



St Mary's Newsletter

Issue 6

1st December 2023

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4EU

<http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryipswich.com>

School Rules:

Be ready, Be respectful, Be safe

Tweet of the Week

"Let us #PrayTogether that people with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programs that enhance their active participation. #PrayerIntention #ClickToPray."

Pope Francis (@Pontifex)

Week Commencing 4th December 2023

Tues 5th Dec: Year 5 Swimming

Tues 5th Dec: Reception Nativity at 9.30am

Wed 6th Dec: Christmas Fair

Thurs 7th Dec: Years 4, 5 & 6 Reconciliation in Church at 1.15pm

Fri 8th Dec: Non-uniform Day & School Discos

Mon 11th Dec: KSI Performance at 9am

Thurs 14th Dec: KS2 Performance at 2.15pm

Fri 15th Dec: KS2 Performance at 9am

Wed 20th Dec: Ensemble in Church at 9am

Parents/carers welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

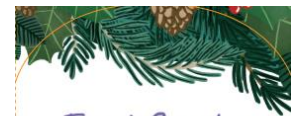
This is a magical time of year to be in a primary school – the hall is filled with the sound of Nativity rehearsals, the stage is up and the first celebrations of Advent began today. It was wonderful that so many of you were able to join us this morning at our KSI Advent Service. It is such a busy time of year, we have our Reception Nativity on 5th December at 9.30am. KSI on 11th December at 9am. KS2 on 14th December at 2.15pm and 15th December at 9am. Don't forget the Christmas Fair, Disco and Christmas lunch! We do hope that as many of you as possible can make our Christmas Ensemble on 20th December at 9am in Church.

Link to an online Advent calendar from CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/advent-calendar-for-children>

Keep warm as the weather gets colder and please ensure pupils have a suitable coat and accessories in school – these need to be labelled clearly as they are easily misplaced by children.

Warm Regards

Mrs Berry and Mrs Measham



First Sunday Advent

Eternal God,
you will come
when we do not expect you.
Help us to welcome you now
in one another,
to reach out
to our sisters and brothers
in need of care and support.
And in this way
may we be found ready,
when you come again in glory.
Amen.

"Be on your guard, stay awake,
because you never know when
the time will come."

Mark 13:33

SPORTS CLUBS AUTUMN TERM

The final sessions for this term's sports clubs are as follows:

Football Club (years 1, 2 & 3) – Monday 4th December

Netball Club (years 5 & girls) – Wednesday 6th December

Football Club (years 4, 5 & 6 boys) – Wednesday 6th December

Football Club (years 4, 5 & 6 girls) – Thursday 7th December

Multisports Club (years 1, 2 & 3) – Friday 8th December

Handball & Dodgeball (KS2) – Friday 8th December

Multisports Club (years 4, 5 & 6) – Friday 8th December



SPORTS CLUBS SPRING TERM 2024

Mondays

Football Club (years 1, 2 & 3) 3.30-4.30pm. First session 8th January. This club is full.

Wednesdays

Netball Club (years 5 & girls) 3.30-4.15pm. First session 17th January.

Football Club (years 4, 5 & 6 boys) 3.30-4.30pm. First session 10th January.

Thursdays

Football Club (years 4, 5 & 6 girls) starts at 8am. First session 11th January.

Fridays

Multisports Club (years 1, 2 & 3) starts at 8am. First session 12th January. This club is full.

Handball & Dodgeball (KS2) starts at 12.10pm. First session 12th January. This club is full.

Multisports Club (years 4, 5 & 6) 3.30-4.30pm. First session 12th January.

Booking information has been sent out to parents/carers by Parentmail.

ORCHESTRA

Last Orchestra date for the term is Thursday 7th December. The group starts up again for the Spring Term on

Thursday 18th January (3.30-4.15pm).





WEATHER:

Despite the weather getting colder we will hopefully still go outside for breaktime. Please ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat and gloves (plus a hat and scarf if they wish). Thank you.



JOB VACANCIES

- Effective as soon as possible, we have vacancies in school for midday supervisors to help with our busy lunchtimes during term time.

The hours are 11.40am – 12.50pm (70mins per day); five days per week.

The current hourly rate is £10.98 (subject to pay rise in negotiation) for 38 weeks per year (plus 5 weeks paid holiday).

This is an excellent opportunity to get paid experience of working in a school.

If you would like to know more or know of someone who would like this role, please email:

admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk



CAR PARK ETIQUETTE

Can we please politely remind parents/carers to drive carefully and park considerately. Safety is our top priority.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL SEND STRATEGY CONSULTATION

From Suffolk County Council:

Our current Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy has been the basis of our work to improve SEND Services over the last three years, and as it comes to an end we want to ask as many people as possible their opinion about what we should concentrate on next.

We believe our work so far is beginning and will continue to make outcomes better for children and young people, but we also know that the lived experience of many families has yet to improve. We must make sure that our new strategy continues to address this. We want to keep on doing the things that are working, identify where there are gaps, and understand what else we need to be doing to address these.

We'd like to invite you to let us know what you think the new strategy should include, and what our priorities should be.

Please find a link to the survey <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SEND23/>

THE BIG AMBITION SURVEY

Hi, my name is Rachel and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England.

I have launched this survey, The Big Ambition, to hear from all children and young people in England aged between 6 and 18 years old. Adults can answer on behalf of a child or young person aged up to 18.

I will use this survey to take children and young people's views to the Government.

Everything you tell me will be kept private, and you don't have to answer any question if you don't want to. To find out more, visit my website.

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Just answer honestly!

Please find a link to the survey: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/

CHRISTMAS LUNCH DAY – 13TH DECEMBER

Lunches are £2.53 per day.

Please ensure that you have enough credit on your school dinner account to cover the Christmas lunch and any other lunches required for the rest of this term. Lunches must be paid for in advance. Thank you.

If they wish to, pupils can wear a Christmassy top with their uniform and/or a sparkly/Christmassy headband.

Christmas lunch is free for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2. Please be aware that lunch is free if your child has FSM status.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Tuesday 5th December – Reception Nativity 9.30am. 2 tickets per child (already sent home).

Wednesday 6th December – Christmas Fair 1.30-5pm (further details elsewhere in this newsletter).

Friday 8th December – Non-uniform Day & School Discos (information already forwarded to parents/carers).

Monday 11th December – Key Stage 1 Nativity 9am. 2 tickets per child (already sent home).

Thursday 14th December – Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance at 2.15pm. 1 ticket per child (already sent home).

Friday 15th December – Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance at 9am. 1 ticket per child (already sent home).



CHRISTMAS ENSEMBLE

Please join us in church at 9am on Wednesday 20th December.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friends of St Mary's Christmas Fair is fast approaching. It's in the church hall on **Wednesday 6th December** - 1:30-3pm for the children and 3-5pm for the public. We're currently fundraising to install an amazing history wall on the school playground which will benefit all children and be a superb learning resource. As usual, to help us put on a great fair, we have a couple of requests for help and donations.



Firstly, we're desperate for volunteers, either the day before or the day of the fair. If you can help, even for a little while, please sign up here - <https://volunteersignup.org/8WJWP> or email friendsofstmarysipswich@gmail.com if you can assist in any way.

Secondly, we're asking for some donations if you are in a position to help. To make life easy, here is a summary of the three things we'll be asking for ahead of the fair:

A 'lucky bag' to be sold at the fair- we will send home a paper bag which your child may decorate if they like. Please fill it with little things like trinkets, sweets, rubbers, toys or pencils. No need for brand new things, just good condition - it's the perfect opportunity to recycle party bag/Happy Meal toys.

Baked goods - we'd be incredibly grateful for any donations of baked goods. Sweet or savoury, shop bought or home-made, everything is gladly received. We will send home a paper plate with the children, and ask for baked donations to come into school on Tuesday 5th or the morning of Wednesday 6th December (fair day) for a delicious baked goods stall.

A contribution to the fair, either something for the soft drink tombola or something for a hamper. Requests for items are below, separated out by class group. We have divided up requested items between the year groups to try to provide a good mix. We will be collecting these donations between Monday 27th November and Monday 4th December so between these dates please send them in with your child, drop them into the box in front of the school office or pass them to your class rep.

Reception families, could you please bring either hot chocolate or marshmallows or mince pies or wine. These will be used for hampers.

Year 1 families, could you please bring savoury snack foods - ie crackers or crisps, bread sticks or cheese straws or a jar of pickle/chutney/jam? These will be used for hampers.

Year 3 families, could you please bring anything Christmas related - could be a Christmas pudding, florentines, Yule log, stollen, sticker book, Christmas crackers, mulled wine, Buck's Fizz, Christmas activity pack, soft toy, card game. These will be used for hampers.

Year 5 families, could you please bring in any sweet snack foods - chocolates, sweets, biscuits, dates etc These will be used for hampers.

Years 2, 4 and 6 families, could you please bring in soft drinks – bottles, small multipacks, cartons or even a bottle of Prime – everything welcome for the soft drink and Prime tombola. Please avoid energy drinks (including Prime cans) as we won't be able to let the children win them. Thank you so much.

We really appreciate your help with this. Please try to stick to your child's class list, but if you can't access any of those items easily, you can always pick from the items on the other lists. Also, if you have several children at the school, please don't feel you have to buy for every class they're in!

Finally, hamper raffle tickets have come home with the eldest child in each family. We'll have some fantastic Christmas hampers to raffle this year, not only fancy food and drink but also tempting toy hampers – no need for Santa if you win one of these, you'll wrap Christmas up in one go!

Instructions for how to buy are on the tickets. Please feel free to offer tickets to family and friends, and if you don't require the tickets then please return them to the school office for resale. Extra tickets will be available via school office, class reps and at the fair.

Thanks as always for your valued support.
Friends of St Mary's PTA team

IPSWICHFIT

For the rest of November through to New Year's Eve, Ipswichfit are offering every child a voucher to go swimming at Crown Pools for free when accompanied by a full paying adult. Please find voucher below.



The graphic is a blue rectangular poster for Ipswichfit. At the top right, there are icons of a swimmer, a swimmer, and a swimmer, with the text 'IPSWICH FIT' below them. The main text reads 'Kids Swim Free' in large white letters. Below this, it says 'When accompanied by a paying adult Show e-voucher to reception at Crown Pools to redeem your swim'. On the right side, there is an illustration of a smiling child wearing a red swim cap and goggles, swimming in the water. At the bottom left, there is a small white box containing the text: '*Available now, must be redeemed by 31st December 2023. T & Cs apply please see website. 1 voucher per child and can only be used once.'

SPORTS ROUND-UP

IPSSA Boys Football Cup

Britannia B 3-2 St Mary's. In their first match of the season the team showed promising attacking play and also learnt some lessons in other areas to take forward into league games.



IPSSA Girls Football Cup

St Mary's 7-2 Halifax. A goal fest for the girls in their first game this season. Some superb attacking play in a deserved win.

School Games Boys Tag Rugby Festival

The boys went over to St Joseph's College for an afternoon of Tag Rugby, all enjoying representing the school and showing fantastic team work.

IPSSA Girls Football League

The Beeches 1-0 St Mary's. A frustrating result for the girls in their first league game. After dominating the game and having lots of chances, it was just one of those days! But a good learning experience for the girls who never stopped trying.

RECOMMENDED READING

Poems Out Loud VARIOUS AUTHORS

Illustrated by Laurie Stansfield

From rockets to mermaids and everything in between, there's something for everyone in this diverse and contemporary collection. Perfect for young children aged 4+ who are approaching poetry for the very first time, these poems can be performed out loud, shared with others or simply read in your head.

Featuring award-winning poets, brand new voices, hip-hop artists and spoken-word performers, this is a wonderfully fresh, diverse and relevant new anthology that will get children laughing, thinking, sharing and performing!



Being Me

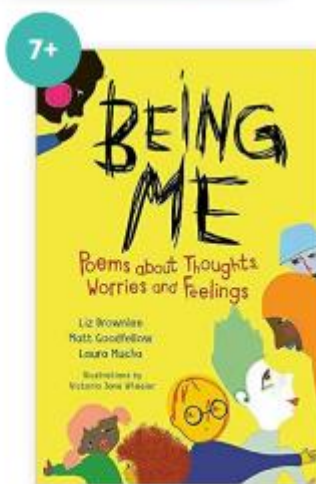
LIZ BROWNLEE, MATT GOODFELLOW, LAURA MUCHA

Illustrated by Victoria Jane Wheeler

Read about the Land of Blue, where it's OK to feel sad, find ideas for what to do with worries or how to slow down when your head is full of hurry. Give yourself time to chill out, find quiet voices in noisy places and discover kindness in yourself and others.

Then maybe your own special thought machine will tell you, 'This is going well. You're doing great. You've got this!' And you have!

This important and unique anthology of 45 poems by three leading poets, well known for their empathy and perception, speaks to the heart of what children think and care about, offering understanding, support and encouragement. With an endnote by leading clinical psychologist Karen Goodall.



**If your child was born between
1 September 2019 and
31 August 2020,
you must apply for a full-time
Reception Year school place by
15 January 2024**



You **must** make an application even if your child already has a place in a nursery class, pre-school or family hub

To apply for a place or for more information you can visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

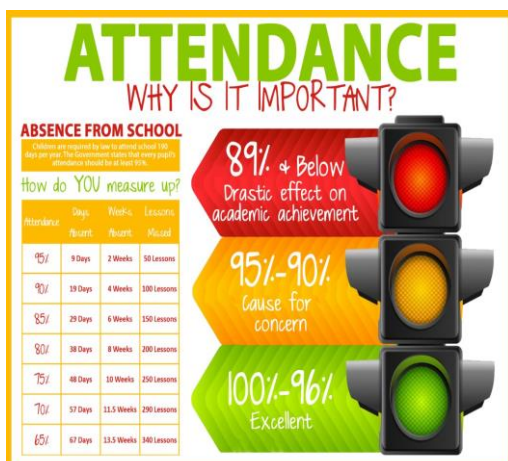
Information is also available from:

•The Admissions Team on **0345 600 0981**

•Your local school

IMPORTANT: St Mary's require a completed Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which should be sent to the school before 15th January deadline please. The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can be found on our website under *Key Information - Admissions*

ATTENDANCE



Please take time to read and familiarise yourself with our Trust Attendance Policy. Please be aware that the school is unable to authorise holiday requests for absence during term time.

If you arrive after 8.50am, please come to the Office to sign the late book.

It is really important that you ensure your child arrives at school between 8:40 and 8:50am.

A late arrival after 8.50am means the class has already started and this is disruptive for your child and others in the class.

If your child is ill, please leave a message on the School Absence Line

(01473 728372) before 8am, or send an email to: admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk

https://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryipswich.com/_site/data/files/policies/D04-6258157B2B78BA94-74-9F6FB9079DE_.pdf

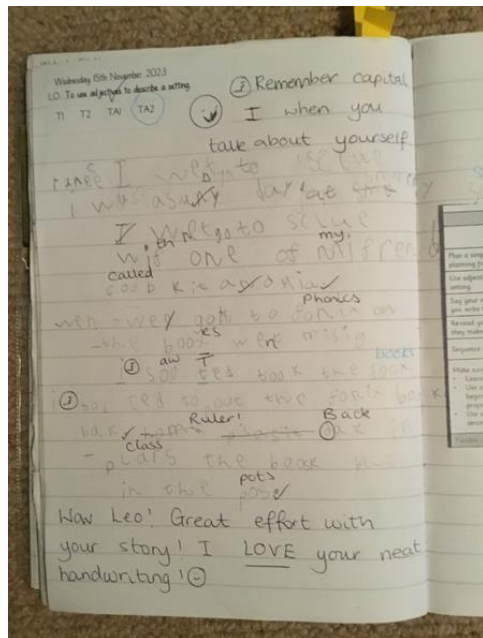


SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 1

Year 1 have completed lots of exciting learning this half term. The children have worked incredibly hard throughout their transition from Reception to Year 1. They are now more independent and learning to problem solve within the class.

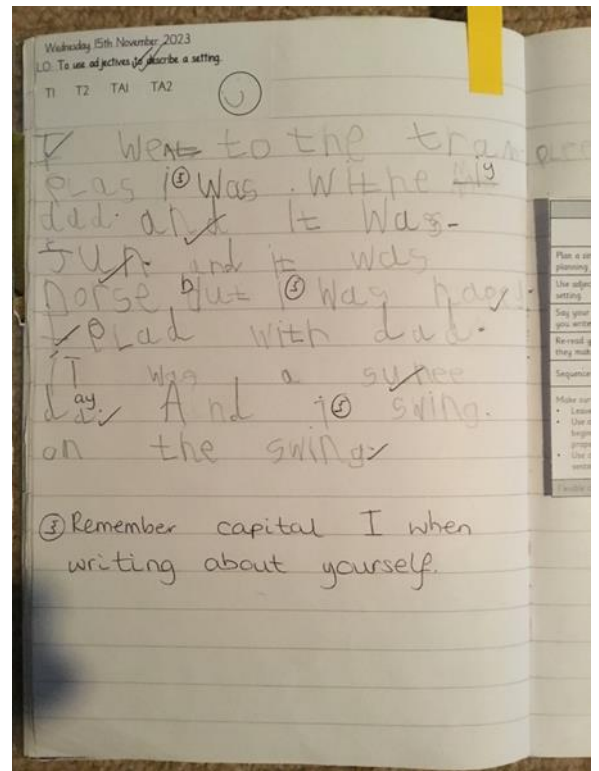
RE

In RE we have enjoyed learning about families and considering how we all show we love and care for one another. We then used this information to help us consider what Jesus' family would be like. We enjoyed sharing our first Liturgy in Year 1 with Mrs Berry and Father Jude. We liked taking the opportunity to look at photographs of our families and find out more about who is in our family. During our Liturgy, we shared things that we like to do with our family and how we show we love and care for each other.



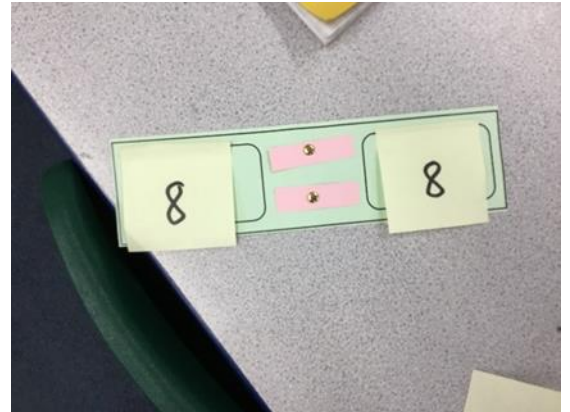
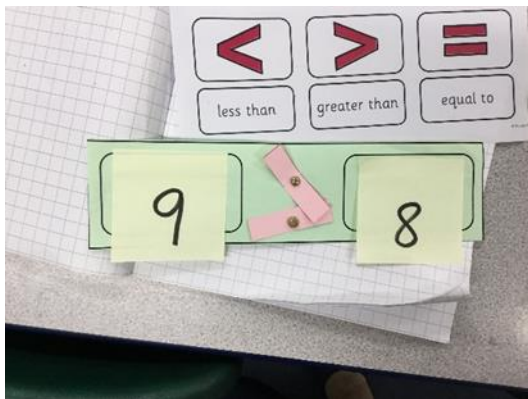
English

In English we have been using lots of descriptive vocabulary to describe a setting. We even learnt a song to help us remember what a noun and an adjective is! Take a look at our amazing handwriting and presentation:



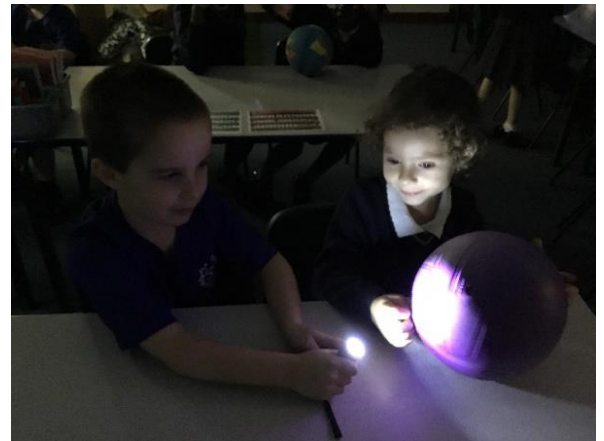
Mathematics

In Mathematics we have been focusing on Place Value and addition and subtraction. We have become very familiar with the use of the inequality symbols. More recently we have been focusing on addition and subtraction fact families. With lots of practice and resilience we have become masters at finding fact families and systematic number bonds!



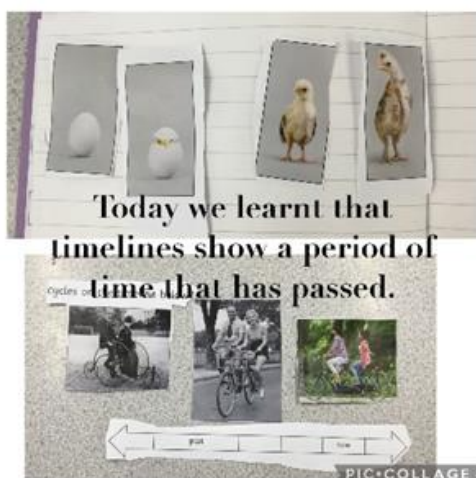
Science

In Science we have enjoyed learning about the four seasons and considering why we have day and night time. We enjoyed conducting an experiment to show why it is day time in certain countries and night time in others.



History

In History we have been learning about changes within living memory. We have enjoyed thinking about what has changed in our lives so far and how certain images show us things from the past. We will be building on this knowledge to think about how shops have changed since the 1950s.





Geography

In Geography we have been learning about the Countries and Capital cities within the UK. We have enjoyed listening to various songs and completing jigsaw puzzles to help us remember them all. We have also incorporated sign language to help us remember the capital cities. Ask your child if they can recall all of these key facts – do they use the songs to help them?

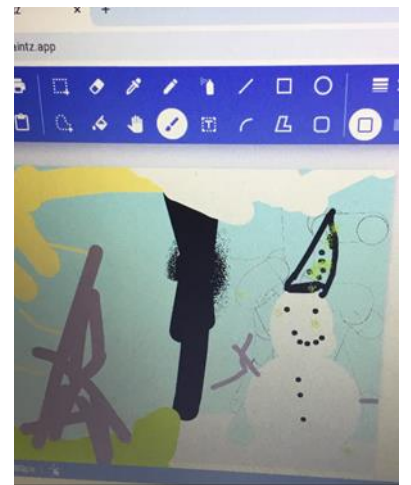
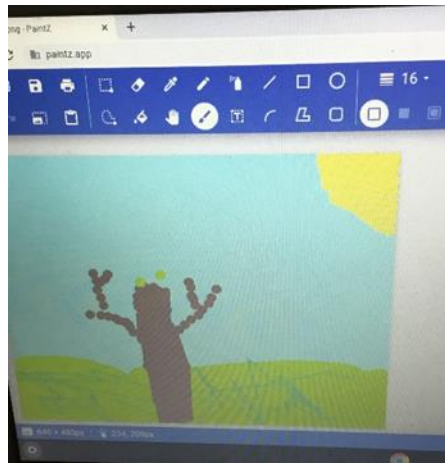
Music

We have been really fortunate to have extra Music lessons this half term with Mrs MJ. We have been learning lots of different songs and actions that require us to think and listen hard.



Computing

In Computing we have been focusing on developing our mouse and typing skills. We have learnt the different names of parts of a computer and laptop and considered their function. We had great fun enhancing these skills by trying to create a seasonal digital image.



Art and DT

In Art we have been enjoying learning about painting and painting in the style on Mondrian. In DT we will be moving on to structures. As part of our Art and DT we often think about vocabulary and how it can be used to describe the techniques used.



Reading Tree

As we enter the Christmas period we will be encouraging the children to read using our Christmas Reading tree! Each time the children read at home they will be able to add a bauble to our Christmas tree! I can't wait to see how full our tree gets!

Term dates for 2023 – 2024

Autumn Term 2023

Half term: 23rd – 27th October

End of Term: Wednesday 20th December

Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4th January – Thursday 28th March

Half term: 19th – 23rd February

Staff Training day: 3rd January & 26th February

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April – Friday 19th July

Bank holiday: 6th May

Half term: 27th May – 31st May

Staff Training days: 12th April