



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

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Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

22.03.2024

School Aims: our school is a place where we aim to develop:

- ▶ Positive attitudes to learning
- ▶ Creativity and a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem
- ▶ Equality of opportunity, independence, individuality, tolerance, sensitivity and cooperation
- ▶ Good relations, respect for others and the environment
- ▶ A broad and balanced creative curriculum
- ▶ Pupil achievement by providing quality experiences

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an indescribably brilliant Science Week. The week commenced with an assembly led by our fantastic science lead, Mrs Edwards, and throughout the school, children have engaged in the widest range of activities. For some classes, the highlight was when one of our governors, Professor Nick Rogers, who is a geologist, came in to share a wide range of fossils including fossilised dinosaur poo! You can imagine how this stimulated the children's imagination (not to mention humour!) It has been a fantastic week. Please read below for details of the learning that has taken place in different year-groups.

End of term: This is just to remind you all that school finishes at 2pm next Thursday 28th March for the Easter holidays. There will be no after-school club that day.

FROG (PTA) Easter Stay-and-Play: This will take place Wednesday 27th March across the main hall and dining room (After School Club will kindly be held in Penguin/Puffin classrooms, and will move back into the dining hall once the stay and play has finished.

The session will run from 3.30 to 4.30pm. Please note that this is an accompanied event. To aid movement around the space, we may have to limit entry for safety reasons, we thank you for your understanding.

Do come along with your children and take part in a range of lovely spring activities.

School Crossing Patrol: It is so fantastic to have a school crossing patrol!

Please see the poster below:



The School Crossing Patrol Team are pleased to welcome **Lovelyn Emeke** as your School Crossing Patrol at Giles Infant & Junior Schools

For your safety could you please ensure that you cross with SCP who will be operating from 8.30am – 9.05am 3.00pm -3.35pm

Hertfordshire County Council, Active and Safer Travel Team
County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN.
Tel: 01992 558816 MARCH 2023
Can we please remind you that it is parental responsibility to get your child to and from school safely



HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

The role of your School Crossing Patrol is:

To stop traffic so children and adults can cross the road safely.

Please remember the following;

Do not cross on the corner or away from the patrol as this is not safe for your children or yourselves. Always use the crossing point as it is a safe place to cross.

Walk their bikes and scooters across the road so they do not fall or slide into the road.

Stay close to their adult who will keep them safe.

Stand back from the kerb and wait until the patrol tells them it is safe to cross.

Always walk, not run, across the road.

Cross in front of the patrol, not behind, as it is safer.

Please always use the patrol to cross so that we can ensure that their presence is justifiable and remain at the school

Parent/Teacher Consultations: These will take place as below.

Time-slots for consultations are displayed in classes for you to select a time-slot that is convenient. If you do not drop your children in school, please either call the office on 01438 359747 to ask for a time, or email me on head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk

We will let class teachers know that you've been in touch so that they can call you back to arrange a time to meet.

If you would prefer a zoom or telephone consultation, please speak to your class teacher.

Nursery consultations will take place on Monday 25th March from 2.40pm until 7pm.

Reception:

***Monday 15th April 3.30-6.00pm
Tuesday 16th April 3.30-6.00pm
Wednesday 17th April 3.30-6.00pm***

Year 1:

***Tuesday 16th April 1.30-3.00pm
Tuesday 16th April 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 17th April 3.30-7pm***

Year 2:

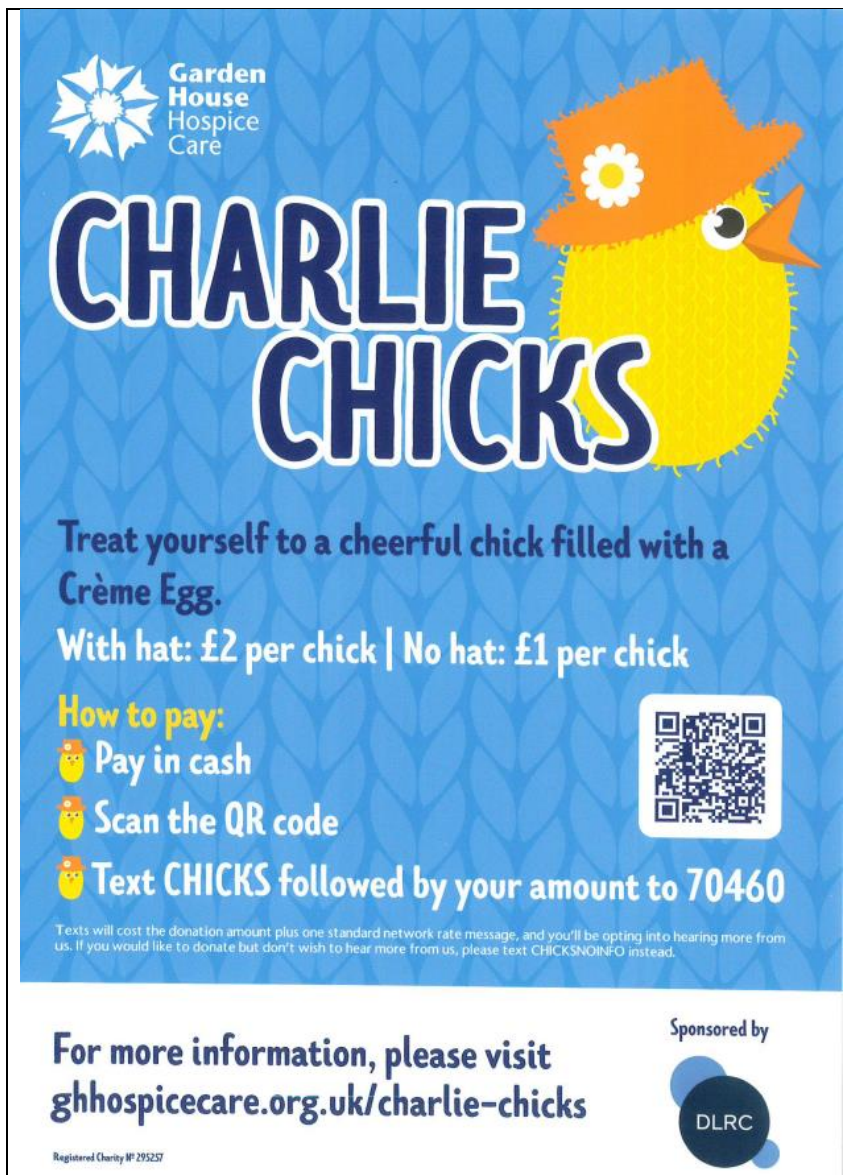
***Wednesday 17th April 3.40-6.30pm
Thursday 18th April 3.40-6.30pm***

Teachers will have booking times nearer to the date or you can email or call the office to request a slot.

Nursery school places for September 2024: If you are a prospective parent, we have a number of tours scheduled, please click on the following link:

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>

Please kindly share this message with parents, friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2024. Applications opened on 1st November 2023.



CHARLIE CHICKS

Treat yourself to a cheerful chick filled with a Crème Egg.
With hat: £2 per chick | No hat: £1 per chick

How to pay:

- Pay in cash
- Scan the QR code
- Text CHICKS followed by your amount to 70460

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text CHICKSNOINFO instead.

For more information, please visit ghospicecare.org.uk/charlie-chicks

Sponsored by DLRC

Registered Charity # 295257

Charlie Chicks will be available to purchase from the School Office from Monday 26th February 2024 to raise money for Garden House Hospice. Please help us support this wonderful cause.

Nursery: The children have enjoyed lots of activities as part of our Science Week. They have been thinking about the changes that happen in springtime and thoroughly enjoyed a walk to the Forest School nature area. Marshall spotted a bee flying fast and said, "I saw a fuzzy bumble bee." Bowie spotted a ladybird and observed, "It has spots and wings."

In expressive art and design, the children enjoyed creating a woolly lamb. They used PVA glue and chose from a variety of different materials to decorate the lamb's fleece. They then added a face and legs. These look wonderful and will be displayed on the spring display soon. The children have sung the new song 'Little Flowers' beautifully this week and learnt the Makaton sign for spring.

The children have sowed cress seeds and discussed the conditions seeds need to grow. They will bring their cress home to watch carefully and water when it gets dry. The cress has begun to sprout and after seven days on a sunny windowsill the cress should grow tall. They are all looking forward to tasting the cress when it is grown. Happy growing Ladybirds!

In physical development, the children had lots of fun dancing and weaving in and out of a circle whilst singing 'In and Out of the Dusty Bluebells.'

In mathematics, the children practised one-to-one correspondence, carefully pointing to each object as they counted. They counted groups of lambs and used the vocabulary of more and fewer to describe the groups. The children have recalled their knowledge of number rhymes and can confidently recite these as they draw numbers one to five.

In PSHCE, the children discussed why it is important to wash their hands after they go to the toilet and before they eat. Henry commented, "If you don't wash your hands, you will get poorly." Teddie remembered, "You need to wash your hands at lunch."

Next week, the children will prepare to celebrate Easter. They will learn to sing the song 'Hot Cross Buns' and enjoy a delicious hot cross bun.

Reception: This week in understanding the world, the children had the challenge of using recycled materials to build a bridge for the Gingerbread Man to cross so he did not need to ask for the help of the sly old fox! The children had a variety of resources to use, and it was great to see them persevering even when the construction of their bridge did not go according to plan! After Ayla-Kaye in Barn Owl class had crossed the Gingerbread Man over her bridge, she reflected by saying, "I put the boxes where I wanted to put them, which was easy, it was difficult to hold them up and put in the middle ones."

In a second understanding the world activity, the children investigated floating and sinking whilst making a boat for the Gingerbread Man to use so he could cross a river without getting soggy. When making his boat, Mason in Barn Owl class said, "This boat is going to be fantastic. Now it is waterproof, it will float across the river."

In mathematics, the children investigated 3D shapes by building a tower for Rapunzel. Whilst making their towers using a variety of 3D building blocks, the children were encouraged to name the shapes they were using and any features of the shapes.

To celebrate Science Week, the children focused on the season of spring. They investigated the school grounds for signs of spring and used an iPad to take a photograph.

Next week, the children will be investigating magnetism and finding out which objects are magnetic, and which are not. They will be creating a picture with a path on it for the gingerbread man to run along using a paper clip and magnet. In mathematics, the children will be creating repeating patterns and in RE, the children will be learning about Easter by listening to the story 'Puddles and the Happy Easter Day' by Gill Vaisey and participating in many Easter themed activities.

Year 1: This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed a week of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities through the theme of time. They learnt all about the architect Zaha Hadid and looked at her innovative and futuristic designs. The children explored ways to make different types of paper bend, fold and twist and manipulated them to create a design board. The children then studied the Stevenage clock tower, finding out about the history of Stevenage over time and picked the materials needed for creating a structure strong enough to hold a clock. They then planned and designed their own clock tower in the style of Zaha Hadid. The children came up with some fabulous ideas and models.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Professor Rogers, who spent time with some of the classes sharing his experience as a geologist. The children asked the most amazing questions and listened intently as they explored different fossils and rocks dating back many hundreds of years. Thank you, Professor Rogers, for such an interesting talk. Isaac in Walker Bear class was very excited to see a real trilobite fossil.

Alongside Science Week, the children have been completing their alternative endings to the fairy tale of Cinderella. They considered where Cinderella might go in her carriage instead of the ball, and whom she might meet. The children focused on the use of capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces, whilst using adjectives to describe their new setting. Xavier in Red Foxes wrote, 'Cinderella jumps into the carriage and goes to the beach. Cinderella meets a big, blue fish with yellow, shiny fins and an orange pointed tail. They had a swim together and found a treasure chest.'

Phonics this week has been a consolidation week, recapping the split vowel sounds, 'a-e', 'e-e', 'i-e', 'o-e' and 'u-e'. The children have been segmenting and blending a range of real and alien words.

Our Book of the Week was 'Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets' by Hena Khan. The children enjoyed spotting the different geometric shapes found in the mosque, from squares to triangles to octagons and circles. They were very interested to hear about Ramadan and Eid. Please click the link if you would like to listen to the story. How many shapes can you spot? [Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets](#)

In mathematics this week, the children have been deepening their knowledge of one more and one less within numbers to 20. They have been using sentence stems such as 'One more than x is y' or 'One less than x is z'. Why not try these problem-solving questions at home?

Max thinks of a number.

1 more than my number is 11

Max

What is Max's number?
How do you know?

Kim thinks of a number.

1 less than my number is 15

Kim

What is Kim's number?
How do you know?

Dan is 1 year older than his sister.
Dan's sister is 1 year older than Dan's brother.
Dan's brother is 13
How old is Dan's sister?
How old is Dan?

Use the numbers from 11 to 20 to fill in the boxes.

1 more than

How many ways can you find?

Next week, the children will be listening to the poem 'Bye Bye Ladybird' by James Carter. They will be identifying adjectives and rhyming pairs in the poem. In mathematics, the children will be learning how to estimate on a number line. In science, the children will be looking for signs of spring and listening to the Easter story in RE.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Year 2: Thank you to those who have already paid for their child's place on our upcoming trip to Rye Meads. The deadline for the total payment to be made is next Thursday 28th March. Payments should be made via Arbor. Thank you.

It has been a wonderful week in Year 2. As part of Science Week, the children became weather reporters and recorded the weather each day. They also set up an

investigation to observe how bean plants grow. They will be keeping a close eye on how their bean changes over the next few weeks.

The Year 2 'stay and play' session was very well attended on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who could join us. Our next 'stay and read' session will take place on Thursday 16th May, so please do add the date to your calendar.

In English this week, the children started a new unit of work based around the story of 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey. After reading the story, the children discussed what it was about and gave reasons why they liked or didn't like it. They wrote a book review to encourage others to read the book. The children designed their own action hero in the style of Traction Man and wrote sentences to explain why they had chosen special clothing for their hero.

In mathematics this week, the children continued learning about multiplication. They were introduced to the multiplication symbol 'x' and learnt how to read and solve multiplication sentences. They also learnt about arrays and how they can draw an array to help solve a multiplication problem.

In design and technology, the children began making their own vehicle. Some children had the opportunity to use a hacksaw to cut the dowel to make an axle for the wheels of their vehicle. The children who haven't done this yet will have their turn next week. In computing, the children learnt how to make a non-fiction fact file using a concept map. In geography, the children learnt how to use an atlas to locate countries, continents and oceans on a world map. In art and design, the children engraved the indigenous pattern they designed last week on to a clay tile. In PSHCE, the children revised what they know about healthy eating and learnt how to have a healthy relationship with food.

In English next week, the children will continue their work on 'Traction Man'. They will learn how to match verbs and adverbs before writing an adventure for their own action hero. In mathematics, the children will begin to learn about division through grouping and sharing.

In computing, the children will use what they have learnt in this unit of work to create their own presentation. In design and technology, the children will finish and evaluate their vehicles. In art and design, they will create pencil drawings of spring flowers and in RE, they will remember the Christian story of Easter.

It is a short week next week as we break up for the Easter holiday on Thursday 28th March at 2pm.

Have a fantastic weekend!

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Ariella	<i>for fantastic singing of our new spring song.</i>
	Dominik	<i>for excellent counting and recognition of numerals.</i>
	Teddie	<i>for brilliant segmenting in phonics.</i>
	Sabin	<i>for super observations when looking for signs of spring.</i>
Snowy Owls	Francesca	<i>for writing her name independently.</i>
	Cormac	<i>for being able to name 3D shapes.</i>
Tawny Owls	Ibrahim	<i>for being able to name 3D shapes in mathematics.</i>
	Reid	<i>for being able to identify signs of spring on a spring walk.</i>
Barn Owls	Mya-Jae	<i>for creating a fantastic bridge using recycled materials.</i>
	Lylac-Mai	<i>for persevering when making a boat for the Gingerbread Man.</i>
	Aadam	<i>for super independent work when making a boat for the Gingerbread Man.</i>
	Jeremiah	<i>for speaking confidently about his items in the 'Special Box'.</i>
Red Fox Class	Xavier	<i>for an excellent clock tower model.</i>
	Seth	<i>for writing a super alternative ending for his 'Cinderella' story.</i>
Big Cat Class	Charles	<i>for great teamwork when building and testing materials for a clock tower.</i>
	Mateo	<i>for working really hard on his alternative 'Cinderella' story ending.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Eliot	<i>for super learning about place value in mathematics.</i>
	Aoife	<i>for working carefully to build a clock tower using card and tape.</i>
	Clark	<i>for great reasoning and problem-solving in mathematics.</i>

Pelicans	George	<i>For trying to work more independently in all his lessons this week.</i>
	Theo	<i>for working so hard in multiplication and division.</i>
Puffins	Oliver	<i>for always trying his best with all his learning.</i>
	Belle	<i>for writing a wonderful book review of 'Traction Man'.</i>
Penguins	Megan	<i>for being very careful when engraving a clay tile.</i>
	Adriana	<i>for taking her time to write joins neatly in handwriting.</i>

kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

MARCH 2024	
w/c Monday 25 th	Easter Activities throughout school
Tuesday 26 th	Easter Assembly in school, pupils only
Wednesday 27th	FROG / PTA Easter Stay and Play, 3.30-4.30
Thursday 28 th	Easter Bonnet Parade, whole school, pupils only
Thursday 28 th	Last day of term, school closes 2pm

EASTER HOLIDAY: Friday 29th – Friday 12th April 2024

APRIL 2024	
Monday 15 th	Children return to school
Week of the 15 th	MATHS WEEK
Week of the 15 th	Parent-Teacher Consultations, see above
Thursday 18 th DATE TBC	Eid-al-Fitr Assembly in school, pupils only
Wednesday 24 th	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads – Pelicans and Penguins
Thursday 25 th	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads – Puffins
Friday 26 th	Sponsored spell words given out
Friday 26 th	FROG Bags2School Collection
w/c Monday 22nd TBC	Living Chicks Project
Tuesday 23rd TBC	M&M Production of The Jungle Book followed by workshop.
w/c 29 th	Year 1, Class visits to Sishes Wood, each class to be confirmed

MAY 2024	
Monday 6 th	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c May 13 th	BIG WRITE
Wednesday 15 th	Stay and Read, Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 15 th	Buddha's Birthday Assembly
Thursday 16 th	Stay and Read, Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 22 nd	FROG Bake sale and Uniform Sale

HALF TERM: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024

JUNE 2024	
Monday 3 rd	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 th	Children return to school
Week 10 th June	MONEY WEEK
Tuesday 11 th	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, 9.15am

Wednesday 12 th	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, 9.15am
Thursday 13 th	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, 9.15am
Sunday 16 th	<i>Fathers Day – diary note</i>
Tuesday 18 th TBC	SEN/Inclusion team Drop-In, 8.50-9.30am . If you have something you would like to discuss with our specialist team, do drop by for coffee.
Thursday 20 th	Class Photograph Day with Kittle
Thursday 20 th	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 5.30-7.00pm
Friday 21 st	NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL CURRENT CHILDREN
Wednesday 26 th	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2024	
Monday 1 st	INSET DAY
Week of 1 st	Olympic Presentations
Tuesday 2 nd	Inco Coffee morning
Friday 5 th	Sports Day practice
Monday 8 th Date TBC	ARK Farm Visit (Reception classes)
Tuesday 9 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 10 th TBC	Walton on Naze trip – <i>date to be confirmed, dependent on tides</i>
Thursday 11 th	Moving Up Day
Friday 12 th TBC	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
Friday July 12 th	Nursery Pirate Day
W/C 15 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 th	FROG / PTA Nursery Bedtime Stories
Monday 15 th TBC	Indian Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 th	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th TBC	Drumming workshop
Monday 22 nd	Class Parties
Monday 22 nd	Puffins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Monday 22 nd	Pelicans Leavers Assembly – 10.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Penguins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Last day of term – finish at 2pm



2023 / 24 School Calendar

September '23						
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October '23						
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November '23						
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December '23						
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January '24						
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February '24						
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March '24						
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April '24						
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May '24						
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June '24						
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July '24						
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- = Term Time
- = 22/23 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2023/24 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
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October '24						
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November '24						
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December '24						
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January '25						
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February '25						
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March '25						
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April '25						
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May '25						
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June '25						
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July '25						
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August '25						
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- = Term Time
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- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2024/25 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)

