



Heart and Hand

Dear Lady Joanna Community,

The festive season is upon us, and our school community is embracing the warmth and joy of Christmas. This week has been particularly magical, beginning with the beautiful Carols by Candlelight event at the Ashford International on Monday evening. Thank you to our exceptional Music team and to Mr Phillips, whose wonderful piano accompaniment brought the evening to life. A special well done to the children across our group of schools who sang with such joy.

This morning, Blackbird Class delighted us with a captivating retelling of the well-loved fable *The Lion and the Mouse* during assembly. Their creativity and confidence shone through, and for some children this performance represented a real personal triumph. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

I am also pleased to celebrate the achievements of our Year 6 children, who completed their Bikeability training this week. They demonstrated great resilience throughout, and we commend them for their hard work.

Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a live Q&A session with Benedict Allen—writer, explorer, traveller, and filmmaker known for his immersive expeditions among indigenous communities. I had the pleasure of listening in on some of the children's thoughtful questions. They were fantastic, and to the children's amazement, he really did show Beth and Thea the scar from when he had to sew up his own chest on a mountain!

For families new to our school, you are in for a treat at our Christmas Fayre next weekend. It is a wonderful event, and the grotto is always a highlight for the children. I strongly encourage parents to secure tickets for [Santa's Grotto](#) and [Santa's Fun Run](#) as soon as possible, as they are extremely popular and do sell out quickly. We are also excited to share that our Christmas hamper raffle tickets have gone digital this year. Please do consider purchasing and sharing these with extended family and friends—our prizes are always fantastic, and every ticket sold helps support our school community [Raffle Tickets](#)

I hope everyone is enjoying the Kindness Advent Calendar shared by our Kindness Group last week. It offers a lovely opportunity to reflect on compassion and togetherness during this special time of year.

Wishing you all a joyful weekend and I hope you enjoy the Wye Street Party this evening !

Warmest wishes,

Rachael Foster

Headteacher

NOTICES

- **Monday 8th December. Donations for Christmas hampers.** See the Friends' Association newsletter for donation suggestions. All donations should be taken to the Hub in the morning please.
- **Tuesday 9th December. Pick-A-Present.** Children should bring £1 in to school to pay for their gift. They will go to the Hub during the day to purchase their gift for someone special, and have it wrapped by the Friends' Association.
- **Thursday 11th December. Christmas Jumper day.** Children may come to school in their best Christmas jumper (and non-uniform). Donations raised will go to Save the Children. Please donate at [Save The Children Just Giving](#)
- **Friday 12th December. Non Uniform day** in exchange for bottle/chocolate donations to Christmas Fayre. Please take donations to the Hub in the morning

Esme in Year 4 took part in a dance competition at the weekend, and despite being the only under 10 in the under 12's category, Esme placed 2nd and her group placed 1st over all! Well done Esme, what a fabulous achievement.

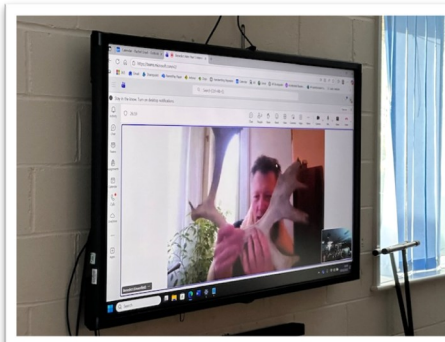


On Monday some of our Year 6 children visited Ashford International Hotel to take part in the Carols by Candlelight concert, with other local schools. They all sang beautifully and were great ambassadors for the school. Well done to all who took part!



As part of their work on famous explorers, Year 5 had a very special opportunity today to speak with Benedict Allen via video call.

Benedict Allen is a renowned British explorer and author known for his challenging solo expeditions through remote environments such as the Amazon rainforest, Siberia and Papua New Guinea. The children loved hearing about his extraordinary adventures and were inspired by the chance to ask their own questions about life as a modern explorer.



A huge well done to the Year 3 children who participated in the Multi Skills Festival at The Stour Centre this week. They completed a series of challenges as a team and as individuals.

The tasks included running, throwing, jumping, catching and skipping. With the event focussed on challenging yourself and your team, each of our Lady J students had better results on the second attempt, showing their understanding, focus and desire to improve at each activity.

Congratulations to everyone for representing Lady Joanna so brilliantly.



Year R have been having a lovely time making gingerbread men this week. They have also been busy decorating bags to take their delicious creations home in! Tilly drew this gorgeous gingerbread man picture. Well done Tilly, and all of the other children in Year R!

SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 6

Spotlight on Year 6 – immersing ourselves in WWII

Year 6 launched their World War Two topic with an unforgettable **We'll Meet Again workshop**, which instantly transported the children back to the 1940s. They explored authentic artefacts,



learned about life on the Home Front, and took part in engaging role-play activities. As Toula said, *"I loved the We'll Meet Again experience - it was amazing!"*

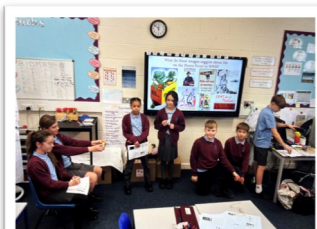
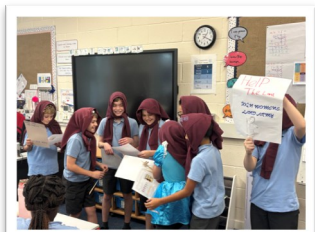
Our history lessons this term have featured some wonderful lessons on **the Blitz** and **the Battle of Britain**, with immersive, hands-on activities



helping pupils understand these significant events. Sam shared, *"I really enjoyed the lesson when we were given different packs with loads of sources to investigate."* While

Remy described the recreation of the Battle of Britain simply as, *"Best history lesson ever."*

Drama has played an exciting role too, with Mrs Selwood leading pupils in exploring characters, emotions, and atmosphere. Audra reflected, *"We've loved our drama session with Mrs Selwood this term."*



Jasmine especially enjoyed developing tension in class, saying, *"I loved when we created a dramatic atmosphere when studying the Blitz."*

Jaza added, *"We created a living museum exhibit and we made paper aeroplanes to bomb class,"* a memorable (and safely controlled!) moment of historical role-play.



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In reading, Year 6 have been gripped by **D-Day Dog** and **Friend or Foe**, both of which have sparked meaningful discussions about bravery, friendship and the realities faced by young people during wartime.

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Our writing has also been heavily influenced by our studies. Pupils have crafted diary entries, reports and letters that show empathy, creativity, and a growing understanding of life during the conflict.

It has been an inspiring and enriching start to our WW2 topic, with the children's enthusiasm shining through every lesson.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

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

Attendance

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

Well done to Blackbird Class and Puffin Class for a great effort - and to our winners, Woodpecker 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

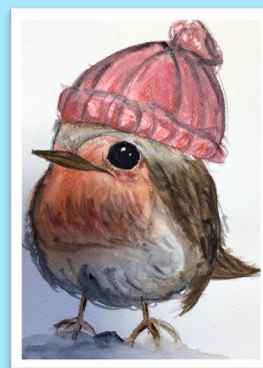


RECEPTION ADMISSIONS 2026/2027

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>

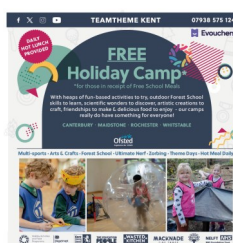
We really do have some incredible artists at Lady Joanna! These amazing Christmas cards were made by pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6.

The artists are Pippa in Parrot Class, Pippa in Kingfisher Class, Sebastien in Puffin Class, Sophia in Swift Class, Lola in Wagtail Class and Jordan in Woodpecker Class



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

For families who are pupil premium or means tested free school meals, you can book free Christmas camp places over the holiday period. Book online at <https://app.holidayactivities.com/parent/providers/teamtheme-kent>





Dec-25	
Monday 8th December	Year 1 Trip to Wye church
Monday 8th December	Donations for Christmas hampers brought in.
TBC	EYFS trip to Wye Cafe
Tuesday 9th December	Pick A Present.
Wednesday 10th December	RockSteady concert - parents will be invited
Thursday 11th December	Accelerated Reader tombola prize draw in assembly
Thursday 11th December	EYFS Nutcracker performance / Christmas Craft Parent Share Bumblebee 1-2pm / Butterfly 2-3pm with Miss Selwood
Thursday 11th December	Christmas jumper day
Friday 12th December	Accelerated Reader Workshop prize giving for winning class (dance Studio)
Friday 12th December	Woodpecker Class Assembly
Friday 12th December	Food bank collections before and after school
Saturday 13th December	Friends' Event - Santa Fun Run and Christmas Fayre
Monday 15th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal pm
Tuesday 16th December	Nativity AM
Wednesday 17th December	Pupil Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18th December	Nativity PM
TBC	Choir Performance
Friday 19th December	Staff Panto pm
Friday 19th December	Term 2 Ends
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
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 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
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