



Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

19th December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Lady Joanna has felt very much like stepping into the heart of the Christmas story itself...a time of light, joy and community. Our Key Stage 1 *Fireside Nativity* was truly amazing, with the children filling the room with warmth and wonder. Key Stage 1 challenged themselves magnificently, singing confidently in two and even three parts; it was beautiful to hear and a real testament to their hard work and courage.



We were delighted to invite residents from Luckley House to our *Fireside Nativity* dress rehearsal, and one resident summed it up perfectly when they said, "It has made my Christmas." That same sentiment was echoed again today when Mr Connolly, Mrs Read, Mr Arnold and I returned with the choir to Luckley House to sing together. Sharing songs, smiles and festive spirit was nothing short of magical, and a powerful reminder of how deeply these moments of connection matter.

As ever, our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the children have enjoyed such rich and memorable learning experiences this term. I continue to feel immensely proud to be part of a learning community that creates such vibrant, meaningful opportunities for its children. This afternoon, the pupils were treated to a very professional production — a much-loved tradition — as the staff performed *The Wizard of Wye*, written by our very own Miss Teesdale. It was brilliant, 'polished' and full of sparkle, showcasing the many talents, and often hidden talents the staff have!



Thank you to all of you for your continued support. As we move into the Christmas break, I hope you enjoy precious family time and the gift of slowing down a little, something we are all looking forward to here too. We will return on January 5th, refreshed, energised and raring to go. Please do take note of the Winter Reading Challenge over the holidays which is a wonderful way to keep the magic of stories alive throughout the season.

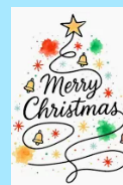
Merry Christmas and thank you for being such a wonderful community,

Rachael Foster
Headteacher



Our End of Day Festivities and sing-along

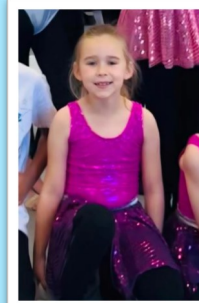
We hope you all have a wonderful, festive break - we look forward to seeing all of you back on Monday 5th January 2026!



Jacey-Lyn in Y3 made this wonderful angel in sewing club this week, we love the angel's happy face Jacey-Lyn, well done!

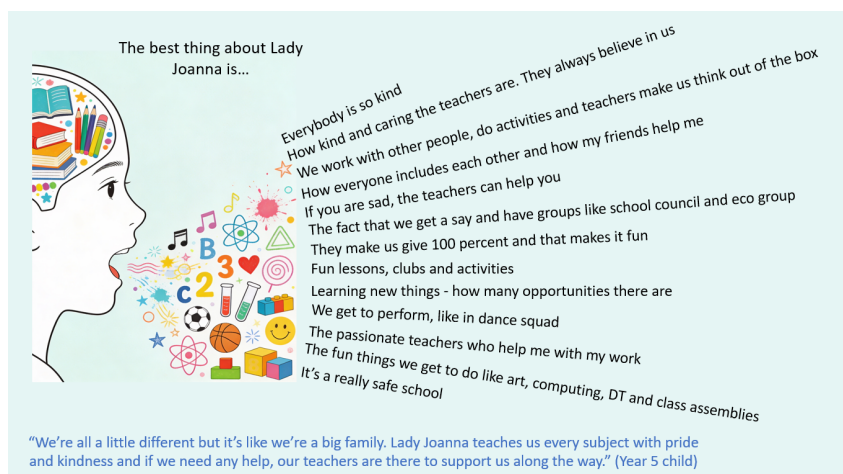


Yvaine in Y2 recently performed 3 separate dance routines with her dance troupe, Liv2Dance at the Jasmin Vardimon Theatre. Mum and dad said she was fantastic and they are very proud of her. We are very proud of you too Yvaine, well done!



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

We love these comments made by our amazing pupils, made as part of the recent pupil survey, how wonderful that they feel this way.



The children had an amazing time singing Christmas songs and dancing along with Mr Conolly this week!



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

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

Attendance

- ◆ 3rd Place - Puffin Class
- ◆ 2nd Place - Parrot Class
- ◆ 1st Place - Rabbit Class

Well done to Puffin Class and Parrot Class for a great effort - and to our winners, Rabbit 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%.

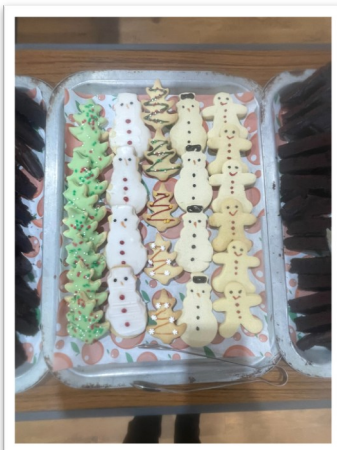
Mrs Read, Pastoral Support Mentor



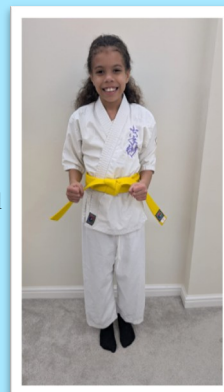
A team of Year 5&6 footballers travelled to Herne Bay to take part in the Football Futures Festival. They were up against 7 other schools from across the area. They went undefeated throughout the group stage with 0-0 draws with both Hornbeams and Herne Bay A, and scored 18 goals in 5 games with wins over Cuxton, Ospringe, Birchington, St Thomas and Herne Bay B. It was a comfortable 4-0 win in the quarter final vs St Thomas before we faced table toppers Herne Bay A in the semi-final, who we previously drew 0-0 with. Despite our best efforts, the final result was 4-2 to Herne Bay. Shoutout to Vinny for scoring 13 of our 24 goals! At the end of a busy morning of football, the team came joint 3rd in the tournament. Well done to all the team for their outstanding performance!



We had the pupil Christmas lunch on Wednesday. The hall was filled with lots of festive cheer and singing Christmas hit songs! How wonderful do these Christmas biscuits look! Thank you to our incredible kitchen staff, who cooked over 300 meals, and to all of the staff who served the children!



Zyanyah in Year 6 received her yellow belt at the weekend. What an amazing achievement Zyanyah, we are so proud of you, well done!



Ollie in Year R attends a weekly horse riding lesson for the disabled in Chartham. Last week he received an end of term rosette and certificate, for transitioning to riding on a less supportive saddle and using the reins to steer the horse instead of holding a bar for balance! Ollie, that is incredible, everyone is so proud of your achievement, well done!



Our fantastic Year R children have been making calendars for Mrs Foster and some of the other classes. Mrs Foster loved her Wolfie calendar and has it up in pride of place next to her desk!



STAFF PANTO

The staff panto, 'The Wizard of Wye' was a huge success this afternoon, with Oscar worthy performances from all of our staff taking part, and finished off with joyful renditions of We wish you a Merry Christmas and 'Defying Gravity'!

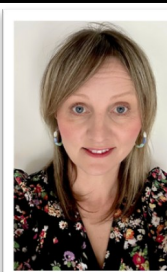


The children had a very special visit this week. This festive pair delivered treats round to all of our fabulous children, who we are sure have been very, very good this year!



SORRY TO SEE YOU GO

This term we are very sad to see two of our lovely staff members leaving us, Miss Bodle and Mrs Hughes. We will miss them both, but wish them all the best luck for the future!



• RECEPTION ADMISSIONS 2026/2027

If any of our parents have children due to start school in September 2026, we are delighted to invite you to join us for one of our daytime tours. We still have one date left if you have not yet visited, on Thursday 8th January 2026. To book a place, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reception-admissions-2026-school-tours-tickets-1680027420239>



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?

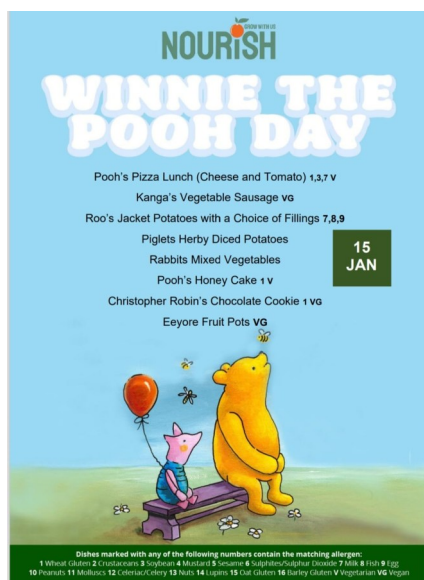
Taking part is simple: Read three or more books between **1 December - 20 February** and add them to your profile (remember to choose your avatar!).

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](#)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

SCHOOL MENU CHANGE THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY 2026





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	
Monday 5th January	Term 3 Starts
Friday 9th January	Y3 Swimming (1 of 10 sessions)
TBC	Y3 Rocks and Fossils visit - Science topic
Friday 16th January	Kingfisher Class Assembly
Friday 16th January	Y3 Swimming (2 of 10 sessions)
Tuesday 20th January	Friends' Beauty and the Beast Children's Theatre visit
Thursday 22nd January	Y4 Trip 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
Date TBC	Danceathon with Miss Selwood
Friday 6th February	NSPCC Number Day
Friday 6th February	Cake Sale Year 4
Monday 9th February	Y1 Parent Share 2:30pm
Friday 13th February	Y3 Swimming (6 of 10 sessions)
Friday 13th February	Term 3 Ends
Monday 23rd February	Term 4 Starts
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	
Date TBC	GBDO Dance Competition, Chatham
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)
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
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
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 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

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.

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
Miss Bodle	Fox Class	a.bodle@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