



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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28th February 2025

"Positive anything is better than negative nothing."



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to formally welcome you back after the half-term break! I hope you managed to spend some quality time with your families and have had a restful and relaxing week.

There is a huge amount happening in school this half-term, and there are a significant number of events coming up before Easter, so please check out the diary dates at the end of the newsletter to make a note of these on your own calendars. One such event is Mothering Sunday, and everyone will be receiving a letter inviting them to come and enjoy a lunch with their child at some point during this very special week.



In addition to wishing everyone a very restful, relaxing, and enjoyable weekend, we would also like to wish all our families who are joining in with this special time of year a very Happy Ramadan, which begins tomorrow. As our friends and families begin the holy month of fasting, we wish them, along with the millions of Muslims around the world a blessed and generous month. Ramadan Mubarak!

Breakfast Club Early Adopter – Shobnall Primary & Nursery School

We are very excited to be part of the government's **breakfast club early adopter scheme**, which is funding universal breakfast clubs in up to 750 primary schools! From summer term 2025, free breakfast clubs will be available in early adopter schools, as part of a test and learn phase, so that the government can plan for a full national roll-out of universal breakfast clubs in primary schools. As part of the offer, Shobnall Primary & Nursery School will offer 30 minutes of childcare alongside a free breakfast. The club will be open to all pupils

from reception to Year 6. The scheme will run from summer term 2025 until at least the end of spring term 2026. The government is still making decisions about the timing of a full national rollout.

Breakfast clubs will ensure every child, no matter their circumstances, can achieve their full potential by providing a supportive start to the day. Breakfast clubs offer much more than just food; they can serve as a welcoming space for children, providing valuable opportunities for them to play, learn, and socialise at the beginning of the school day.



We are very much in the planning phase of this project, and further information will follow in due course. We can confirm at this early stage that we will be running a mixed provision, which will consist of paid for breakfast club beginning at 7.30am and free breakfast club beginning at 8.15am. We will be canvassing for interest in this provision imminently to assist us with planning, as we will need prior notice of attendance in order to ensure the club can be run with the right number of staff.

We look forward to providing you with further information about this exciting initiative as and when our plans develop! We are very grateful for your interest.



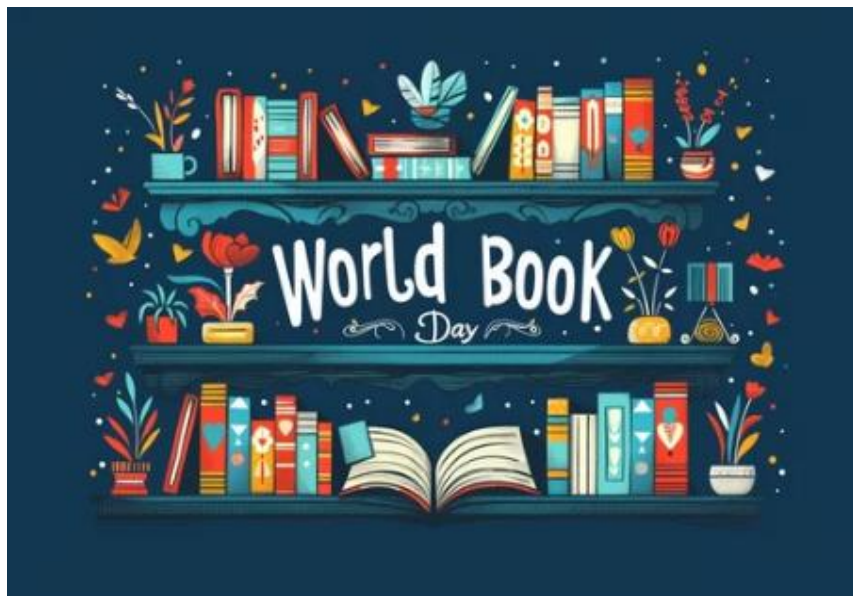
Young Voices

We were very proud of our Young Voices choir who we took to BP Pulse Live Arena in Birmingham last night for the 100th Young Voices concert to be held at that arena! It was an exceptionally well organised event and full of fantastic performances from the children and of course numerous professional singers and dancers! We particularly enjoyed Urban Strides and the 'Marley Magic Medley.' Well done to all! If any of our choir families would like to relive the night again, you can get the YV2025 concert video by heading over to yv25film.co.uk.

World Book Day – Thursday 6 March 2025

We wanted to remind you that next week we celebrate World Book Day! Miss Martin-Mills is asking the children (and staff) to come **dressed** in their **pyjamas** as our theme is centred around **bedtime stories**. We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers – thank you.

Check out the World Book Day Family Hub for more things to do at home. Please remember to keep reading!



OPAL Update!



This week, we told the children all about **OPAL**, an initiative that enhances children's play opportunities, promotes creativity, teamwork, and physical activity. To say that they, and the staff, are very excited about this is an understatement!

Miss Lord, who is our **Curricular Lead** for OPAL, will be sending a letter to parents early next week to explain a little more about the project and how you can help. We will be posting plenty of OPAL updates in the newsletter and on the school website, so please keep looking out for this information.

As a start to the initiative, next week the children will be mixing across the two playgrounds at lunchtime, giving them more space and freedom to play and explore. We are looking forward to widening this opportunity eventually by opening the field, but in order to do so, the children will need a pair of wellies in school every day so that they are prepared for all weathers. The letter you will receive next week will explain a little more about this, but if your child already has a pair to hand at home, please keep them to one side until the storage in school is ready for them to be received. We will also be asking for your help in collecting 'loose parts' for us, but again, more information on this will be available in the letter.

The children can't wait to get started! Thank you for your interest and support so far!

Red Nose Day – 21 March 2025

On Friday 21 March 2024, we will be celebrating Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief! This year, Red Nose Day is celebrating its 40th anniversary!

The school will be turning **RED** to celebrate Red Nose Day, so we thought we would go 'red-to-toe' again this year! So, as part of their non-uniform, we are asking the children to dust off their ruby slippers, pop on their lobster suits, or simply don some scarlet socks. How far they go is up to them! We ask that they bring a donation of 50p to £1 for this privilege. All proceeds from this event will go towards Comic Relief.

For 2025 to celebrate 40 years of Comic Relief, a favourite Red Nose from each decade is being brought – from the 80's, 90's, Noughties and 2010's. Plus, there's a celebratory Cupcake Nose, exclusive to the Collector Pack. And if you're lucky, you could even get the Rare Ruby Nose – a sparkling addition to the classic line-up. There's a 1 in 125 chance of getting your hands on this little gem.

Every Red Nose is soft and made from plant-based materials. And the money raised from their sale goes to Comic Relief to help tackle some of the urgent problems faced by people across the world, including here in the UK. You can order your Red Noses now from the [Comic Relief shop](#), or head to [Amazon](#), the official home of the Nose.

We hope that you can support the fundraising!



Ramadan

Ramadan is one of the most important months in the Islamic calendar. It is a time of fasting, prayer, and reflection for Muslims across the world. It is a time when families gather together to pray and reflect on the teachings of the Qur'an. Here are some interesting facts about Ramadan that we thought you would like to know, from the history of Ramadan to its spiritual significance:



- ❖ Ramadan falls on the ninth lunar month in the Islamic Calendar. The lunar calendar means the start of each month is based on various factors, such as the sighting of the moon. Therefore, like all Islamic months, the month of Ramadan rotates every year.
- ❖ The month of Ramadan is believed to be the month in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as a guidance for all mankind.
- ❖ Ramadan is the month of fasting. Fasting (sawm) is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.
- ❖ In between the hours of sunrise and sunset, fasting isn't just accomplished by abstaining from food and drink. It involves refraining from sinful acts such as cursing, lying and bad intentions, amongst many other things. These can negate the validity of a fast.
- ❖ The beginning of a fast is initiated with a dua (prayer) of niyah (intention).
- ❖ Eating dates is a popular way to break the fast. It is said that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used dates to break his fast with. But what is actually in a date? The health benefits of dates are vast. They contain natural sugars, are high in fibre, are excellent for digestion, high in countless vitamins and nutrients, and so much more!
- ❖ Ramadan is an auspicious month for generosity and giving. The sawab (reward) for charity and benevolence in this month are immense. It is known as a month of humbleness and simplicity, and to remember those who are less fortunate than us. Many people choose to commit to Ramadan donations in this month. Some opt to contribute regularly, some dedicate their time to one of the many campaigns, and some volunteer to help in fundraising towards a good cause.
- ❖ Ramadan concludes with Eid al-Fitr, a celebration which follows the period of fasting. It is commonly known as a day of joy and thanking Allah for the strength in accomplishing the spiritual month. It is a day of gratitude, prayers, unity and happiness. For a large number of people, the day usually consists of attending the Mosque, praying, visiting family and friends, exchanging gifts, giving to charity, and a lot of eating!



Bee-riliant News for Bees!

Exciting news for nature lovers! The West Midlands is now home to several 'bee beaches' thanks to the Purple Horizons Nature Recovery Project. This initiative, led by Natural England, aims to restore historic heathland habitats and create essential bare ground areas for our threatened pollinators.

It has introduced seven new bee-friendly sites including Chasewater Country Park and Muckley Corner.

These efforts are a significant step towards enhancing local biodiversity and ensuring the long-term health of our natural environment.

[Read more here.](#)

St. David's Day

St David's Day is celebrated tomorrow, on 1 March, across Wales and the wider world. But who was St David? What was he famous for? And in which Shakespeare play is a character forced to eat a leek in his name? Here are some interesting facts about the patron saint:

- ❖ The exact date of his birth is unknown, but David is said to have been born around the year 520 – some 1,500 years ago. He was reputedly born on the Pembrokeshire cliffs during a wild thunderstorm.
- ❖ Did you know that daffodils and leeks are the national symbol of Wales? There are many reasons as to why this is. It is believed that leeks were put into soldiers helmets during a battle with the Saxons. This was so that you could recognise your fellow soldiers! It's also believed that the Battle of Cr cy took place in a field of leeks. Daffodils are also used as a national symbol and has recently replaced the leeks a bit more. They come out around the time of St David's Day!
- ❖ Saint David was a vegetarian – he never ate meat. It is believed that he only ever ate leeks. He only drank water too! Maybe that is one of the reasons why the leek is a symbol of Wales!
- ❖ Legend has it that Saint David could perform miracles! It is said that Saint David was preaching to a large crowd of people. The people at the back couldn't hear him. He made the ground below him form into a hill so that the people at the back could hear and see him better!
- ❖ Every year, there is a parade held in Cardiff on St David's Day. Lots of theatre groups get involved. The parade also includes lots of dragons, like the one on the Welsh flag. Children will take part by doing dances and wearing traditional Welsh clothing.



Online Safety Tips



If there are two things that are popular nowadays, it's Marvel and video games. Marvel Rivals is a new release combining these two into one, letting players take on the role of various superheroes and villains in a competitive multiplayer shooter.

At the time of writing, the title has proven immensely successful: with the developer, NetEase, reports that as many as 40 million people are playing the game – many of whom will be children, owing to the game's PEGI 12 age rating.

While most of Marvel's content has been family –friendly (and this game has been deemed suitable for children as young as 12), this title does still present numerous potential risks to children and young people.

This week's free guide – also available in podcast format – offers parents and educators expert advice on the potential pitfalls of Marvel Rivals and how to protect its younger players.

FREE Uniform!

We continue to accept donations of old uniform via the box situated outside the school office for any parents who wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box outside the school office. If you need any uniform, you will need to pop down to the **Family Hub** on Waterloo Street, DE14 2NJ. The Family Hub do not have the capacity to reply to emails but do have uniform on site all year round and are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.00pm.



Reading Corner

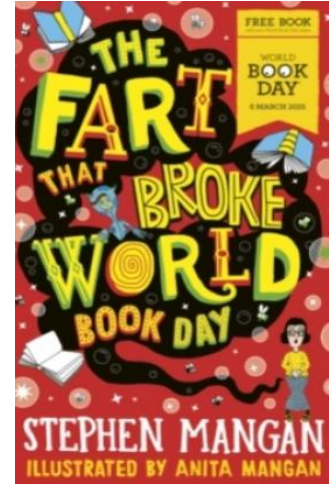
This week's recommended read is for children aged 9+...

The Fart That Broke World Book Day

Written by Stephen Mangan

A World Book Day 2025 £1 book.

It's World Book Day and school is buzzing with excitement. But something smells funny... in every classroom, there's a teacher letting go of a long, loud, ground-shaking, ground-breaking fart. And when our hero spots a fellow pupil (dressed up almost too convincingly as an alien) hovering by the teachers' bums and then discovers what looks like a spaceship powered by farts behind a hedge, he's on a mission to stop some unexpected visitors from kicking up a massive stink!



Attendance

Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not. We are always happy to advise in line with this guidance, so if you are still in doubt, please contact the school office if your child develops any symptoms and we can discuss this further with you.

Children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses.

This includes general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Please note, we can only accept and administer **prescribed medicines** that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration and dosage.



If your child arrives late, it is the responsibility of the adult to report to the school office and sign the "Late Book", giving a reason for lateness. This is important so that the school office knows your child is in school and can mark your child in in the class register. The class registers in the classrooms close at 8.55am when lessons start.

When reporting an absence, please could we ask that parents contact the school office before 9.30am and state clearly reasons for absence.

Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, **every pupil, every day!** Thank you for your support.

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 3!** Here are the latest figures...

| | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|
| Reception | 87.6% | Target |
| Year 1 | 94.7% | 97% |
| Year 2 | 96.7% | |
| Year 3 | 98.1% | |
| Year 4 | 95.6% | Overall (to date) |
| Year 5 | 93.9% | 96.2% |
| Year 6 | 93.4% | |
| Overall | 93.7% | |

Head Teacher's Awards

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Reception | Mustafa A | Joey T |
| Year 1 | Sada C | Ayaat A |
| Year 2 | Sofia K | Paisley H |
| Year 3 | Ava O-R | Hassnain Q |
| Year 4 | Mohid S | Baaqir A |
| Year 5 | Alfie H | Lewis L |
| Year 6 | Esmee G | Asra Z |



Lunchtime Star Awards


| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Reception | Zaynab A |
| Year 1 | Amore F |
| Year 2 | Daisy J |
| Year 3 | Dahlia L |
| Year 4 | Ava B |
| Year 5 | Aadil F |
| Year 6 | Jibreel Q |

Team Points

| Team Points | Claymills | Rosliston | Sinai | Trent |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Points (Week Ending 28.02.25) | 121 | 159 | 107 | 62 |
| Position | 2 nd – 3 Points | 1 st – 4 Points | 3 rd – 2 Points | 4 th – 1 Point |
| Running Total | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |




Hot Lunch Options 03.03.25 – 07.03.25


| WEEK 2 | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Main dish | Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges |  Italian pasta bolognese | Roast turkey with potato of the day & gravy | Chicken goujons With sweet pepper sauce and rice | Crispy battered fish & chunky chips |
| Vegetarian Main dish | Vegetarian burger with chunky chips | Vegetarian Pasta bolognese |  Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy | Vegan goujons With sweet pepper sauce and rice. | Cheese & bean bake with chunky chips |
| Accompaniments | Peas & baked beans Salad bar | Peas & sweetcorn Salad bar | Broccoli & cauliflower Salad bar | Sweetcorn & carrots Salad bar | Peas & baked beans Salad bar |
| Desserts |  Fresh fruit & whip | Lemon biscuit | Chocolate sponge |  Fruit sponge & custard | Ice cream |
| Fresh fruit or yoghurt | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt |
| Jacket potato and sandwich selection | Jacket potato and sandwich selection | Jacket potato and sandwich selection | Jacket potato and sandwich selection | Jacket potato and sandwich selection | Jacket potato and sandwich selection |



KEEP FIT AND ACTIVE

KEY

-  1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY
-  MEAT FREE MONDAY
-  CHEF'S CHOICE
-  PLANT BASED (VEGAN)



A WORLD OF FOOD FUN WITH FOOD

"Allergens and intolerances"
list of our food is available upon request and prepared on the day. We have an allergen procedure in place, our guests advise your child of any allergies before we start using the restaurant. Our kitchen is used for multi-purpose production so we cannot guarantee the above dishes are completely free from allergenic ingredients or traces of these.

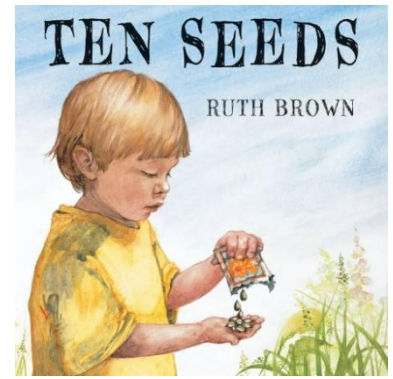
SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

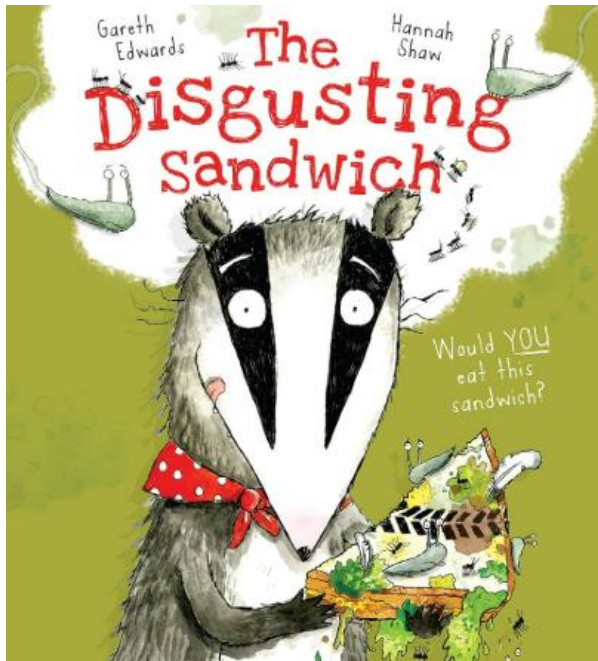
Nursery

Our adventures in Nursery this week...

The children are thoroughly enjoying their new class book, 'Ten Seeds' and have been working hard completing a range of activities based on our story. They have been busy observing and noticing similarities and differences in sunflowers and have been eager to learn about plant growth.



On Wednesday, dressed in waterproofs and wellies, they headed off for their first encounter of Forest School and had a fantastic time exploring this new learning environment! They listened to the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and took part in a range of exciting activities including bark rubbing, leaf threading, making mud potions and planting magic beans. A great time was had by all!



Reception

Our adventures in Reception this week...

We arrived back to school ready and refreshed to start our adventures!

We started off the week by sharing the book, 'The Disgusting Sandwich,' by Gareth Edwards. We had some fabulous ideas when we created our own characters in Drawing Club and have worked hard to write sentences about them.

The theme continued as we drew our own disgusting sandwiches and created them with playdough. It was fantastic later in the week when we made real sandwiches using real ingredients as well as some bugs (fake) and squirry slime ketchup and mud mayonnaise!

During our My Happy Mind session we discussed the importance of gratitude and created some beautiful art to show the different people (or pets) that make us happy!

We showed super listening skills when joining in with PE and had lots of fun practicing our ball skills by rolling very carefully to each other.

The sunshine was a welcome surprise this week and we took some time to walk around our outdoor area using our senses to describe what we noticed.

A great start to the term!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a great first week back after half term. In English, we have been learning all about proper nouns, time adverbials and when we must use a capital letter in our sentences. We are looking forward to beginning to write our own pirate diary entries next week. In Maths, we have been focusing on subtracting by counting back using a number line to help us. I am so impressed by the children's paper folding techniques in art, where they have been creating their own interpretations of the 'Tree of Life'. In Science, we have been learning about the season of winter and the weather we have during this time. Finally, in Music this week we have been creating our own chants. Well done Year 1!





Year 2

Year 2 has been an exciting adventure of learning and exploration this week! In English, the children have travelled back in time to explore transport in the past, comparing how people moved long ago to the modern-day methods we use now. In maths, they've begun their journey into multiplication, learning how to group objects and add them together to build their understanding of this important concept. Our RE lessons sparked thoughtful conversations as the children explored the idea of the afterlife and uncovered the hidden meaning behind Easter eggs and their connection to Easter. In computing, the children have been busy becoming data experts, creating their very own tally charts on iPads to record and analyse information. And in science, our young explorers ventured outside to

investigate the world around them, sorting things into categories of living, dead, or never alive, while deepening their understanding of the natural world. It's been a week full of discovery, creativity, and hands-on learning but most of all FUN!

Year 3

In Year 3, the children have been busy with a range of exciting activities! In English, they have started exploring a new folk tale called *A Mother's Blessing*, which has sparked their imaginations. They've also been channelling their inner witches and wizards by creating their own magical potions. In Maths, the children have been working hard to add fractions together, strengthening their understanding of numbers. In



Science, the children made their own solar ovens and conducted experiments to see how the sun's energy can be harnessed for cooking. Meanwhile, in Art, Year 3 are creating their own Stone Age-inspired artwork using bulgur wheat to create a stone-like texture. Next week, they'll be mixing and making their own paints to bring their masterpieces to life!

Year 4

What a lovely first week back! In maths, we've been focusing on adding and subtracting fractions. The children have worked hard to understand how to solve problems involving fractions, and their confidence is growing with every lesson. In English, we've started diving into a fascinating Viking myth, which has captured everyone's imagination. The children have been exploring the bravery and adventures of Viking heroes, using these stories as inspiration for their own creative writing. In Science, our new topic is sound! Through hands on experiments, we've explored how sound is made, how it travels, and how we hear it. The children have enjoyed investigating vibrations and soundwaves and asking great

scientific questions along the way. In RE, we've been reflecting on the Easter story of Jesus, discussing its themes of hope and forgiveness. It's been wonderful to hear the children's thoughtful insights as we approach



this important time of year. Lastly, a big well done to the class for their ongoing effort with learning their times tables. Their hard work is paying off, and we're very proud of them!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic first week back! In Maths, the children have tackled percentages, decimals, and fractions, mastering these concepts with ease and confidence. In English, they've begun an exciting new unit on the Welsh legend, *The Tragedy of Bedgellert*. The story captivated their imaginations, and they were shocked by the dramatic ending! They can't wait to start planning and writing their own tragic legends in the coming weeks. In Science, Year 5 have begun a thrilling new unit on Space, a topic they've been

eagerly anticipating all year. They were full of fascinating questions for Miss Martin-Mills, and we're looking forward to exploring this exciting subject further. What a wonderful start to the term!

Year 6

What a fantastic first week back! In English, we focused on using dialogue to convey character and advance the action, preparing for our chimney sweep narratives next week. On Thursday, we planned our stories, ready to bring them to life. In maths, we worked on multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100, and 1,000, as well as by integers – challenging but rewarding work! A big highlight was announcing the roles for our production of *Oliver with a Twist*. Although it was a tough decision, I am so proud of every one for their amazing auditions. Well done, Year 6!



Diary Dates 2024-2025

| Event | Date/Time |
|--|--|
| Year 3 Class Assembly | Wednesday 9 th April 2025 |
| School Closes for Easter | Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm |
| School Reopens for Pupils | Monday 28 th April 2025 |
| County Council Elections – School Closed | Thursday 1 st May 2025 |
| May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed | Monday 5 th May 2025 |
| Key Stage 2 SATs Week | Monday 12 th May 2025 to Friday 16 th May 2025 |
| School Closes for Half-Term | Friday 23 rd May 2025 |
| School Reopens for Pupils | Monday 2 nd June 2025 |
| Reception Class Assembly | Thursday 5 th June 2025, 9.00am |
| Year 1 Class Assembly | Thursday 19 th June 2025, 9.00am |
| Year 4 Class Assembly | Thursday 26 th June 2025, 9.00am |
| Year 5 Class Assembly | Thursday 3 rd July 2025, 9.00am |
| JTMAT INSET Day | Friday 4 th July 2025 |
| School Closes for Summer | Friday 18 th July 2025, 2.00pm |
| INSET Day | Monday 21 st July 2025 |

Spring Term Diary Dates

| Event | Date/Time |
|----------------------------------|---|
| World Book Day | Thursday 6 th March 2025 |
| Comic Relief | Friday 21 st March 2025 |
| Year 5 Hampton Court Palace | Thursday 27 th March 2025 |
| Eid al-Fitr | Sunday 30 th March 2025/Monday 31 st March 2025 |
| Mother's Day Lunches – Reception | Tuesday 1 st April 2025 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1 | Wednesday 2 nd April 2025 |
| Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Parents | Wednesday 2 nd April 2025, 3.30pm, Year 6 Classroom |
| Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2 | Thursday 3 rd April 2025 |
| Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3 | Friday 4 th April 2025 |
| PFA Easter Bingo | Friday 4 th April 2025, 5.00pm |
| Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4 | Monday 7 th April 2025 |
| Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5 | Tuesday 8 th April 2025 |
| Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6 | Wednesday 9 th April 2025 |
| Year 3 Class Assembly | Wednesday 9 th April 2025 |
| School Closes for Easter | Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm |



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