



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

NEWSLETTER

16th January 2026



Heart and Hand

Dear Parents and Carers,

I must begin by congratulating Kingfisher Class. I was very disappointed to miss the assembly this morning; however, Kingfisher Class kindly provided me with a rendition of their assembly afterwards and I must say I really enjoyed it! The children were incredibly proud of their work and I have read all of the comments from the assembly. Thank you for supporting your children. I am sure you enjoyed it just as much as they enjoyed entertaining us with such an informative assembly about William Shakespeare.

We have now secured the term dates for the next academic year. Please note that any holidays should be booked during school holidays or Staff Development days, as holidays during term time will not be authorised. You can find these in the diary dates overleaf.

A reminder to please let the school office know if your child is not attending a club. This greatly supports both the staff running the clubs and our administration team, who need to be aware of why a child may not be in attendance. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Alison Higgins, the Headteacher of Barham Church of England Primary School, who recently passed away. I attended a beautiful service at Barham Church this morning, which was deeply moving. Barham School is an associate of our CARE group of schools. Alison was a wonderful person and an incredible Headteacher. Our thoughts are with her family and friends and the children, staff and community at Barham Church of England Primary School.

Enjoy some valuable family time this weekend.

Best wishes,

Rachael Foster
Headteacher

Notices

- **APPOINTMENTS.** Please make routine appointments such as optician, GP and dental fully outside of school time. If you have an unavoidable appointments during the day, please ensure you have completed the form [Attendance & Punctuality | Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School](#) and given as much notice as possible. If you have more than one child, please do try to arrange alternative pick up for the child not attending the appointment, to avoid them missing school for a sibling's appointment.
- **LATE COLLECTION** Please collect your child promptly from school at 3:15pm (EYFS/KS1) or 3:20pm (KS2) if they do not have a club/Thrive. Children collected late will wait in the office area for a short time, but will be placed in Thrive if parents do not arrive and parents would be charged at this point. All children collected late must sign out on the screen and advise a member of the office team prior to leaving.

Winter Mini Challenge

Keep the magic of reading going with this free reading challenge! Why not challenge your friends and family to complete it over the holidays?

Taking part is simple: Read three or more books between **1 December - 20 February** and add them to your profile (remember to choose your avatar!).

Reaching your reading goal will unlock a limited-edition online badge and certificate of achievement to print off and treasure! Plus, once you complete the Winter Mini Challenge you will be entered into a *PRIZE DRAW* to win amazing books!



To get going, visit: [Winter Mini Challenge - The Reading Agency](#)

Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

TERM DATES 2026 – 2027 PUPIL VERSION

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

We love to hear about achievements, events and activities our brilliant children are taking part in, please email a photo and some information to Mrs Cox at office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk so we can include it in the newsletter

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

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

Attendance

- ♦ 3rd Place - Chaffinch Class
- ♦ 2nd Place - Woodpecker Class
- ♦ 1st Place - Puffin Class

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

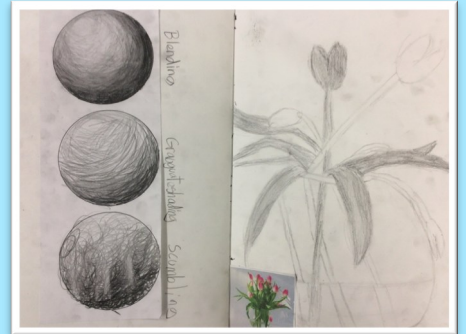
We are excited to see who will win each week! Please remember, attendance for every child should be above 97%.

Mrs Read, Pastoral Support Mentor

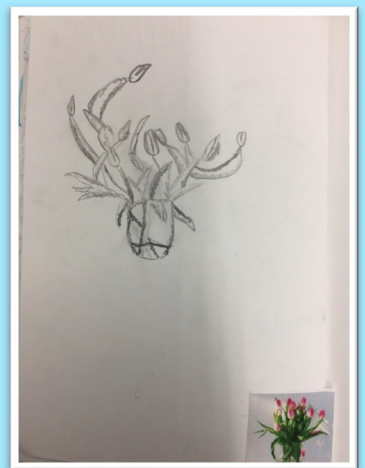
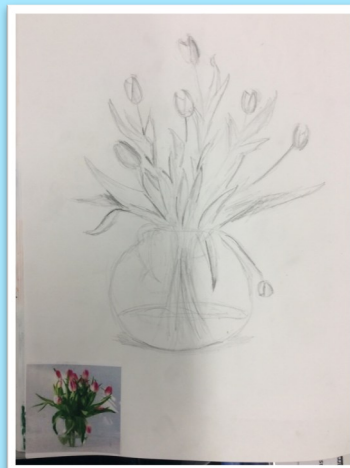
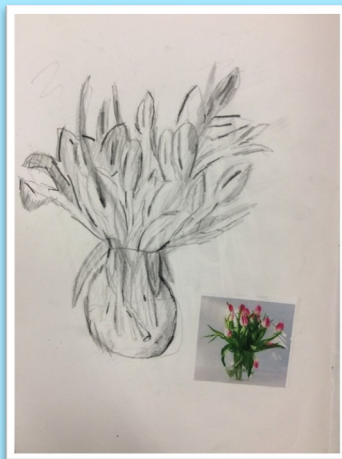
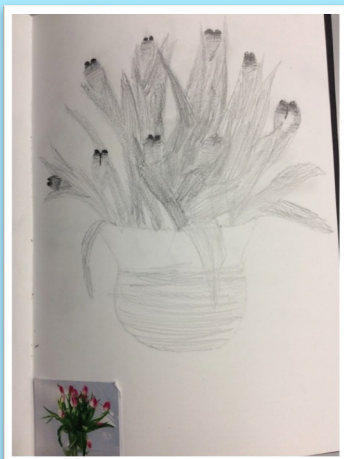


SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 4

This term we have been exploring the fascinating world of the Romans. The children have learned when the Roman Empire existed and how the city of Rome was founded, studying both the myth and the historical account. We are very much looking forward to our visit to the Canterbury Roman Museum next week, where the children will have the opportunity to see and handle real Roman artefacts and hear from experts about life in Roman Britain.



In Art, the children have been developing their drawing skills, with a particular focus on tone and texture. They have practised a range of shading techniques and learned how to show light and shade effectively in their work. We have been extremely impressed with how confidently they have applied these skills in their detailed plant sketches.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

BARRACUDAS
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2026!
EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE **SCHOOL20** FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

4 to 14 year olds!
80+ Activities!
Choice each session!
Specialist Courses!
Flexible bookings!

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps

OFSTED REGISTERED

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567

QR CODE: SCAN ME!

SWIM ACADEMY

Swim Academy Crash Course this February half-term
Suitable for children aged 4 - 12 years old

3 day course: Monday, 18th - Wednesday, 20th February
Cost: £74.50 **only \$59.50** when using offer code **EXCC**
Lessons: 30 minute sessions, each day, at the same time

Complete the booking form now to get priority on timeslots. Spaces will be offered in the order booking forms are received.

01422 236111
eastkent@puddleducks.com
Find more information at www.puddleducks.com

Swim Academy is brought to you by the experts at Puddle Ducks

Family fitness DANCE AND CHEER
get fit and have fun
Thursday 6:30 pm - 7:15pm
£7 per adult £3 per child

FUTURE DANCE
studio 5, Little Burton,
kennington, ashford



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

Jan-26	
Friday 16th January	Y3 Swimming (2 of 10 sessions)
Tuesday 20th January	Friends' Beauty and the Beast Children's Theatre visit
Thursday 22nd January	Year 4 trip to Canterbury Roman Museum
Friday 23rd January	Rabbit Class Assembly
Friday 23rd January	Y3 Swimming (3 of 10 sessions)
Friday 23rd January	Year 6 Cake Sale
Friday 30th January	Parrot Class Assembly
Friday 30th January	Y3 Swimming (4 of 10 sessions)
Friday 30th January	Food bank collections before and after school
Feb-26	
Friday 6th February	Y3 Swimming (5 of 10 sessions)
Wednesday 4th February	Mini Reports sent home via Arbor
Friday 6th February	Wagtail Class Assembly
Friday 6th February	NSPCC Number Day
Friday 6th February	Cake Sale Year 4
Monday 9th February	Y1 Parent Share 2:30pm
Thursday 12th February	Danceathon with Miss Selwood
Friday 13th February	Y3 Swimming (6 of 10 sessions)
Friday 13th February	Term 3 Ends
Monday 23rd February	Term 4 Starts
Tuesday 25th February	Year R Hearing and Vision Screening
Friday 27th February	Y3 Swimming (7 of 10 sessions)
Friday 27th February	Hedgehog Class Assembly
Friday 27th February	Food bank collections before and after school
Mar-26	
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day - (Literacy team)
Friday 6th March	Y3 Swimming (8 of 10 sessions)
Friday 6th March	Puffin Class Assembly
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	Parent Consultations 4-6:30pm
Thursday 26th March	Accelerated Reader tombola prize draw in assembly 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

Apr-26	
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
Friday 22nd May	Food bank collections before and after school
Friday 22nd May	Term 5 Ends
Jun-26	
Monday 1st June	Term 6 Start
Date TBC	Y4 Greek Day, Rainbow Theatre visit.
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	Food bank collections before and after school
Tuesday 30th June	Year 3 Trip to Canterbury Cathedral (provisional date)
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
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.

***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	Woodpecker Class	e.burrell@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

School Office Telephone: 01233 812781

Office Manager/ Admissions/ Attendance:	Mrs Cox	office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk 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/ Reception:	Mrs Baron	clubs@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](#) and click on the 'Subscribe to this Calendar' button.

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