we will soon be planting seeds! If you have any 500ml empty bottles around the house please bring them in to school as we will be using bottles to plant grass seeds. Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 2 Team

Year 3

Another busy month has whizzed by! It is hard to believe that we are now over half way through the school year! This month, we have been continuing to work on our history topic of 'Stone Age to Iron Age' and we took inspiration from people living in Bronze Age times and made our own versions of the Beaker Pots they used to make out of clay. It was a little bit of a messy process but most of the pots turned out to be well constructed and nicely decorated in a similar style to the Bronze Age Beaker Pots we had researched beforehand.





Since starting back after half term, the children have also been working on their creative writing skills and have come up with their own stories about a thief who steals people's emotions. We have been blown away by the quality of their descriptive writing in these stories! Great work, Year 3!

As you are aware, next week is Book Week. As per the letter the children bought home earlier this term, we have a number of reading themed activities planned for the week, some of which will require the children to bring in some bits from home IF POSSIBLE:

- Shoe box / cereal box / any kind of similarly sized cardboard box
- A small snack (**no nuts**) to enjoy on **Tuesday** afternoon at our 'Booknic' (Picnic with books!)
- A small pillow or cushion to keep in school for the week
- A book they have read and enjoyed from home

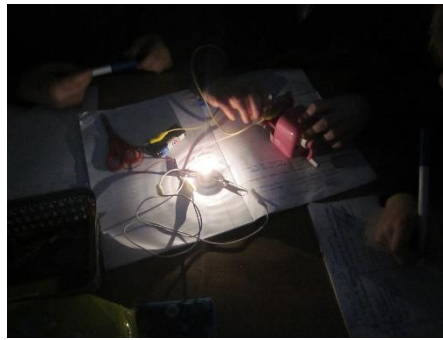
The children will need these items in school by **Monday (4th March)**, ready for the start of Book Week (with the exception of the snack, which can be brought in on Tuesday).

PLEASE DO NOT WORRY IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO BRING IN ALL OF THESE ITEMS – we will have some spare boxes, cushions and books in school for anyone who needs them.

Year 3 Team

Year 4

At the end of last half term, we completed our DT project on lighthouses. We designed and built working lighthouses with lights on a circuit. The children were very proud of their efforts!



Next week is book week! To end of the week, on Friday the 8th March, we would love to read for pleasure in our own reading dens. Children are encouraged to bring in a blanket and pillow to create a den.

This half term, we will have a go at pancake flipping and eating them of course. This is a much-loved curriculum promise and the children have lots of fun, with some pancakes looking a little worse for wear 😊. If your child has any allergies please speak to your class teacher.

Mr Rock will be in school to visit the Flamingos on 21st March and we welcome families to pop in and say hi.

Year 5

Throughout this month, the children have continued to work hard. In their history lessons, they explored the chronology of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking leaders who governed Britain including Alfred the Great. In classes, they constructed a timeline and discussed the legacy left behind by the Vikings.



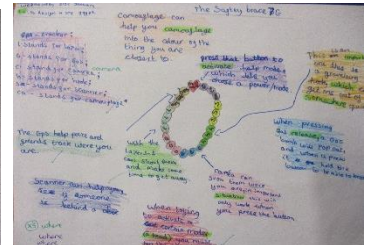
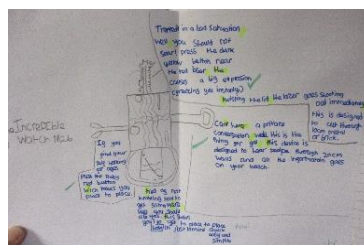
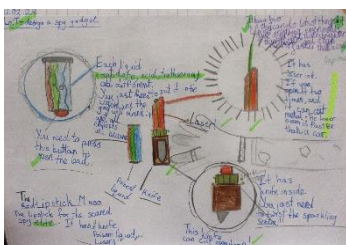
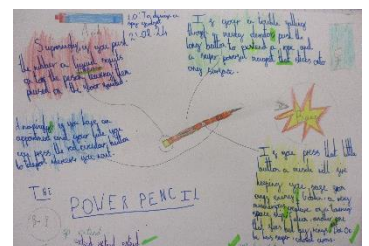
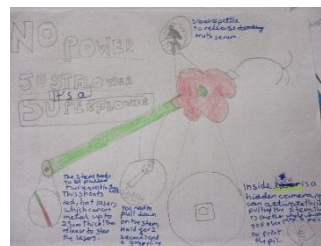
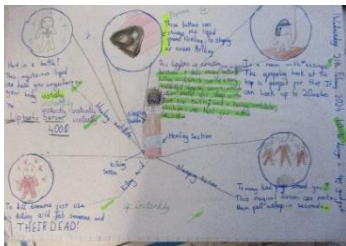
Pokémon Club

Linked to their recent topic on Japan, the Year 5 Pokémon club introduced Year 2 to the world of the Pokémon card game. Throughout the session, the children enthusiastically absorbed the rules and strategies of the game, demonstrating remarkable aptitude and enjoyment. The children were delighted to be learning and playing together, their enthusiasm was evident throughout the session.



English Lessons

In their English lessons, the children have been busy with designing a spy gadget and are now working hard on writing an explanatory text about how their gadget works. We were incredibly impressed by the level of creativity and imagination the children demonstrated. Their ability to think outside the box and come up with innovative ideas is truly remarkable. It's a joy to see them so enthusiastic about their work; it's evident that they are blossoming into budding engineers.

Brass

Kiwi's class are enjoying their brass lessons and it has been delightful to witness their progress in such a short span of time. Well done to all the children. Please encourage them to continue to practice at home to further enhance their skills!

Book Week

It's Book Week and we've got some exciting activities lined up for the children. Next Wednesday afternoon, children will be reading in the hall and building dens using equipment. Please could the children bring their own blanket, cushions and a torch if possible.



We were delighted to see the great pieces of work that the children produced for homework. Keep it up! Please continue to read with your child. Thank you for your continued support.

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Year 6

Whilst it may be the shortest month and we had a half-term break during it, there was still plenty to keep Year 6 busy.

We “welcomed” the children back after their half-term break with “Mock” SATs week so that they would know what to expect in May and be less phased by it. We had the majority of children in the hall whilst others were in smaller groups in the Year 6 classrooms or with adults in smaller rooms depending on their needs.

The nett result from it all was simply brilliant. The children surpassed our expectations and put in a huge effort to achieve very pleasing results indeed. More importantly than this, those who were anxious about the tests got to experience what they are like and will be all the better prepared to cope with the real thing in May.

All of the Year 6 staff are so proud of the way the children applied themselves and gave of their very best across the week. When you add in the biscuits and cakes that they will be able to choose from in May, we all feel that the children will be well placed to not only cope with their tests, but perform well and not be too anxious about them either.

One of the great parts of a SATs week are the winding down activities that we can offer between tests, and this was the case last week too. We had mindful colouring, diamond cricket, time on the laptops and relaxation sessions along with much more to make sure that there was a good balance between work and rest.

The Year 6 children have also begun to look forward to the week of the residential trip in June. For those that are going, we have asked them to think about who they might want to share a tent with (focusing on the fact that they need some sleep!) and those staying at school have had a chance to talk through the kind of activities that they will be doing or might want to do during that week.

We finish the month by moving on to the topic of argument in English (something that we’re sure most Year 6 children thrive at) with the focus being on balanced arguments and presenting both sides of a debate to leave the reader/listener to make up their own mind. We have looked at how parliament does this although we’re not sure how much the children learned from that other than how NOT to behave respectfully when others speak!

Maths has seen us move onto a unit for statistics – looking at how data is presented in many forms in maths such as word problems, graphs, charts, table or pictorially and how to then interpret that data to answer questions. A fun topic that will bolster skills that they will need well beyond Year 6.

One news update is that the date of the 10p fair has been moved to Wednesday 10th July, running from 12.30pm to 4.15pm.

Now to get on with March.....

Mr Saunders and Mr Stevens

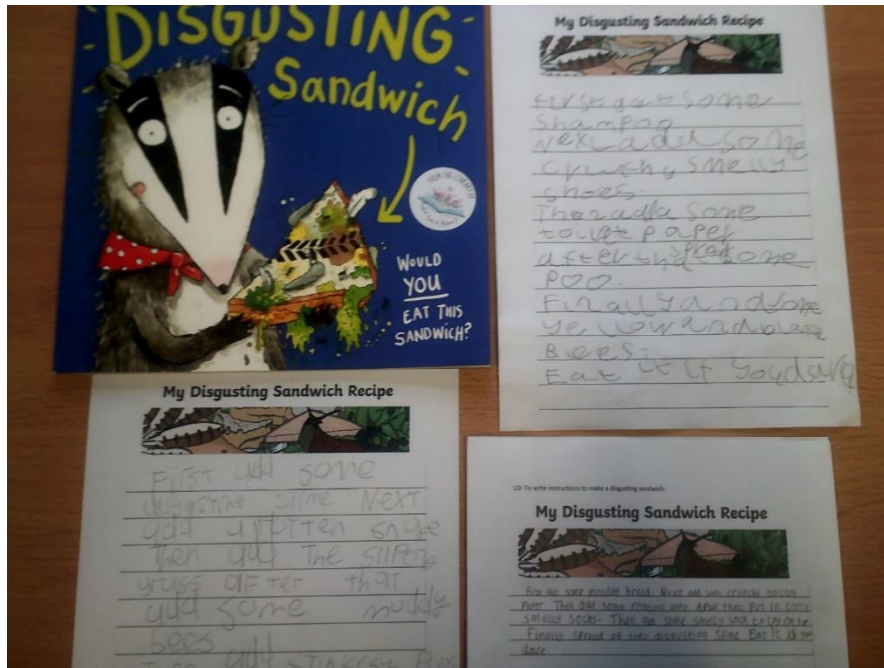
Kingfishers and Wrens

Kingfishers have been reading 'The Disgusting Sandwich' by Gareth Edwards.

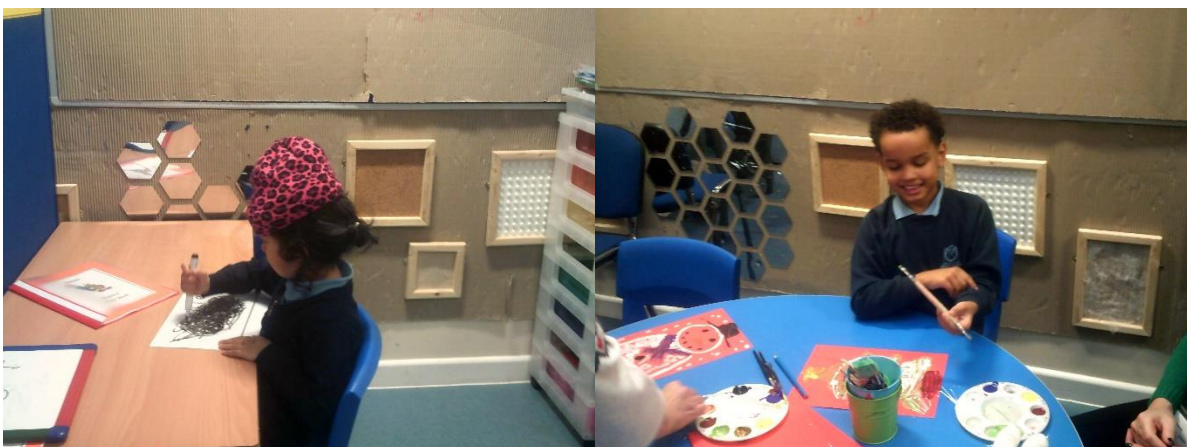
They have had lots of fun thinking of things to put in their own disgusting sandwich! The Kingfishers disgusting sandwiches included: mouldy bread, spider legs, slime and horse poo! The children then wrote instructions to make their disgusting sandwich!

Luckily, when they made a sandwich the children only used ham, cheese and jam.

Kingfishers have also had fun touch typing on the laptops.



Wrens have been enjoying 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and have made lots of fruit pictures using tissue paper. Wrens have also had lots of fun printing with fruit.



ARTICLES FOR WORLD BOOK DAY

This week's activities link to the following articles:

Article 17 - access to information from the media

Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 29 (goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.



Parents making a difference

Sadly, one of our parents lost their Dad to prostate Cancer last year. The family reached out and asked whether we could help in raising awareness of Prostate Cancer as well as encouraging others to raise money to support this incredible charity.

Jaz will be aiming to complete 11,000 steps a day through February and March, if you would like to support please follow the link below:

<https://marchthemoth.prostatecanceruk.org/fundraising/jazs-challenge-in-march-4-prostate-charity>

KEY DATES	
W/C 4 th March 2024	Book Week
Friday 8 th March 2024	Dress Up as Characters for WBD
Wednesday 13 th March 2024	Nursery and Reception – Spring Celebration 9:15am in the School Hall – Everyone Welcome
Wednesday 13 th March 2024	Year 5 to Woking Theatre
Friday 15 th March 2024	Red Nose day (more details to follow)
Thursday 21 st March 2024	World Poetry Day
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Flamingos Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Parents Consultations (Remote) (more details to follow)
Thursday 28 th March 2024	PTA Break the Rules Day (more details to follow)
Thursday 28 th March 2024	School Finishes at 2:00pm for Easter Holidays
Monday 15 th April 2024	Children return to school at 8:45am
Friday 19 th April 2024	PTA – Sponsored Walk (more details to follow)
Monday 22 nd April 2024	World Earth Day
Monday 22 nd April 2024	Science Week
Monday 29 th April 2024-Friday 3 rd May 2024	Year 5 Bikeability (more details to follow)
Friday 3 rd May 2024	PTA Non-Uniform Day £1 Donation Please
Friday 3 rd May 2024	Toucans Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 10 th May 2024	Woodpeckers Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May 2024	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 16 th May 2024	Year 1 to Windsor Castle
Friday 17 th May 2024	Year 5 to Maxwell Zoo
Friday 17 th May 2024	Year 4 Sleepover at Winchester Science Centre Leave 5pm
Friday 24 th May 2024	Emus Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Monday 3 rd June	INSET DAY
Friday 7 th June 2024	Year 2 to Winchester Science Centre
Friday 14 th June 2024	PTA Break the Rules Day (more details to follow)
Friday 21 st June 2024	Year 4 to Ufton Court
Friday 21 st June 2024	Reception Classes to Birdworld
Monday 24 th June 2024 – Friday 28 th June 2024	Year 6 Residential to Bushcraft
Monday 1 st July 2024	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Time TBC)
Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Nursery Sport Day (Time TBC)
Wednesday 3 rd July 2024	Transition Day (more details to follow)
Thursday 4 th July 2024	Transition Day (more details to follow)
Friday 5 th July 2024	KS2 Sports Day (Time TBC)
Wednesday 10 th July 2024	Year 6 10p Fair (more details to follow)
REMAINING INSET DAYS - 2024	
Monday 3 rd June Monday 22 nd July Tuesday 23 rd July	

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR - 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Pupils Start on Wednesday 4th September 2024

October Half Term - Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 4th November 2024

Pupils start on Tuesday 5th November 2024

Autumn Term ends on – Friday 20th December 2024 at 2.00pm

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 6th January 2025

Pupils start on Tuesday 7th January 2025

February Half Term – Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Pupils start on Monday 24th February 2025

Spring Term ends on Friday 4th April 2025 at 2.00pm

Spring holiday: Monday 7 April 2025 to Monday 21 April 2025

Good Friday: 18 April 2025, Easter Monday 21 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Pupils start on Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Public Bank Holiday (School Closed) Monday 5th May 2025

May holiday: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 2nd June 2025

Pupils start on Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Summer Term ends on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 2pm.

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YOUR EASTER DISCOUNTS!



EASTER20

Your first early bird discount gets you 20% off! Enter the above code at the payment screen.

Starts 19th February;
Expires Midnight 1st March



EASTER10

Your second early bird discount gets you 10% off! Enter the above code at the payment screen.

Starts 2nd March;
Expires Midnight 15th March

NEW INTRODUCING ... **NEW**
**OUR BRAND NEW PERMANENT
SIBLING DISCOUNT!!**

Any bookings with 2 or more siblings will have an automatic 10% discount applied to your booking!

*Please be aware an Early Bird Discount can only be used once per customer

** Both camp weeks can be booked together and the Early Bird discounts can be used across both activities

*** The Sibling Discount is automatically applied to your booking and is not a promo code

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EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP PRESENTS...

DINOSAUR WEEK

TUES 2ND – FRI 5TH APRIL



9AM - 3PM: £27

8AM - 5PM: £34



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EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP PRESENTS...

SUPERHERO WEEK

MON 8TH - FRI 12TH APRIL



9AM - 3PM: £27



8AM - 5PM: £34



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