

January 2024

NEWSLETTER



St. George's
C of E School

NURTURE, LEARN, SUCCEED

Tel: 01562 824206

Email office@stgprimary.org

Website: www.stgprimary.org

"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carer

The month of January has flown by and the children settled back to the routines in school. They have enjoyed learning through the topic of 'Around the World' whereby Geography has been our subject driver. Mr Roberts, our Geography Leader has been able to 'drop into' classes to check that the children have been enjoying their learning.

Throughout the Autumn term we have welcome several families who are 'new to country' and it is our pleasure to welcome them to be part of our 'Diverse Family' at St George's. With this in mind, I have appointed several children across the school to have the responsibility of 'Young Translators'. Their role is to buddy up with children, welcome them and speak to them in their home language, enabling them to feel settled. They wear their new badges with pride.

Many of our teachers have given up their own time and have launched new after school clubs which the children have loved attending. These range from 'Lego Club' to 'French Club' and we will continue to offer this extra curriculum. Miss Mills, together with Mrs Ashbourne prepared the children for their 'Young Voices' experience which the children attended last Tuesday and absolutely loved.

We had the pleasure of welcoming two Ofsted Inspectors on site last Tuesday and Wednesday for a school inspection. The inspectors wanted to extend their thanks to the whole school community and in particular the lovely children at St George's for making them feel so welcome and providing them with so much information about our school. The draft report is expected soon and following the checking for accuracy, this will be shared with you in the next few weeks.

We enjoyed our Christingle service this week and the children enjoyed making their Christingle oranges to take home. They learnt about the significance of all the different things used to make the Christingle orange. We were able to organise the service before Candlemas which fall on the 2nd February.

Reading remains a priority at St George's, so please continue to support your child at home by sharing a range of reading material with them and taking the time to hear them read. We are continually organising parent workshops to enable you to support your child, so please attend as many of them as possible. Only today, we had the WEST NHS team delivering a workshop on Building a Child's Resilience. Next week, we have our Online Safety workshop that had to be postponed due to WIFI issues this week. We have further ideas for parent workshops, but do not hesitate in contacting the school office if you would like to request a particular Parent workshop that may be of interest to other parents.

Please encourage your child to continue to wear their fully named school uniform with pride and remember their full PE kit. If you are unsure when your child's class has PE, do not hesitate to ask the class teacher.

Have a restful and safe weekend with your friends and family.

Kind Regards

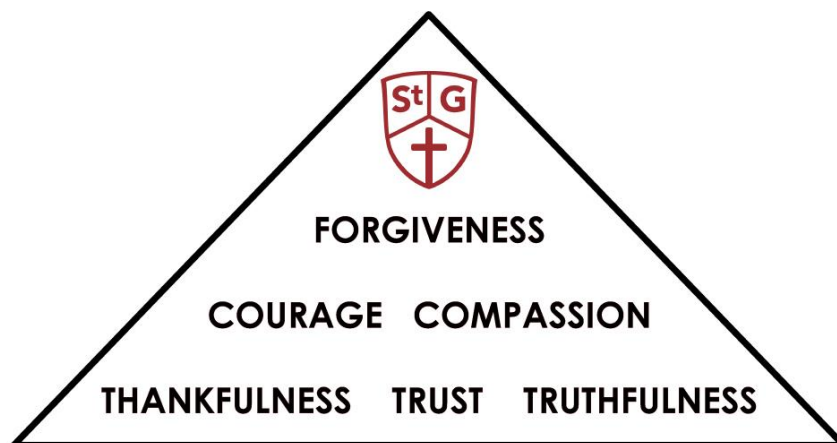


St George's C of E School

Vision

NURTURE LEARN SUCCEED

With God's guidance, we nurture our St George's Family to have a passion for learning and give them the strength to face challenges, so that they succeed and flourish in life's journey.



"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness. He nurtures all who needs strengthening, helps us learn how to love one another, gives us courage to succeed in life's purpose.

Young Voices

Choir attended the 'Young Voices' concert at Resorts World Arena in Birmingham on Tuesday 23rd January. The children practised so hard for the event, not just at choir but many children also chose to practise at home too!

The children had an amazing time singing and dancing with all the other children who attended, and everyone agreed it truly was an amazing experience! We got to go with our friends in the Upper Arley choir and our friends in the Orchards School choir were also there on the same night too!

Unfortunately, due to our visitors I was unable to attend this year, but I have been told that the children were a credit to St. George's (as always) and I can't wait until choir's next big event 'Gotta Sing Redditch' in June (details to follow).



Miss Mills

Attendance JANUARY 2024

The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96 % attendance.

Attendance for the month of January was 95.2%

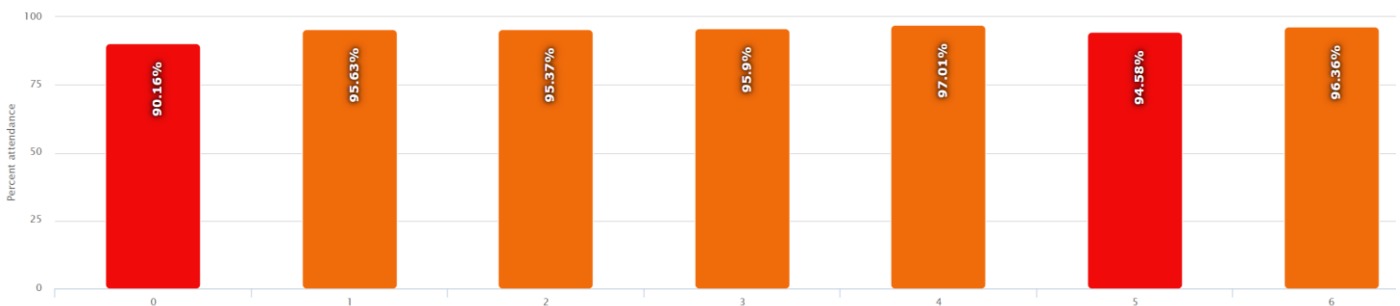
Thank you to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that their child/ren attend school and are punctual for the start of the school day. Good attendance has a positive impact on your child's well-being and educational outcomes.

We do know that from time-to-time children are really too poorly to come to school. If this is the case, please ring the school office by 9.15am on 01562 824206 or email, if you prefer, office@stgprimary.org. Phones are manned from 8.00am but an answerphone service is available before this time. It is important that you inform school if your child is unwell.

What are we doing to reward good attendance?

We want to celebrate 100% attendance and good class attendance. As part of this, we are rewarding each class with a certificate for meeting our 96% or above target. We will display each class's weekly attendance on a display for the children to see every day in the school hall. We also have an exciting lucky dip that will take place every Friday for 2 children who have 100% attendance for that week at school. Let's aim for 100% attendance!

Well done to Year 4 for achieving an attendance above the school target of 97%! Also, a big well done to year 6 for achieving 96%!



Please see below a table of attendance for each class in the Spring Term:

	Spring Term Attendance	Persistent Absence (under 90%)
Rec	90.1%	41.67%
1	95.63%	16%
2	95.37%	18.52%
3	95.9%	12.9%
4	97.01%	17.39%
5	94.58%	23.33%
6	96.36%	20.53%

Online Safety

If you would like to help your child stay safe online, have a look at the NSPCC resources here, [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#). These resources are brilliant to help with setting up parental controls, talking to your child about internet safety and online wellbeing.

Tips for managing wellbeing online

Have regular conversations with your child

Give children the chance to talk about what they're experiencing online, what apps and sites they use and who they're talking to.

Talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

Remind them that it isn't just you that they can talk to – another trusted adult or a [Childline counsellor](#) might be easier sometimes.

When children communicate online, misunderstandings can lead to disagreements or arguments. Encourage your child to look at the Childline website, which has lots of useful advice articles:

[Feeling good on social media](#)

[Coping with stress](#)

[Worries about the world](#)

[Childline's Calm zone](#) is also packed with tools and activities to help children de-stress and discover new techniques that can support them when they're feeling down. Young people can also talk to each other about their worries on the [Childline message boards](#).

Consider that what children see online is often through a filter. It isn't just images and videos that can be filtered or edited, but bodies and lives too.

Take breaks

Our devices are designed to keep us coming back. Features like infinite scrolling, app notifications, auto play and rewards for playing games every day are all persuasive designs to increase our use.

Mobile and wearable tech such as phones and smart watches can make us feel like we're always online and it can help everyone to take a break sometimes, to help switch off from online pressures.

You can use the settings on individual apps, or in the device settings, to silence notifications for a period of time.

You can also use the 'do not disturb' mode available on most devices to mute calls and notifications, to help avoid distractions.

Use wellbeing settings and apps

These sites and apps are specifically designed to help children with their online wellbeing:

[BBC Own.it](#) which gives advice as they chat to their friends online.

[Headspace for Kids](#) is an app to teach children the basics of mindfulness in a fun way. It's aimed at 3-12 year olds, with different content for the different age groups. Free for Headspace subscribers, limited access for non-subscribers.

[JoyPoP](#) is an app designed to help users find their inner resilience to deal with the highs and lows in their day to day lives. By rating mood for the day, users are directed to complete different activities to help switch to positive emotions. App costs £6.99.

You can also find out what apps your child uses the most and have a look to see if there are wellbeing guides which explain their settings to help support children's wellbeing.

NURSERY

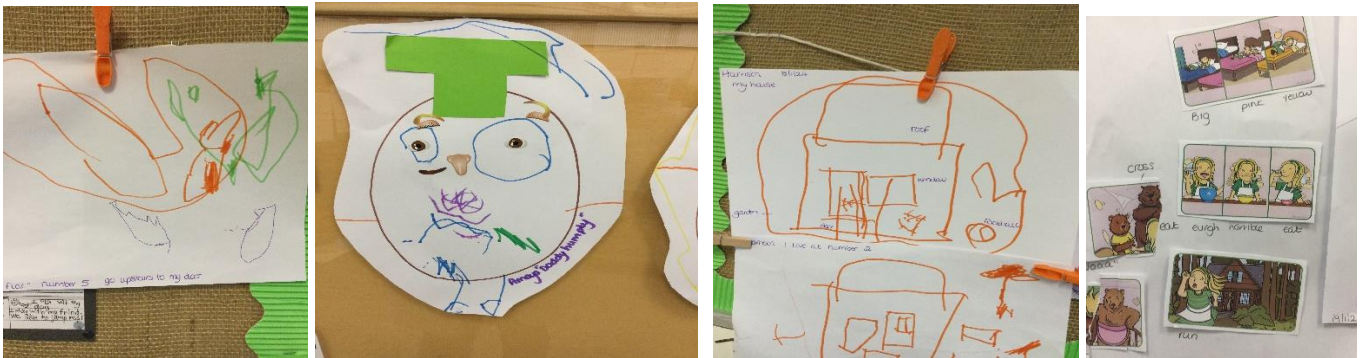
We have welcomed some new children into Nursery and its lovely to see how well they have settled. This term we have been learning about where we live Do you live in a house or a flat? What shape are the windows? What shape and colour is your front door? The children then made their own house using boxes and bricks talking about who lives with them. The children have enjoyed sharing the stories- Little Red Riding hood with the Big Bad Wolf and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Mrs Khan helped make porridge and it was just right! Also, we have learnt some new nursery rhymes including, Humpty Dumpty, Wind the Bobbin Up and Row Row your Boat. Mrs Williams has left words out for the children to fill eg

Humpty Dumpty sat on the.....

Humpty Dumpty had a great

Also, we have been learning the initial sounds in our name and alliteration eg Harrison Horse and Bella Ball.

The children have also been learning all about People who Help Us. We have had a role play 'Doctors' and the children have taken turns to be the doctor and the patient. Also, we have looked at how the dentist, firefighters and the police help us. In school the children said Mr Rogers helps us, he brings the sand and fixes things. Mrs Williams, Miss Hussain and Mrs Khan help us by playing games, reading stories and keeping us safe. Mrs Teague makes our bagels, so we are not hungry, and Mrs Snape looks after everyone! The children have enjoyed joining in with our, 'Who looks different?' game. This develops their good looking and listening skills. One child will close their eyes and another child will put on a hat or glasses. The child who closes their eyes then has to look to see who is different. Everyone else has to sit quietly with 'magnet eyes' on Mrs Williams.



Mrs Williams, Mrs Khan, Miss Hussain

RECEPTION

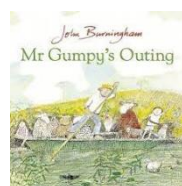
Happy New Year to you all and what a fantastic start to the New Year it has been in Reception!

The children have really enjoyed this term so far, learning about 'What's in my world?'. We started the term off learning about our locality, exploring and identifying features of our school, before exploring features of Kidderminster.

The children have loved creating simple maps of their school and of their locality and drawing information from these maps e.g. "Year 1 is next to Reception." "Down the road from our school is a church." and using those maps to build models in the construction and creative areas. The children loved spotting and talking about features from their town, such as the park, Tescos and the church.



As we continue our topic of 'What's in my world?', the children will be identifying similarities and differences between their locality and Africa.



In 'Talk for Writing', the children have enjoyed retelling the story of Mr Gumpy's Outing. The story that takes place on a boat on a river. The children have enjoyed building boats out of construction materials and junk modelling, as well as using puppets and masks to retell the story. The children then changed the main character of Mr Gumpy, to retell their own stories e.g. The spider's outing, the dinosaur's outing etc.

Thank you to those of you who are continuing to read with your child. **Please remember the expectation is to read with your child at least 5 times a week.** Please remember to record when you read with your child in their Home-School Link Book.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, if you have any questions or queries then please speak to a member of the Reception Team for further support.

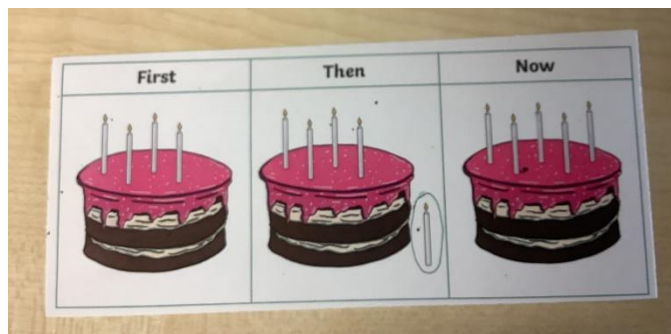
Miss Austin, Mrs Brettle, Mrs Hoult and Mrs Jahan 😊

YEAR 1

Happy New Year! Year 1 have had an amazing start to the new year and we are all really proud of all of the children for how they have settled back in after the break!

In writing, we have been busy writing our own stories based on 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers! We had to choose our own animal and think about a sensible place for it to live for the new story setting.

In maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction including first, then, now stories, This is an example for addition. Ask your child whether they can tell you the story and write the calculation!



In our topic work we have started our new topic 'Around the World'. We now know about human and physical features of Antarctica. We also know why a polar bear can't eat a penguin! Ask us to explain why!

We have also enjoyed making our Christingles too!

We have enjoyed our Forest School sessions this half term. We will not be going to Forest School next half term as we are going swimming! You will be getting further details shortly!



Please remember that the school expectation is that you read five times a week and that this is recorded in your child's home-school link book. Reading is so important so please try to read as much as possible!

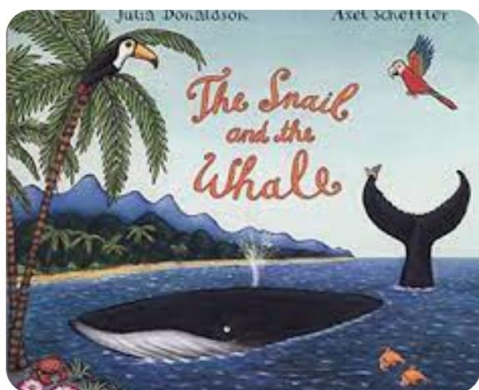
Thank you so much for your support! Any questions or problems please don't hesitate to contact me.

Miss Mills 😊

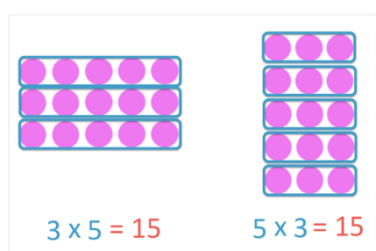
YEAR 2

Year Two have been working really hard this Spring term so far.

In our writing lessons, we have been looking at *The Snail and the Whale* going on an adventure all around the world. We looked at using our adjectives to describe what we could see and some of us even use a variety of conjunctions to join our sentences together. We have just started to look at non-chronological reports about penguins where we have learnt about the features such as a title, sub-title and a captioned picture.



In maths we have moved onto multiplication where we have been looking at arrays, repeated addition and even commutativity! We are looking at numbers looking at how we can count how many there are there and putting them into a multiplication number sentence.



Repeated addition would be $5 + 5 + 5 = 15$

In PE, our focus has been learning how to swim which has been brilliant. We have been going to Holy Trinity every Monday and have looked at front and even backwards crawl. I have been super impressed with the children who were scared at first of the water, but are now very excited to get in the pool every time. Well done!

Many thanks, Mr Carrette & The Year 2 Team

YEAR 3

Year Three have had a very busy start to spring term!

In Writing, the children have continued to explore the text 'How to wash a woolly mammoth' and have then gone on to create their own set of instructions for their own stone age animal. The children have all tried hard to ensure that they include the main features of instructional writing such as:

- A title
- An introduction
- Subheadings
- Rhetorical questions
- Imperative verbs
- Adverbs
- Clear, accurate steps in chronological order
- A conclusion

In Maths, the children have been developing their times tables knowledge and have explored the 3, 4 and 8 times tables and have explored how to use concrete and pictorial representations to support their understanding. We have just moved onto our next unit, where we will be reasoning with multiplication and moving on to formal methods.

In Reading, the children are enjoying making predictions and connections with our class text, 'The Sheep-Pig'. The children are becoming much more confident in using evidence from within the text to support their thoughts.

In Art, the children have been studying the artists William Morris and Lyn Bailey and have enjoyed experimenting with different printing techniques using found objects. See some of the fantastic prints below:



The children had great fun creating their Christingles, which were reflected upon during our Christingle celebrations in school.

Please can you continue to encourage your child to read at home. Home link books need to be signed to say that they have read at home and come to school every day. PE kits should be in school too, as our days can vary according to hall use and weather etc. If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the classroom door or contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year Three Team- Mrs Stewart, Miss Powell & Mrs Ashbourne

YEAR 4

We have had an exciting start to the Spring term and the children have been working hard in all subjects. It has been lovely to see the children coming in with their models of the volcanoes and we have the beginning of an incredible display. I hope you have enjoyed making them just as much and the children cannot wait to see the models 'erupt' but please let me know if you would like your model returned home.

In English, the children have written a character description about a lava monster, and we have just started to explore newspaper reports so we can write one about a volcanic eruption, so please keep your eyes peeled for any eruptions that might make it into the news! In maths, we have been looking at our formal methods for multiplication and division as well as starting to work a bit more with our times tables and learning these in preparation for the summer, all children have been given a log in for TT Rockstars to play at home and we will be increasing our use of this resource over the next few months.

In Science, the children have loved the practical side of electricity and experimenting with circuits to light up a bulb, run a motor or make a buzzer buzz. We have discussed the dangers of electricity, and we are going to investigate torches in more detail. In Geography, we are looking at volcanoes, their features and their location around the world, including the 'ring of fire' around the Pacific Ocean. We have found out about fold mountains and created models of how they form.

In Art, we are looking at collage and the children have been very interested in the bright colours that can be used in layers to create artwork. In PE, we are working hard in the hall to do gymnastics using a variety of balances and movements as well as using teamwork in our unit of outdoor adventure games. In French, we have moved onto numbers, dates and calendars and we enjoyed singing a song about the days of the week. In Reading, we are continuing to use our expert tips as we read the story 'Journey to the centre of the Earth'.



Please can you continue to encourage your child to read at home, the number of children reading the expected 5 times a week at home has dropped considerably since the start of term in Year 4. The children all have an accelerated reader book as well as a book from the library to read for pleasure and home link books need to be signed to say that they have read at home and come to school every day. PE kits should be in school too as our days can vary according to hall use and weather etc. If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the classroom door or contact the school office.

The Year 4 Team - Mr Roberts and Mrs Phipps 😊

YEAR 5

Year 5 have continued to make incredible progress in their learning and personal development.

In writing, we have been learning all about parenthesis (adding more information to a sentence) using our key punctuation brackets. We are going to be using our learning to create a set of instructions linked to our last geography topic on how to safe stay in flooding.

In maths, we have been developing our knowledge of fractions using the bar model method to help us visualise our fractions before finding equivalent pairs and exploring how to write fractions in different formats.

In our next steps, we are going to be adding and subtracting a variety of fractions even using fractions with different denominators!

Recently, we have also had the opportunity to build some more word problems into our work as well as some KS2 SATS questions in preparation for Year 6.

In our PSHE learning, we have begun to look at our safety and the changing body.

We started our new topic learning all about staying safe online and communicating safely and kindly with our friends when online.

The children have been enjoying violin lessons on a Tuesday afternoon having a go at learning to play a musical instrument.

As a class, we have started a new novel in our DEAR time called My Friend Walter by Michael Morpurgo which has tied in nicely with our current reading lesson focus of Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo (who is one of our Year 5 key authors).

Please ensure your child is reading 5 times a week and their reading diary is signed and coming into school with them.

Keep up the hard work Year 5, you are doing yourselves and us proud!

Miss Edwards, Miss Moraity and Mrs Wilcox 😊

YEAR 6

We have been working very hard in Year 6 this term and it's been busy!

In our writing, we have developed our knowledge of parenthesis including using dashes at the end of sentences – these help to expand or explain the previous sentence. We have applied this to creating an information leaflet about climate change and the impact it is having on our planet. This is also what we are studying in our geography lessons this term.

In maths, we have focused on fractions including equivalency, comparing and ordering, adding and subtracting and dividing a fraction by a fraction. More recently, we have begun to explore percentages and find percentage of number.

In science, we are learning about how fossils are made and how they help us understand our very distant past. We are discovering how animals have evolved to adapt to their environments and will soon look at our own evolution.

In our PSHE lessons, we are learning about how to keep safe online especially on social media. We understand what is appropriate and inappropriate to say when we talk to each other online. We have discussed the concept of 'sportsmanship' and how important it is to treat each other with respect when playing games.

This term we have started a new history topic – the English Civil War. We are exploring how the concept of monarchy has changed from the time of King John (our last topic). We will learn about parliament and the struggle between the king and parliament. This will help us to understand our current government and our democratic society.

Please continue to support your child in attending the tutoring sessions. We are starting to gear up for SATs and these sessions will help to support your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 6.

IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

Monday 5th February - Thursday 8th February 2024 – Y6 Residential Visit Llanrug

Friday 9th February 2024 – TED day- children not required to attend

Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February - Half Term Holiday

Monday 19th February 2024 – All children return to school

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm and needs immediate protection phone the police and the Family Front Door on **01905 822666**.



We are offering an 'after school provision' throughout the week at St George's for the **all the children**. Your child/children will have the opportunity to do some **creative and engaging activities** and will be provided with a **hot snack** if they choose to stay for the **later slot**.

- After school club starts at **3.00pm**.
- There will be two slots available for the 'Little Pears'.
- The first slot will run from **3.00pm-4.30pm** at a cost of **£5.00**.
- The second slot available is from **3.00pm-5.45pm** at a cost of **£6.50**.
- If your child is staying until **5.45pm**, they will be provided with a hot snack. Hot snacks e.g., 'beans or cheese' on toast.

If you would like your child/children to attend 'Little Pears' after school club, please contact office@stgprimary.org or ring on 01562 824206.

Please contact us as soon as possible, so we can ensure that we can facilitate your wishes.

School Term Dates September 2023 to July 2024

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>SCHOOL CLOSSES ON</u>	<u>SCHOOL TED DAYS</u>	<u>SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON</u>
SPRING HALF TERM	Thursday 8 th February	Friday 9 th February	Monday 19 th February
EASTER	Thursday 21 st March	Friday 22 nd March	Monday 8 th April
MAY DAY	Monday 6 th May		Tuesday 7 th May
SUMMER HALF TERM	Friday 24 th May		Monday 3 rd June
END OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 19 th July	Monday 22 nd July	N/A