



Achieving excellence through
the pursuit of good

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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Headteacher: Mr Kevin Purkiss



Newsletter One: September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all our Staff and Governors - a **very warm welcome** to this new academic year whether you are new to school or have been here for some time! We hope that you have all enjoyed a great summer.

Thank you to the staff team who have been busy preparing the school and the curriculum for this new academic year. Thank you to our office team who have been working to ensure things run as smoothly as possible; to our teachers and teaching assistants for all the planning and preparation that has taken place; to our kitchen team for creating a new menu for children to enjoy; and to our site team who have overseen different improvements over the summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children and families on Wednesday. You will see in Dates for the Diary below there are already several exciting trips and visits planned for classes in the term ahead!

Christian Value Award Champions – Summer Term

Every long term, one child in each class is nominated by their peers for living out our Christian Values. One child is declared the overall champion for each value. I am pleased to share our champions for the Summer Term (last academic year):

- **Respect:** Benjamin, Year 2
- **Joyfulness:** Yasmin, Year 3
- **Fairness:** Emily, Year 4
- **Love:** Anella, Year 5
- **Forgiveness:** Emile, Year R
- **Perseverance:** George, Year 6

Well done to all our children who regularly demonstrate these important Christian Values in their daily lives!

Welcome to new children!

It is always lovely to welcome our new Reception children to Bathwick, as well as new children in other year groups. A very warm welcome to:

- Y2 - Anwen
- Y3 - Jonathon
- Y5 - Hanea and Meryem
- Y6 - Jack

We hope you will all be very happy here!

All day, every day, on time!

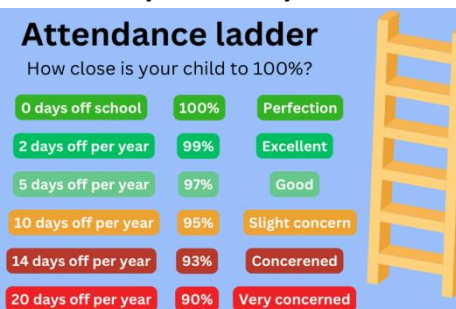
We all want the best for our children. We believe that regular attendance at school is vital for children as it promotes good learning, positive attitudes and maintains continuity in their education and in their friendships. Strong attendance at school positively impacts our children.

Let's all aim
for **100%**

Did you know that at the end of primary school, children *not meeting* the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those *meeting* the expected standard. In the year ahead, we will be unapologetically clear about the importance of children's attendance at school.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS		
Minutes late per day	Equivalent of missing	Lessons missed per year
5 mins	3.4 SCHOOL DAYS PER YEAR	17
15 mins	10.3 SCHOOL DAYS PER YEAR	51
25 mins	20.7 SCHOOL DAYS PER YEAR	104

Expect school leadership to be seeking to work with you to understand and support families help their child attend well. Expect clear communication about your child's attendance if there is a concern. Thank you to the vast majority of parents and carers who strive to ensure their child is in school, 'All day, every day, on time'. **The school day starts at 8.50 – please ensure your child is consistently here ready for 8.50.**



The DfE state that parents, '...have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend

every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.' Please see the attached leaflet with information about how to best support your child.

Bathwick Book Giveaway



Thank you to our librarian, Clare Turner, and Emsal Leo (Layla, Y6 and Yasmin, Y4) and Jennifer Childs (Zach, Y5) and secondary school student Sophie who ran the great Bathwick book giveaway. Thank you for the many donations of books we were able to share with our community.

Bath in Bloom Winners

Over the last few years we have done a lot to develop the outdoor space for our children to enjoy – the new Play Garden, outdoor shelter, fixed and movable play equipment, OWL Adventure development to name just a few. In July, we were delighted to have been awarded a Silver medal by Bath in Bloom, with judges noting the brilliant development of our school grounds. Thank you to the School Council who presented passionately to the panel.



Bath Children's Literature Festival

We are delighted to be taking Years 1 to 6 to the festival again this year to see some amazing authors. The festival is always a fabulous opportunity to inspire reading, writing and illustrating amongst our children and is also great fun! There will be more information to follow from individual classes.

Please book school lunches

A reminder to please book school lunches on Parent Pay before Wednesday 4th September. The delicious menu is below! Term 1 dinner money will be £3.00 for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children (it is free for all Year R, 1 and 2), payable via ParentPay.

If you know your child will be absent from school due to illness or any other planned absence, you must cancel booked meals which will not be required to prevent food wastage. If your child does not have a school meal booked and does not have a packed lunch with them, the office team will book a school packed lunch for your child. A charge of £3.00 will automatically be deducted from your ParentPay account. If you do not have enough funds in your account, please ensure this charge is paid or the system will automatically delete the last meal booked to cover the packed lunch not previously paid for.

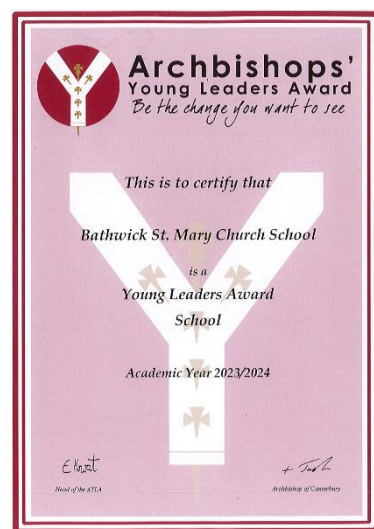
A great celebration of Sport at Bathwick

The last few days of the summer term saw a brilliant Sports Day with an Olympic twist – thank you to all who came and supported the day.



Young Leaders Award

Year 5 had the amazing opportunity to take part in the Archbishop of York's Young Leader's Award. Schools up and down the country have been taking part in it and it is all about how young people can make a difference in our world. During the award, the children took part in lots of problem-solving activities in teams, looked at examples throughout history of strong leaders and explored some national and international charities. They then started to think about how they would like to make a positive change in our local community. The children decided that they would like to spend some time with the residents at the Bridgemoor Care Home. During the afternoon, they shared cards they had written to the



residents and had a go at some crafts. The residents and staff at Bridgemoor were so thankful and it was lovely to see the interactions between the children and the seniors. As a result, Bathwick St Mary was awarded a certificate for completing the Young Leader's Award. The children should be very proud of themselves!

After School Clubs for Terms 1 and 2

A full complement of clubs is attached. All will run from week commencing 9th September through to week commencing 9th December.

‘Meet the Teacher’ – class information sessions

We are pleased to be holding ‘Meet the Teacher’ events next week. These sessions are an opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child’s class teacher(s), learn about your child’s curriculum and ask any questions. We recognise not everyone will be able to attend, but all paperwork will be shared afterwards. Please wait outside your child’s class door and you will be welcomed in at 3:30. All meetings run from 3:30-4:00.

- Year 1: Wednesday 4th September
- Year 2: Wednesday 11th September
- Year 3: Thursday 5th September
- Year 4: Tuesday 10th September
- Year 5: Tuesday 10th September
- Year 6: Thursday 5th September

Wraparound Care – bookings open

Our Wraparound Care service provides on-site childcare from 7.30-8.50 and at the end of the school day to 17.30 (Monday to Thursday) and until 16.30 on Fridays. The costs for each session are £6.50 (Breakfast Club; end of the school day to 16.30; 16.30-17.30). Wraparound Care runs every school day of the year – apart from the last day of each term when there is no after school Wraparound Care.

Wraparound booking is now live for the 2024-25 academic year. We have upgraded to iPAL version 2 which will hopefully be a smoother booking system. Version 2 also has a waiting list which is allocated on a first come, first served basis.

However, you will need to re-register your children. Please use the [this link to access iPAL version 2](#).

Unfortunately, wallet balances will not automatically be transferred and will need to be manually transferred. To enable your balance to be transferred to Version 2, please email sheryl.self@bsm.bwmat.org with your current balance once you have set up your new account.

Just a reminder from the Wraparound Care handbook: **Wallet Payments:** Any additional payments or refunds will show as a credit in your wallet which can be used to make bookings. You can also add funds to your wallet to pay for your child or children’s bookings. Please note the iPAL system DOES NOT GIVE REFUNDS back into your bank or Childcare account. It is very important therefore that parents carefully manage the money in their wallet so by the time your child leaves school the balance is at zero.

Being sent with this newsletter is the 2024/2025 Wraparound Care Contract. Please read this carefully. A paper copy of the form is available in the office and will be soon sent with children who regularly use the service. Please review this and sign and return to the school office – thank you.

Important safety notice

We have children in school who have **life-threatening allergies**. We take all our children’s safety extremely seriously and as such **the following foods and foods containing these ingredients are banned from the school site** (this includes bringing snacks after school for your children or during clubs time):

- ⊘ **Sesame seeds and food containing sesame** (sesame can be found on or in a variety of food, including on rolls, bread, oil, hummus)
- ⊘ **Nuts and food containing nuts**
 - ✗ All ‘Tree nuts’ - this includes cashew, hazelnuts, almonds, walnuts, pistachio, macadamia, pecan and Brazil nuts
 - ✗ Peanuts and chestnuts
 - ✗ Pine nuts and Pesto

Some food packing uses wording such as, ‘This product has been produced in a factory that handles nuts and/or sesame’ or ‘May contain nuts and/or sesame’. At school, we only ban foods that specifically state nuts or sesame in the ingredient list. Thank you for your continued vigilance.

Excellent academic performance

High academic standards are a key part of a brilliant primary education. We are pleased to share our excellent outcomes from the 2024 Y6 SATS. These demonstrate our commitment for all children to achieve their very best and particularly show the strong ‘Greater Depth’ standard many of our children attain.

KS2 (Year 6) results		School Result	National Result
Reading, Writing and Maths combined	Expected standard	69%	62%
	Scaled score	106.2	104.7
Reading	Expected standard	83%	75%
	Higher than expected standard	30%	28%
Writing	Expected standard	83%	73%
	Higher than expected standard	17%	13%
Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar	Expected standard	80%	73%
	Higher than expected standard	40%	33%
Maths	Expected standard	73%	75%
	Higher than expected standard	13%	25%

Library volunteers needed

We are looking for more volunteers to join our library team and help with the school library. We may need help on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 2:15pm onwards. This is a wonderful opportunity to help our children with reading for pleasure. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Turner on librarian@bsm.bwmat.org for more information.

Read Write Inc. and Reading at Bathwick

Learning to read fluently, with confidence and for enjoyment is without doubt one of the most important aspects of your child's education. Over the summer our Read, Write, Inc. scheme has been refreshed and updated and we look forward to this restarting on Monday 9th September. Starting then gives children time to settle into their class routines before moving to different groups. It is important we accurately assess all children and they are perfectly matched to the book they receive, so all children will receive their new Read, Write, Inc. books on Friday 13th September.

Open mornings

Is your child due to start school in September 2025? You are warmly invited to our Open Mornings (25th September, 23rd October, 20th November, each from 9.00-10.00 or 10.45-11.45). Contact Clare Turner or Timea Toth in the office to book a place: office@bsm.bwmat.org

Year 5 and 6 – walking home

- If you wish your child to walk home on their own at the end of the school day, please [complete this short permission form](#). (If you have completed this in previous years there is no need to do it again).
- If you feel your child in Year 5 and 6 has a specific need for a mobile phone in school, please contact Clare Turner or Timea Toth in the school office who will share a permission form. Thank you.

Music tuition at Bathwick

Acoustic Guitar lessons

Tim Clark is available for guitar tuition in Years 4, 5 and 6. If you would like further information, please email Mr Clark at tclarkguitar@gmail.com.

BANES Music Tuition for Y4 / Y5 / Y6 children

If your child would like to continue or start music lessons, please contact Music@bathnes.gov.uk.

Piano and Singing lessons at Bathwick for Y4, 5&6

We continue to offer a limited number of personalised private singing or beginner piano lessons with our Choir and Ensemble conductor, Ms Kelly Sharp. Please email the school office for more information.

Have your contact details changed?

If you have not provided school with your most up to date address, contact numbers and email address, please inform the school office (office@bsm.bwmat.org). It is crucial we have accurate and up to date records and contacts for all families.

Our Senior Leadership Team and key areas of responsibility are as follows:

- Mr Kevin Purkiss, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Ally Elliott, Deputy Headteacher and SENDCO
- Miss Vicky Bowman, Assistant Head with responsibility for Curriculum
- Mr Duncan Jackson, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

We will usually be in the playground before or after school on most days, so please do stop us with any questions, comments or feedback. [The full staff complement for the year can be found here](#).



The PTA Post: The Late-Summer Fair

The PTA team is delighted to announce our 'Late-Summer Fair' will be held 3.30-5.30 on Friday 27th September. There will be a children's (outdoor) disco from 3.30-4.30 and brilliant live music from Paper Jam 4.30-5.30, with Bar and Games throughout. Please SAVE THE DATE – more information to follow, including the date of the PTA AGM.

Free School Meals (Benefit Related) in B&NES

Did you know you may qualify your our school for £1,385 worth of **Pupil Premium Funding** if you are entitled to benefit related free school meals?

If you think you may be entitled, check online at www.bathnes.gov.uk and search 'free school meals' to see eligible benefits. Apply online at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> or you can contact The Free School Meal Team at freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk or on 01225 394317 to check your entitlement (if you leave a message they will call you back). You can still apply for benefit related free school meals while receiving universal infant free school meals. In addition, school provides a £50 voucher towards uniform should you successfully apply.

Harvest Celebration

Our Harvest Celebration service is on **Friday 25th October at 1.30 p.m.**

at St. Mary's Church. We are delighted to invite our whole school community to share in this joyful service together. We will ask for donations of food for the Bath Foodbank and will be in touch with details nearer the time. We also would like to especially invite all Year R Parents and Carers – new children in Reception and others across the school will receive a Bible from school which we will present to each child in this service. Please do 'save the date' if you can. All children take part in the Service, so please collect your child from the Church at the end (we expect to end by 2.40 p.m.) If you are unable to collect your child, we will take children back to school for the usual end of the day collection. Please note there are no clubs or Wraparound Care after school on the last day of each term.



Your questions, queries and feedback...

Please do read the important 'Annual Reminders' below and particularly make note of the term dates on the right. We are all very much looking forward to an exciting year ahead – full of laughter and learning for our children.

Please do stop me in the playground or make contact to share ideas, concerns or questions. Bathwick is a wonderful school, but there are always things we can do to improve and develop – and I am always willing to hear your ideas and comments. It is by working in positive partnership that our children will continue to thrive!

With my best wishes for the year ahead.



Kevin Purkiss
Head Teacher

Term 1 Dates for the Diary	
September	
4	Term starts for Years 1-6, 8.50 a.m. Year R start either a.m. / p.m. groups Year 1 Meet the teacher, 3.30-4.00
5	Year 6 Meet the teacher, 3.30-4.00 Year 3 Meet the teacher, 3.30-4.00
10	Year 5 Meet the teacher, 3.30-4.00 Year 4 Meet the teacher, 3.30-4.00
11	Year 2 Meet the teacher, 3.30-4.00 Year 6 OWL
18	Year 5 OWL
16	Year R children in full time from today
20	Non-uniform day – in exchange for Tombola Prizes
25	Open Morning for Reception 2025 Year 4 OWL
	PTA Non-Uniform Day – in return for tombola prizes
27	PTA Late Summer Fair – Disco 3.30-4.30 and Band 4.30-5.30, Bar and Games
30	Year 5 Literature Festival - Assembly Rooms p.m. Year 6 Literature Festival - Assembly Rooms a.m.
October	
1	Years 1 & 2 Literature Festival - Assembly R. a.m.
2	Year 3 OWL
4	Year 3 Literature Festival - Assembly Rooms p.m. Year 6 to STEAM Museum (as evacuees)
9	Year 2 OWL
16	Year R OWL
21	Year 5 to Herschel Museum AM TBC
23	Open Morning for Reception 2025 Year 1 OWL

Save the date(s)

In addition to the dates, here are some key events in the year ahead:

- Friday 20th December: Carol Service, 1.30 p.m.
- Friday 4th April: Easter Service, 1.30 p.m.
- Friday 11th July: Year 6 Show (evening)

Thursday 17th July: Leavers' Service, 1.30 pm.

Important 'Annual Reminders'

In order to keep our school being the best that it can be, please read through these polite reminders. **Thank you for your cooperation and support.** We seek to provide the very best education we can and by working together and supporting our school in this way, things run much more smoothly! If you have any questions, please do ask.

Medical information

- If your **child is sick** or has diarrhoea, please wait 48 hours before returning to school.
- Please **do not send in medicines** without prior authorisation. There are guidelines we follow to ensure the correct administration of medicine. **We can only administer prescribed** medicine with clear written instructions from a doctor. Please contact the School Office if your child requires medication in school.

Attendance regulations

- The Government is very clear that **no holidays should be taken in term time.** Every day in school is important for your child. If some very unusual situation arises we have to clearly explain the circumstances to the Attendance and Welfare Support Service and demonstrate its uniqueness. Consequently, please assume there is no 'holiday entitlement' and put in writing any request for planned absence. Any absence must be authorised in advance; this includes medical (unless an emergency) and exam or secondary school appointments.
- Morning registers close at 9.00. If your child arrives between 9.00-9.15 they will be marked as LATE. If they arrive after 9.15 their absence will be marked as UNAUTHORISED.
- **Please carefully check the Term Dates (at the end of the newsletter) before booking any holidays.**

Communication

- We believe that a close working partnership between home and school is essential if children are to make the best progress. You can contact your child's teacher in a number of ways – please do see them at the beginning or end of the school day, or email or phone and we will answer your query as soon as possible. A polite reminder that 'Tapestry' is not designed to be a home / school communication tool.

Birthday Treats

- Some children wish to celebrate their birthday by handing out a small 'treat' at the end of the day. This is not expected or encouraged, but if children do, we will ask recipients of any 'treat' to wait until seeing their collecting adult who can choose what is appropriate for their family.

Snacks

- Any snacks brought into school for breaktimes must be healthy – i.e. no chocolate bars, packs of crisps etc. Fruit and vegetables are ideal.

'Dropping off' and 'picking up' routines

- **School starts at 8:50 a.m.** Please ensure your child arrives by then. Any child arriving after registers close will be marked as Late.
- **Infants only:** To keep our children safe, if there is any change to the authorised collector form you have previously completed, please email the school office.
- Thank you to all our parents for your patience and courtesy to each other and Darlington Road residents due to the traffic.
- Please can all children and adults be very **mindful of the school drive** especially at the beginning and end of the school day. There are regularly moving vehicles at that time. Children, once collected, should make their way away from the school site and not 'play' near the drive or on the garden or bushes.
- Dogs (other than Guide Dogs) must not be on the site – this includes the school drive. Please avoid dogs waiting by the main entrance gates.

Uniform

- Children may wear winter or summer uniform until October half term, after which all children should be in full winter uniform please, including black shoes and ties.
- A reminder that jewellery, nail-varnish or tattoos are not allowed. Children should tuck in their shirts and tie back long hair.
- Here are the [uniform requirements](#).

PE Uniform: Please ensure children have the appropriate clothing – the quantity and cost of which we aim to keep to a minimum:

- Navy PE shorts
- Light blue PE T-shirt printed with the school name - to be ordered from Michael Hope
- Navy or dark coloured (non 'branded') jogging bottoms or leggings and hoodie/sweatshirt for outdoor PE. Children in the Juniors are encouraged to have a light blue school hoodie printed with the school logo to be ordered from Michael Hope Sports
- A pair of plimsolls (daps) or trainers.

Autumn Term 2024 Bathwick Menu

WEEK	MEAT FREE Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1: 2nd September, 23rd September, 14th October, 11th November, 2nd December					
Option 1: Main Meal	Macaroni cheese	Roast chicken	Beef pastitsio	Pork sausage	Jumbo cod fish finger
Option 2: Vegetarian Meal	Cauliflower and broccoli bake with herby crumb topping	Red pepper risotto	Quorn mince pastitsio	Vegetarian sausage	Cheese and red onion quiche
All the above served with	Garlic bread, Salad bar	Roast potatoes, carrots, green beans and gravy	Salad bar and fresh bread	Creamed mashed potato, peas and gravy	Oven baked chips, baked beans and sweetcorn
WEEK 2: 9th September, 30th September, 21st October, 18th November, 9th December					
Option 1: Main Meal	Cheese and tomato pizza	Roast chicken	Pork sausage and mashed potato	BBQ Pork	Jumbo cod fish finger
Option 2: Vegetarian Meal	Cheese and leek puff	Vegetable lasagne	Vegetarian Toad in the Hole with mashed potato	Veggie meatballs in tomato pepper sauce	Quorn dippers
All the above served with	Herby diced potatoes and salad bar	Roast potatoes, carrots, peas and gravy	Baked beans and sweetcorn	Steamed rice and seasonal vegetables	Oven baked chips, baked beans and sweetcorn
WEEK 3: 16th September, 7th October, 4th November, 25th November, 16th December					
Option 1: Main Meal	Cheese and tomato basil swirls	Roast chicken	Jacket potato with egg mayonnaise	Sweet chilli chicken	Jumbo cod fish finger
Option 2: Vegetarian Meal	Tomato and vegetable pasta bake	Vegetable cottage pie	Jacket potato with beans and cheese	Quorn fillet in sweet chilli sauce	Savoury muffin
All the above served with	Jacket wedges and salad bar	Roast potatoes, carrots, peas and gravy	Fresh salad bar	Rice, peas and carrots	Oven baked chips, beans and sweetcorn
Served Every Week					
Option 3: Alternative Meal	Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese, or tuna	Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese, or tuna	Jacket potato with tuna	Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese, or tuna	Farm Assured Ham with Chips
Dessert	Fresh fruit platter, organic yoghurt	Ice-cream, fresh fruit, organic yoghurt	Fruit muffin, organic yoghurt, fresh fruit	Fruit crumble and custard, fresh fruit, organic yoghurt	Ice-cream, fresh fruit, organic yoghurt

Any child with food allergies or intolerances will be offered an alternative Main Course and Dessert to meet your child's needs. All the meals are served with milk or water.

Bathwick St. Mary School Term and Holiday Dates – **2024-2025**

NO HOLIDAYS CAN BE TAKEN IN TERM TIME

AUGUST 2024						SEPTEMBER 2024						OCTOBER 2024						
M			5	12	19	26	M	2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28
T			6	13	20	27	T	3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29
W			7	14	21	28	W	4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30
TH		1	8	15	22	29	TH	5	12	19	26		TH	3	10	17	24	31
F		2	9	16	23	30	F	6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25	
S		3	10	17	24	31	S	7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26	
SU		4	11	18	25	1	SU	8	15	22	29		SU	6	13	20	27	
NOVEMBER 2024						DECEMBER 2024						JANUARY 2025						
M		4	11	18	25		M	2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27		W	4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29
TH		7	14	21	28		TH	5	12	19	26		TH	2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29		F	6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30		S	7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25	
SU	3	10	17	24	1		SU	8	15	22	29		SU	5	12	19	26	
FEBRUARY 2025						MARCH 2025						APRIL 2025						
M		3	10	17	24		M	3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28
T		4	11	18	25		T	4	11	18	25		T	1	8	15	22	29
W		5	12	19	26		W	5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	30
TH		6	13	20	27		TH	6	13	20	27		TH	3	10	17	24	
F		7	14	21	28		F	7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25	
S	1	8	15	22	1		S	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26	
SU	2	9	16	23	2		SU	9	16	23	30		SU	6	13	20	27	
MAY 2025						JUNE 2025						JULY 2025						
M		5	12	19	26		M	2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28
T		6	13	20	27		T	3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29
W		7	14	21	28		W	4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30
TH	1	8	15	22	29		TH	5	12	19	26		TH	3	10	17	24	31
F	2	9	16	23	30		F	6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25	1
S	3	10	17	24	31		S	7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26	2
SU	4	11	18	25	1		SU	8	15	22	29		SU	6	13	20	27	3

School Term Dates:		
Holiday Dates:		(Children not in school)
Inset Days:		(Children not in school)
Bank holidays:		(Children not in school)

The 25/26 academic year begins on Monday 1st September 2025.