



Archbishop Runcie
Church of England (VA) First School



December 2021

Newsletter 8 – 17.12.21

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

It has been such a busy end to the term with all the Christmas activities, nativities and Carol Service - we are so glad to have a sense of normality again! I would like to extend my thanks to the staff for keeping everything running smoothly in my absence and, in particular, to Mr Booth for all his hard work during this time too.

Thank you also for the kind messages and gifts that we have received. We are really grateful! We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a safe and restful break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 4th January.



NATIVITIES

Thank you for all your help with nativity costumes and helping your child learn their lines. We are very impressed with the speed with which children learnt lines and songs given we only started rehearsing on the 1st December! Thank you also to the children and staff for their efforts.

You will receive a link in the coming days (before Christmas!) via ParentMail, to your child's Christmas nativity performance which will expire in a month's time (17/1/22).

Please remember these are for your own home viewing only and must not be published on any platform, including online. Thank you.

May we express huge thanks to Julian at GEM Education for recording these for our school. We hope you can enjoy these with your child over the holiday and for years to come!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

This week, children have enjoyed their class parties – it was wonderful to see them dancing, playing games and enjoying party food! You can see some pictures on Twitter. Thank you for all the food contributions too!

Children have enjoyed crafts and other activities too which they will bring home today if you have not already received them.



Film Nights were all well-attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the PTFA for providing the refreshments and film licences as well as staff for staying late to enable this to happen.

Christmas lunch was delicious and is genuinely a highlight of the school year here at ARFS. I was so glad to be able to join the children for lunch last Friday. They all looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers and there were lots of clean plates! It was great to be joined by governors too. Special thanks to Miss Cooper and her team for making it run so smoothly! It was her first time cooking Christmas dinner for over 170 children but you would never have known!



Nursery had a fabulous Polar Express Day on Wednesday too! The children received their tickets as they entered the classroom, then played on their train, enjoyed many Polar Express crafts and ended the day by watching the movie itself with hot chocolate and cookies.



Lastly, may we express our most sincere thanks to St Nicholas' who hosted our Carol Service today, and especially to Rev'd Canon Clare MacLaren, who came down from Newcastle Cathedral to help lead the service alongside Year 4.



Mr Booth informs me that the singing was absolutely beautiful and that our Year 4s did an incredible job. We are delighted that, despite all the ongoing challenges, we could restart our usual end of year tradition.



STAFFING

After a difficult year, with illness and a close family bereavement, I am sad to announce that Miss Wilkinson will be leaving ARFS on 31.12.21 in order to spend more time with her family. Miss Rimington, who is already well known to the children, will be teaching Year 1 in January. She and Miss Wilkinson have worked together closely this week in order to ensure a smooth handover for everyone.

We have temporarily appointed Emma O'Reilly to support Mrs Francis and Mrs Armstrong in Nursery in January while we welcome some new children to our school.

COVID UPDATE

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test **every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating**. Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.



Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through our school's online reporting system. The link is as follows:

www.tiny.cc/arfscovid

If they test negative, they can continue to attend school. Outside school, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.



LFD test kits are available through the usual routes (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Therefore, if someone in your child's bubble tests positive for Covid 19 we will notify relevant parents to begin lateral flow testing. The link above is to an online school form where you can input this result. This is in addition to the government form which can be found online. You will just need to add your child's name, date of test and the result. If this is positive, we ask that you let Mrs Pygall know via ParentMail also. Thank you.

We may send this link quicker than NHS Test and Trace get in touch with you since we are only managing Covid cases within our school. Please can we ask you begin daily testing once we get in touch to help keep everyone in our community safe.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Whole School (excluding Nursery)
Wb 6.12.21	75%	96%	100% ★	95%	99%	93%	97%
Wb 13.12.21	90%	99%	99%	97%	92%	100% ★	97%

Our school target for attendance is 97%. Well done Years 1 and 4 for their weeks of 100%. Keep it up!

SCHOOL VALUES

As you know, our school values are love and determination, based on the Bible passage: Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

In school, we have been looking to see children demonstrating these core values. The following children have been nominated by staff and/or peers for showing these values in school. Well done everyone!

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Demonstrating Love	Ben D	Mia Max Cr	Daniel	Max Emilia	Blake Avie	James Vesper
Demonstrating Determination	Ali Sacha	Harmony George D	Danny Jerome	Abdul Alfie	Denver Oliver & Safaa	Archie Ayaan M



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB AND LATE PICK-UP

Bookings for January are no longer available as the deadline was Friday 10th December – this included bookings for extended hours (5:30pm collection) which we will be trialling in January.

This is a polite reminder that if you do not pick up your child by 3:20pm, your child will be automatically taken to after-school club as classroom staff have to fulfil other duties and attend relevant training which has an impact on the whole school. The charge for After School sessions is £9.

Our Safeguarding Consultant has indicated that late picks up could constitute a safeguarding concern and could be deemed as neglect if it occurs frequently. Thank you for your understanding.

MEDICINES

If your child's medicines have been updated or their health plan has changed, please remember to inform the medicine leader for your child.

Nursery and Reception- angela.armstrong@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Years 1 and 2- andrea.armstrong@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Years 3 and 4- megan.fitzgerald@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk



All medication will be sent home today. Please ensure it is still in date and whether it needs replacing (e.g. if it has been open for 3 months or more). Please return all medication to school on Tuesday 4th January. Thank you.

SPARE CLOTHES

Each classroom has a set of spare clothes in case of accidents. We are short of underwear, trousers, skirts, socks and tights for children in Years 3 and 4 (ages 8-9, 9-10) if anyone has any spares at home please. Thank you!



MUSIC



From Monday 10th January, Nursery and Reception will take part in a weekly music session with Piccolo (for 6 weeks). Years 3 and 4 will continue their weekly drumming sessions with Mr Collins, until February half term, after half term Years 1 and 2 will begin djembe drumming.

ADMISSIONS POLICY CONSULTATION

Attached is our updated Admissions Policy for consultation with stakeholders. The governors have merged our previous criteria 1 & 2 and have widened our church attendance criteria to include other churches in Gosforth. If you have any feedback, please email FAO Sarah Hawkins via admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

CONSULTATION



GOVERNOR UPDATE

Greg Farrell has now been appointed a Parent Governor and Ted Thomas as Foundation Governor (Gosforth, St Nicolas'). We are very much looking forward to working with both!

CHURCH LINKS

Gosforth, All Saints' have a community carol singing event on All Saints' Church Green, West Avenue, this coming Sunday at 2pm, 19th December. They are aware people may not feel happy about being indoors and this is a simple opportunity to sing carols in the open air!

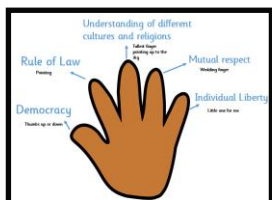


TRAINING DAY

A reminder that all GST schools have a mid-term training day on Friday 28th January and school will therefore be closed to children on this day. Please make sure this is in your diary!

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

Over the past fortnight, we have continued to look at fundamental British Values. Our most recent focus has been understanding of different cultures and religions as well as mutual respect, which are closely linked.



We've thought about how we show respect to others, even when we disagree – we looked at the footballers Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo showing respect even when in opposition to one another and we linked it to Jesus telling people that everyone makes mistakes and needs forgiveness.

WORSHIP

We have continued thinking about Advent and about the symbolism of candles and what Christians may do in this season of preparation.

Thank you to Andrew Shipton and Beverley Davis for leading collective worship for our children this term. Their dedication to attending is wonderful and we always look forward to their arrival in school!



ALL STARS

It has been wonderful to welcome back All Stars this term. Huge thanks to the Mums who co-ordinate and run this for our children. We hope they all enjoyed their advent calendars!

RESIDENTIALS

Year 4 are booked to go to Dukeshouse Wood in Hexham. We are so excited to attend – this was a huge success the last time we went (in the pre-covid days of 2019!) as children climbed, made leaps of faith, ate some amazing food, sang songs around the campfire and many more amazing activities. We cannot wait for the current Year 4s to take part this year!



We are due to attend on Tuesday 3rd May to Wednesday 4th May. Please see the forthcoming ParentMail to confirm your child's place. Deposits are due on the 31st January (£30), with the remaining balance (£60) being due by Friday 1st April.

Following the success of our school sleepover last summer, we have also booked for our Year 3 children to have a sleepover at school on Thursday 30th June 2022 for one night. More information will follow via ParentMail in the new year.



SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mr Booth, Miss Willett and Mrs Francis are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders. If you have concerns about a child, please contact one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger, please call the police.

Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- Initial Response Service – 0191 277 2500
- Northumbria Police – 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- NSPCC Helpline – 0800 800 5000

There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public. <https://nccportal.newcastle.gov.uk/forms/referral/public>

With my very best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



PTFA NEWS



CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Thank you so much again for the many contributions that were made! We raised well over £400 which we can put back towards the school.

All prizes have now been claimed. The lucky winners were as follows:

Monty (Y2)
Ben (Nursery)
Mrs Pygall
Joshua (Year 3)
Owen (Year 4)
Georgie (Year 1)
Kiran (Y3)
Emilia (Y2)
Isaac (Reception)
Max (Year 2)
Joshua (Reception)
Ruby (Nursery)

Susan Heeley
Chair of PTFA



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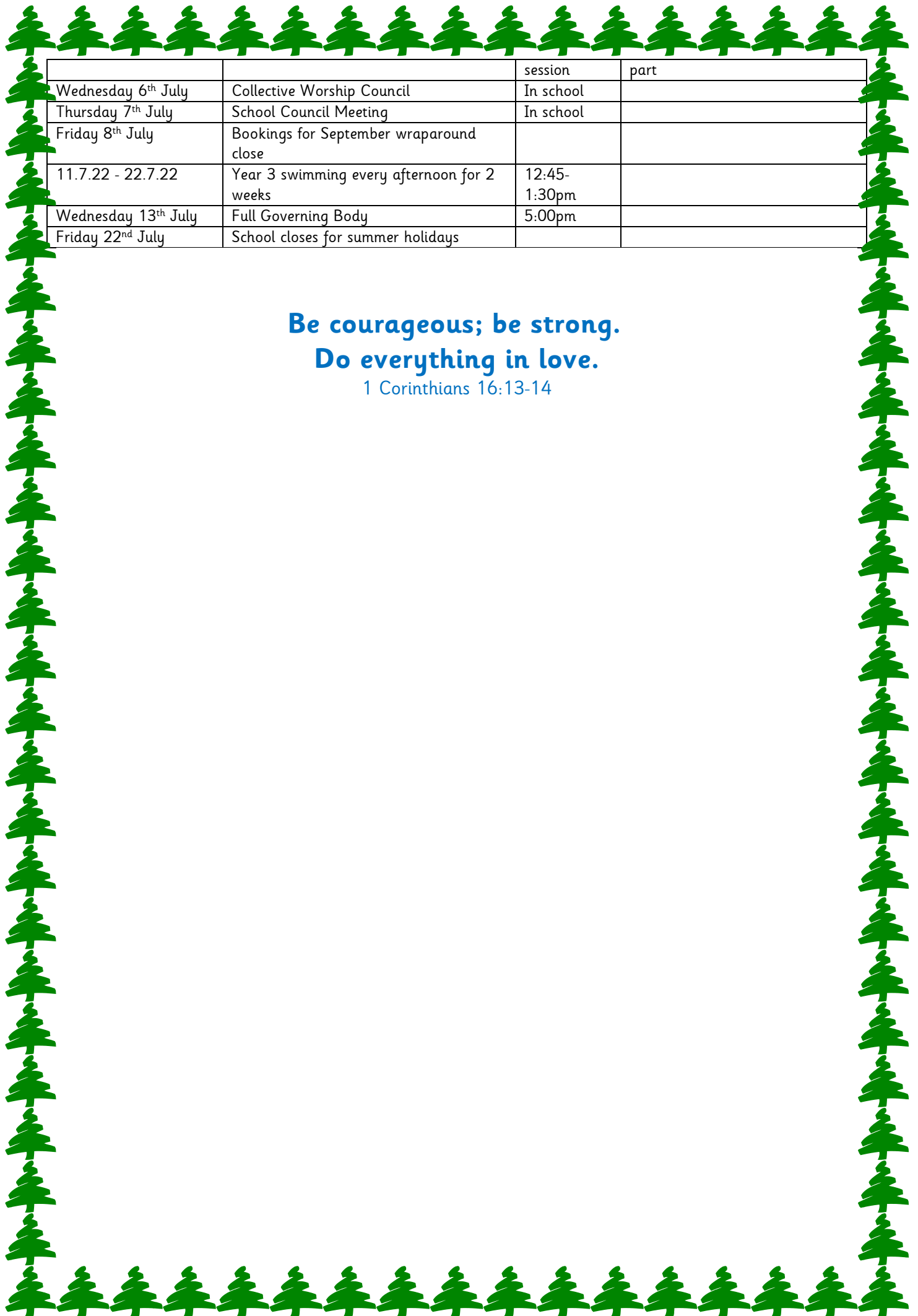


DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

20-31 st December	Christmas holidays	-	School closed to children
January 2022			
Monday 3 rd January	Bank holiday	-	School closed to children
Thursday 6 th January	Year 2 leading Epiphany Worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Monday 10 th January	Nursery and Reception starting Piccolo Music sessions in school	am	Every Monday for 6 weeks
Wednesday 12 th January	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 13 th January	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 14 th January	Bookings for February wraparound close		
Friday 28 th January	Staff training day	9:00-4:00	School closed to children
Monday 31 st January	Dental Survey for 5 year olds	9-12	
	Year 4 residential deposits due (£30)	-	Pay via ParentMail
February 2022			
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day		Activities in school
Wednesday 2 nd February	Y4 leading Candlemas worship	10:15am	
7-11 th February	Children's Mental Health Week		Activities in school
Wednesday 9 th February	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 10 th February	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 11 th February	Bookings for March wraparound bookings		
Monday 14 th February	Year 1 leading "Love is..." worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Thursday 17 th February	Random Acts of Kindness Day	-	
Friday 18 th February	Deadline for Nursery applications for April start (for children who will have turned 3 before 22 nd April 2022)	Noon	
21-25 th February	Half term	-	School closed to children
March 2022			
Tuesday 1 st February	Reception height & weight checks	1:30pm	
Wednesday 2 nd March	Y3 leading Lent Worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Wednesday 9 th March	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 10 th March	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 11 th March	Bookings for April wraparound close		
11-20 th March	British Science Week	-	If any parents/carers have any science based jobs and would like to come into school, please contact Miss Davison.
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day	-	Children invited to wear something red for a £1 donation
	Deadline for Nursery applications for	Noon	

	September start (for children who will have turned 3 before 31 st August 2022)		
Friday 25 th March	Mothering Sunday Worship (all classes)	TBC	More info to follow
Tuesday 29 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations (core curriculum focus)	2:30-5:00pm	More info to follow via ParentMail
Thursday 31 st March	Parent Teacher Consultations (core curriculum focus)	2:30-5:00pm	More info to follow via ParentMail
	Deadline for remaining Year 4 residential payment (£60)	-	Pay via ParentMail
April 2022			
Friday 1 st April	ASD Awareness Day in school		Activities in school
Friday 8 th April	Y2 leading Palm Sunday Worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
11-22 nd April	Easter holiday	-	School closed to children
Friday 15 th April	Bookings for May wraparound close		
Tuesday 26 th April	Y2 SATs Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Wednesday 27 th April	Collective Worship Council	In school	
	Y4 Times Table Check Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Thursday 28 th April	School Council Meeting	In school	
	Y1 Phonics Screen Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Friday 29 th April	Reception- Y4 FUNDS session	Morning	Children in Reception to Year 4 to wear PE kits please
May 2022			
Monday 2 nd May	Bank holiday		
3 rd - 4 th May	Year 4 Residential to Dukeshouse Wood	TBC	TBC – Further information to follow.
Friday 13 th May	Y1 leading Christian Aid worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
	Bookings for June wraparound closes		
16 – 20 May	Christian Aid Week Walk to school week		
Wednesday 25 th May	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 26 th May	School Council Meeting	In school	
	Y2 leading Ascension worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Friday 27 th May	Y3 leading Pentecost worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
30 th May- 3 rd June	Half term		
June 2022			
Monday 6 th June	School closed in lieu of Jubilee Day Bank Holiday which falls in half term		
Wednesday 8 th June	World Oceans Day		
Friday 10 th June	Y4 leading Trinity worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Wednesday 15 th June	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 16 th June	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 17 th June	Bookings for July wraparound close		
20 – 24 th June	School Sports Week	-	
Monday 20 th June	Reception Sports Day	2:00pm	
Tuesday 21 st June	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Wednesday 22 nd June	Nursery Sports Day	9:30am	
	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Thursday 23 rd June	Year 3 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Friday 24 th June	Year 4 Sports Day	2:00pm	
27.6.22 - 8.7.22	Year 4 swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks	12:45-1:30pm	
30.6.2-1.7.22	Year 3 overnight stay at school		More info to follow to parents of Year 3
July 2022			
Monday 4 th July	Y4 Bikeability	Morning or afternoon	Children will need a bike and helmet in school in order to take



		session	part
Wednesday 6 th July	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 7 th July	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 8 th July	Bookings for September wraparound close		
11.7.22 - 22.7.22	Year 3 swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks	12:45-1:30pm	
Wednesday 13 th July	Full Governing Body	5:00pm	
Friday 22 nd July	School closes for summer holidays		

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14