<u> Spring Term – Newsletter 4</u>

School Update

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a great bank holiday weekend and managed to enjoy the moments of sunshine between the many episodes of rain!

We have had a very busy start to the summer term so far. We held our sponsored walk on Friday 19th April – well done to everyone who took part, I know there were some tired legs by the end of the day (and that was just the staff!). Thank you to those of you who were able to join us, it was lovely to see you there. I'm delighted to say that we raised a whopping £3136.69 for the school, which will go a long way. Year 6 also raised a very impressive £470.96 for their leavers' festival – well done to all!

We also celebrated 'World Earth Day' a few weeks ago as a school. As part of this, the children were able to choose an endangered animal to support, and by vote they selected to adopt a tiger! The children have also had a fantastic science week with the theme of 'Time'. Each class was given a pot of caterpillar, and the children have enjoyed watching them grow bigger each day. When they become butterflies, they will then be able to release them outside. The children also enjoyed an amazing assembly packed with scientific experiments delivered by Mr North – thank you Mr North, I know the children loved it!

We would love to say a huge thank you to the PTA for all their hard work renovating the pond area at school during the half term break – this had become very overgrown, but is now looking fantastic and is a much more useable space. It has been lovely to see this getting much more use over the last few weeks.

Looking ahead at the next few weeks, we have several events including class assemblies and school trips coming up - so please do check the list of dates at the end of this newsletter carefully. Attached to this newsletter are some posters regarding various parent workshops that may be of interest so please do take a look.

The 'Craze' of the month continues to be popular - this month the craze is fidget spinners. A polite reminder that children can bring them in on Fridays only please.

As the warmer weather approaches (hopefully!), please do remember to send the children to school with suncream on, labelled water bottles and sun hats.

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

Mrs Warner, Deputy Headteacher







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

Class	Maths Superstars	Writing Superstars
Mrs Reed	Jaxon Urbanski	Elodie Fry
Mrs Wood	Ethan Middleton	Henry West
Aiss Tomlinson / Mrs Garrod	Elodie-May Toppin Marco Stanculeanu	
Miss Parr	Ava Putman	Teddy Wanless
Miss Wakelin	Elsie Mitchell	Charlotte Evans
Ms Gardiner	India Wilson Henry Steel	
Mrs Read/Miss Holness	Callum Ewins	Amy Wright
Mrs Bruce/ Mrs Plumtree	Sienna Walker	Martha Sutton
Mr Francis	Ronnie Stedman	Millie Baldwin
Miss Hadley	Annie Romero	Adi Sharma
Miss Megrath	George Hill	Henry Harding
Miss Bess	Alfie Tozer	Rosie Gilbert
Mr Taylor	Maya Campbell-Scott	Resean Wilson
Mrs Panesar	Isobel Richardson	Freddie Paternoster
Mr Stevens	Saskia Vaughan	Sofia Kelly
Mr Saunders	Molly Joys	Rebecca Lewendon

Easter Egg Prizes

Just before the Easter break, we held an 'Easter Bonnet' competition for our younger children, and the children enjoyed taking part in a parade to show off their amazing creations. Our KS2 children were invited to take part in our 'Design an Egg' competition – we had lots of imaginative entries of various egg characters/ scenes all displayed in our 'Eggsibition'.

The children also enjoyed taking part in an Easter Egg Hunt (EYFS/KS1), and an Easter Quiz (KS2). Owlsmoor would like to thank Morrisons at Bracknell, Tesco at The Meadows and Waitrose for their Easter Egg prize donations. The children had a wonderful time and loved their chocolate treats!

Mayor and Mayoress of Sandhurst

We are very excited to announce that we have our very own VIP working in the school - Mrs Panesar, our upper key stage two phase leader, has in fact just become the 'Mayoress of Sandhurst' and her husband has become the Mayor. She now has the chains and has shown them to key stage 2 during assembly, who were very impressed! Congratulations Mr and Mrs Panesar. We look forward to seeing lots of you in the local news at various community events.

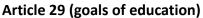
Stickers

We have recently had some issues with stickers being stuck up around the outside of the building – these have contained political messages, and have been stuck on drainpipes and play equipment etc. Unfortunately, they have been very difficult to remove - please can we ask that these are not brought into school as they are damaging our property. Thank you for your support with this.

Rights Respecting Schools

During our recent RRS meeting, the RRS Champs were particularly interested in the following two articles. They were discussing how these rights are achieved in our daily lives both in school and at home.

The two articles they were discussing are:



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 24 – Health Care – (ensures that every child has the right to the best possible health) Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

First Aid Club

The members of the y6 first aid club have been very busy learning many life saving skills and covered a range of topics including:

- Calling for help
- Asthma
- Allergies and bites
- Basic CPR
- Basic bandaging and sling making
- Head injuries
- Burns
- Chocking







We were lucky to have a Resus Annie lent to us from **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue** as well as, a class set of inflatable Annies from Sandhurst School. We welcomed a visitor, Nicky Crabtree, in who let us practice life saving techniques for chocking incidents too.





They have all earned St. Johns certificates for each topic – Well done!

If you would like to learn basic CPR and use a defibrillator in just 15 minutes using your smart phone at home please pop over to the British Heart Foundation training *RevivR CPR training*.



Learn CPR in 15 minutes for free with RevivR™

Red Nose Day

We are delighted to announce that we raised £336.28 through our non-uniform day for Red Nose Day. Thank you for supporting this event.

ICT Room Mascot

Towards the end of the Spring Term, the Owlsmoor Digital Leaders decided that the school needed a friendly face to help guide and assist our learners with how to use the computers in school and how to ensure we keep ourselves safe whilst online. So, they came up with a competition for the entire school to enter to create a character that could be the face of ICT and computer safety around Owlsmoor Primary School.

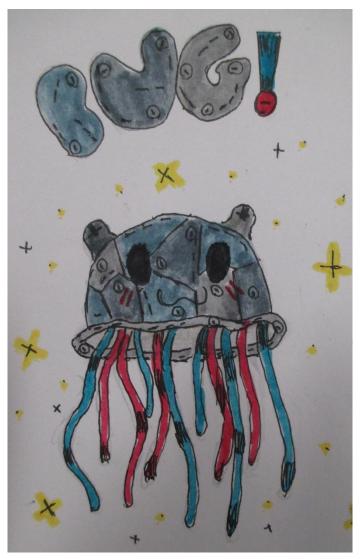
After many, many fantastic entries from Reception right up to Year Six (only one of which was actually a bird funnily enough), the Digital Leaders made the incredible tough decision to select just one mascot to oversee all our ICT safety needs.

Say hello to **BUG!** designed by Lara Sheer in Kites.

BUG! will be Owlsmoor's go-to mascot to highlight all things linked to safety features, reminders and general usage of ICT around the school. The original character designs have been sent off to a video game graphical artist and we will hopefully hear back from them really soon with some updates on BUG!'s progress.

A huge thank you to the Digital Leaders for all their hard work in designing posters, generating the hype around the competition and ultimately picking our winner.

Digital Leaders Team signing off...





RESPECT – KIND – INCLUSIVE – DETERMINED - SAFE

Nursery

Wow, this term is flying by! Our new Puffins have settled in well and, with the help of the older Puffins, have picked up the routines really quickly. This half term, our topic is 'Places to Visit'. We started the topic looking at the seaside and discussing the different things we can find and do at the beach.

We enjoyed sharing our own experiences of going to the seaside and exploring the texture of the sand and the different shells. The shells were all different shapes and sizes and we used lots of different words to describe them, some were smooth, shiny, rough, swirly, long and bumpy. We have also enjoyed using our own experiences of the seaside in the small world area with the sea creatures and beach trays. We have been drawing and painting our own sea creatures with paint. We have also learnt about how to stay safe in the sun and about the different sea creatures we might find in the sea and the rock pools.



Science Week

We had a fantastic time during Science Week, we started the week with a really fun assembly by Mr North. He showed us how to blow up a balloon with a bottle and how to make a film canister go POP!

We took part in some experiments in Puffins and learnt that they don't always go how you want them too. We made a rainbow with some skittles and loved playing with the Ooblex. It was funny how it changed from a solid to a liquid and back again.

Miss Grant also tried to make a lava lamp but unfortunately it didn't work very well. It was a good job Miss Judd was on hand to make it work!







Caterpillars

Over the last few weeks, we have had some creepy crawlies come and join us in Puffins. We have been fascinated by watching them grow from tiny little black caterpillars into much bigger and fatter caterpillars. We are all very excited and eagerly waiting for them to turn into cocoons. While we wait, we have been designing our own butterflies using paint and cannot wait to see what they will look like when they emerge from their chrysalides.



We have also been looking at the Lifecycle of a Butterfly and sequencing the events in the correct order.



Please can we remind you to name all of your child's belongings, especially with the warmer weather hopefully arriving soon. This will help us to ensure that items go home with the correct child. Thank you.

Miss Grant and the Team

Reception

Science week – We had a lovely walk to our newly renovated pond area where we saw lots of minibeasts and tadpoles. We came back to class and drew a picture of what we saw at the pond. The children did some fantastic writing using all their senses to describe our trip. We looked through books on different kinds of minibeasts and learnt about the lifecycle of a frog. The children got so excited searching for minibeasts in our Bug Hotel outside; they found caterpillars, ladybirds and a snail! We had a go at moulding different types of minibeasts using playdough.

















We were lucky enough to receive 5 caterpillars to look after as we have been learning about The Lifecycle of a Butterfly. They have grown so much in one week and we cannot wait to see them spin their chrysalis very soon. Once they transform into butterflies we are very excited to release them at the pond. Our very own Mr North came and did a science show for us all filled with cool science experiments.



In our Maths lessons last week we learnt about 3D shape names and a few of their properties. We then built towers, castles, houses, shops and cities with them. This week we have been learning how to make teen numbers using tens frames, Numicon plates and Unifix cubes to show the tens and ones.









Growing – We have been planting sunflower seeds this week and learning about The Lifecycle of a Sunflower. The children loved planting the seeds and learning how to take care of a plant and all the parts of a plant. We can't wait to see how they grow over the coming weeks!



We are very excited to announce that we have booked our trip to Birdworld for next half term on Friday 21st June. A letter will be sent out closer to the time with all the details, so look out for it.

Please continue to ensure your child reads daily and starts to work on sight reading and fluency ready for Year 1. Thank you so much for all your continued support.

Reception team

Year 1

PARK LIFE! The children have been very busy writing all about Percy the Park Keeper and learning about all the different types of parks.

In science, we have continued our observations of nature and the weather. Our school grounds have lots of buds and blossom and we have been using an app on the iPads to find out what plants and trees we have been looking at. We have been looking closely at what a plant is and learning the names of some common plants as well as identifying the basic parts. We have also been studying trees and their leaves to try and work out if it is evergreen or deciduous. It is definitely spring and summer isn't far away!





To highlight the importance of World Earth Day this year, the children made bug hotels from clay and have painted them in beautiful colours. We spent time discussing how we can look after our planet by making small everyday changes.



In our PSHE sessions, the children are learning how to keep themselves healthy including exercise, hygiene, teeth brushing, healthy eating and sun safety.



We are expecting *(or rather hoping for)* the weather to warm up so please make sure your child has a full water bottle in school every day, brings in a sun hat and comes to school wearing sun cream. Please can we also ask that cardigans and jumpers are labelled as they will be removing them more frequently. We have attached information on sun safety for your reference.



Year 2

Welcome back to the Summer term! We have really enjoyed kick starting our new topic for this half term which is, 'Around the world in 30 days'. The children have really enjoyed our first text for this unit of work, 'The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish'. They have made some brilliant clay polar bears and vibrant jelly fish to adorn our classrooms as well as finding out all about the countries and animals of the Arctic circle, and writing some very interesting Arctic adventure diaries.



This week we will be heading off towards the equator to explore warmer territories. We were hoping the weather would follow suit but it's still pretty cold! Since our Tuesday PE sessions will now be outside, can you please make sure the children have a warm PE jacket until the weather warms up.

We have also started our planting unit by sowing some 'grass heads' (see below). These are just beginning to sprout their 'hair'. We have been recording their growth in our Grass Seed Diaries and are looking forward to seeing the 'hair' on our heads grow!



Our science week was a lot of fun and we are now watching in awe as the caterpillars in our classrooms begin to fatten up to create their cocoons. The children have been very entertained by how fat the caterpillars now are – so it was true ...they were VERY hungry.

This year we are hoping to develop our outdoor learning space (you may have spotted the free tyres kindly donated by Sandhurst Tyres). We are looking for various items to help us do this so if you have any of the following you no longer need, hiding away in a shed or garage, please donate them to this very good cause.

Our growing wishlist...

Plastic guttering (for water play) Any unused articifial grass Seeds, bottle tops/cardboard tubes Cable reels (if anyone knows an electrical supplier these are invaluable as mini tables) Wheels (eg old pram wheels, bicycle wheels, buggy wheels etc) Unused floor boards (pref not with splinters) Garden canes, broom handles Plant pots, buckets Wooden coat hangers Compost Garden netting





Thank you as always for your support.

Year 2 Team





Year 3

Although we have only been back in school for a few weeks, we have been very busy in year 3! We celebrated Science Week by exploring how parachutes work and trying to design the best parachute to slow down the descent of a falling object. The children researched different parachute designs and experimented with different materials to work out the best way to make their object fall slowly and gently to the ground. After some trial runs, they then worked on tweaking and improving their parachutes to see if they could slow the process even further. Mr Francis even ventured onto the roof to give the parachutes a real test! There were many very successful parachutes made!





Instead of chicks this year, we have been lucky enough to have some caterpillars in school! We have enjoyed watching the caterpillars develop on their journey to becoming butterflies! Hopefully the butterflies will soon be ready to release into the wild!



In maths this term, we have been exploring the topic of money! We created our own shops and used pretend money to have a go at being shopkeepers and customers! If you have any loose change at home, the children would certainly be interested in helping you count it up and use it in real shops!





Year 4

A day in court!

Just before the Easter break, Owlsmoor had a visit from a Magistrate. She came to school and did an assembly for the children about her role and the function of the criminal justice system in England. In Year 4, we were particularly lucky as the children spent the rest of the morning on that day conducting their own mock trial. They were given a case to prepare for, roles to adopt and lines to rehearse. The children did an amazing job practising their public speaking and debate skills during this visit, gaining an invaluable experience that they will hopefully remember for a long time into the future. We might have even inspired some future policemen or women, solicitors or barristers.



Reading Dens!

The children absolutely loved creating their own reading dens to escape the outside world and get lost in a good book for the afternoon. Transporting themselves to anywhere from magical worlds to fictional forests and interstellar adventures.



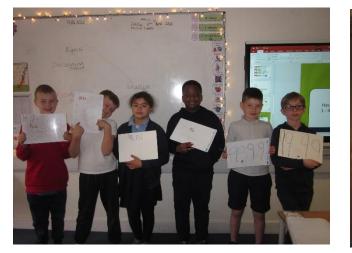








Dazzling Decimals!





In maths, we have been continuing with our topic of decimals. The children have shown great determination throughout this topic; pushing themselves further to complete extra challenges or purely by persevering and showing growth mindset when they found a lesson a bit trickier. We are very proud of our budding mathematicians!

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 4 team.

Year 5

We hope you had an egg-callant Easter break filled with joy and relaxation. We had a busy and actionpacked half term leading up to the Easter break. Here are some of the fun filled activities that kept us busy.

Book Week

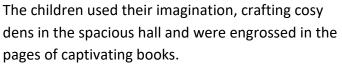
During the Book Week festivities, we brought fairy tale stories to life by retelling them to Year 1 children using the finger puppets carefully crafted by the children themselves.

















Theatre Tip

WRONG The children had a blast at the theatre watching "Peter Pan Goes Wrong"! Their laughter filled the entire theatre, creating a lovely atmosphere of joy. It was a special experience that both the staff and children will remember fondly.





Poetry Day

In March, Owlsmoor celebrated 'World Poetry Day' with great enthusiasm! Every student performed wonderfully, showing off their skills in tone, volume and actions. The Kiwis performed 'A Sensory Stole', the Emus showcased 'Please Do Not Feed the Animals' and the Ostriches entertained with 'Gran Can You Wrap?'. Rehearsals were loads of fun for everyone!

Owl Apprentice

As the term drew to a close, the children eagerly played with the Lego sets which had been purchased with the fruits of their hard work during the Owl Apprentice.







We were very impressed with the high standard of homework. The children enjoyed sharing their projects and demonstrating how they work.



Off with her Head!

As we kicked off this term, the children delved into the captivating world of the Tudors. They didn't just learn about the Battle of Bosworth—they lived it! Our budding actors bought history to life with their passion and talent. It was a truly unforgettable experience for all involved.



Science Week

Last week, the children spent some time learning about the Life stages of a human. Following this learning, they recreated each stage with clay and produced a poster which explained the characteristics of humans at each stage. Some children presented their learning using iMovie.



Thank you for your continued support. Please keep reading with the children and practising their times tables so that the children have a rapid recall of them. We look forward to seeing their next pieces of homework.

Year 5 Team 🕹

Year 6

We've been back for less than 3 weeks and yet the Year 6 children have done so much.

In English the children wrote their autobiographies set in the year 2053 so that they would all be 40. Some of the things that wrote about were fascinating, others were inspirational and some were absolutely hilarious (deliberately). It was great to read about the kind of things that they hope to achieve after they leave us here at Owlsmoor.

In history we have been getting to the end of the topic of World War One and have almost finished reading the brilliant Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo. Some of the work produced for this has been absolutely outstanding and we all look forward to moving on to the new topic of World War Two in the coming weeks. Our class text for this is Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian – a truly fantastic book following the life of a poor East End child evacuated out to the countryside. A real chance for the children to see an aspect of the war from another child's point of view.

We have also started Rounders in our Monday PE sessions with some excellent talents on show. It's almost as if the Year 6 children are visualising something when they swing that bat so powerfully! This will culminate in the great "Battle of Year 6" where the two classes will play against each other in what some reporters are calling "the match of the century". Obviously, we have been preparing for the upcoming SATs tests that run for 4 days from Monday 13th May. Our aim is for all the children to be able to try their best during that week and show the people who set them exactly what they can do. We are all aware that there is so much to every child than their SATs results and we have made sure that they have been told that and understand that. SATs don't measure so many of the amazing things that make the children who they are: sporting talents, artistic talents, singing, dancing, the way they get along with friends, help others, set the example to the rest of the school...the list goes on, so it is important to keep them in context for what they are – assessment tests to measure progress from Year 2 to Year 6.

As mentioned before, there will be a lot of relaxing and fun activities in between the SATs tests to ensure that there is a good balance to the children's schooling for that week. They will also be able to choose a biscuit or cake along with a piece of fruit before each test and this will be far more important than the tests themselves so they will be in a positive frame of mind before they start! If you are able to send in any of the above for that week it would be amazing.

The week of the residential trip to Bushcraft gets ever nearer. Mr Saunders and Mr Farrington paid a visit to the campsite last week to ensure that we all know our way around when we get there. It really is in a beautiful part of England and the set up looks perfect for a fantastic week under canvas. For those children not going, a great week of activities has been planned for them based from school too.

We have begun the transition process for secondary school as well. In the coming weeks, both Sandhurst and Edgbarrow will send staff to meet the children and talk with us about their capabilities and behaviour as well as activities that they like doing. This process will continue throughout the term to ensure that all the children are ready for Y7 by the time that they leave us.

A reminder of the plethora of activities ahead for Year 6:

SATs week - Monday 13th-Thursday 16th May

- * Year 6 end of SATs party Friday 17th May: Bouncy castle arriving
- * Year 6 Outdoor Athletic competition Wednesday 5th June
- * Year 6 residential Monday 24th-Friday 28th June
- * Year 6 boys & girls cricket competition Tuesday 2nd July
- * Production rehearsals @ Sandhurst Tuesday 2nd July
- * Transition days to Secondary school Wednesday 3rd-Thursday 4th July
- * KS2 Sports day Friday 5th July
- * Production rehearsals @ Sandhurst school Monday 8th July
- * Dress rehearsal to reception-year 4 Tuesday 9th July
- * Year 6 10p fayre Wednesday 10th July
- * Dress rehearsal to year 5 @ Sandhurst Friday 12th July
- * Performance evenings @ Sandhurst Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th July
- * Year 6 special trophies assembly Thursday 18th July
- * Year 6 end of year festival Thursday 18th July.

Should be enough to keep us all busy!

Mr Saunders and Mr Stevens

Kingfishers and Wrens

We have been very busy in Kingfishers. We have enjoyed our new stories and the children have produced some fantastic writing!

For Science Week, we enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly and looking at the caterpillars that we have in school. They have got very big already and will soon be ready to grow their chrysalises.

Kingfishers are also enjoying touch typing on a Tuesday and we are all definitely getting faster at typing.

I am writing this after getting back from taking some of the children to the Everyone Active Sports Event. The children had a brilliant time and they all took part in the activities, worked as a team, cheered each other on and got active! Kingfishers are sports superstars and have the medal to prove it!





Wrens topic is The Farm this half term. We have been printing with animals, making footprints and models of farm animals. We enjoyed making animal faces - decorating (and eating) biscuits!







Four Legged Therapy with Wrens and Kingfishers



KEY DATES		
Tuesday 7 th May -Friday 10 th May 2024	Year 5 Bikeability	
Wednesday 8 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 27 th May – Friday 27 th May 2024	HALF TERM	
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 <mark>(more details to follow)</mark>	
Friday 21 st June 2024	Year 4 to Ufton Court	
Friday 21 st June 2024	Reception Classes to Birdworld	
Friday 21 st June 2024	Swans Class Assembly (9am school hall)	
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 <mark>(Time TBC)</mark>	
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 <mark>(Time TBC)</mark>	
Wednesday 10 th July 2024	Year 6 10p Fair (more details to follow)	
Friday 12 th July 2024	PTA Non-Uniform	
Friday 12 th July 2024	PTA Disco (including YR6 Leavers Disco)	
Friday 19th July 2024	Bubble show (PTA event- 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 <u>2.00pm</u>

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 <u>2.00pm</u>

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.