



Autumn Term – Newsletter 4

Headteachers update

Dear Families,

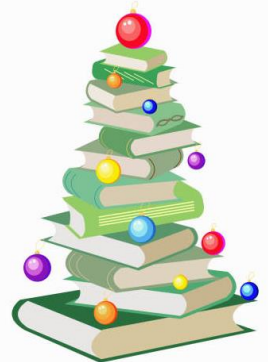
Have you heard of Match Funding? For those parents and carers who work for private companies, please can I ask for help. Many companies (e.g. Sky; banks - Lloyds, HSBC; Vodafone; BMW; etc) do a match funding scheme (if you aren't sure, ask your HR department, please!). This can take various forms such as paying a charity for hours volunteered, matching funds raised on a stall you helped on, matching donations given at an event. The PTA is a registered charity and match funding can help them significantly increase funds raised at events. If you work for an eligible company, please contact Becky (Chair) at owlsmoorschoolpta@gmail.com. The PTA are £1,000 away from their £23,000 target for buying the school 60 new tablets to enhance the IT skills of the children. They really need your help in any way and this is a great way to assist them. A local PTA chair works for HP and they offer £10,000 per year for each employee!! Wow! Any amount would be gratefully received even a couple of hundred pounds. Thank you!

**EMPLOYEE
MATCH
FUNDING**



December is here and Christmas has arrived at Owlsmoor! We are very much looking forward to all the events we have planned as we approach the end of this term. We have nativities to look forward to from both YR and Y2, a carol concert from year 3 and of course the whole school 'Rudolph Rave'. Please take a look at the dates list at the end of the newsletter for details of these and I hope to see you at some of the events. The children and staff have been enjoying decorating their classrooms and getting into the festive spirit – we are even having a 'classroom door' competition this year, with each class decorating theirs with a festive themed design. I am enjoying seeing the classrooms being transformed into various 'Winter Wonderlands' including Santa's grottos, gingerbread houses and snow globes! The school is feeling very magical.

Each class also has a 'Reading Advent Calendar' this year, with a different book to be unwrapped each day in December! A big thank you to our reading ambassadors for their help in preparing these for everybody to enjoy. As books are always a fabulous gift for Christmas, we have also attached a list of recommended books for each year group to help give you some ideas. Please do take a look at these – a new book is a great way to encourage children to read!



I hope you all have a fabulous Christmas and New Year when the time comes!

Mr. Cope

Maths and English Superstars

A huge congratulations to our Maths and Writing Superstars for the month – keep up the good work 😊.

Class	Maths Superstars	Writing Superstars
Mrs Reed	Evie Groves	Joshua Davall
Mrs Wood	Emma Clutton	Daniel Barrington
Miss Tomlinson / Mrs Garrod	Mila Rodrigues Vielma	Kimberley Allen
Miss Parr	Evy Hanson	Alice Sharp
Miss Wakelin	Arlo Pearce	Alice Foot
Ms Gardiner	Jesse Ragoobar	Ivey Bolton
Mrs Read/Miss Holness	Mayon Pandithage	Harrison Pearce
Mrs Bruce/ Mrs Plumtree	Ayeza Fathima	Theo Farrell
Mr Francis	James Mackintosh	Sebastian Bradley
Miss Hadley	Kate Lewis	Ethan Aldridge
Miss Megrath	Michael Osho	Clara Ragoobar
Miss Bess	Teagan Guest	Lily Wood
Mr Taylor	Scarlett Wishart	Ethan Harman
Mrs Panesar	Lily Brown	Charlie Woodward
Mr Stevens	Max Savastano	Izzie Read
Mr Saunders	Mashumi Thapa	Oliver Sutton

Christmas Lunch

We are looking forward to Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13th December. If your child is not having a Christmas Lunch, then please send them in with a packed lunch on this day as the kitchen will be unable to provide anything else apart from the pre ordered Christmas lunch. Thank you.



Post Boxes for Christmas Cards

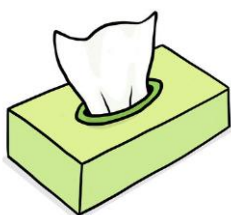
The EYFS and KS1 Christmas Card Box can be found in the corridor outside Year 1 and Year 2.

The KS2 Christmas Card Box can be found in the corridor outside the library.

Please can all the cards have the child's first name and the first initials of their surname along with their class name to make it easier for our little delivery helpers.



Tissues for Classrooms



With the winter colds and coughs that are with us now, we would greatly appreciate any boxes of tissues for the classroom. Please hand them to your child's class teacher at any point. Thank you in advance.

Choir

The Choir is feeling festive and have been very busy rehearsing for their performance alongside other Primary Schools and the adult choir 'Vocales' at The Lexicon in Bracknell. The event will take place on **Saturday 9th December**.

The performances will start at 3:30pm, with Owlsmoor singing at around 4:10pm, they will perform again at the end of the event with the other schools and Vocales Choir. The event should finish at around 5:10pm. **If your child is a part of the Choir, could they please arrive under the 'Pringle' outside Waitrose no later than 3:50pm ready for us to take them to a back-stage section.**



It will be outdoors so please make sure the children are wrapped up ready for some cold weather! If your child is not in choir but you are interested in seeing Owlsmoor perform, please feel free to come along, however we cannot confirm how busy the event will be. 😊

Miss Parr and Mrs Read

School Start Time



Just a polite reminder that school starts at 8.45am. Please can we ask that you make a real effort to ensure children are in by this time as teachers are struggling to start their lessons on time due to late arrivals. Thank you for your support with this.

Cross Country Team – Year 4/5/6



On Friday 10th November, a few of the years 4, 5 and 6, travelled to Great Hollands Recreation Ground for a Primary Schools cross country event. This event is always popular with 24 other schools participating!

On what was a wet, damp and miserable day (as you can tell from the pictures) the boys and girls represented the school brilliantly – each running approximately 1km through the fields and woods. After each took part in a 1km run and then tagging the next person, the results were in...

The girls finished in an incredible 7th and the boys finished in a brilliant 12th out of 24 schools.

Well done ALL of you for an outstanding performance and representing Owlsmoor once again!

Nursery

We have had such a busy month! It was lovely seeing the children return to school in their pyjamas for our bedtime stories evening. The children enjoyed talking about their teddies and listening to the stories shared as well as the hot chocolate with marshmallows and biscuits.



We are good listeners and story tellers! We have continued reading and looking at different Traditional Tales, we have been acting out the different stories using the masks and puppets, ordering the stories with the help of the pictures and joining in with the repeated refrains. We have also read different versions of the same story and talked about how the stories can change over time.



We also took part in **World Nursery Rhyme week**, where we learnt rhymes like *Jack and Jill*, *Hickory Dickory Dock*, *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, *Row Row Row Your Boat* and *The Wheels on the Bus*.



The countdown to Christmas is on! Well done Puffins for shining like stars during your Christmas nativity!! It was a fantastic performance and they all did amazingly – we are very proud of them and you should be too. There were a lot of songs to learn and they did so well.

Just a quick reminder that the Christmas party will be on **Monday 11th December**. The children can wear **party clothes or their Christmas jumpers on the day** (please make sure they are warm as we will be going outside as usual). Please can the children bring in some party food (eg. Big bags of crisps, cakes, sharing bags of sweets, packets of biscuits, sausage rolls, sandwiches, grapes and cocktail sausages etc) for the afternoon. The children will have their lunch as normal and then we will have party food when we have our party. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school (no nutella, nuts or nut-based products). Thank you so much.

Finally, we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.

Miss Grant and the Team

Reception



We love reading! We had such a lovely time holding our ***Bedtime Story Evening***, where both the children and teachers got to come back to school wearing their pyjamas and bring in their favourite bed time bear. The children got to listen to a few bedtime stories while enjoying a hot chocolate filled with marshmallows and a biscuit. Thank you so much for bringing them in, we all had such a wonderful time and want the children to foster a love for books and reading in our school.

Celebrations - we have been looking at **Diwali and Christmas** this term. The children made Rangoli patterns to welcome in Diwali, they each made a diva lamp to take home and we tasted Indian food – which they all loved!





Do you love our **hedgehog**? We made it from leaves when learning about hibernating animals and nocturnal animals. The children used all their autumnal things they collected in the half term. They also made houses for Hattie the hedgehog to hibernate in.

Festive fun - this week we have been learning about Christmas Around the World and have made paper chains to decorate our classrooms. In literacy we learnt about the Nativity story and acted it out in front of our class; in maths we used our knowledge of repeating patterns to create Christmas wrapping paper for making our Christmas bags. We are so looking forward to performing our Christmas play – The Little Angel - to you all on **Friday 8th December** in the school hall at **9:15am**.



The Christmas party will be on **Monday 11th December**. The children can wear **party clothes or their Christmas jumpers on that day** (please make sure they are warm as we will be going outside as usual). Please can the children bring in some party food (eg. Big bags of crisps, cakes, sharing bags of sweets, packets of biscuits, sausage rolls, sandwiches, grapes and cocktail sausages etc) for the afternoon. The children will have their lunch as normal and we will have party food when we have our party. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school (no nutella, nuts or nut-based products). Thank you so much. ***We hope you all have a wonderful festive season with your families and a Happy New Year.***

Mrs Layton – Matthews, Mrs Lourens and Miss Watkins

Year 1

WOW! We have reached December already. Time flies when you're having so much fun!

The children have had a fantastic time exploring Fire and Light this half term. They've learned so much about The Gunpowder Plot, the changing seasons and weather types, The Great Fire of London and they will focus on Christianity and The Nativity story over the last two weeks. They have explored how fire engines have developed over time, why our houses are built differently now, how we know all that we do, about the history of our country and all through an inspiring, play-based environment.

As a team, we are extremely pleased with the progress children are making and very grateful for your continued support at home with their home learning and reading activities.



Stop-Drop-Roll with the Fire Fighters
in PSHE / History



'Seasons walk'
in Science/ Writing.

The rest of term has some great Christmas events so get your diaries ready:

Baking with a Chef: WB 4th Dec & 12th Dec - See separate letter for details.

Christmas Jumper Day: Tuesday 7th Dec - Normal school uniform but replace your cardigan/jumper with a Christmas themed one.

Class Party: Wednesday 13th Dec - Our Christmas party will be on **Wednesday 13th December**. The children can wear **party clothes or their Christmas jumpers on that day however footwear must be suitable for PE or alternative brought in their bag**. (please make sure they are warm as we will be going outside as usual).

Please can the children bring an **individual bag** of party food (eg. a bag of crisps, a cake or a sausage roll etc) to have in addition to their fruit at snack time for this day. The children will have their lunch as normal so will not need a large supply of sweets and snacks, and please do not send in fizzy drinks. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a **nut free school** (no Nutella, nuts or nut-based products. Please check the labels on food).

School Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 13th Dec - Please pre-book this meal in the usual way.

Owlprentice Fair: Thursday 14th Dec - Children can bring in up to £1 (in change please) to spend on games and activities run by our Year 5 children.

Rudolph Rave: Friday 15th Dec - Come and watch each year group perform a dance routine to some all-time, classic Christmas tunes.

The New Year

After the holidays, Year One will be learning about how toys have changed over time and we would love to hear from some grown-ups, about what they used to play with. And, even better – if you have any older toys from the 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s around, we would love to have them in school for children to learn from. If you know somebody willing to come in to talk to the children about how they played and what they played with as a child, please speak to your class teacher. We are really looking forward to this unit of work.

All that is left to say is Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

The Year One Team

Year 2

The children have really enjoyed their work on old-fashioned sweetshops this term, especially making their own 'marvellous creations' based on our class reader 'The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me' and other chocolate-fuelled works by Roald Dahl. Some children have made amazing sweet shops and others have written some really effective descriptions of them, as well as writing their own recipes for our truly scrumptious delights. We hope you enjoyed tasting them!



We are 'almost' ready to perform our nativity in **St. George's church** on **Thursday 7th December at 9.15 am**. If we happen to run a little late arriving, please bear with us as we get everyone changed and ready to walk up to the church, past the *very annoying roadworks*, for what we hope will be a memorable experience for all. If you are DBS checked and can accompany us on the walk to the church please speak to your child's teacher. We are still waiting for a few costumes to appear, so if you are struggling to find or buy these just speak to your child's teacher as we do have some costumes in school. Keep practising those lines! Just to let you know, the children will also be performing two dress rehearsals in school on Monday 4th and Wednesday 6th December, and they will need their costumes for those. If any Year 2 children have siblings in school, they will have the opportunity to see this performance.



Our Christmas party will be on **Tuesday 12th December**. The children can wear party clothes or their Christmas jumpers on that day (please make sure they are warm as we will be going outside as usual). Please can the children bring an individual bag of party food (eg. a bag of crisps, a cake or a sausage roll) for the afternoon. The children will have their lunch as normal so will not need a large supply of sweets and snacks, and please do not send in fizzy drinks. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school (no nutella, nuts or nut based products).

Thank you for all your support this term. The staff in year 2 would like to wish you a very merry term ahead and look forward to seeing you at our performance in the church.

Year 3

The children have worked really hard this term and have shown lots of enthusiasm for continuing our rainforest learning. In DT they have demonstrated sewing skills making rainforest creatures from felt and have also measured, cut and constructed bug houses from wood, filled with their collected forest treasures. We have started a new writing topic on 'Traction Man' which the children are really excited about. We are looking forward to hearing the new adventures 'Traction Man' will encounter over the next few weeks.

As the weather is getting colder, please can you make sure your children are coming into school with named coats for break and lunchtime.

We have also been busy learning our carols for the carol concert and are looking forward to our carol sing along on 13th December with you all. We will be supporting the Mayor's charity on this evening, The Sandhurst Day Centre. If you would like to donate, please bring along a coin or two for the collection in support.



Year 4

Our swimming lessons have been going really well – it has been great to see all the children enjoying themselves in the water. This week was our water safety lesson. It was certainly an exciting and unusual experience for the children to get into the water fully clothed! But it was also a very important opportunity to teach them what they should do if they ever found themselves in trouble in a body of water. We will make up our missing days of swimming next week – please continue to bring in your swimming items next week too (Monday – Wednesday). Children are allowed dressing gowns to wear to a from the pool.



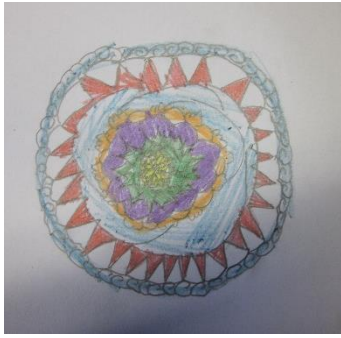
We were lucky enough to fulfil our first curriculum promise and go and a 'Funky Fungi Hunt.' We spotted a huge variety of wild mushroom and were amazed by their shapes, sizes and colours.



Rangoli for Diwali!

The children really enjoyed learning about Diwali and having a go at creating their own Rangoli patterns outside our classrooms.





In science, we re-created a working model of the digestive system to investigate how food travels through our bodies. We had a fabulous (if not a little messy) time discovering the wonders of the human body and we are sure the children will love telling you all about this at home using the scientific language that they have learnt.



Friday the 8th of December is our Egyptian day. The children will not be required to dress up. Please can you may your payments on Scopay by 1st December.

Our Christmas party will be in the afternoon on Tuesday 12th December 2023

The children may wear party clothes or a Christmas jumper to school but they will be going outside for playtimes so they need to wear practical footwear. Please can the children bring an individual bag of party food (e.g. a bag of crisps, a cake or a sausage roll) for the afternoon. The children will have their lunch as normal so will not need a large supply of sweets and snacks. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school (no nutella, nuts or nut-based products). We would like to invite the children to bring in board games to play with each other. This is one of curriculum promises and think it would be an ideal time to work as a team and play a range of board games.

We are very curious to know how many children may be wanting to come to the sleep over, please return the sleep over forms by the end of term.

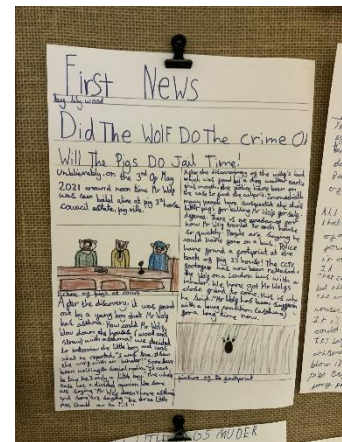
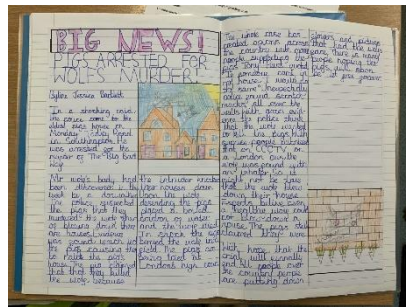
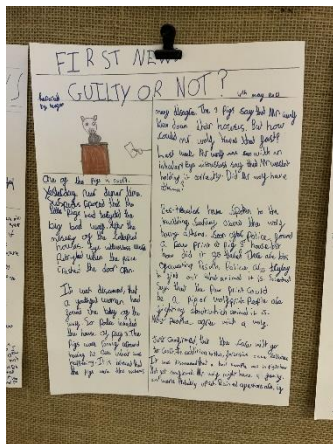
Finally, the Year 4 team would like to thank you for all your support this term and wish you a happy Christmas!

Year 5

The Christmas season has finally arrived and we can look forward to a well-earned break. The children have worked incredibly hard this term and should be commended for rising to the challenges of year 5. Over the last month, the children have been working hard in their history lessons to complete our studies on the Ancient Greeks. Their learning culminated in our Greek day where the children used wax tablets to scribe their names using the Greek alphabet; sculpted clay pots in the style of Greek amphora; and took part in a drama workshop with the Greek goddess 'Athena' herself...



The day was enjoyed by all and the children really showed how much they had learned throughout this term. In English, the children wrote a newspaper report based on the story of the 'Three Little Pigs' but with a modern twist. They enjoyed watching a mock-up video of a police raid and the outrage that broke out on social media as a result of the pig's crime...



Ostriches also performed their class assembly to the rest of the year group, showcasing all of their knowledge about the Ancient Greeks. They recited their lines with real enthusiasm and sung some incredibly catchy songs. They have really set the bar high for Kiwis – whose class assembly is in the first few weeks of the new year.



We would also like to invite all of you to join your children on Thursday 14th December for our 'Owl Apprentice' Christmas market in the school hall. The children will be creating some exciting Christmas-themed products, which we hope you will buy, to raise money for future endeavours in the year group.

Finally, we would like to say well done to the children for producing some great homework, we were very impressed with the high standard of work. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 5 Team 😊

Year 6

November proved that there is no let up in how busy the children will be throughout Year 6. Another fantastic month that saw the classes working on reports in English (both non-chronological and journalistic) which led to some amazing work on dodos and earthquakes in turn. The standard of the writing in both areas was very pleasing indeed.

In maths, the larger part of the month was spent on studying fractions and while this might not be everyone's favourite area of maths, the hard work and effort put in by all was very commendable.

We are well underway with our topic of Extreme Earth and this has led to some of the best homework that we have ever seen. The creative ways in which volcanoes have been made: some pop-ups in homework books, modelling clay, papier mache (some with full on volcanic eruption effects too) or the incredible edible volcanoes (yes- edible!) have really impressed all the Year 6 staff and caused them all to put on some weight this month!

In other areas, the cross-country competition went very well with our runners representing Owlsmoor superbly in quite testing conditions. The "never going to give up" attitude would have made even Rick Astley proud.

The football team carried on their successful start to the campaign with a hard fought 3-2 win against St Michael's Easthampstead even with Mr Saunders seen fraternising with the away supporters during the first half!

As the month draws to a close, Year 6 will undertake their assessment week before December comes upon us bringing along so many other aspects of school life in the final two weeks of term including: Christmas Dinner, Rudolph Rave, filming a Christmas Advert, watching KS1 in the Nativity play, watching a pantomime in school (oh yes they are) decorating the classroom in a festive manner (good luck Kites!) and much more besides. We also have the booster swimming lessons for some of the children which starts on Monday December 4th.

Year 6 continue to go from strength to strength this year and hopefully this will continue into 2024 as well.

Year 6 Team

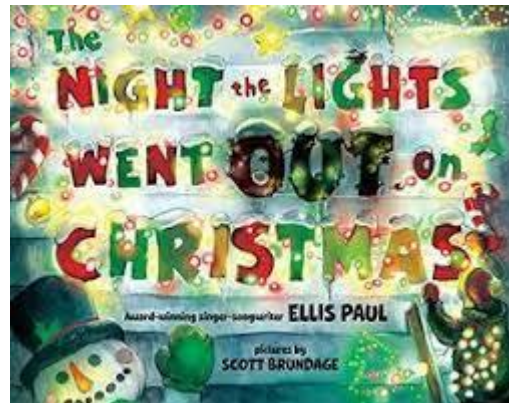
Kingfishers and Wrens

We had a wonderful trip to Mad Hatters Pottery at Henry Street Garden Centre this month.

We had such a lovely time – each child chose and painted a Christmas decoration to take home. We were taken to see the kiln and learnt how the whole process works. Some of the group loved the fact that the Kiln heats to 1243 degrees centigrade! We then went to see all the decorations at the garden centre and the Christmas train was favourite!



Kingfishers have been enjoying the story *'The Night the Lights went out at Christmas'*. Kingfishers then made circuits to light up our own Christmas tree. We had to perservere though, as not all the bulbs and batteries worked but we were able to light our tree. Well done Kingfishers!



We have now started to read our new book. *'The Jolly Christmas Postman'* is definitely getting us in the Christmas spirit! We are looking forward to writing our own letters.



KEY DATES

Thursday 7 th December	Year 2 Nativity at St George's Church 9:15am
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – In support of Sebastian's Trust £1 Donation Please
Thursday 7 th December	Year 6 Movie and PJ Night 4:30-7pm
Friday 8 th December	Reception Nativity in School Hall 9:15am
Friday 8 th December	Year 4 Egyptian Workshop
Monday 11 th December	Nursery and Reception – Party Day (more details to follow)
Tuesday 12 th December	House Point Treat – School Hall at 9am (the winning house will be announced on Friday 8 th December)
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 2 – Party Day (more details to follow)
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 4 – Party Day (more details to follow)
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 5 Teams meeting (4:30pm) about their Residential Trip in June 2025
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Lunch for the Children (Christmas Jumpers can be worn)
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 1 – Party Day (more details to follow)
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 3 – Carol Concert starting at 5:15pm in the school hall
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 5 – Party Day (more details to follow)
Thursday 14 th December	Year 5 Owl Apprentice Christmas Fair
Thursday 14 th December	Year 3 – Party Day (more details to follow)
Friday 15 th December	Rudolph Rave 9am – (Everyone Welcome to join us for about an hour in the middle playground)
Friday 15 th December	Kingfishers and Wrens to the Panto
Friday 15 th December	School Finishes at 2:00pm for Christmas Holidays
Monday 18 th December – Friday 22 nd December	In2sport Holiday Camp
Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	Inset Day
Wednesday 3 rd January 2024	Children Return
Thursday 18 th January 2024	Herons Class Assembly
Friday 26 th January 2024	Kiwis Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Friday 2 nd February 2024	Pelicans Class Assembly (9am school hall)
W/C 5 th February 2024	Science Week
Friday 1 st March 2024	Chaffinches Class Assembly (9am school hall)
W/C 4 th March 2024	Book Week
Friday 8 th March 2024	Dress Up as Characters for WBD
Wednesday 13 th March 2024	EYFS – Spring Celebration (Time TBC)
Wednesday 13 th March 2024	Year 5 to Woking Theatre
Friday 15 th March 2024	Red Nose day (more details to follow)
Thursday 21 st March 2024	World Poetry Day
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Flamingos Class Assembly (9am school hall)
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Parents Consultations (Remote) (more details to follow)
Thursday 28 th March 2024	School Finishes at 2:00pm for Easter Holidays
Monday 1 st July 2024	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Time TBC)
Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Nursery Sport Day (Time TBC)
Friday 5 th July 2024	KS2 Sports Day (Time TBC)

REMAINING INSET DAYS - 2023 – 2024
Tuesday 2nd January Monday 3rd June Monday 22nd July Tuesday 23rd July

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR - 2024 – 2025**Autumn Term 2024****(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 3rd September 2024**Pupils Start on Wednesday 4th September 2024October Half Term - Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024**(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 4th November 2024**Pupils start on Tuesday 5th November 2024Autumn Term ends on – Friday 20th December 2024 at 2.00pmChristmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025**Spring Term 2025****(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 6th January 2025**Pupils start on Tuesday 7th January 2025February Half Term – Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025Pupils start on Monday 24th February 2025Spring Term ends on Friday 4th April 2025 at 2.00pm

Spring holiday: Monday 7 April 2025 to Monday 21 April 2025

Good Friday: 18 April 2025, Easter Monday 21 April 2025

Summer Term 2025**(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Tuesday 22nd April 2025**Pupils start on Wednesday 23rd April 2025Public Bank Holiday (School Closed) Monday 5th May 2025

May holiday: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 2nd June 2025Pupils start on Tuesday 3rd June 2025Summer Term ends on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 2pm.

in **2** sport in **2** care

WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY CAMP

MONDAY 18TH – FRIDAY 22ND
DECEMBER 2023.



8AM–5PM → £31

9AM–3PM → £25



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