



St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy

Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 6NW

Principal: Mrs T Davis

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21st February 2025

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you are all enjoying the half term break. This marks the half-way point through the academic year – we have achieved many things and there is a lot more to come. In this newsletter I will inform you of some of the development work that we have been doing and will be asking for you to share your views and give support for some aspects/next steps.

I would like, however, to start with an expression of thanks for your contributions as a school community. You have given generously to a number of causes which impact both locally and internationally. The St Paul's Liturgical Leaders concluded their spending decisions with the World Gifts contributions. Due to your generosity, they managed to purchase:



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This half term sees the start of Lent, another season of alms giving – more about this later on in the Newsletter.

Thank you also for the donations of **pre-loved uniform**. These are invaluable to families who require some additional support and also to replace lost items. Please can I remind you of **labelling all of your child's items regularly and frequently** (as they often wash out).

Thank you to those of you who replied to our **parent view survey**. The results were very useful in confirming what we do well but what we can also do better. One aspect on how to improve was the acknowledgement of cultural celebrations. This year has been more challenging than usual, even for the celebration of important aspects of the Catholic liturgical calendar, as many important festivals are falling in holiday time. This is also true of Holy week in the coming Easter break. However, we would like to invite you, as a community, to suggest which cultural festivals you would like to be shared with your children, i.e., Diwali, Holi, Chinese New Year, etc. Please complete the [attached survey](#) and we will respond to this moving forward. Where the festival occurs in the holiday, we will endeavour to mark this in the assembly before the celebration. We will create a **Cultural Celebration Calendar** in line with the cultural diversity of the community, which I will share with you in the Easter newsletter.



Another area of feedback which could have been more positive was the school's response to **bullying**. Whilst only 4 respondents expressed a negative view regarding this, we are not happy that any parents were left feeling as if any issues were unresolved. Therefore, I ask that should you feel that a concern that you have raised has not been responded to sufficiently, that you raise this through discussion or email – please do not wait until you are asked via a survey.

Finally, survey respondents suggested that they would like to know more about the **teaching of RE**. Last year we held a parent workshop with this focus. We will be offering this again on **Wednesday 7th May at 1:40pm** and will share the presentation with those who are unable to attend. This half term we are changing our approach to the teaching of RE. The Archdiocese of Birmingham has chosen St Anthony's as one of seven schools to pilot the new RE curriculum. The [Religious Education Directory](#) which underpins the curriculum has been rewritten and we are obliged to teach this from September 2026. We are working in advance of this to ensure that new proposals meet the requirements of being a pupil in a 1.5 entry school and we are delighted to be the only Wolverhampton School to have been invited to do so.

Aspects of the survey that parents rated highly included: being invited to support the prayer and faith life of the school, understanding the Catholic mission of the school, children being happy and doing well and being aware of what children are learning and how parents can help.



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Polite reminder: Uniform Policy – Last term we saw increasing challenges to the [Uniform Policy](#), particularly in relation to girls having loose hair and the use of coloured hair dye. As parents of older children, you may not be aware of some of this as your child may travel to school independently. We ask that the uniform policy is adhered to and that children are not encouraged to challenge it. When children reach Year 7, they are at risk of being sent directly home for breach of the uniform policy. Please help us to prepare the children for the transition to secondary school expectations. Reasons behind the need for hair to be tied back are (i) reduction of the spreading of head lice (we get these in every year group at some point during the year); (ii) health and safety in outdoor play and physical subjects, and (iii) a distraction to vision when hair is hanging in front of their eyes. Thank you for your support with this matter.



Live Simply Award – As you may recall, we have been working together to achieve the Live Simply Award for over a year now. Our achievements to date are as follows:

GLOBAL IMPACT:

1. CAFOD – Pupils considered the impact of climate change and its negative impact on the crop industry and how this affected the income for the poorest families globally as part of the Step Up to The Plate campaign
2. CAFOD – Fundraising for CAFOD, marked by a non-uniform date, focusing on global food poverty.
3. CAFOD – Laudato Si – assembly shared with children – the need for us to be Stewards of God's planet and how the words of Genesis determine that this is our global responsibility. Pupils from across all roles and responsibilities explained how their work contributes to this.

LOCAL IMPACT:

4. Giving to the Local Food bank – The Good Shepherd. Harvest donations have increased this year and the St Thomas More Ambassadors have been involved in packing and handing over these donations to the organisation. St Paul's Liturgical Leaders led the advertising and collection of toiletries for the Good Shepherd appeal for Fr Hudson's, where our community made a significant donation.
5. Establishing a link between the school's eco-work and that of the church: this area of the Live Simply plan has declined in action due to established links being lost with the change of Parish Priest. However, we did continue this work via the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign and we thank those of you who sent photos in for this. **We ask that parents of Eco-Warriors support a community clean up event on TUESDAY 4th March to extend the impact of this work. An invite will be sent to the relevant people.** Members of the wider Parish will also be invited to contribute.

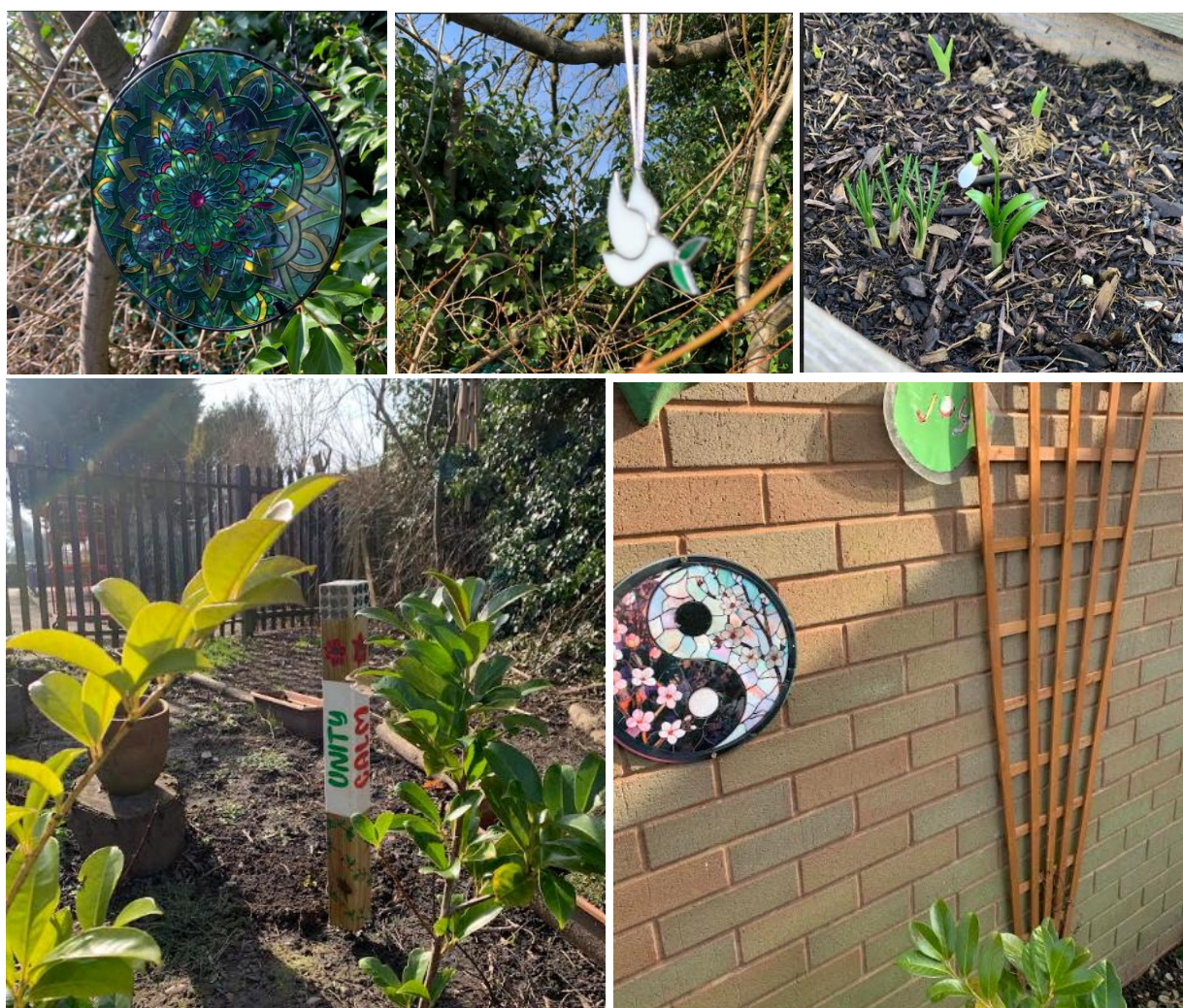


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6. Eco-Warriors sharing monthly tasks with the school community – this has been happening both in and beyond school. We are now extending this so that the monthly message is included in the Church Newsletter.

SCHOOL IMPACT:

7. Eco-Warriors establishing recycling in our dinner hall. This had been done previously and then the use of the bins declined. This has been relaunched this half term, with the introduction of a new bin, shared through assembly. This is for pupils who bring packed lunches.
8. Peace Garden team – The development of the peace garden has moved on, with plants becoming more established in this challenging area of school. Previously a waste plot, this is growing into a haven for insects, with symbols of faith reflected in its design. Mrs Geoghegan and a committed group of pupils tend to this area. It has its first snowdrop!

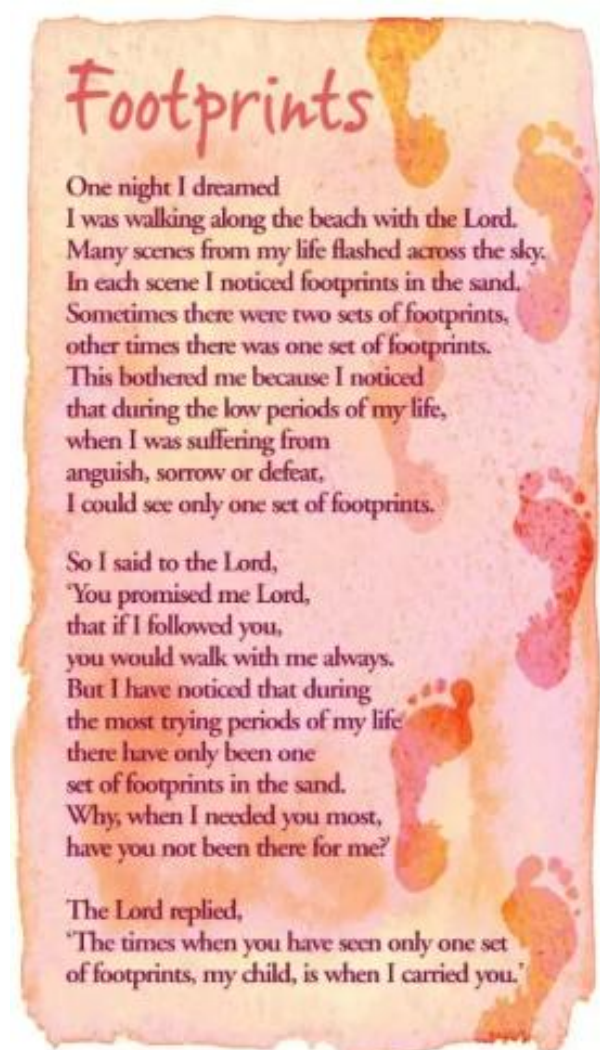


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9. Growing understanding of our role as stewards of God's creation: Rise Theatre performed for the school in '22 and this acted as a springboard for the emphasis on this responsibility across areas of the curriculum, clubs and provision. The importance of looking after the environment is emphasised through Forest School teaching in Nursery, Reception and Y1 and through the Eco-Warrior club. The CAFOD Prayer for Earth is also shared as part of these assemblies.

Forthcoming events:

Lent fundraising – this Lent we are supporting Father Hudson's Homes. As in a previous year, we will be putting one foot in front of the other to walk alongside the homeless and displaced families. On 11th April, we return to our 'Walk the Walk' campaign but this time with a focus on the Footprints poem/prayer:



We ask that families do the following:

- (i) Send a donation on the 'Walk the Walk' day, a minimum of £1 per child.
- (ii) Send photos of you and your children supporting this cause out of school, walking together, that you would be happy for us to share via Instagram. If you can get sponsorship and turn this into a personal challenge, that would be great. Your donations would be added to our total.

The Footprints prayer reminds us that when we are in times of trouble, God walks alongside us and at times carries us. We too can be the support for others by fundraising and walking in solidarity through this event.

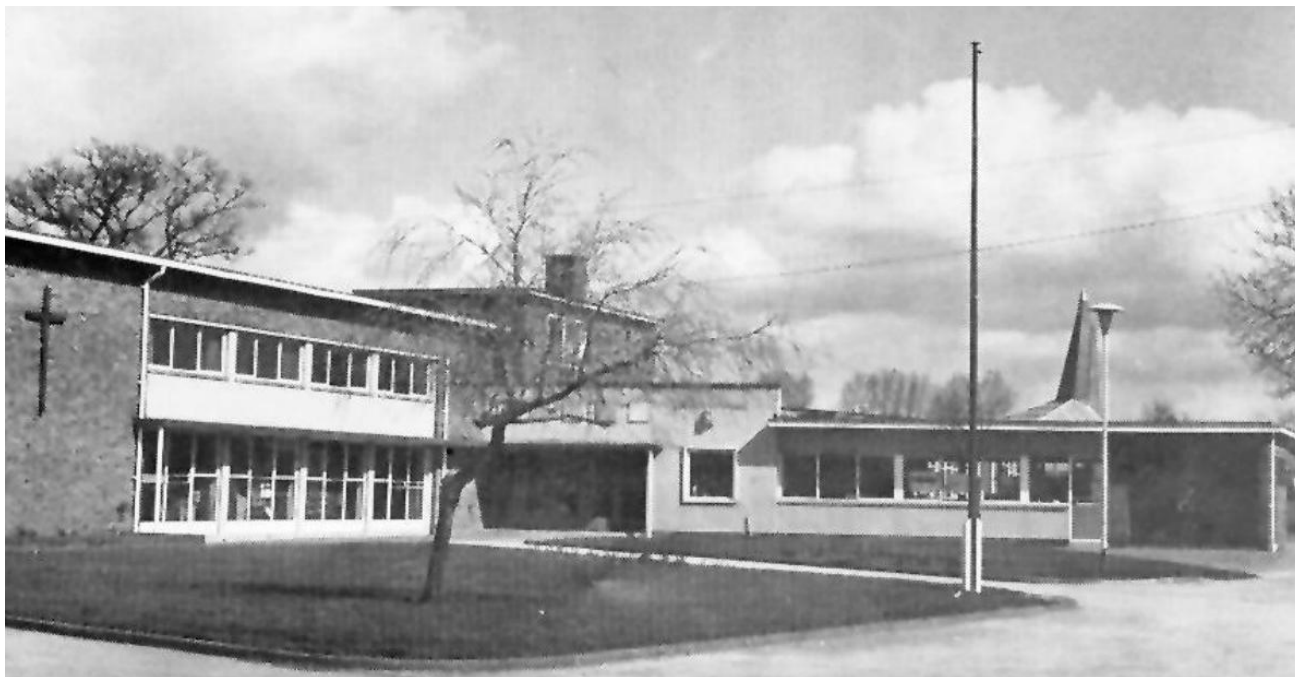


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65th Anniversary Celebration



We are planning a celebration event for our 65th Anniversary. St Anthony's Catholic Primary School opened in May 1960. We were due to celebrate in May 2020 but covid unkindly took this opportunity from us. In the initial planning stages, we are asking for anyone who would like to share photos/memories to send these in for display boards. We would also like any 'Look at Them Now' stories that you might have – stories of past pupils and what they have gone on to do. One of these pupils could be you! Please send in any information to the school office. It would be best to send scans of photographs. If you can only provide originals, we will return these on the same day and make a copy.



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We are hoping for an afternoon Mass and then an opportunity for families to view displays in the school hall, whilst some activities and refreshments are laid on outside. The proposed date for the celebration is **Monday 19th May**, following the Y6 SATs week.

Year 1 Parents Maths Workshop – Following queries about the teaching of Maths during parents' evening, we have decided to offer a parent workshop on the methods used and the end of year expectations in Maths for parents of children in Year 1. This will take place from 9-10am on **Wednesday 9th April**. Please sign up to confirm attendance (see diary).

Maths No Problem (the scheme used across the school) has helpful parent videos that demonstrate methods taught for a range of calculations. Please take the time to look should you have any queries in this curriculum area: <https://mathsnoproblem.com/en/parent-videos>

Polite request:

Please can you help us to look after the **bunting at the back of school**. We make good use of this to support safe and efficient dismissal. Recently, it is being repeatedly broken by unsupervised children who are running/cycling/scooting under it or into it before or after school. Thank you.



After school clubs – Clubs will restart this week. **Multi-skills with Soccer 2000** is now available for pupils who have registered interest from **St Francis' class** for this half term. Please register your interest [via the link](#) (see MarvellousMe for letter with more information).

St Francis Eco-Warriors call for action

St Francis Eco Warriors will soon be sending their February task, focusing on the materials that food is packaged in within lunchboxes. Please talk to your children about which items can go into our new recycling bin. We will also be doing this on Friday during assembly. Please try to use either reusable tubs that can be rewashed (preferred) or recyclable products. They will also be sharing the [CAFOD Prayer for earth](#), which you may like to view from home.

I hope that you all have a great weekend. See you Monday.

Kind regards,



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Mrs T Davis
(Principal)

Dates for your diary (new items indicated by *)

Monday 24 th February	BACK TO SCHOOL
*Friday 28 th February	Training session for the new Y4 altar servers with Mr Clemson – church at 3:20pm
Tuesday 4 th March	9-10am SEN Coffee morning – ‘Sleep’ with SEN School Nurses – sign up online. https://forms.gle/vKbcoVy1Gjvz8ZVc8
Wednesday 5 th March	10am Ash Wednesday Mass – parents welcome
Friday 7 th March	St Maximilian’s class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Wednesday 12 th March	Reception Parents – Phonic Workshop 9am
Friday 14 th March	St Mary Magdalene’s Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Friday 21 st March	St Bernadette’s Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Friday 28 th March	St Patrick’s Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:30 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Wednesday 9 th April	Y3 Sacrament of Reconciliation 1:30-3pm in church – parents welcome. <i>This is mostly a silent service – parents do not need to be present but are of course welcome. This is for the children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in May.</i>
Thursday 10 th April	All day – Lenten Retreat with Onelife Music – pupils from Reception to Y6
Friday 11 th April	9:30am Lent Mass – parents welcome
Friday 11 th April	Break up for Easter – early finish 2:15pm; (Nursery 2:30pm)
*Friday 11 th April	Walk the Walk for Father Hudson’s Homes event
Monday 14/4 – Friday 25/4	SCHOOL CLOSED – EASTER HOLIDAY
Monday 28 th April	Back to school
Monday 28 th April	Open Classroom Nursery 12:45pm (<i>Parents will be invited in once pupils have come through the gates and settled in</i>)
Tuesday 29 th April	Open Classroom Reception 2pm
Wednesday 30 th April	Open Classroom Nursery 8:45am (<i>Parents will be invited in once pupils have come through the gates and settled in</i>)
*Wednesday 30 th April	Open Classroom KS1 2:30pm (<i>note change of time</i>)
Thursday 1 st May	Open Classroom UKS2 9am
Thursday 2 nd May	Open Classroom LKS2 2:30pm



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Friday 2 nd May	Easter Mass 9:30am – parents welcome
Monday 5 th May	BANK HOLIDAY – School closed
*Wednesday 7 th May	Parent Workshop 1:40–3:10pm: Religious Education (suitable for all age/year groups) Sign-up sheet https://forms.gle/uLfXn6zEE98eiDNU7
Friday 9 th May	St John Bosco's Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Saturday 10 th May	Y3 First Holy Communion – 10:30am
Monday 12/5 – Thursday 15/5	Y6 SATS Test week
Friday 16 th May	St Martin's Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
*Monday 19 th May	65th Anniversary event 3:20-5pm – Afternoon Nursery finish at 3:15pm on this date.
Wednesday 21 st May	9-10am SEN Coffee morning – 'Dental' with SEN School Nurses – sign up online https://forms.gle/vKbcoVy1Gjvz8ZVc8
Thursday 22 nd May	Crowning Mary Celebration in church 2:15pm – children are asked to bring in fresh flowers. Parents welcome.
*Thursday 22 nd May	Wear orange day – Non-uniform. Please wear an item of orange clothing or an orange accessory. This is awareness raising of Coeliac Disease, which is a condition affecting a number of members of our school community.
Friday 23 rd May	INSET DAY – School closed
Monday 26/5-Friday 30/5	SCHOOL CLOSED – HALF TERM
Monday 2 nd June	Y4 multiplication check fortnight
Monday 9 th June	Y1 phonic screening assessment week (+ Y2 resits)
Friday 13 th June	St Anthony's Feast Day – Mass 10am
Friday 13 th June	St Veronica's Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Friday 20 th June	St Francis's Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Monday 23 rd June	Sports Day: YN 8:45; YR 9:45; KS1 11; KS2 1:30pm
Thursday 26 th June	Reserve sports day
Friday 27 th June	St Joseph's Class assembly – parents welcome – enter at 2:35 for a prompt start. We will not be able to accommodate late comers.
Monday 30/6-Friday 4/7	Y6 transition (most secondary schools hold their transition events this week) Reception to Y5 pupils visit their new classes for September
Friday 4 th July	Class talent shows (all ages)
*Friday 4 th July	<i>Date reserved for Summer Fete – 3:30-5:30pm – to be confirmed</i>
*Wednesday 9 th July	Theatre Club production 7pm (note change of start time)
Wednesday 9 th July	End of year reports to parents
Friday 11 th July	Whole school talent show 1:45pm – <i>sadly we cannot invite parents due to lack of space.</i>
Monday 14 th July	1:30pm Garden Party for the Parishioners – served by Y6
Wednesday 16 th July	Y6 leavers disco 5:45pm followed by parents' bistro at 7:15pm



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Friday 18 th July	9:30am Leavers' Mass – parents welcome
Friday 18 th July	Break up for Summer– early finish 2:15pm; (Nursery 2:30pm)
Monday 21st July	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY
Tuesday 22 nd July	SCHOOL CLOSED – SUMMER HOLIDAY

Spring Term 2025

- Term Time: Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025
- Half term: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
- Term Time: Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 11 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

- Term Time: Monday 28 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025
- Half term: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025
- Term Time: Monday 2 June 2025 to Monday 21 July 2025

2025 - 2026

Autumn Term 2025

- Term Time: Monday 1 September 2025 to Friday 24 October 2025
- Half term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025
- Term Time: Monday 3 November 2025 to Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

- Term Time: Monday 5 January 2026 to Friday 13 February 2026
- Half term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
- Term Time: Monday 23 February 2026 to Thursday 2 April 2026

Summer Term 2026

- Term Time: Monday 20 April 2026 to Friday 22 May 2026
- Half term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026
- Term Time: Monday 1 June 2026 to Tuesday 21 July 2026



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