



# Middlefirth Church of England Primary School

## Friday 19th December Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for your continued support throughout, what has been, another busy and joyful term in school. Your involvement in school life makes such a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support with our nativities and performances, raffles, and the many wonderful PTFA events that have taken place. The sense of community you help to create is something we are very proud of.

As many of you will know, today we sadly said goodbye to Miss Turner and Miss Killingbeck, who are both moving on to new roles. We would like to thank them for their hard work, dedication, and the care and love they have shown to our children and families during their time with us. We wish them every success and happiness in their new adventures.

We will also be saying goodbye (temporarily!) to Mr Noblet, who is "going out on loan" until July 2026, as I keep reminding him. This is an excellent career opportunity as he takes up the role of Assistant Headteacher, and we are incredibly proud of him.

In addition, Miss Cook, who has been covering in Nursery, whilst we filled the vacant post, will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has been an excellent member of our staff team and we thank her for her commitment and care, wishing her all the very best for the future.

There is also some very positive news to share. Miss Gregory, who has been supporting in Reception, will now be staying with us until July 2026. This is excellent news and will provide much-needed continuity for our children. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Yorke, who many of you have already met, as the Year 1 class teacher, along with Miss Jones, who will be supporting in class. Mr Moat has also been in school all week getting to know the children and we are really excited to welcome him to our team.

Finally, we are very pleased to share that Mrs Partington will be returning in the new year following her maternity leave, and Mrs Allton will also be returning on a phased basis after the Christmas break. The children were absolutely delighted to see her when she came to visit on Christmas lunch day.

As we draw the Christmas festivities in school to a close, I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and joyful Christmas and New Year with your families. As we reflect on the season, we are reminded of the words:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." (Luke 2:14)

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 5th January.

Mrs Pilkington



### Staffing January 2026

**Nursery** - Mrs Cowell and Miss McKeon

**Reception** - Miss Stritch, Miss Keep, Mrs Makepeace, Miss Gregory, Miss Monk and Miss Wharton

**Year 1** - Miss Yorke, Mrs Partington, Mrs Smith and Miss Jones

**Year 2** - Mr Day, Mr Moat, Mrs Powers, Miss Campbell

**Year 3** - Mrs Gordon, Mr Moat and Mrs Laithwaite

**Year 4** - Mrs Parker, Mrs Darbyshire and Miss Roe

**Year 5** - Mrs Murphy, Mr Moat and Miss Bobb

**Year 6** - Miss Howarth and Mrs Wilde

Mrs Partington will also be running forest school sessions and supporting in other classes.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

# TAKEHOME

19th - 21st September



What does kindness look like?

Small Acts of Ki

## In the news this week

This winter, a charity called Small Acts of Kindness has sourced, packed and distributed over 10,000 'Warm in Winter' gift bags across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Each bag includes things to keep people warm, like blankets, socks and hot drinks. The project aims to bring comfort to elderly and vulnerable people in the colder months. It shows that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Talk to someone at home about the campaign.
- > Can you think of a time someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel?
- > Do you believe helping others can make us feel happier too? Why?
- > What are some small acts of kindness we can do at home, at school, or in our community?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



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## Healthy Snacks and Packed Lunches

As a healthy school we ask that only healthy snacks and packed lunches are brought into school. Over the past few weeks, we are seeing a big increase in sugary foods and snacks being brought in and in very large quantities. Please can you talk to your children about only having these in moderation and support school in sending in healthy snacks and lunches.



## OPAL



It's been a fantastic term with OPAL and we have been so lucky that we have been able to purchase new resources, including a climbing frame, skateboards and lots of other exciting equipment. To ensure that we make the most of this, please can we ensure that all children return in January with wellies and waterproofs. It is part of our school uniform so all children need these in school.

If you have any spare that no longer fit your children then please can you send them into school to have as spares.

### Local Food bank:

Friday 9.30-12.00

Penwortham  
Community Centre  
Kingsfold Drive  
PR1 9EQ

Email: [penworthamfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamfoodbank@gmail.com)



## Foodbank and other services of support

Children and Family Wellbeing service are offering a range of different empowering parenting courses. These courses aim to offer support for issues such as emotional wellbeing, mental health, neurodiversity and understanding relationships.

The courses can also help if your child is currently on a pathway for Autism or ADHD.

Please click the QR code for more information.





# Middlefirth Church of England Primary School 2025/2026 Yearly Planner



## SEPTEMBER

10th - Meet the teacher  
22nd - Fairtrade Fortnight  
23rd - EYFS Phonics and Reading workshop  
26th - European day of Languages

## OCTOBER

9th - SEN/Family Support  
Coffee morning  
2nd - National Poetry Day  
7th - Whole School Flamenco Day 2nd  
16th - Whole School Church  
20th - PTFA School Disco  
21st - Reception 2026 Open Days  
22nd - Individual Photographs 24th -  
Parents Exhibition Afternoon 2pm

## NOVEMBER

Non-Fiction November Black History  
Month 5th - Flu Vaccinations  
6th - Outdoor Classroom Day  
10th - Anti-Bullying Week 11th -  
Remembrance Day 12th -  
Y6 WW2 Trip  
13th and 18th - Book Fair 13th -  
KS2 Church - Year 6 Leading  
14th - Children in Need  
18th & 19th - Parents Evening  
21st - Year 4 Poetry Recital Competition  
24th - School Parliament Week

## DECEMBER

9th - KS1 Nativity  
11th - Minis/Reception Nativity  
12th - Christmas Jumper Day  
16th - Christmas Carols in Church  
17th - Christmas Parties and Christmas  
Lunch  
18th - Whole School Church

## JANUARY

22nd - Parents Coffee Morning  
16th - Energy Saving week  
20th - 3.30pm Year 6 SATs and  
Robinwood meeting  
27th - National Geographic Day

## FEBRUARY

1st - National Story Telling Week  
3rd - KS1 Church - Year 2 leading  
9th - Children's Mental Health Week  
6th - Young Voices Concert (Co-Op Live  
Arena)  
10th - Safer Internet Day  
10th & 11th - Parents Evening  
13th - Parents Exhibition Afternoon 2pm  
14th - International Book Giving Day  
Swimming Pool Arrives

## MARCH

3rd - World Wildlife Day  
2nd - 4th - Year 6 Residential to  
Robinwood  
5th - World Book Day  
16th - Sign Language Week  
17th - Neurodiversity Week  
26th - Whole School Church  
Let's Go Sing- Year 4 DATE TBC  
Red Nose Day - Date TBC

## APRIL

15th, 22nd, 29th - Tots on Tyres  
(Reception)  
15th - World Art Day  
22nd - World Earth Day  
22nd - Scoot Safe (Year 3)  
23rd - Parents Coffee Morning  
29th - International Dance Day

## MAY

National Share a Story Month  
6th & 13th - Y5 Bikeability  
7th & 8th (PM) - May Day Festival  
11th - Key Stage 2 SATs week  
11th - Mental Health Awareness Week  
18th - Walk to School Week  
22nd - Parents Exhibition afternoon 2pm

## JUNE

2nd - Year 4 Multiplication Check  
Window  
5th - World Environment Day  
8th - Phonics Screening Check week  
11th - Book World Cup!  
15th - National School Sports Week  
19th - Sports Day  
25th - National Writing Day  
25th - Sustainability Conference  
26th - Back up Sports Day  
22nd - Key Stage 1 SATs week  
Possibly Y6 trip to Harris Museum TBC

## JULY

7th - Year 6 Performance  
10th - Reports Home  
14th - Reports drop in for parents  
3.30pm - 4.30pm  
15th - Year 6 Leavers PM  
15th - Year 6 Prom 5.30pm  
16th - AM Whole School Church  
17th - Finish for summer

As a caring, Christian community,  
we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We  
will open up the world to celebrate  
God's wonderful creation and foster  
a sense of awe and wonder.  
We will nurture our God given  
talents to ensure that everyone  
reaches their full potential  
academically, socially and  
spiritually.

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'  
MATTHEW 5.16





# Online Safety Newsletter

December 2025

## AI Chatbots and companions

A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

### What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace 'real life' friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

### How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

### Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

## New Technology

As some children may be receiving new technology or related games at Christmas, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

### Games/Consoles



- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games. *Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.* - If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child. - On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for popular devices here: **Xbox:** <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub> **PS5:** <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/> **Nintendo Switch:** <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-2-Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-2873385.html>

### Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

**iPhones/iPad:** <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

**Android Device:** <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

### Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

## The Safety-First Smartphone

The Other phone is a new smartphone, which includes "SafetyMode" software. The software automatically blocks nudity, profanity, and bullying language in real time. You can find out more here: <https://otherphone.co.uk/>.

Smart Phone Free Childhood also list some alternatives that you could consider here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>.

*Please note, that the inclusion of these models does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. While these devices may provide a 'safer' alternative to traditional smartphones, there are still potential risks associated with children using any type of phone.*



# Roblox

Following a recent ITV investigation\*, which found extremist content on Roblox, we thought we would provide a reminder of what you need to be aware of. Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which means not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls. **PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is considered a platform with a huge level of user generated content.**

## What should I be aware of?

**Game content** – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child. Roblox labels content based on the type of content rather than by age. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted.

**Chat Facility** - Players can chat with each other (users under the age of 13 need parent permission to access certain chat features though). You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only able to communicate with friends.

**Virtual Currency** - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

## How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

## What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and remind your child that if anything is worrying them, then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

## Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox>

[\*Source: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-11-14/mosque-attacks-and-far-right-skins-roblox-teens-exposed-to-extremist-content>]

# Signal Private Messenger

Signal is rated as 13+ on the App store. It is a messaging app, where users can text, send voice messages and photos plus participate in group chats and calls. There are no parental controls currently available. As with all messaging apps, the risks can include bullying and viewing inappropriate content. Find out more here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

*Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.12.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or*

# Discord

Discord is a social networking app originally designed for gamers but is now used by lots of different people to **chat to each other online**. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The App store rates it as 17+.

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server, and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat whilst playing the game (**rather than using the game's own chat facility**). In-app purchases are available through Discord's subscription service called Nitro.

## How can I make it safer?

Discord have created a Family Centre, which provides further information about what Discord is, as well as information about different safety settings available:

<https://discord.com/safety-family-center>

As always, we would encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use Discord and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. **Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language.** Discord have produced this article, which answers frequent questions: <https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-answering-parents-and-educators-top-questions>

**Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language?** You can use the translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/deceember-2025-primary/>



# 2025/26 COACHING CAMPS

## CHRISTMAS

MONDAY 22ND & TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DEC

## FEBRUARY HALF TERM

MON 16TH TO FRI 20TH FEB

## EASTER

TUES 7TH TO FRI 10TH APR

## SUMMER

MON 20TH TO FRI 24TH OF JUL  
MON 17TH TO FRI 21ST OF AUG

**9AM - 3PM (WITH WRAP-AROUND AVAILABLE)**

Join us on a PFA Football Camp at Penwortham Priory Academy.

With a daily price of £20 a day, £75 for 4 days or £85 for 5 days.

- ✓ Skill Development Practices
- ✓ Ability-Set Tournaments
- ✓ Small-Sided 3v3 Games
- ✓ Fun-Filled, Active Days!!

@penwortham.footballacademy

Penwortham Football Academy

**Book on here**



<https://www.penworthamfootballacademy.co.uk>



PENWORTHAM FOOTBALL ACADEMY

## CHRISTMAS CAMP 2025

MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> & TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

**9AM - 3PM (WITH WRAP-AROUND AVAILABLE)**

High-quality coaching designed to enhance players' technical skills, ball mastery, and confidence in possession.

Delivered in an academy-style environment, with tailored, skill-based training.

**£20 a day**

- ✓ Skill Development Practices
- ✓ Ball Mastery Focus
- ✓ Small-Sided 3v3 Games
- ✓ Qualified & Experienced Coaches

@penwortham.footballacademy

Penwortham Football Academy

**Book on here**



<https://www.penworthamfootballacademy.co.uk>



## Active Camps



### Venues:

Cuerden Church Primary School, PR5 6ED  
Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

Kingsfold Primary School, PR1 9HJ  
Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

Halloween Parties, Scooting, Archery, UV Sports, Dodgeball, and so so much more....

**Cost per day:** £14.00

**Cost per block:** £28.00

### For booking Visit:

[southribble.gov.uk/activecamps](https://southribble.gov.uk/activecamps)

Drop off 8.30am - 9am

Pick up 4.30pm - 5pm

**Funded places available through HAF**



Dodgeball, dance, scooting, cycling, glow sport, soft axe throwing, archery and much more!

All staff enhanced DBS cleared, also safeguarding and first aid trained



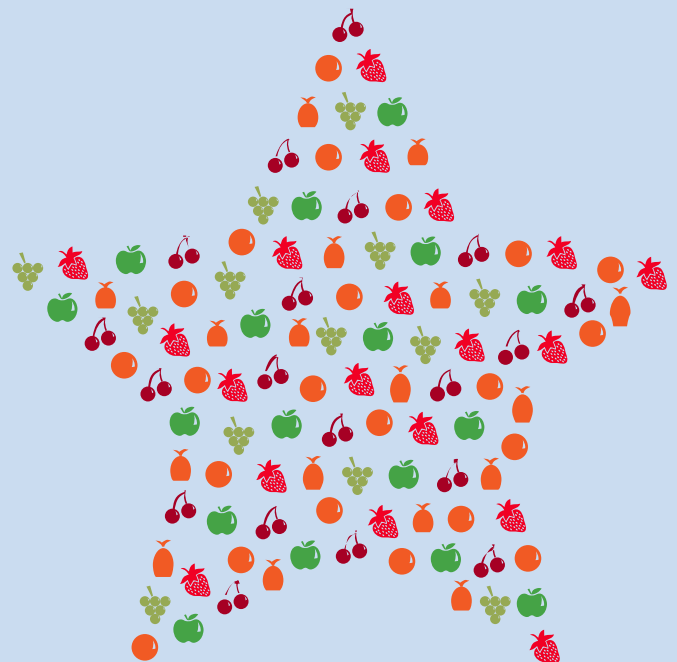
With highly qualified sports



Click here to find out more



All children provided with a healthy lunch



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16



# Lancashire SEND Roadshow

2025/2026

The roadshows are for families and practitioners to find out more about support and services available for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers.

These Roadshows are happening across Lancashire bringing the SEND Local Offer to your area.

The SEND Local Offer brings together all services in Lancashire for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND, and their families.



Lancashire  
**SEND**  
Roadshow

## Dates across Lancashire are:

25th Sept 2025 9:30 – 1 pm	Kirkham Family Hub
22nd Oct 2025 9:30 – 1 pm	Skelmersdale Family Hub and The Zone
3rd Dec 2025 9:30 – 1pm	Pendle and Burnley 1882 Lounge Burnley Football Club
28th January 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	The Park Family Hub Accrington
4th February 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Inspire Youth Zone Chorley
26th March 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Clitheroe Family Hub
15th April 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Lune Park Family Hub Lancaster
6th May 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Rawtenstall Family Hub and the Zone
16th June 2026 9:30 – 1 pm	Fleetwood Library
1st July 2026 1:30 – 4:30 pm	Moor Nook Ribbleson Family Hub

Please scan the following QR codes for more information:



Local Offer



Family Hubs

Lancashire  
**SEND IAS**  
Information, advice and support  
for Special Educational Needs and Disability



## Who are we and what do we do?

SENDIAS is a statutory service and operates confidentially from the Local Authority to provide impartial and unbiased support to children and families across Lancashire.

### Family Support

The service offers free information, advice, and support regarding SEND across the spectrum of education, health and social care, for example: EHCP processes, paperwork, communications with schools, and tribunal's.

### Empowering families

The SENDIAS goal is to empower families to make informed decisions and have their voices heard throughout the SEND journey.

### Service changes:

The team has recently expanded and we are currently reviewing the service offer following service user feedback to make it more flexible, accessible and empowering for families across Lancashire. These changes allow us to reach more families and offer consistent, high-quality accessible information advice and support across county.



Our Website with further details can be found here:

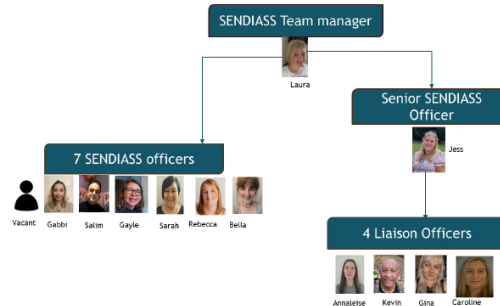
[SENDIAS Home - Lancashire SEND IAS](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-disability/)



Lancashire  
**SEND IAS**  
Information, advice and support  
for Special Educational Needs and Disability



## Team structure:



## How SENDIAS can support Families:

- Practical Guidance will be available at one stop shops in family hubs.
- SENDIAS can provide advice on preparing meetings, understanding reports, and managing appeals effectively.

Contact can be made by families by phone, referral form or email to our helpline— referrals from professionals MUST come through our contact form: [https://my.apps.lancashire.gov.uk/w/webpage/request?form=send\\_information\\_advice\\_and\\_support\\_contact\\_form](https://my.apps.lancashire.gov.uk/w/webpage/request?form=send_information_advice_and_support_contact_form)

**Community and Peer Networks** Peer support groups and local networks help families share experiences and find reassurance.

### Guidance Through EHCNA request

SENDIAS provides crucial guidance to parents during EHCP applications, helping to resolve school placement disputes successfully through groups and drop in's or in the future using digital options.





# December Kindness 2025



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY



FRIDAY

SATURDAY



SUNDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2026



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



## Middleforth Church of England Primary School



We have funded and paid nursery places available!

Call the office to book a visit and enquire about a place:  
01772 746024



As a caring, Christian community, we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We will open up the world to celebrate God's wonderful creation and foster a sense of awe and wonder. We will nurture our God given talents to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'  
MATTHEW 5:16

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

# Term Dates 2025 - 2026

## Autumn Term 2025

<b>Re-open on:</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
<b>School closes on:</b>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Mid-term closure:</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
<b>School re-opens on:</b>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>School closes on:</b>	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 2pm

## Spring Term 2026

<b>Re-open on:</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
<b>School closes on:</b>	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Mid-term closure:</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>School re-opens on:</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
<b>School closes on:</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2pm

## Summer Term 2026

<b>Starts:</b>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>May Day:</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>School closes on:</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>Mid-term closure:</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
<b>School re-opens on:</b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026
<b>School closes on:</b>	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 2pm

## INSET

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026