

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Autumn 1—October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an excellent first half-term at Godstone Primary and Nursery School, albeit a very fast paced one. The children have settled in brilliantly and have already learned a lot of new things.

In particular, I have really enjoyed attending the year group curriculum talks with parents, where we have had the opportunity to listen to all of the exciting things that the class teachers have planned for the children.

The children did marvellously well at this year's Harvest Festival. It was brilliant to see the children and parents come together at St Nicholas Church to support the local community.

Lastly, we are accessing a wider range of sporting events this academic year. It was great to hear about and celebrate the children's achievements in Cross Country at Oxted School this half-term. Well done to all of the children who took part!

I hope that you all have a restful half-term break and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 31st October.

Yours sincerely,

N. J. Usher

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



NURSERY



We have read 'The Three Little Pigs' many times this half term, and the children know it well. The children acted out the story inside with puppets and instruments, and outside using a large straw house, stick house and a range of brick houses they built. The change in season has enabled us to pick apples from the tree outside the Nursery classroom and harvest blackberries. The children sliced the apples, then baked apple and blackberry crumble. The children collected conkers, leaves, sticks and branches from Godstone Green to place on our Autumn table and use in the outdoor area to make the stick house for the second little pig.





RECEPTION



Reception class have settled in so well to school, it is hard to believe it has only been a matter of weeks since we started. We have been working hard to remember the rules and routines of school and to show our good sitting and looking on the carpet. We have also been sharing ideas and talking through our learning with our talking partners.



We have made a great start to our phonics and have been practising our sounds in our learning environment. In maths we have been subitising amounts and saying if they are three or not three. We have also been finding sets of 3. We have been practising the stem sentence, **“One and one and one makes three.”**



We have read the ‘Where’s My Teddy?’ series of books by Jez Alborough. We had lots of fun doing careful cutting to make our own puppets of the characters and using our voices in different ways to act out the story. We have also read ‘We’re Going On A Bear Hunt,’ by Michael Rosen. We made a big collage story map and have enjoyed making bear masks and drawing big pictures of bears on the playground.



YEAR 1

In Year 1 this half term, we have been learning about the formal elements of art: line, shape, space, form, tone, texture, pattern, colour and composition.

In our first lesson, we explored the different types of lines we could draw. We looked at: horizontal lines, vertical lines, diagonal lines, wavy lines, cross-hatched lines and dots and dashes. The children chose their favourite line style and used black card and coloured chalk to create their first piece of art. In our next lesson,



the children worked together in two teams to create two pieces of larger art that enabled them to explore drawing with lines even further.



For our third and fourth lesson, we learned about the primary and secondary colours. We spoke about the three primary ones and then explored how mixing two of these together would create one of the three secondary colours. The children had great fun mixing the paints to create new colours!

Our final lesson consisted of using primary colours to create a piece of art on the number formations from 1 to 20. The children's art work is fantastic and will be displayed in our classroom. Well done Year 1 for your super efforts!



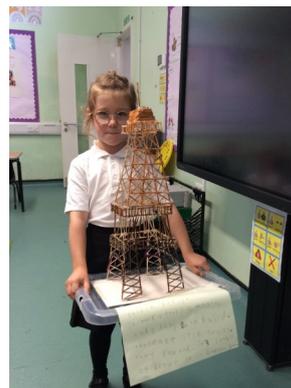
YEAR 2

Year Two have had a fabulous first half-term of the new academic year!

In English, we have been writing biographies about significant individuals. We have learnt about the life of Amelia Earhart and Mary Anning. We have also been thinking about 'Who is the greatest history maker?' in our history lessons. The children have enjoyed learning about history makers, including Marie Curie and Malala Yousafzai. They have learnt lots of interesting facts about these individuals and shared what they think makes them 'the greatest history maker'!



It has been great to see the children take great pride and show ambition with their homework projects this half-term! As we have been thinking about history makers and where they come from, the children have used this as an opportunity to think about famous people and famous buildings around the world.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have certainly had a fantastic start to their time in Key Stage 2! In English, Year 3 have enjoyed learning through the tri-weekly rotation of imitate, innovate and invent to become familiar with their fiction text, 'Stone Age Boy'. Within these lessons, Year 3 have reinforced their knowledge of how fiction texts follow a clear sequence of events from beginning to end. This has then enabled them to demonstrate logical thinking when planning and writing their final piece to ensure for smooth transitions between each event in their story. As a result, Year 3 have produced some fantastic pieces of writing and have shown ambition in using a range of powerful adjectives and expanded noun phrases to make their stories engaging for the reader. Year 3 have continued to develop their knowledge of the Stone Age through our non-fiction text, 'The Secrets of Stonehenge.' In particular, they have been analysing the key differences between fiction and non-fiction texts to become familiar with each of the key features that can be found within a non-chronological report, before planning and writing their own.

In science, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their new unit on light and shadows. They have produced some fantastic diagrams to represent why we get night and day and have demonstrated enthusiasm, collaboration and key enquiry skills through various scientific investigations.

The same enthusiasm for learning has continued across the curriculum, particularly in history where Year 3 have taken on the role of archaeologists to compare life as a Briton from the beginning to the end of the Stone Age. In RE, Year 3 have also exhibited their fantastic recall skills when participating in some highly valuable and in-depth discussions about why worship is so important to Muslims across the world.

To end the half-term, we would like to say another huge well done to Year 3 for their outstanding performance in the Harvest Festival. You made everyone extremely proud and we thoroughly enjoyed your performance! Well done Year 3!



YEAR 4

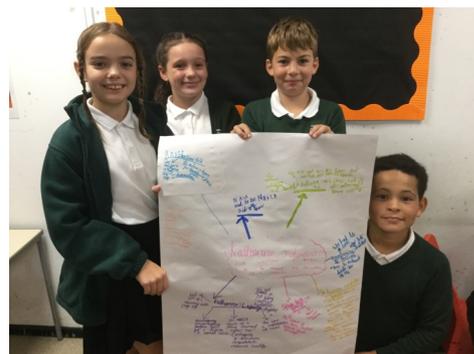
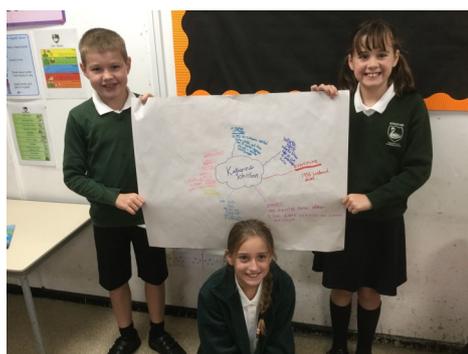
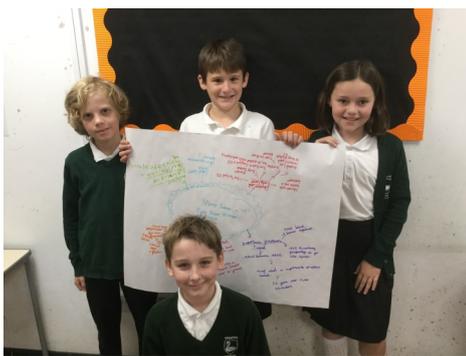
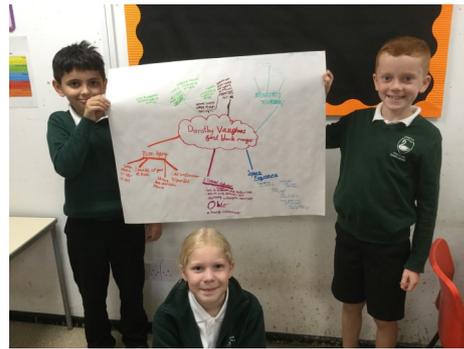
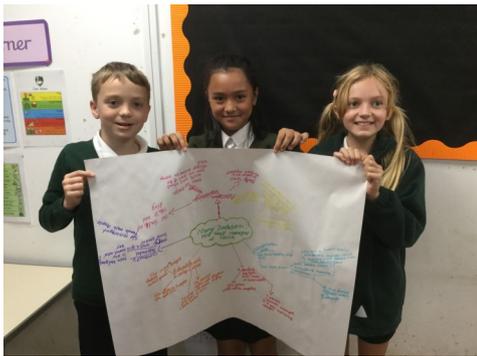
Year 4 have had a great start to the school year during the first autumn term. In English, we have studied the Ancient Romans through the story 'Escape from Pompeii' and from various non-fiction information texts. We have learnt about where they lived, Roman Emperors, Gladiators, Roman invasions and much more! We then put all of this together in our amazing Romans class assembly. We shared lots of facts about the Romans and acted out their invasion of Britain. We also sang songs about Roman numerals and how to act 'Just like a Roman'. It was lots of fun and we enjoyed seeing so many parents and carers at the assembly. Below are some photos from it.



YEAR 5

In the first few weeks of term, Year 5 has been busily reading and writing biographies about inspirational women who have been involved with space travel, including: Helen Sharman, Sally Ride, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan. The children developed an understanding of how to use brackets for parenthesis within their writing, a sound knowledge of organisational features to structure the text and how to use a range of sentence types (simple, compound and complex) to vary sentence structure and engage their reader.

For the last three weeks, the children have been developing their understanding of adventure narratives, writing pieces inspired by *A Girl of Ink and Stars*. They have been focusing on using figurative language and prepositions to fuel the imaginations of their readers and create beautiful imagery. Increasing their understanding of sentence structure to include fronted adverbials, embedded clauses and subordinate clauses in their writing has improved the cohesion and flow of their storytelling. They cannot wait to write their final piece - an adventure story of their own!

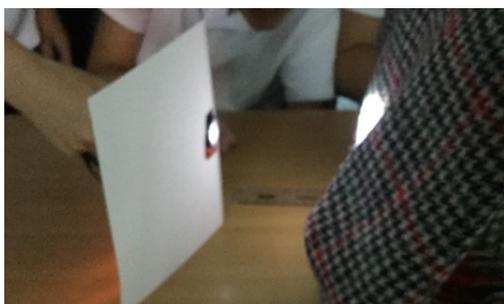
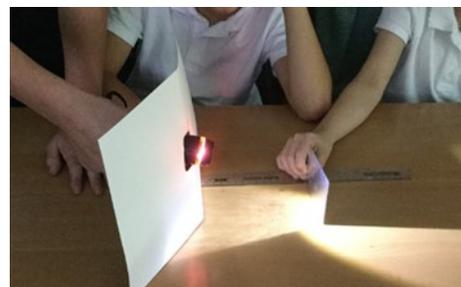
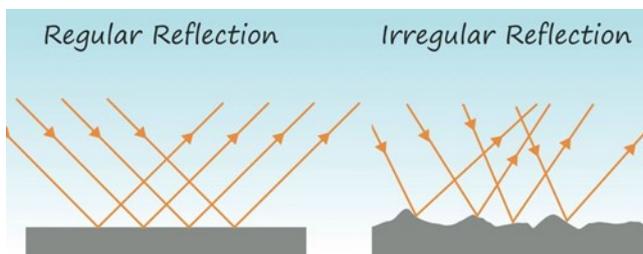


YEAR 6

What a fantastic start to the year we have had! Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck in to our new fiction text, *Oliver Twist*. After reading the narrative together, we decided to deepen our understanding of key characters by re-enacting important events. Whilst performing, we created freeze frames and used thought-tracking to dive deeper into each character. It was sometimes a challenge to consider the difference between what a character might say and what they might be thinking, but we demonstrated fantastic resilience and our learning helped us to write detailed narratives, including clear character descriptions. Can you guess which characters we are based on the scenes below?



We have been learning all about light in science this half term. We started the unit by revisiting prior learning and thinking about how this could help us. We have had to consider how to plan and conduct fair tests and use our results to help us to draw conclusions. One experiment that we have completed focused on measuring the reflectivity of different surfaces by making a reflective light catcher. We used the light catcher to observe how much light had been reflected. From our investigation, we have learnt that all surfaces reflect light and this allows us to see them. When light hits a surface, it bounces off and the light hits our eyes. Look at our experiment in the photographs below. Can you see how we have made our test fair?



HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Thursday 12th October, we celebrated Harvest at St Nicholas' Church. In the lead up to this event, the children rehearsed their class song and the whole school songs multiple times a week to ensure that they were all familiar with the songs that they would be performing. On the day of the service, the children sang beautifully and made us all feel very proud of their performance – well done to the children of Godstone Primary and Nursery School!

We would like to thank Reverend Peter for welcoming us into the church to practise and perform our Harvest Festival service.

We would also like to thank all of the parent volunteers who helped walk the children up to the church and to the parents who came and watched the service – there was a fantastic turn out!

Lastly, a big thank you is due to all of those who donated food for the food bank in Redhill. As Reverend Peter mentioned, the food bank colleagues and the families will be extremely grateful.

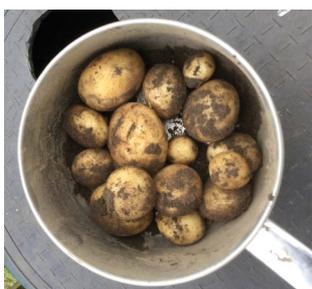


FOREST SCHOOL

As many of you will have seen, the Forest School site has had an extension! This has given us a larger space for the children to learn in whilst at Forest School, as well as providing a sunnier area for growing more fruits, vegetables and flowers. The expansion of the site would not have been possible without the team of volunteers who helped in the summer holidays, in particular the Williams family who helped measure out, source and prepare the wood and build the fence. A big thank you to everyone for helping.



Reception and Year 1 have been enjoying the wider space. Year 1 had a very blustery first session, where they painted with blackberries, made a range of kites and chased bubbles around! A highlight of this session was digging up potatoes that they had planted when in Reception last year and giving these to chef Michael. He kindly cooked these for them to taste, making crisps and a little potato salad. They were delicious! Year 1 have also helpfully been painting the fence for us to help preserve the wood and make the fence look more attractive.



SPORTS EVENTS

Year 3-6 Cross Country 2023

Godstone have certainly made an excellent start to this year's sporting events! With a great turn-out from both children and parents/carers at the cross country event at Oxted School, the children were excited to demonstrate their ambition to challenge themselves and achieve new goals. After a team warm-up, Year 3 boys and girls made their way over to the starting line where they were to complete one and a half laps of the top field– and what a strong start Godstone made! At the end of each race, the top 4 runners of the race were to present their names to the event leads. With the Year 3 girls taking first and second position and the boys taking third place, the remainder of Godstone felt both motivated and proud to continue showing what they could do.

Year 4 followed suit, running one and a half laps and achieving fourth position for both the boys and girls. Year 5 and 6 boys and girls were to follow, now running two whole laps of the field. Godstone recognised the importance of setting a sustainable pace at the beginning of the race to carry them through to the end. The children continued to end strongly with an amazing race from Year 5 and this was then followed with a fourth place for Year 6 boys and third and fourth place for Year 6 girls.

The staff and the children at Godstone Primary and Nursery School cannot emphasise how proud they are of all of the children who took part in the Cross Country event. Not only did the children show fantastic ambition and resilience to give it their all, but their encouragement and sportsmanship towards their peers was so inspiring and wonderful to see. They are a real credit to the school and your families.

We look forward to seeing many more fantastic sporting achievements this year!



GLOW WILD

Thursday 29th June—Year 5

On 29th June, Year 5 took part in an artist-led workshop creating part of the installation for this year's Glow Wild winter lantern trail at Wakehurst, Kew's Wild Botanic Garden in Sussex.

Year 5's work will be on display at Wakehurst in November and December. If you would like to attend this event, please see the advertisement below for further details.



The magical winter lantern trail

23 November 2023 – 1 January 2024

Under 4s go free!
Featuring Same Sky (Burning the Clocks)



Glow Wild

Wakehurst

35 minutes from Brighton
Opening week promotion and flexi tickets available kew.org/glowwild

Part of the
Kew

Glow Wild

As darkness falls, let the magic begin...

It's *Glow Wild's* tenth birthday! Sussex's award-winning lantern trail is back for 2023 with a never-before-seen route, brand-new installations, and pure festive magic that's sure to get you in the Christmas spirit.

As darkness falls, the gardens are brought to life with beautifully hand-crafted winter lanterns and captivating light installations created by leading artists, which can't be seen anywhere else.

Under 4s go free.

Swap/upgrade tickets up to 72 hours before your visit.
Opening week promotion (23 to 26 November): From £11.50

Exclusive late sessions

Looking for a heart-warming date night or fun evening out with friends? If yes, our Friday lates are just the thing. Every Friday night at 8pm, tickets will be reserved solely for visitors over 18 years.

Relaxed sessions

New this year, we are introducing gentle sessions adapted especially for children with SEN and sensory processing needs. Selected nights from 4.15pm, 50 visitors maximum.

Trail details

Selected evenings, from Thursday 23 November until Monday 1 January. Choose from time slots between 4.30pm and 8pm. Quiet sessions are available from 4.15pm for visitors who may benefit from a quieter experience.

Ticket prices

Under 4s and Essential Companions	Free
Wakehurst or Kew member – Adult	£15.50
Wakehurst or Kew member – Family (2 adults and 2 children)	£50
Adult	£19
Child (4–16)	£12
Family (2 adults and 2 children)	£60

Car parking is free, or alternatively a pre-bookable shuttle bus is available from Haywards Heath station: £3.25/£6.50 for a child/adult return.

Plan ahead to secure the date and time of your choice.
Tickets on sale now. kew.org/glowwild

[facebook.com/wakehurst.kew](https://www.facebook.com/wakehurst.kew)
[@wakehurst_kew](https://twitter.com/wakehurst_kew) [@wakehurst_kew](https://www.instagram.com/wakehurst_kew)

SECONDARY SCHOOL

No internet?

If you don't have internet access at home, why not visit your local library? Just call **03456 009 009** to book a computer and you can use the internet for free.

To request a paper application form or for all other enquiries, you can call us on **0300 200 1004**.

surreycc.gov.uk/admissions



Important dates

1 September 2023

You can apply online for a school place.

20 October 2023

We suggest you submit your secondary application by this date as this is the Friday before the half term holiday.

31 October 2023

Closing date for secondary applications but we welcome early applications.

1 March 2024

Secondary outcomes will be sent by post or email. If you applied online, you will receive an email in the evening with the outcome and you can also view your school offer online. If you registered for ParentComms, you will also receive a notification with the outcome.

By 15 March 2024

You must confirm whether you wish to accept or decline the place you have been offered.

By 15 April 2024

For many schools, if you wish to appeal, you should submit it by this date so that it can be heard by 18 June 2024. Other schools may have different appeal deadlines.

Is your child in year 6?

If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 you will need to apply for a secondary school place by **31 October 2023**.



Apply online
apply on time by
31 October 2023



PRIMARY SCHOOL

No internet?

If you don't have internet access at home, why not visit your local library? Just call **03456 009 009** to book a computer and you can use the internet for free.

To request a paper application form or for all other enquiries, you can call us on **0300 200 1004**.

surreycc.gov.uk/admissions



Important dates

30 October 2023

You can apply online for a school place.

15 January 2024

Closing date for primary applications but we welcome early applications.

16 April 2024

Primary outcomes will be sent by post or email. If you applied online, you will receive an email in the evening with the outcome and you can also view your school offer online. If you registered for ParentComms, you will also receive a notification with the outcome.

By 30 April 2024

You must confirm whether you wish to accept or decline the place you have been offered.

By 15 May 2024

If you wish to appeal for a community or voluntary controlled school listed on your form, you should submit it by this date so that it can be heard by 17 July 2024. Other schools may have different appeal deadlines.

Is your child starting school in September 2024?

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 you will need to apply for a school place between **30 October 2023** and **15 January 2024**.

Is your child in year 2?

If your child attends an infant school you will need to apply for a place at a junior school or a primary school with a year 3 intake.



Apply online
between
30 October 2023
and 15 January 2024



SWANS

WRAP AROUND CARE

Some of the children enjoyed making ghost leaves for Halloween!



Pupil Absence Procedure



Child is absent
from school

Child is absent
due to **illness**

Child is absent due to a
medical appointment

Day 1: Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20am. Please give the reason for absence, together with child's full name and year group.

Contact number: 01883 742326, Option 4
Email: parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20am.

Where possible, we would ask that dental/ doctors' appointments are made either before or after school.

Please provide an appointment card/letter for each medical appointment.

Contact number: 01883 742326, Option 4
Email: parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

Day 2 and every subsequent day(s) after: Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20am. Please give the reason for absence, together with child's full name and year group.

Contact number: 01883 742326, Option 4
Email: parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

The Headteacher/Attendance Officer, together with the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council monitors children's absences every three weeks. If your child is under 90% attendance, the parent will be contacted either by telephone or a letter. If this absence continues to decline, you will be asked to provide medical evidence for each absence. Where medical evidence isn't provided, this absence will be unauthorised and may lead to a referral to the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council.

If no contact has been made by the parent on Day 1 or 2, or any subsequent days after, the absence will be unauthorised.

If your child has 7 unauthorised absences in a 6 week period, this will be referred to the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council.

If the school has concerns about the attendance or welfare of any child, a referral to Inclusion, CSPA or Surrey police may be made

ATTENDANCE



Punctuality/Lateness

Punctuality to school is crucial and registration at the beginning of the day with the class teacher is one of the most important periods of the day. Lateness into school causes disruption to that individual's learning and to that of the other pupils in the class. It is paramount therefore that all children arrive at school on time.

As a reminder to parents:

- Please adhere to class drop off and pick up times.
- Pupils who arrive after 8:50am will be recorded as late.
- Registers close at 9:20 am. After this time, if no call is received by the parent as to why the child is absent, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.
- Persistent lateness is monitored by the school office and will be investigated and appropriate action is taken. If there is no further improvement, this may be referred to our Education Welfare Officer.

Attendance Panel School Meetings (failure to ensure regular school attendance)

The Local Authority retains control of the Education Welfare Service and every effort is made to maintain close links with the Education Welfare Officer attached to the school. Where school interventions have failed to secure regular attendance, an official referral may be made to the Education Welfare Officer.

PENALTY NOTICES

We would like to remind parents that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice raising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28 day period, the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a penalty notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absence, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one penalty notice. If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two penalty notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

Mr N Usher
Headteacher

Mrs S Garden
Inclusion Officer



DIARY DATES

Friday 20th October—Friday 15th December

Date	Time	Event
OCTOBER		
Friday 20 th October	3:15pm/3:20pm	Last day of 1st Half of Autumn Term
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	N/A	HALF TERM
Monday 30th October	N/A	INSET DAY
Tuesday 31 st October	8:40am	Start of 2nd Half of Autumn Term
NOVEMBER		
Thursday 2 nd November	9:30am	Year 6 Heights and Weights
Friday 3 rd November	3:45pm – 4:45pm 5.00pm – 6:15pm	FOGPANS - Autumn School Disco – Reception, Y1 and Y2 FOGPANS - Autumn School Disco – Y3, Y4, Y5 and Yr 6
Monday 6 th November	2:30pm	Reading Afternoon
Monday 6 th November Tuesday 7 th November Thursday 9 th November	2:45pm – 3:45pm 3:15pm—3:45pm 2:45pm—3:45pm	Travelling Book Fair (School Hall)
Friday 10 th November	11:00am	Remembrance Day (Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Wednesday 15 th November	9:30am	Individual School Photos (Re-takes—if required)
Friday 17 th November	N/A	Children in Need – ‘Own Clothes’
Thursday 23 rd November	2:45pm	Year 1 Class Assembly
Friday 24 th November	9:00am	Maths Morning
Tuesday 28 th November	9:00am - 10:00am	Decoration Morning - Nursery - Beginning of the Week
DECEMBER		
Friday 1 st December	N/A	Friends – Own Clothes
Friday 1 st December	9:00am - 10:30am	Decoration Morning - Reception to Year 6
Wednesday 6 th December	2:15pm	Early Years Christmas Special - Nursery/Reception
Thursday 7 th December	9:00am - 10:00am	Decoration Morning - Nursery - End of the Week
Thursday 7 th December	7:00pm	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 8 th December	N/A	Friends – Own Clothes
Friday 8 th December	3:30pm - 5:00pm	Friends - Christmas Fayre
Friday 8 th December	7:30pm	FOGPANS: Christmas - Wreath Making Workshop
Monday 11 th December	2:00pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December	9:15am	Year 1 and 2 Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December	1:15pm	Christmas Parties - Nursery - Beginning of the Week
Wednesday 13 th December	12:00pm	Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumpers (N - 6)
Thursday 14 th December	9:30am	Baptist Church Service - Reception and KS1
Thursday 14 th December	1:15pm	Christmas Parties - Nursery End of Week and R to Year 6
Friday 15 th December	9:30am	Baptist Church Service - KS2
Friday 15 th December	3:15pm/3:20pm	Last day of 2nd Half of Autumn Term
Mon 18 th Dec – Mon 1 st Jan	N/A	Christmas Holidays

Dates are subject to change



Updated dates/timings