



The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the next edition of our newsletter - I am sure you will agree that it is bursting with such a wide range of activities and opportunities that the children have had a chance to experience this half term. Please also take the time to read the very first edition of the 'Colneis News' which has been put together by a group of Colneis children working together with Mrs. Loxley - it is a really good read! My thanks to the whole staff team for their work in providing such a rich, wide ranging set of experiences for our children.



We are pleased to announce that Fairfield Infant and Colneis Junior have been recognised by Suffolk County Council as an 'Asthma Friendly School'. We have been awarded the highest standard and are rated GOLD. This means that for those children who suffer currently from asthma, or for children who may be diagnosed in the future, as parents you can be confident that our school community has in place systems and procedures to support your child with this medical condition. If you have any questions or queries about this or anything else medical, please do contact the school offices and ask for Mrs Shaw or Mrs Piper our Pastoral Team who lead on supporting children with medical conditions.

We are also delighted to inform you that Colneis has recently been awarded the Art Councils Silver Artsmark award in recognition of all the work we do within 'The Arts'. Our application for Artsmark at Fairfield will be submitted soon - watch this space. We are really pleased to see that this important part of our curriculum and extended opportunities has been reflected in this well-deserved award.

Finally, thank you once again for your continued support over the year. It has been great to see such large numbers of parents attend our various Christmas performances. I hope that you all have a great and enjoyable Christmas break and we will look forward to seeing the children back in school on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Best wishes and kind regards

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2023

News from Nursery

Run, run, as fast as you can....

We have been learning new vocabulary and exploring the story of The Gingerbread Man. The children have enjoyed exploring the characters, using loose parts and/or playdough to create their own gingerbread man. They have been re-telling the story, worked collaboratively to create the gingerbread man artwork and even tasted a gingerbread man biscuit!



Nursery Calling!



The children have been exploring our very special 'Christmas hotline' to make calls to some of our favourite Christmas characters. We have enjoyed watching the children engage with this and listening to the conversations they are having. This is helping the children with their number recognition



and encourages their imagination too!

Christmas Tree Festival

We had the honour of being invited to make some decorations for the Federation Christmas Tree which was on display at the Salvation Army Christmas Tree Festival.

The children created some fabulous decorations and helped to make our tree look really special. It was a pleasure to use the children's beautiful decorations to represent our Federation at this special community event.



Dot painting
Star



Handprint
Robin



Junk model
Christmas
Tree



Tape resist
snowflake



News from Reception

Have a Try

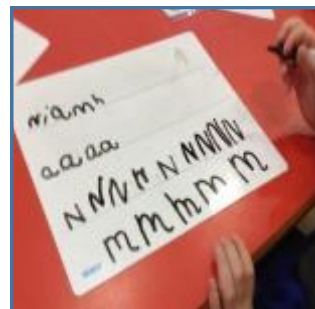
This term we have been encouraging the children to 'have a try'. They have been trying a range of things including zipping their coat, counting 5 objects, drawing a picture of themselves and their family and this week writing a caption.

These sessions have been designed to encourage children to try things even if they find it a bit tricky.



Letter Formation

This term we have been working hard to form letters with the correct formation. We have practised in guided sessions with adults and on the smartboard.



Christmas In Reception

The children have been learning the Christian story of Christmas through our nativity. We learnt songs to help us tell the story of the birth of baby Jesus, the son of God.

We have been exploring a range of festive activities including decorating the Christmas tree, pipe cleaner Christmas trees, cut and stick snowmen, printing baubles and colouring activities.



News from Year One

Our Visit to the Church

The children visited St Andrews Church as part of our Christianity studies. We learnt about a Baptism— welcoming a baby into the church. Rev. Chris talked to the children about his role as a vicar and the special clothes that he wears at different times of the year. The children were invited to explore the church and then came together to ask Rev. Chris about the special furniture and symbols.



Mathematics in Year One

The children have been exploring number facts when adding and subtracting quantities to 10. They have been learning through songs, practical activities and exploring outdoors. Children have especially enjoyed using the part-part-whole diagram to help them understand the parts of a number sentence. They have used counting resources to see how the two parts make a whole, being the answer.

Children have enjoyed learning the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They have been recognising and continuing a repeating pattern on paper and using computer games. Children have been printing with 3D shapes to explore the 2D faces. Their printed work made fabulous crowns for Christmas Dinner day!



News from Year 2

Our Trip to Felixstowe Library

Year Two loved their first trip out to Felixstowe Library this autumn. They listened to a story, had a quiz, had time to ask and answer questions and then had some free time to explore the reading books available. The children were really enthusiastic about the clubs that the library run and lots of children wanted to get a library card too. They behaved beautifully and made us very proud.



The Great Fire of London

The children in Year 2 have been passionate and enthusiastic learning about The Great Fire of London in History this term. Our enquiry question was "Why did the Great Fire of London destroy so much of London?" and the children have enjoyed investigating and answering this question over the past few weeks. They have explored sources of evidence, learned about what London was like in 1666, learned about the events and causes of the fire and thought about what has changed in London/ The UK after the fire. We created a non-fiction book at the end of this topic as the children wanted to share everything they have learned and create a book to add to their reading area.



Outdoor Learning

Year 2 love their outdoor learning afternoon where they continue their curriculum and learning through outdoor provision. They have enjoyed being science and nature detectives, artists, historians and geographers.



News from Year 3

The children have continued to settle brilliantly at Colneis. It has been great meeting those who attended the parents evening, in person or online, to discuss your child's progress. So far we are pleased with the attitude and manners across the year group and look forward to visiting Colchester Castle in the spring term.

Art and DT (Design and Technology)

In Art this term, the children have enjoyed creating collages in the style of Kurt Schwitters. They were able to incorporate their knowledge and understanding of both complementary and contrasting colours well and created some lovely artwork! In DT the children have been getting in the festive spirit by designing, sewing and decorating Christmas stockings.



Carol Concert at St Andrews

Year 3 recently performed with Year 5 at St Andrews church. The children worked incredibly hard to learn the songs ready for the concert. Some children had the opportunity to read a passage at the church and were brilliant. All children did a super job and should be proud of their performance!



Fossil Expert

The children were very lucky to have a special visitor in to show their extensive fossil collection.

It was a great opportunity for children to see some of the fossils they have learnt about in their Science lessons in person. We are lucky to be able to have visitors who can share their knowledge with our children.



Outdoor Learning

The children have been taking on the Wild Challenge over the past few weeks completing various tasks such as building hedgehog homes, pond dipping, a minibeast safari and making a bug hotel. The children are always enthusiastic about their outdoor learning sessions... come rain or shine!



News from Year 4

R.E.

In our R.E. lessons this term we have been learning about Hinduism and have spent time considering the story of Rama and Sita. We have considered how this story inspires Hindus to follow their Dharma. To develop our understanding the children created a puppet show of the story.



Ancient Greeks

In History we have continued learning about the Ancient Greeks. During the week of 13th November, Year 4 took part in Greek Week where the children experienced lots of different activities ranging from making jewellery and head bands, to researching about life as a Greek child. The week culminated with 'Greek Day' where the children and staff became 'Greeks' for the day. They took part in a Greek play, Greek dancing and a Greek Feast.

We were really impressed with how the children participated on the day and were willing to try new foods, with some children developing a taste for olives and feta cheese!

Dance

In Dance this half term, we have been focussing on the Ancient Greeks and the Trojan Horse. The children created a routine based on some of the movements they had been taught. They showed creativity and effective team skills.



News from Year 5

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

The Year 5 children visited the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge in November. This was an opportunity for the children to embed their historical understanding of Ancient Egypt. The children were fortunate to be guided through the Ancient Egyptian galleries by an expert tutor who explained some of the artefacts, highlighting what they would have been used for. The children were actively encouraged to use their historical enquiry questions in order to appreciate the wonder of the Ancient Egyptian civilisation.



Remembrance



On Friday 10th November, the School Council Representatives attended a service at Felixstowe Town Hall. Each year group laid a wreath in remembrance of and in gratitude for our armed service personnel.

Maths: Cube Numbers

As part of their learning on multiplication and division, the children used multi-link cubes to explore 'Cube numbers'.



News from Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy term learning. They have worked incredibly hard in all subjects and the teachers are impressed with all their efforts.

Design and Technology

In DT, Year 6 have been designing and constructing their own Jack in the Box. They have accurately measured the card and wood, and are now beginning to saw and hot glue the frame.



Outdoor Learning

Year 6 have enjoyed taking part in a number of outdoor learning sessions this term. These sessions included science based activities, as well as some art, design and technology activities. Our most recent session involved us pond dipping.



Dance



6RW have worked hard to learn their showcase dance. They performed brilliantly at Felixstowe School in front of an audience. 6J and 6S will have their turn later in the year.

Science

In Science this term, we have been learning about micro-organisms. We set up a bread experiment to investigate where mould grows the best.



Christmas Carols

Year 6 visited St Andrews Church where they shared Christmas readings and performed a variety of songs. It was a lovely experience for the children. 'Merry Christmas Everyone!'



PE

National Fitness Day - A wonderful event every year. It is really nice to be able to demonstrate some simple exercises to the children that will help them along their fitness journey. Children from both Fairfield and Colneis took part across the day. Miss Fuller definitely had done enough star jumps by the end of the day!



Felixstowe Cross Country - One of our local Felixstowe school events. Almost every school in Felixstowe was represented and we were treated with the nicest weather that I have ever known for a Cross Country event! All schools competed well, running just over a kilometre. Colneis finished an admirable second, just a few points behind the new champions Kingsfleet.

U9 + U11 Hockey Enrichment - A wonderful enrichment event. Over the last few years we have been trying to encourage more children to attend local sports clubs and we have been able to have close links with a few who are offering exciting coaching opportunities.

We were able to send 10 children from Year 4 and 5 who thoroughly enjoyed their morning.



U11 Football - Development and Competitive - Two boys football teams attended an event at Whitton Sports Club. The first team was a development team. These competitions are designed for children that enjoy football but are not ready to be competitive yet. There was lots of fun had and they tried really hard, managing a win in their final game.



The competitive team played well together as always. They were a fantastic team in Year 5 and this has continued. 2 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss had them finishing third in their group on goal difference. There will be lots of football this year, with more opportunities to progress.

U11 Football - Development

Lots of fun had by all across the morning of this event. It is so nice to be able to send two teams to events like this and have enough children that want to give things a go! Well done to all of the girls for showing such perseverance and dedication when representing our school.



U11 Football - Competitive

The competitive team played really well and came so close to going through to the next stages. A few wins, draws and losses across the morning, ending up finishing third in their group. Not enough to qualify for the semifinals but a fantastic effort from all of them!

Paarlauf

Paarlauf is one of our annual Felixstowe events. We compete against the other schools regularly and paarlauf is always extremely close.

It did not disappoint this year either. The children in all year groups worked so hard to run as many lengths as they could. The final results had only 4 laps between the top three schools. We finished third in the event, only 4 laps behind the eventual winners, SET Felix.

It is so nice to also be able to have representatives from all year groups at the same event. All children worked hard and represented the school beautifully!



KS2 Panathlon

Panathlon events are incredible. They are offered to children that would not always have the same access to all of the other events that we attend as a school. This event involves lots of different activities, completed within a sports hall and the children are offered lots of adaptations and support throughout the event. The children were incredible and received a medal to highlight their efforts!



U8 and U10 Football

These were both development events. There has been a big push on involving more girls in playing football from the Suffolk FA and Ipswich Town host and support the event too. As ever, the girls start a little nervous but grow into the event and really worked as a team towards the end! A fantastic couple of events to be a part of!

U9 Dodgeball - Competitive

Dodgeball is always one of my favourite events. The children pick up the rules and tactics to this sport so quickly! Secretly, I think they just really enjoy throwing things at other people as hard as they can!

They performed really well and came so close to qualification for the knockout stages. They can be so proud of their achievements at this event! Always highly competitive!



U9 Dodgeball - Develop

Development competitions are always focused on having fun. The idea is to take children that have not had the same competitive experience as others and who just want to give the sport a try, learn some new skills and represent the school in a way that is non-competitive. These events are so important and the children that attended did so with a smile on their faces and thoroughly enjoyed their time!

U11 Tag Rugby

A very competitive team to take to a development tournament. The children had honed their skills at a lunch club with Mr Crump and were ready for anyone in front of them. They played really well and represented our school well. We are on the look out for a competitive competition to attend with the same team later on in the year!

Top effort everyone!



Panathlon Bowling Event

Another panathlon event and one heavily focused on fun and participation. The bowling alley has the lights turned down and the children have their totals added together to calculate a winner of the event.

The 'winner' is always a very secondary outcome of these events. The most important thing is that the children have enjoyed themselves and had an opportunity to complete for the school.

U9 Athletics - Enrichment

A local Felixstowe initiative. These events were designed to mirror events that were happening at a competitive level in Ipswich and provide an extra opportunity for a wide range of children. It also works as a really good transition opportunity for the children who get to see Felixstowe School and some supporting students and teachers too.



U11 Athletics - Enrichment

Lots of fun was had by both the U9 and U11 teams that we were able to send.

They got to have a go at a relay, a javelin throw, speed bounce, standing long jump and more!

Lots of laughs and support given to each other throughout too!



U11 Xmas Cracker Panathlon event

Our final event of the year. Similar to previous events based in the sports hall as before but with a slight Christmas twist! The children were very excited before they even left school because they got to go in their Christmas jumpers! When they returned, their smiles were even bigger. What a lovely way to end the term!!



Premier Showdown

So much hard work and effort goes into these events. The children learn the songs and the dances over the course of the term and there is always a lot of excitement and nerves as the event draws closer and closer.

The most important part of this event is the performance. It is wonderful to be able to provide the children with an opportunity to see something right through from rehearsal stages to a performance in front of their loved ones. The audience was full of anticipation and for the 92 children that were involved, a brilliant opportunity to test themselves in potentially unfamiliar territory.

They all did beautifully, performing their dances well, with a smile on their faces and singing loud for the whole audience to hear. A fantastic experience for the audience too and one that the children will hopefully cherish and remember for a long time!





READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Welcome to issue 1 of the 'Colneis News', brought to you by the members of Creative Club - a talented group of children who just love writing and graphics.

Every term a new set of children will create their very own newspaper. This term it is the turn of Year 6, who have worked incredibly hard to make the festive period kick-off with a Christmas cracker of an issue. Inside you can read fascinating articles about how the season is celebrated around the world or find out about the animals we associate with Christmas. In addition, you can get crafty with our brilliant ideas to make your Christmas family photos the best ever or follow one of our recipes and cook up a treat to grace your festive table. Whether it's jokes or Christmas film tips—we've got it all!

Wishing all our readers in the Colneis and Fairfield family a Very Happy Christmas from everyone at the Year 6 'Creative Club'.



Ho, Ho, Ho—Hee, Hee, Hee!

Q. How does Rudolph know when Christmas is coming?

He refers to his calen-deer!

Q. What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?

You get 'tinselitis'!



Christmas Around the World

By Harmony Pearson

Christmas is coming and we are all getting excited. Turkey, tinsel, stuffing and stockings—what's not to like! But, did you know that not all countries celebrate Christmas quite the same? We sent Harmony Pearson off to find out how the festivities are celebrated around the world.

Most countries celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts and meeting up with family and friends, but not all do it on the 25th December. For many people around the world, the most important day is the 24th December. In Iceland the fun starts even earlier on the 12th December, when there is dancing in the streets and various food feasts. The partying continues throughout the month of December, with families gathering together for a special meal on Christmas Eve. Most people give and receive books and some of Christmas Eve is always spent reading (Miss Pendle and Miss Maitland would approve!!!). Other people go to mass in the evening, to meet their neighbours and friends and celebrate the religious festival.

Christmas Around the World -continued

Christmas is also a big occasion in Poland and is celebrated in many ways. One of the most important events is the tradition of Wigilia on Christmas Eve. People clean the house and then have a traditional meal with family. The main dish is fish, usually carp, as well as herrings, pierogi (savoury dumplings) and poppy seed cake. After dinner, people swap gifts and sing carols together. Polish people also love their Christmas cards and there are thousands of different styles and designs to send to loved ones.

In Romania, Christmas begins at the beginning of December when all the lights are turned on across the country. The same night, Saint Nicolas comes and gives children presents. Children open their presents early on the morning of December the 5th. Traditionally, their gifts are placed in lace-up boots.

If you fancy something a bit different and definitely warmer, then Australia is the place for you. Australians still gather together with family and friends to give gifts and have a special meal at home, but it's just as likely to be a barbecue in the garden or even on the beach, as it's the height of summer Down-Under!

Finland however is the perfect setting for a traditional Christmas and one of the best places to celebrate the holidays. It has lots of fun Christmas traditions, a snowy landscape, reindeers galore and of course Santa and his Elves in Lapland!



If you want to start one of your own traditions, then why not try making Macie Fletcher's -Nanny Dawn's - recipe for 'Cheese and Pesto Christmas Trees'. Thanks Macie for sharing. Here are her instructions!

1. Get 2 x pre-made sheets of puff pastry and roll it out. Once rolled out, cut out a large Christmas tree shape in both. Cover one of the Christmas tree shapes with pesto
2. Grate some cheese and lay over the pesto—mozzarella and cheddar mixes work well.
3. Then place the other puff pastry Christmas tree on top and brush with milk or egg.
4. With a knife cut the edges of the tree to look like branches and with your fingers twist them to look like rope.
5. Place on grease proof paper and bake at 180 degrees for 30 minutes until golden brown. When cooked take out of the oven and leave to cool. When ready tear off a piece and eat with garlic dip—Delicious!!!!!!!



Fun Festive Films



Wondering what to watch this Christmas? Our journalists asked Year 6 pupils about their favourite festive films and surveyed them on the most popular. The votes were:

Elf - 6 votes

Nativity - 4 votes

Polar Express - 12 votes

Klaus - 0 votes

Home Alone - 36 votes

The Grinch - 11 votes

So it's official—we all like a good laugh at Christmas!

And of course a Christmas film wouldn't be anything without popcorn. We give you step by step instructions on how to make a Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer food container—perfect for all your festive foody treats! As you can see Mrs Luck is crazy about hers!!!!



Instructions

To make your Rudolph food container:



1. Cut a piece of brown paper into a shape that can be rolled into a cone shape.
 2. Draw reindeer antlers, eyes and a red nose in the middle of the paper.
 3. Roll the shape into a cone and tape together.
 4. Fill with popcorn, sweets or treats for reindeers!
 5. Then curl up with your favourite festive film and enjoy!
- Christmas craft idea by Harmony Pearson

Nanny Dawn's Christmas snowflake

Wondering what to cook this Christmas to delight your family and guests? Macie Fletcher talked to an expert (her Nanny) to get some 'Christmassy' ideas!

Christmas snowflake biscuits by Nanny Dawn

Ingredients

- 300g butter (softened)
- 1 cup of icing sugar (sifted)
- 3 cups of plain flour (sifted)
- 1 tube of glitter icing gel



Method

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees (180 fan).
2. Line a baking tray with baking paper and set aside.
3. Cream butter and icing sugar and add flour. Mix well.
4. Wrap in plastic wrap and place in the fridge for 30 minutes.
5. Roll out to 5 mm thickness.
6. Place shapes and cut biscuits using a snowflake cookie cutter (or just design your own!)
7. Bake for 15 minutes until pale golden. Remove carefully from the oven and place on wire racks to cool down.
8. Using glitter gel, trace a snowflake pattern on the biscuits and leave to dry.

Top Tips

You can use any shape for this recipe. Glitter gel can be bought in a supermarket.

Ho, Ho, Ho—Hee, Hee, Hee!

Q. Why does everyone love Frosty the Snowman?

Because he's cool!

Q. What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

Santa Pause!



Family Traditions

Interview with Miss Webb by Libby Bone



Q1. How do you decorate your house at Christmas?

We decorate the house with tinsel, paper chains and lots and lots of glitter!

Q2. What special things do your family do at Christmas?

We all go for a family dog walk on Christmas day.

Q3. Do you go anywhere on holiday at Christmas?

No, we prefer to stay at home for the holidays.

Q4. Are you celebrating in any way different this year?

Yes, my sister will be away in Australia and we will miss her, but my other sister has just had two little twin babies called Evie and Harrison, so that will be really fun and magical!

Q5. Do you read any special books at Christmas?

Yes, I love A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens! (Hooray—Miss Pendle and Miss Maitland will be pleased!!!!)



Christmassy Creatures

Sofia Briscan finds out about the creatures we associate with the Christmas period, who live in a winter wonderland.

Reindeers—are generally native to the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. Both the males and the females grow antlers. Males lock their antlers and fight as part of mating rituals. The Svalbard reindeer, found in Norway, is a smaller version of the traditional reindeer and grows to only about 160cm tall. They have a small, round head and short legs.

Did you know?

Reindeers hooves can be adapted to the season. I wonder what type Rudolph has?

Polar Bears—Polar bears grow up to about 3 metres high. They live in the Arctic, Canada, Alaska, Greenland, Russia and Norway. The life-span of a polar bear is about 26-30 years and they can swim about 60 miles!

Did you know?

Polar bears can smell their prey from nearly a mile away, so watch out!

Robins— The life span of a robin is about 2 years and they are known as the friendliest of birds. Every continent in the world has their own species of robin—no wonder we put their pictures on our Christmas cards!



With thanks to Year 6 Creative Club:

Libby Bone, Rafe Lewis, Macie Fletcher, Sofia Briscan, Eva Edwards and Harmony Pearson. Special thanks to 'Nanny Dawn', Mrs Luck, Miss Webb and Mrs Ozanne for their support.

Another brilliant Christmas Craft idea from Eva Edwards

'Paper Plate Snowman Masks'



Thanks Mrs Luck for modelling it so beautifully!

Everyone loves taking photographs at Christmas. Why not try livening up your family pictures this year by making one of these hilarious Snowman masks and create your very own photobooth accessory. It will put a smile on your face for years to come!

How to make— Equipment used

- Large paper plate
- Small paper plate
- Lolly pop stick
- 3 buttons
- Red paper
- Black Paper
- Green pipe cleaners
- 3 red pom-poms
- Scissors and glue



Method

1. Get 2 paper plates—one large and one small.
2. Glue or staple the smaller plate to the larger plate, after cutting out the middle to make a hole for your face.
3. Glue or tape a lolly pop stick to the bottom of the large plate to form a handle.
4. Make a hat using black paper or card and glue onto the top of the smaller plate.
5. Onto the bigger plate, glue 3 buttons or gems in a downward line.
6. Create a scarf using red paper or card (cut a strip and fold diagonally). Stick this in between the larger and smaller plates.
7. If the smaller plate is flimsy, use two sticks to strengthen it behind.
8. All you need now is your family and friends and you'll be making some brilliant memories!

Ho, Ho, Ho—Hee, Hee, Hee!

Q. What do Snowmen eat for breakfast?

Snowflakes!

Q. What is a Christmas trees favourite sweet?

Orna-mints!



Term Dates

Current Academic Year: Term dates for 2023-2024

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Wednesday 6th September 2023
Half term:	Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023
End of Autumn term:	Wednesday 20th December 2023
PD (non school) days:	Monday 4th September 2023 Tuesday 5th September 2023

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Thursday 4th January 2024
Half term:	Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2024
End of Spring term:	Thursday 28th March 2024
PD (non school) day:	Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Monday 15th April 2024
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 6th May 2024
Half term:	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024
End of Summer term:	Friday 19th July 2024
PD (non school) days:	Friday 12th April 2024 Monday 3rd June 2024

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2024-2025

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half term:	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
End of Autumn term:	Friday 20th December 2024
PD (non school) days:	Monday 2nd September 2024 Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 7th January 2025
Half term:	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
End of Spring term:	Friday 4th April 2025
PD (non school) day:	Monday 6th January 2025

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Wednesday 23rd April 2025
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 5th May 2025
Half term:	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025
End of Summer term:	Tuesday 22nd July 2025
PD (non school) days:	Tuesday 22nd April 2025 Friday 23rd May 2025