



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

NEWSLETTER

27th February 2026



Heart and Hand

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge congratulations to Hedgehog Class for their fantastic first-class assembly. The children wrote it themselves, and we were so impressed with their confidence, creativity and teamwork. Isn't that amazing? We are very proud of you all.

Well done as well to our football team for another successful match this week. The children represented the school brilliantly and showed great determination and sportsmanship.

Thank you for all the entries we have received so far for the Creative Writing Competition. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading them. There is still time to enter, and the closing date is **Monday 2nd March 2026**, so please do encourage your child to submit their work before then. Entries can be emailed to writingcomp@ladyj.kent.sch.uk or brought into the school office. You can find more info [here](#).

As we begin to see the first signs of spring around Wye, with bulbs starting to bloom and the evenings becoming lighter, it has been lovely to see the children enjoying more time outdoors. The weather can still be unpredictable at this time of year, so please ensure your child brings a coat each day and that all uniform is clearly named, as jumpers and cardigans are often removed during playtimes.

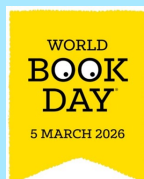
Following on from last week's newsletter: if your child does have a smartphone, some parents have been setting up parental controls using Google Family Link, which allows you to manage screen time, approve app downloads and monitor usage. For families who feel a smartphone may not yet be necessary, there are alternatives available, including basic mobile phones that allow calls and texts only. As always, we encourage open conversations at home about online safety and responsible device use. If you would like any support or advice, please do get in touch.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. We truly value the strong relationships we have with our families and the way you work alongside us to support the children's learning, wellbeing and development. It makes such a difference to the school community, and we are very grateful for everything you do.

Warmest wishes,

Rachael Foster
Headteacher

WORLD BOOK DAY THURSDAY 5TH MARCH



We are very excited to be celebrating **World Book Day** in school this year!

Children are warmly invited to come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book. Costumes can be as simple or as creative as you like - a homemade idea, a prop or even a themed accessory is absolutely perfect. Our focus is on celebrating reading and the stories we love.

Throughout the day, classes will be taking part in a range of book-themed activities designed to spark imagination and deepen children's love of reading. Each class will be exploring their current class reader from our **"50 Books To Read Before You Leave..."** collections - the very books you have so generously supported and donated to. It is wonderful to see these stories being enjoyed and shared across the school community.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support in nurturing a love of reading at Lady Joanna. We can't wait to see all the brilliant book characters come to life!

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Happy Chinese New Year to all of our Families - this year is the year of the horse. One of our parents, Mrs Tulett came in to do an assembly for our Year R children today; they had an amazing time being dragons and learning all about Chinese New Year.



SCHOOL ART PROJECT

Miss Weller is planning an exciting project that will make creative use of old newspapers. We would be very grateful if parents and staff could donate any newspapers they no longer need.

Please ensure that the newspapers do not contain images that would be inappropriate for a school setting.

Donations may be brought to the school office by the morning of Friday 6th March.

Thank you for your support, we can't wait to see what our children create and will be sure to share pictures on an upcoming newsletter

STEM WEEK 9th-13th MARCH

This term we will be taking part in STEM week (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). This year's theme is 'Curiosity: What's your Question?'

To mark the occasion, assemblies will be themed around this subject, celebrating curiosity and encouraging children to ask thoughtful scientific questions. In class children will be taking part in at least one practical science experiment and children will study key scientists. Watch out for photos in the newsletter!

Finally, our Science club will be hosting a **Science Fair** on Monday 30th March. They will be modelling experiments and showcasing projects, with each class attending throughout the day! More details to follow.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

The results are in for our attendance awards for this week!

Attendance

- ◆ 3rd Place - Woodpecker Class
- ◆ 2nd Place - Blackbird Class
- ◆ 1st Place - Squirrel Class

Well done to Woodpecker Class and Blackbird Class for a great effort - and to our winners, Squirrel Class, who have been awarded 15 minutes of free play time and a certificate!

We are excited to see who will win each week! Please remember, attendance for every child should be above 97%.

Mrs Read, Pastoral Support Mentor



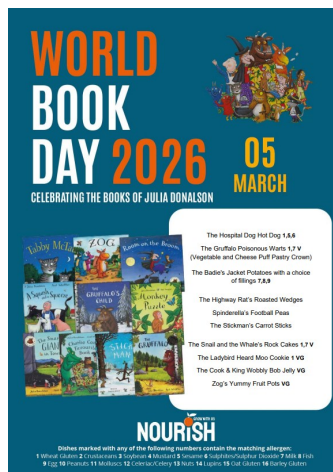
SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please could we remind parents to send children in to school with the correct school uniform each day. please view the school website at [Uniform Information | Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](#)

- **Burgundy School Jumper/ cardigan with Logo. Fleeces from home should not be worn in class.**
- **Grey skirt/trousers/pinafore (or blue and white checked dress in summer) No leggings.**
- **Blue short sleeved polo shirt (no roll necks or white shirts)**
- **Black shoes (no boots, trainers or open toed shoes)**
- **Grey socks or grey tights, no leggings**
- **PE Kit may be worn on PE days only, if advised by class teacher**
- **PE kit is Navy Blue Shorts/Skort/Trackpants, light blue top and sweatshirt or navy logo track jacket & plain trainers (white, black or navy)**
- **Hair should be neat and natural colour (no dyed hair or highlights).**
- **Earrings. Small stud type earrings only. No hoops or dangly earrings. Pupils may be asked to tape ears or remove earrings for PE.**

NOTICES.

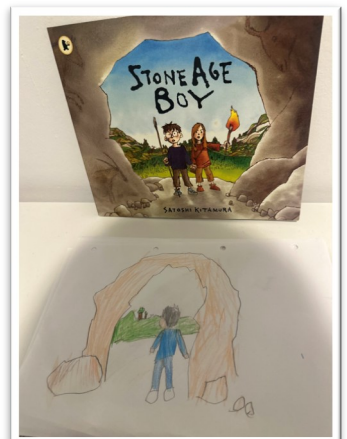
- **Absences due to sickness.** If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, we ask that you contact each morning of the illness before 9am please and give symptoms of the illness or an update. Please either ring the school and choose the absence option, or email absence@ladyj.kent.sch.uk For safeguarding your children, we must account for ALL pupils. If we have not heard from you then we will have to keep trying to contact you to confirm. This is important for all children, but can be a significant safeguarding risk for children who may walk themselves to school. If we do not hear from you and cannot contact you, this may result in a home welfare check or an unauthorised absence mark
- **Absences for appointments.** We appreciate that hospital appointments, therapy appointments and orthodontic appointments are hard to re-schedule, but we ask that routine dental, GP and eye test appointments are made fully outside of school time. For any unavoidable appointments, please complete the form giving as much notice as possible and attaching confirmation of the appointment. Please note that we cannot authorise leave retrospectively.
- **Football Sponsorship.** We are looking for sponsorship for our girls' and boys' football team kits as we continue this season. If sponsoring is something you or your business could help with, please do get in touch with Mrs Williams at K.williams@ladyj.kent.sch.uk.



LUNCH MENU CHANGE

World Book Day
5th March
(click here to see
website view)

Last term Year 3 studied a book called 'Stone Age Boy' - Albert was so inspired by the story that he drew this wonderful picture to illustrate it! Well done Albert, we think this picture is brilliant, we are so proud of you!



THRIVE

In the last week of Term 3 in Thrive, some of the children took part in Thrive's Got Talent! We also continued our art project for a Thrive mural, using paint. We hope you all had a wonderful half term and are excited to tell you all about our forthcoming activities in the school newsletter next week.

Staff car park

We politely request that parents do not use the staff car park when dropping children off or collecting them from Thrive for safeguarding purposes.

Ad hoc bookings

Ad hoc bookings can be made via ParentPay. At the time of booking, please select specific days/dates which you would like your child to attend. ParentPay requires payment for the selected sessions at the time of booking. We politely request that you give 48 hours' notice at the time of booking. This notice period is essential for safeguarding purposes and to ensure that the correct staff:child ratio is provided. We will try and accommodate emergency requests wherever possible, but these cannot be guaranteed. If an ad hoc booking is cancelled with less than 48 hours' notice, you will not be entitled to a refund.

Outdoor PE

If your child has outdoor PE on the same day that they are in Thrive, we politely request that they bring a change of clothes with them and appropriate footwear, should they need to change.





Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

DIARY DATES

see school calendar for times and information

[Calendar | Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](#)



Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand

Mar-26	
Wednesday 4th March	Piano Assembly (Mrs King— Year 5)
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day - (Literacy team)
Friday 6th March	Y3 Swimming (8 of 10 sessions)
Friday 6th March	Puffin Class Assembly
Wednesday 11th March	Piano Assembly (Mrs King's & Mr Carew piano pupils - Y2,3 and 4)
7th- 16th March	STEM Week
Friday 13th March	Y3 Swimming (9 of 10 sessions)
Monday 16th March	GBDO Dance Competition, Chatham
Wednesday 18th March	RockSteady concert - parents will be invited
Friday 13th March	Squirrel Class Assembly
Friday 20th March	Y3 Swimming (10 of 10 sessions)
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 24th March	Parent Consultations 4-6:30pm
Thursday 26th March	Accelerated Reader Assembly and workshop for winning class
Thursday 26th March	Parent Consultations 4-6:30pm
Thursday 26th March	Accelerated Reader tombola prize draw and AR workshop
Friday 27th March	Chaffinch Class Assembly
Friday 27th March	Year 3 Cake Sale
Friday 27th March	Food bank collections before and after school
Monday 30th March	Science Fair. Details to follow.
Apr-26	
Wednesday 1st April	Piano Assembly (Mrs King's piano pupils) Y6
Thursday 2nd April	Term 4 Ends
Monday 20th April	Term 5 Starts
Friday 24th April	Food bank collections before and after school
May-26	
Monday 4th May	May Day Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 11th May	KS2 SATS
Tuesday 12th May	KS2 SATS
Wednesday 13th May	KS2 SATS
Thursday 14th May	KS2 SATS
Friday 15th May	Year 2 Cake Sale
Monday 18th-Friday 22nd May	Y6 Intensive swimming catch up sessions (all week)
Date TBC	Y5 Parent Meeting - Secondary Transfer (PESE) 6:30pm
Tuesday 19th May	Sports Day
Wednesday 20th May	Vision Screening and hearing screenings for children who require 2nd check
Friday 22nd May	Food bank collections before and after school
Friday 22nd May	Term 5 Ends

Jun-26	
Monday 1st June	Term 6 Start
Monday 1st-Friday 5th June	Multiplication tables Checks
Monday 8th June	School class photos
Monday 8th - Friday 12th June	Phonics Screener
Saturday 13th June	School Summer Fayre
Monday 15th-Friday 19th June	Y5 Bikeability (will not be on Sports Day reserve date if this is required)
Tuesday 16th June	Sports Day reserve date
Friday 19th June	Friends' Event for Father's Day
Friday 26th June	Y4 Greek Day, Rainbow Theatre visit.
Friday 26th June	Food bank collections before and after school
Tuesday 30th June	Year 3 Trip to Canterbury Cathedral
Jul-26	
Monday 29th June -Friday 3rd July	Secondary School Transition Week
Wednesday 1st July	RockSteady concert - parents will be invited
Friday 3rd July	Fox Class Assembly
Friday 3rd July	School Disco
Tuesday 7th July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 8th July	Year 6 Production 9:30am and 7pm
Thursday 9th July	AR Prize Workshop-School Hall.
Friday 10th July	Year 6 Production 9:30am and 7pm
Friday 10th July	Year 1 Cake Sale
Tuesday 14th July	Class Transition Afternoon
Thursday 16th July	Open Evening 6-7:30pm (Thrive ending 5:15pm)
Friday 17th July	Y6 BBQ
Friday 17th July	Food bank collections before and after school
Monday 20th July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Tuesday 21st July	Term 6 Ends



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

SCHOOL DAY INFORMATION



Learning for the Head,

Heart and Hand

Attendance & Punctuality - how do you measure up?

If you have any concerns or would like to know your child's current attendance, please email Mrs Cox at office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Children are required by law to attend school for 190 days or 38 weeks per school year. The Government states that every pupil's absence should be at least 95%

Attendance during one school year	Equals - days absent from required 190 days per school year	Equals - sessions absent from required 190 days per school year	Approximate number of weeks missed per school year
95%	9.5 days	19 sessions	2 weeks
90%	19 days	38 sessions	4 weeks
85%	28.5 days	57 sessions	6 weeks
80%	38 days	76 sessions	7.5 weeks
75%	47.5 days	95 sessions	9.5 weeks
70%	57 days	114 sessions	11.5 weeks
65%	66.5 days	133 sessions	13 weeks
60%	76 days	152 sessions	15 weeks
55%	85.5 days	171 sessions	17 weeks
50%	95 days	190 sessions	19 weeks

PUNCTUALITY It is really important to ensure your child is arriving on time to school each day. Arriving late causes disruption to the whole class and can be stressful for your child, and may mean that your child misses out on vital learning sessions, including phonics.

The school gates open at 8:35 each morning and children are expected to be at their desks, ready to learn by no later than 8:45am. Children arriving after 8:45am must sign in at the office and will have their minutes late recorded and will be marked as late on the register. Children arriving after 9am when the registers have closed will have their minutes recorded and will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

TIME / APPROXIMATE DAYS MISSED OVER SCHOOL YEAR (190 DAYS/38 WEEKS)					
No. Minutes Late	1 x per week	2 x per week	3 x per week	4 x per week	5 x per week
5	190 minutes 3 hours 10 minutes half a school day	380 minutes 6 hours 20 minutes 1 school day	570 minutes 9 hours 30 minutes 1.5 school days	760 minutes 12 hours 40 minutes 2 school days	950 minutes 15 hours 50 minutes 2.5 school days
10	380 minutes 6 hours 20 minutes 1 school day	760 minutes 12 hours 40 minutes 2 school days	1,140 minutes 19 hours 3 school days	1,520 minutes 25 hours 20 minutes 4 school days	1,900 minutes 31 hours 40 minutes 5 school days
15	570 minutes 9 hours 30 minutes 1.5 school days	1,140 minutes 19 hours 3 school days	1,710 minutes 28 hours 30 minutes 4.5 school days	2,280 minutes 38 hours 6 school days	2,850 minutes 47 hours 30 minutes 7.5 school days
20	760 minutes 12 hours 40 minutes 2 school days	1,520 minutes 25 hours 20 minutes 4 school days	2,280 minutes 38 hours 6 school days	3,040 minutes 50 hours 40 minutes 8 school days	3,800 minutes 63 hours 20 minutes 10 school days
25	950 minutes 15 hours 50 minutes 2.5 school days	1,900 minutes 31 hours 40 minutes 5 school days	2,850 minutes 47 hours 30 minutes 7.5 school days	3,800 minutes 63 hours 20 minutes 10 school days	4,750 minutes 79 hours 10 minutes 12.5 school days
30	1,140 minutes 19 hours 3 school days	2,280 minutes 38 hours 6 school days	3,420 minutes 57 hours 9 school days	4,560 minutes 76 hours 12 school days	5,700 minutes 95 hours 15 school days

Walking home permission - (Year 5 & Year 6)

If you are happy for your Year 5 or Year 6 child to walk themselves home from school, you will first need to let us know by completing the online form at <https://forms.office.com/e/rGpbWZtywP> or by scanning the QR code. We would ask that all parents in these year groups complete the form so that we have your preference recorded correctly. A new form must be completed each school year.

Please note that if your Y5 or Y6 child has a mobile phone for their walk to school, they must hand this in to the teacher each morning and collect at the end of the school day.

CLUBS. If your child attends a club after school and is unable to attend one week, you must ensure that you have let the school office know either by telephoning the office or emailing clubs@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Could we remind parents that school lunches must be ordered first thing in the morning. If your child is coming into school late because of an appointment, you need to let us know first thing if they need a school meal. The Kitchen work to small margins and may not have spare meals available if you have not booked them in, especially for specific requirements such as gluten free or vegetarian. Please also note that we try to be nut free as we have several children who are allergic. Please check labels for packed lunches and snacks. School lunches are currently £3.05 per day, but this will increase to £3.10 from September 2026

***Please also check your ParentPay accounts and make sure that these are in credit at the start of each week. The caterer has a no debt policy.**

LATE ARRIVALS / LATE COLLECTION

If your child will be late to school (after 8:45am) please ensure you have advised the school office. Upon arrival your child must sign in at the school reception so that their lunch option can be recorded and they are added to the fire register. If you are likely to be late

DROPPING OFF / PICKING UP

We ask that parents let the office know if you will be late dropping off to school or collecting your child from school or Wraparound care.

We would also ask that parents refrain from dropping off on Bridge Street, park considerably in and around the village and village hall car park and do not block driveways or other cars. Disabled bays should only be used by people who have authorisation to do so and the staff car park should not be used by parents dropping off or picking up at any time, including for Thrive Wraparound Care. Please remember that there are children walking around these areas and drive slowly. The Village Hall Committee have requested that parents parking in the Village Hall Car park leave quickly and that the car park is clear by 9am

To avoid congestion in the car park, you may wish to park further away and walk to school. There is a free car park near the train station and next to Co-op, and plenty of road side parking around the village. Tom at the Tickled Trout has also said that he is happy for parents to use the pub car park for drop offs and pick ups (and he's also on hand if you need a coffee).

APPOINTMENTS/VISITS

We would ask that parents book all appointments for pupils outside of school hours, including routine GP, Optician or dental checks. There are 13 weeks of holiday per year and evenings and weekends, so please do utilise these times for routine appointments. We do understand that it can be difficult to re-arrange hospital appointments, but if it is possible to make these outside of school hours, this would be helpful.

For all unavoidable appointments, and for any Y5 & Y6 School/transition visits, you must complete an 'appointment absence form' which is available from the school website at www.ladyj.kent.sch.uk/attendance-punctuality or from the school office.

All appointment requests must be submitted to the school office, to avoid absences being recorded as unauthorised, and as much notice as possible should be given. **Please note that copies of appointment letters should be submitted with absence requests.

ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME

Absence during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and may result in a fine and we cannot authorise time off for term-time holidays. Should an absence be unavoidable, please fill in the Absence form, giving as much notice and detail as possible, and attach a copy of any hospital letters confirming appointment. Forms are available from the school office or via www.ladyj.kent.sch.uk/attendance-punctuality and should be either sent in with your child or emailed to the absence email at absence@ladyj.kent.sch.uk.

ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS

If your child is going to be absent from school due to sickness, you do need to let us know by no later than 9am on **each** day your child is going to be absent.

If your child is unwell, or if there is a reason why your child cannot attend school, please either telephone on 01233 812781 or email the school at absence@ladyj.kent.sch.uk, otherwise an unauthorised absence may be recorded.

We have, following requests from parents and from NHS and Gov.uk, updated our guidelines regarding absences due to vomiting and/or diarrhoea. If you child has either of these symptoms they must remain at home until they have had 48 hours clear of symptoms.

SCHOOL CROSSING. To ensure safety for all of our pupils, we would ask that all children cross Bridge Street with Mr Nettleship at the designated school crossing opposite the school.



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

CONTACTS & TERM DATES 25/26



Learning for the Head,

Heart and Hand

TEACHER CONTACT DETAILS

You may contact your child's teacher(s) by emailing at the below addresses

Reception

Mrs Banner	Bumblebee Class	n.banner@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Oliver	Butterfly Class	p.oliver@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Hollingworth	Butterfly Class	r.hollingworth@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 1

Mrs Irle	Hedgehog Class	m.irle@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Ms Dolder	Fox Class	r.dolder@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 2

Mrs Ward	Rabbit Class	s.ward@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Miss Lewis	Rabbit Class	l.lewis@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Miss Teesdale	Squirrel Class	m.teesdale@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 3

Mrs Williams	Chaffinch Class	k.law-williams@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Whitewood	Chaffinch Class	l.whitewood@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mr Phillips	Blackbird Class	l.phillips@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 4

Mrs Boden	Kingfisher Class	r.boden@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Kwouk	Parrot Class	b.kwouk@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 5

Mr Godden	Puffin Class	j.godden@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Lloyd	Swift Class	r.lloyd@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Coxall	Swift Class	h.coxall@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

Year 6

Mrs Kemp	Wagtail Class	dm.kemp@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Parker	Woodpecker Class	j.parker@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Ms Burrell		

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

School Office Telephone: 01233 812781

Office Manager/ Attendance:	Mrs Cox	office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Admissions	Mrs Cox	Admissions@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
School Business Manager	Mrs Stephens	sbm@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
PA to SLT	Mrs Swan	s.swan@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Inclusion Lead	Mrs Weiss	k.weiss@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
SENCo	Mrs Weiss	k.weiss@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Pastoral Support Mentor	Mrs Read	j.read@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Absences- appointments/ illness:	Office Team	absence@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Clubs	Mrs Baron	clubs@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Reception	Mrs Baron	reception@ladyj.kent.sch.uk
Thrive	Mrs Godden	thrive@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

TERM DATES

If you would like to subscribe to updates for the school calendar, please visit our website at [Calendar Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](https://www.ladyjoannathornhill.co.uk) and click on the 'Subscribe to this Calendar' button.

Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

TERM DATES 2026 – 2027

Tuesday 1 st September 2026	START OF TERM 1
Friday 16 th October 2026	END OF TERM 1
Monday 19 th October 2026	Staff Development Day 1
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Staff Development Day 2
Wednesday 21 st October 2026	Staff Development Day 3
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Staff Development Day 4
Friday 23 rd October 2026	Staff Development Day 5
Monday 2 nd November 2026	START OF TERM 2
Friday 18 th December 2026	END OF TERM 2
Monday 4 th January 2027	START OF TERM 3
Friday 12 th February 2027	END OF TERM 3
Monday 22 nd February 2027	START OF TERM 4
Thursday 25 th March 2027	END OF TERM 4
Monday 12 th April 2027	START OF TERM 5
Monday 3 rd May 2027	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 28 th May 2027	END OF TERM 5
Monday 7 th June 2027	START OF TERM 6
Wednesday 21 st July 2027	END OF TERM 6

TERM DATES

2025 - 2026

START OF TERM 1	Monday 1 st September 2025
END OF TERM 1	Friday 17 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 1	Monday 27 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 2	Tuesday 28 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 3	Wednesday 29 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 4	Thursday 30 th October 2025
Staff Development Day 5	Friday 31 st October 2025
START OF TERM 2	Monday 3 rd November 2025
END OF TERM 2	Friday 19 th December 2025
START OF TERM 3	Monday 5 th January 2026
END OF TERM 3	Friday 13 th February 2026
START OF TERM 4	Monday 23 rd February 2026
END OF TERM 4	Thursday 2 nd April 2026
START OF TERM 5	Monday 20 th April 2026
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 4 th May 2026
END OF TERM 5	Friday 22 nd May 2026
START OF TERM 6	Monday 1 st June 2026
END OF TERM 6	Tuesday 21 st July 2026