



February 2023

Newsletter 10 – 3.2.23

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
Wb 23.1.23	95%	Year 2 (99%)	Nursery, Year 1 & Year 4 (all 97%)	
Wb 30.1.23	95%	Reception (97%)	Year 3 (95.3%)	Year 1 (95.1%)

Our school target for attendance is 97%.



Please let Mrs Coates know, via ParentMail, if your child will be absent by 9:00am at the latest. Thank you.

If your child is not in school when the register closes at 9.15am (even if this is for a medical or dental appointment), they are marked as absent for the whole morning session. Therefore, we would encourage parents to make medical appointments outside school time, wherever possible please.

If you are experiencing any difficulties and need support with your child's attendance, please contact school as soon as possible. Mr Tolan can visit you at home or meet you in school to offer support and advice.

MINUTES MISSED

During the last fortnight, 375 (6 hours and 15 mins) minutes of learning time have been missed in school due to lateness.



ABSENCE DATA

	Whole School absence <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
Wb 23.1.23	5%	1%	4%
Wb 30.1.23	5%	1.5%	3.5%



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	Carter Mariem	Amaya Felix	Thankuja Elli	Lydia Omar	Zidan Nolan	Layla Edward
Demonstrating Determination	Charlie Masa	Amelia Ayesha	Mia Hadin	Charvitha Jacob C	Jabalah Lauren	Kiran Ben

HANDWRITER OF THE WEEK

We are having a real drive in school to improve handwriting, presentation of work and spelling. Each week, the class teachers will choose someone who has worked hard to improve their presentation or who consistently demonstrates exemplary standards of presentation. Well done and thank you to the following children:

a b c d e f g
h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u
v w x y z

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Amelia	Mabel	Lydia	Aleeza	William
Jonah	George F	Danny	Jake	Emmie

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

As you know, by the end of Year 4 children are expected to know all their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 and Year 4 children will undertake their statutory Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term. Please see the information for parents and carers attached.

	Children Need to Learn	Rock Stars, Heroes and Legend in this class (under 3 secs)	Highest engagement
Year 2	x 2, x 5, x 10	None yet!	Olivia Rehan Jacob
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8	Karlo Alfie Zain Sammy Max Nolan Bobby Amelia Zidan Jake Charlie	Karlo Zain Alfie
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12	Emmie Phoebe Edward Zoe Thaddeus Mustafa	Zoe Edward Phoebe

Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools	5
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CONGRATULATIONS!

It is with enormous pride that I inform you of Mr Booth's appointment as Headteacher at Warkworth CE Primary School from after Easter. Mr Booth joined our school in 2019, just after I took over as Headteacher, and he has supported me incredibly well during his time at ARFS. He is more than ready for Headship and, although he will be a big miss, we wish him every success as he takes the next step in his career.



We will be recruiting a new Deputy Headteacher / SENCo in due course. In the meantime, Mrs Francis & Miss Nattress will be Acting SENCos. Mr Booth will be in touch with families of children with SEND with Education, Health & Care Plans before Easter.

READING BOOKS



As you know, we spent a considerable amount of money resourcing our new RWI phonics scheme. Unfortunately, we are already missing several copies of the Book Bag Books. Please look under beds, behind sofas and in bookshelves at home for any school books and return them as soon as possible! Many thanks.

NEU STRIKE ACTION

As you know, Reception and Year 2 were closed on Wednesday due to Strike Action. The NEU has indicated that they will continue strike action for a further three days after this first strike. Please make a note of the following dates and I will update you as soon as I know whether strike action will affect us on these days.

- Tuesday 28th February 2023 (regional)
- Wednesday 15th March 2023 (national)
- Thursday 16th March (national)



MEDICATION



A polite reminder that, if you require medication to be administered during the school day, you must make an appointment to see the designated member of staff and complete the relevant paperwork. Please DO NOT send medication, including Calpol, into school with children or in book bags under any circumstances. Thank you.

MEDICAL TRACKER

A reminder that all accidents and medication administered are now reported via Medical Tracker. Parents/carers will receive an email to the primary contact for the child. You will, therefore, no longer receive paper copies of letters from school.



BOOKBAGS



A gentle reminder that children should have their school book bag in school each day. We request that only book bags are used as rucksacks and other bags take up too much space to fit into book bag boxes and drawers in classrooms. In order to avoid book bags becoming fashion items, we ask that these are limited to either the ARFS or a plain royal blue book bag of the same size. Please do not send Smiggle or other branded book bags or other stationery items and keyrings into school. Thank you.

SECURE ATTACHMENTS

We have a small number of children who, since covid, are still finding it difficult to separate from parents and carers in the mornings at drop off time.

Separation anxiety may last months or years, but there is plenty you can do to ease symptoms. Please follow these tips to help banish your little one's worries.



- **Keep your goodbyes brief.** Whenever you leave your child, give him/her advance warning who will be arriving to collect and then keep your goodbye brief. "If you act anxious, or keep returning for another hug, he will think there is something to worry about," says Vincent Barone, Ph.D., a child psychologist at Children's Mercy Hospital. (Also avoid sneaking out, which can cause him/her to worry that you might disappear without warning - and result in more clinginess.) Try to convey that the time apart is temporary and is not a cause for alarm.
- **Develop a ritual for leaving.** It can help to develop a very brief routine for the process. You might say, "Mummy will be back to get you after work. I love you." Then hug your child and leave. By keeping farewells the same each time, you create a familiar transition from being with you to being without you. It would also be really helpful if parents did not "linger" or wave outside classroom windows as this often unsettles children further. Thank you.
- **Preparation.** Tell them exactly what you will be doing during the day whilst they are at school. Also go through what they will be doing at school.
- **Don't brush off the anxiety.** Try to acknowledge this separation anxiety. You could say, "I know you're going to have a really good time at school and I know you're fine once you're in there, but it's OK if you miss me. You can tell me you miss me, and I will give you a really big hug at home time."
- **Make a soothing bedtime routine and relaxed morning routine.** Establish a relaxing order of events before sleep, such as a bath followed by a story. This will help ease them into the notion that bedtime (and alone time) is coming. Also give your child a relaxed morning routine which will calm them as they begin to realise they are going to have to separate from you.
- **Strategies to try at home:** At school, each class has a worry box – this may be useful to have at home too. A Worry Box helps children sort through worries – they can write down their worry on a little piece of paper and place it in the box to record and offload any worrisome thoughts. You could read some books together related to worries to help them understand that it's ok to worry but also giving them reassurance.
- **Calming Strategies.** As children feel fear and anxiety in their bodies, teaching them calming strategies through co-modelling and sensory tools, especially those that are repetitive and rhythmic can help greatly. Interventions to calm the body are helpful such as:
 - Breathing – blow bubbles, blow away the feelings
 - Use touch as it can be a good calmer, hand massage, finger pulls, give myself a hug
 - Short bursts of physical activity (star jumps, push ups, running)
 - Calm box activities, puzzles, sensory activities



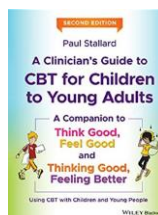
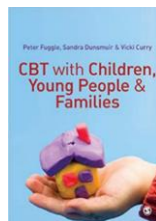
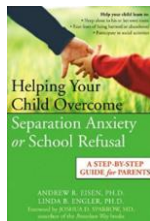
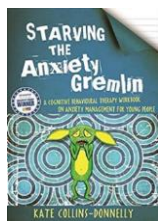
Books for Years 1 & 2:



Books for Years 3 & 4:

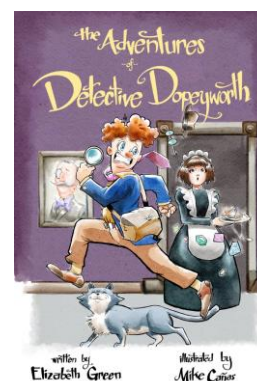


There are also books for parents such as:



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day (WBD) will take place on Thursday 2nd March 2023, and we can't wait to come together to celebrate in school! We know that many families may be finding themselves in a difficult financial situation and we don't want our plans to be an additional burden so there is no need to buy a new costume. This year, on WBD, we are inviting children to come to school dressed as who they would be as a character in their very own book. Might it be an animal? Might it be a princess? Might they have superpowers? Anything goes!



We will have lots of fun activities taking place throughout the day including a very exciting visit from local author Elizabeth Green. Elizabeth will be visiting school to talk about her experience as an author, share some writing top tips and discuss her very own book, 'The Adventures of Detective Dopeyworth'. Elizabeth will be selling signed copies of this book for £7.00; orders for the book will need to be placed and paid for via ParentMail no later than Thursday 16th February. Children will bring their signed book home on World Book Day. If you have any questions regarding WBD, please contact Mrs Crozier.

World Book Day vouchers will also be issued on World Book Day. Please check book bags!

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed our attendance questionnaire. This will help us to shape policies and how we communicate attendance matters with you in future. Feedback was as follows:

1a. The Attendance Policy is shared with new families and can be accessed on our school website. On a scale of 1 - 5, how clear do you feel our Attendance and Punctuality Policies are?	84.3% are clear or very clear. If you are unsure, our attendance policy is attached to this newsletter for your information.
1b. Our school newsletter reports weekly class attendance. On a scale of 1 - 5, how important is this to you?	55.4% think sharing weekly attendance is important/very important. Hopefully we can increase this over time!
2. The school continues to receive a high number of absence request forms. In your opinion, what do you think the school can do to reduce these requests?	Parents and carers had very mixed views about holiday requests. Some parents think we should be firmer and fine more families who take time off school. Others felt that there was little the school could do. We are unable to authorise term time absences unless there are exceptional circumstances.
3. We will be starting a 'catch up' club for children who are late two (or more) times in a week in an attempt to minimise the impact of lateness on their learning. This will be held during lunchtime	The vast majority of parents/carers think this is a good idea. Many accepted it may not be the child's fault but agreed children do need to catch up on missed learning.

4. We ask that routine medical appointments are made outside school hours wherever possible. If this is not possible, we ask for proof of the appointment e.g. letter or text message showing the appointment	Parents understand this but several said that it can be difficult to get GP/hospital appointments.
5. We are considering introducing a reward scheme for children with 97%+ attendance or more, for example, a termly disco for individuals with 97% attendance.	This one seemed to divide parents and carers! Around half of you loved this idea and the other half strongly opposed it! This will be discussed with governors to agree the best way forward.
6. We are also considering introducing rewards for the class with the highest attendance each term e.g. movie afternoon during school time	The response to this questions was generally positive - parents often said this was better than the option in question 5.
7. During Parent/Teacher consultations each term, parents and carers are alerted to their child's attendance. Any concerns are followed up in writing and a meeting arranged with our school Attendance Officer where issues can be discussed and support offered.	This was almost universally positive (although many said following up concerns didn't apply to them).
8. Mr Tolan (School Attendance Officer), can offer support for individual families as well as hosting drop in sessions for parents and carers	Several families felt should be more publicised. This has now been added to our school newsletter.

For further information, please see <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/parent-information/school-attendance-and-absence>



CHURCH LINKS

Last week, Year 4 attended the Diocesan Christingle Service at St Nicholas' Cathedral. Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed service! They learnt about the meaning of Christingle and what each part represents, linking to Year 3's Worship they led! Year 4 represented the school fantastically and Miss Nattress was very proud of them.

Mr Shipton has continued to lead Worship on a Friday and Miriam from All Saints' has also begun leading Worship too! Please see the information below about a youth group at All Saints' for children aged 9-13.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We have continued to think about Christianity around the world. This has included learning about Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, Maori Christians, Christian refugees, Huguenots, the community at Taize in France and Christian communities amongst the Cree peoples in Canada.



Additionally we have reflected on RLNI SOS Day, Holocaust Memorial Day and World Cancer Day. Yesterday, Year 3 led Collective Worship linked to Candlemas.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

Gosforth Schools' Trust have had a new logo designed! This will be used in communications from all 11 schools. We hope you like it!



GOSFORTH VOICES TOUR

On Friday 24th March, Gosforth Voices will perform in each of the 11 schools within Gosforth Schools' Trust. It will be great to get the tour back up and running after covid as it is a wonderful opportunity for the choir to perform in each school.

Parents of children in Gosforth Voices are asked to drop their child off at Brunton First School (8.30am - 9am). They will then visit each school, by coach, dropping children back off at Brunton First School at 3.20pm.

There are 3 more rehearsals before the proposed tour so if any Year 3 or Year 4 children still want to join please do let them know! It would be fantastic to increase our numbers within the choir. Thank you.

- 8th February
- 1st March
- 15th March

HARDSHIP SUPPORT



Please find below details of support available to all families living in Newcastle who may be struggling because of the huge cost of living increases. Steep rises in energy prices are outstripping wage and benefit increases and putting enormous pressure on daily life. Some are facing an unacceptable choice between heating and eating. A direct link is available here: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/cost-living-support>.

Please remember that school is always here to help and support our families, so if you have any concerns at all, please speak to Mrs Massey, Mr Booth or the School Office. All conversations remain confidential.

SCHOOL UPDATE

There has been lots happening in school over the last couple of weeks; we have celebrated National Handwriting Day and re-introduced 'Handwriter of the Week' to help raise the profile of presentation of work across school. We have, today,



celebrated NSPCC Number Day and children across school have enjoyed a range of number based activities. You will see that we have also added TTRS into the school newsletter and hope this will help to celebrate the children who are making super progress with their multiplication tables in school and at home.



On Monday, we marked RNLI SOS Day and learned about the importance of the work that RNLI undertake, particularly along our North East coast. Children read aloud across school on Wednesday to mark National Read Aloud Day and, today, we have considered World Cancer Day (which is tomorrow). Lunchtime clubs are really well attended, and the staff have received some extremely positive feedback about the range of activities in school. There are lots of activities coming up in the next couple of weeks too, so please check diary dates below. Thank you.



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 – 0808 800 5000

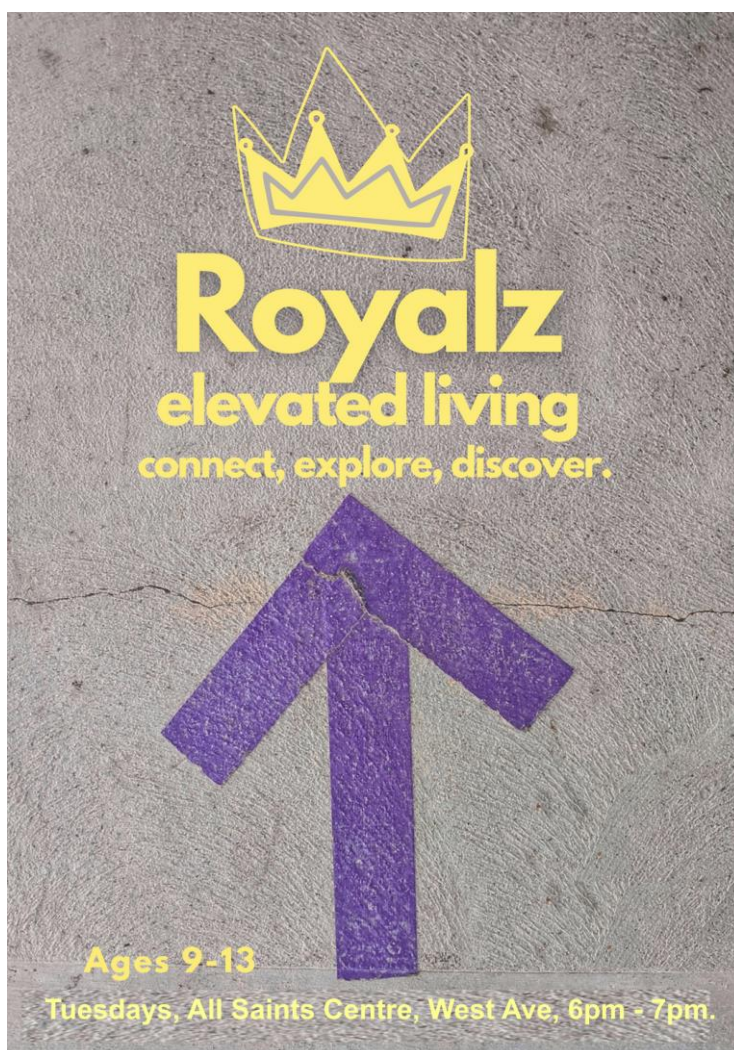
There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public. <https://nccportal.newcastle.gov.uk/forms/referral/public>

For more information, you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website.

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

Headteacher





**Be courageous; be strong.
Do everything in love.**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

Wednesday 8 th February	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45- 4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
Thursday 9 th February	Selected Year 1 children to visit Gosforth Park First School as part of "Gosforth Gets Going"	10:00am	Parents/carers of selected children will be contacted via ParentMail Children who have PE should wear suitable clothing please.
Friday 10 th February	Deadline for Spring 2 wraparound bookings		Please book via ParentMail
	Choir Competition at Durham Cathedral		Choir - please see ParentMail
	Closing date for summer term Nursery applications		
Tuesday 14 th February	Year 1 leading Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 1 welcome to attend.
	Year 3 visitor from People's Kitchen	11:00am	
Wednesday 15 th February	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45- 4:45pm	Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
	PTFA Film Night	3:15- 5:15pm	No After School Club
Thursday 16 th February	Gosforth Pyramid Ceilidh for selected Year 4 children	2:00pm	Selected children only - parents/carers will be contacted via ParentMail
	Deadline to order Elizabeth Green signed books		Please order and pay via ParentMail if you would like a copy.
Friday 17 th February	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
20-24 February	Half term		School closed to children
Monday 27 th February	School reopens to children		
Tuesday 28 th February	NEU Strike Action		Further information to follow
March 2023			
Wednesday 1 st March	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45- 4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day		
Monday 6 th March	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Nursery in summer term	5:00pm	
Tuesday 7 th & Wednesday 8 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations	pm	

Wednesday 8 th March	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
10-19 March	British Science Week		We will be looking for parents and carers to visit school to lead science themed activities! Please contact Miss Waters if you are interested in joining us.
Monday 13 th March	Nursery Forest School	am	Children must wear long sleeved tops and trousers. We will be outdoors regardless of the weather so please send clearly named wellies, waterproofs, hats and gloves (and possibly a named change of clothes!) £1 donations can be made via ParentMail Please send children in their usual PE kit on their PE day. Thank you.
	Year 4 Forest School	pm	
Tuesday 14 th March	Year 1 Forest School	am	
	Year 2 Forest School	pm	
Wednesday 15 th March	Reception Forest School	am	Further information to follow
	Year 3 Forest School	pm	
	NEU Strike Action		
	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
Thursday 16 th March	NEU Strike Action		Further information to follow
Friday 17 th March	Years 3 & 4 Mothers' Day Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Years 3 & 4 welcome to attend.
	Years 1 & 2 Mothers' Day Service	2:45pm	Parents and carers of Years 1 & 2 welcome to attend.
Monday 20 th March	Nursery & Reception Mothers' Day Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Nursery & Reception welcome to attend.
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 2 children regarding end of KS1 assessments	5:30pm	Adults only please
Wednesday 22 nd March	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 4 children regarding Multiplication Tables Check & Residential	5:30pm	Adults only please
Friday 24 th March	Deadline for Summer 1 Wraparound bookings	-	Please book via ParentMail
	Gosforth Voices Tour		
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
27-31 st March	Year 4 swimming lessons each day	-	More info to follow
Monday 27 th March	Year 1 & 2 Multi skills (in school)	pm	Please wear PE kits
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 1 children regarding Phonics Screen	5:30pm	Adults only please
Tuesday 28 th March	Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	Reception parents & carers invited
Wednesday 29 th March	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery parents and carers invited
Thursday 30 th March	Year 2 leading Palm Sunday Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 2 welcome to attend.
Friday 31 st March	Deadline to accept Nursery place offers for summer term		
	Deadline for residential payments (Year 4 Dukeshouse Wood and Year 3 camping at school with Mr H)		Details will be sent via ParentMail

April 2023			
3.4.23-14.4.23	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 17 th April	School reopens to children		
	Reception places offered by LA		
Friday 25 th April	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
May 2023			
Monday 1 st May 2023	Bank holiday		School closed to children
Monday 8 th May	Additional Bank Holiday in light of the announcement of His Majesty's coronation.		School closed to children
11-12 May 2023	Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood		Details to follow
Monday 15 th May	Year 1 leading Christian Aid Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 1 welcome to attend.
Thursday 18 th May	Year 4 leading Ascension Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
Friday 19 th May	Deadline for booking Summer 2 wraparound		Please book via ParentMail
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
Monday 22 nd May	Nursery Forest School	am	Children must wear long sleeved tops and trousers. We will be outdoors regardless of the weather so please send clearly named wellies, waterproofs, hats and gloves (and possibly a named change of clothes!) £1 donations can be made via ParentMail
	Year 4 Forest School	pm	
Tuesday 23 rd May	Year 1 Forest School	am	
	Year 2 Forest School	pm	
Wednesday 24 th May	Reception Forest School	am	
	Year 3 Forest School	pm	
Thursday 25 th May	Year 3 leading Pentecost Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 3 welcome to attend.
Friday 26 th May	Staff Training Day	-	School closed to children
26.5.23-2.6.23	Half Term		
June 2023			
Monday 5 th June	School reopens to children		
Tuesday 6 th June	Year 4 leading Trinity Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
Wb Monday 12 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen		
Tuesday 13 th June	Nursery & Reception games (in school)	am	Children will wear PE kits in school
Wednesday 14 th June	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Nursery in September 2023	5:30pm	
Thursday 15 th June	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Reception in September 2023	5:30pm	
19 th -23 rd June	School Sports Week		Children to wear sports clothing all week (School PE kit on their Sports Day) please
Monday 19 th June	Reception Sports Day	2:00pm	Reception children to wear school PE kits please
Tuesday 20 th June	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 1 children to wear school PE kits please
Wednesday 21 st June	Nursery Sports Day	9:30am	Nursery children to wear school PE kits please
	Big Gig 2023		More info to follow

	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 2 children to wear school PE kits please
Thursday 22 nd June	Year 4 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 4 children to wear school PE kits please
Friday 23 rd June	Year 3 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 3 children to wear school PE kits
Thursday 29 th June	Year 3 activities and sleepover at school with Mr H Outdoor Experiences	All day & night	More info to follow
Friday 30 th June	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
July 2023			
Wed 5 th & Thurs 6 th July	Provisional Transition Days for GST		
Friday 14 th July	Deadline for wraparound bookings for Autumn 1		Please book via ParentMail
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
17-21 st July	Year 3 swimming lessons each day this week		More info to follow
Friday 21 st July	Year 4 Leavers Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
	School closes for summer	3:15pm	
September 2023			
Monday 4 th Sept 2023	Staff training day		
October 2023			
Friday 27 th October 2023	Staff training day		
30.10.23 - 3.11.23	October half term		
December 2023			
22.12.23 – 5.1.24	Christmas Holiday		
February 2024			
19.2.24 – 23.2.24	February Half Term		
March 2024			
29.3.24 – 12.4.24	Easter Holiday		
May 2024			
27.5.24 – 31.5.24	May Half Term		
June 2024			
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Staff training day		
July 2024			
22.7.24 – 30.8.24	Summer Holidays		
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	School re-opens to children		

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14