Newsletter FEBRUARY 2024

HEAD TEACHER NEWS

I hope this newsletter finds you well. February is to be a month filled with exciting events and enriching activities for our students. Here's a glimpse of what's been happening around our school:

Visit from Author Mike Catchpool:

We were honoured to have acclaimed author Mike Catchpool visit our school this month. His engaging storytelling captivated our students, inspiring a love for literature and sparking creative imaginations. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Catchpool for sharing his passion for writing with our school community.

Year 6 Ancient Egypt Workshop:

The Year 6 students embarked on an exciting journey through time with an immersive Ancient Egypt workshop. The hands-on activities and interactive sessions allowed students to delve into the fascinating history and culture of this ancient civilization, bringing their history lessons to life.

New Reading Books Representing Neurodiversity:

In our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we are delighted to announce the addition of a new collection of reading books that represent children with neurodiversity. These books aim to create a more inclusive literary environment, fostering empathy and understanding among our students. We encourage parents to explore these books with their children and embrace the valuable lessons they offer.

Wellbeing Ambassadors:

We are thrilled to introduce our Wellbeing Ambassadors; a group of dedicated students who will play a crucial role in promoting mental health and wellness within our school. These ambassadors will support their peers, creating a supportive and compassionate school environment. Look out for upcoming initiatives and activities led by our Wellbeing Ambassadors.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We look forward to another month of growth, learning, and shared experiences.

Warm regards,

Miss R Woode

Upcoming Events:

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF

Year Three

Mrs M Hamm
Year 3 Teacher

Mrs L Rowntree
Teaching Assistant

Year Four

Miss C Watts
Year 4 Class Teacher - M, Tu, W, F

Mrs K Haffner
Year 4 Teacher - Thursday

Mrs J Khanna
Teaching Assistant (am) / MSA,

Mrs J Maddison
Teaching Assistant (pm) / MSA

KEEP UPDATED

Please make sure you are following us on both our Facebook pages and our Twitter page:

'Friends of Woodlands Primary WD6'

'Woodlands Primary School Borehamwood'

X (formally Twitter) @woodlandspri

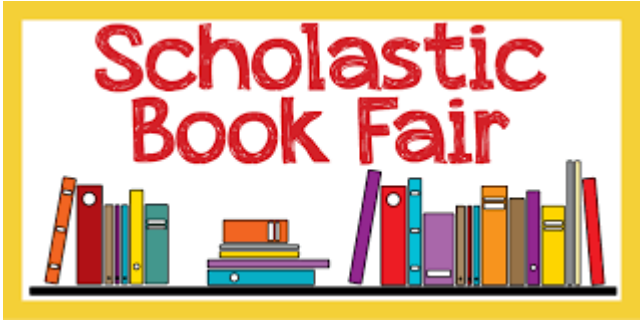
As well as the social media platforms, we communicate via Arbor. Please ensure that you have the notifications switched on. Please see below for full details on how to sign up to Arbor.

Please remember that this group is to share information and to stay informed with what is going on at Woodlands Primary School. We ask that the parents on this group stay friendly and any members who do not follow the rules will be removed and blocked. Any issues that relate to the school should be addressed directly to the school and not discussed on this page.

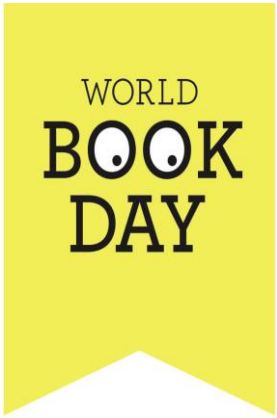
NURSERY PLACES FOR SEPT 2024

Woodlands is now accepting applications for morning Nursery places for September 2024 for children born between 1/9/20 – 31/8/21.
· Admissions application opened on 9/1/24
· Admissions application closes on 1/3/24
Please ask at the office for application form or download from our school website under admissions.
We also offer extended care for the afternoon with a 30-hour code or payment by parents.
Completed applications are to be given to Mrs Byfield in the school office by 1/3/24.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



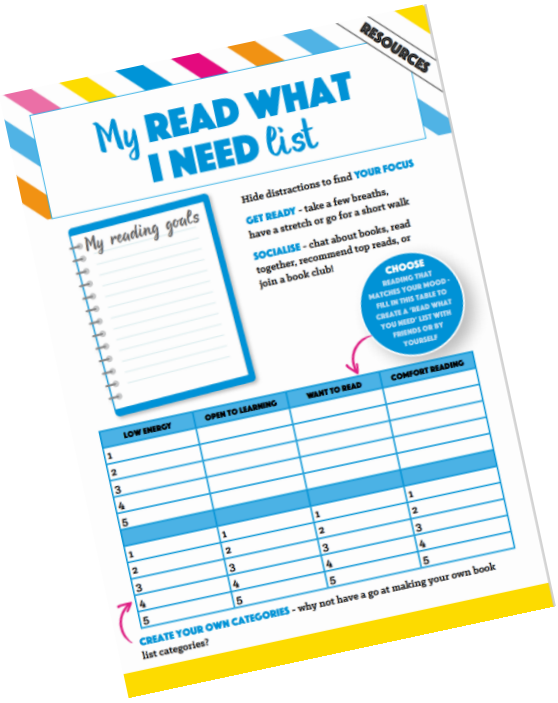
The Scholastic Book fair will be coming to our school for the week of **Monday 12th February 2024 to Friday 16th February 2024**.
The children will be able to buy books from the fair after school from 3.30pm onwards as staff will be supervising this and this is the only time they will be able to do.
Please be aware we will not be able to take cash for this event and a QR code will be available for you to make a payment by card. We will also be sending out the World Book Day vouchers nearer the time and these can be used at the fair. We will send these out the week before, so they have less chance of getting misplaced. Please note we only get one voucher per student so please keep hold of them.

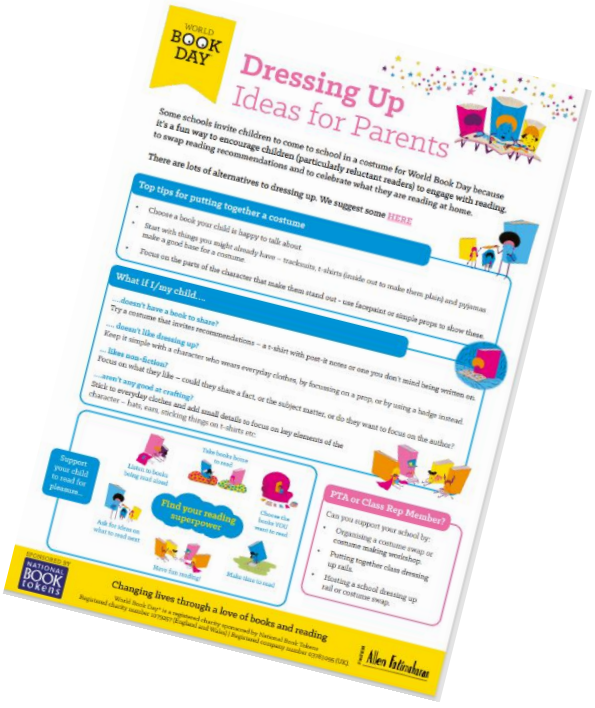


World Book Day this year will be **THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024** where your child can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We hope this gives you plenty of time to sort out a costume should your child wish to dress up. We understand not everyone wants to dress up but for those who do, we look forward to seeing your characters.

Please check out the following link to the official website:

Families - World Book Day





SCHOOL TRIPS/EVENTS

Year 3- Science Museum- Tuesday 6th February 2024

Year 5- Borehamwood Museum & Fire station- Thursday 8th February 2024

Whole School- Dress Up day- Be Ambitious Day- Friday 9th February 2024

Year 6- Hampton Court Palace- Wednesday 20th March 2024

Years 5 & 6- Residential Trip- 20th May- 22nd May 2024

Year 1- Mountfitchet Castle- Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Years 5 & 6- Bike ability Course- Monday 1st July 2024

Year 6- Walton on the Naze - Wednesday 17th July 2024

We have tried to give you as much notice as possible and if further dates come up, we will advise you asap. We will of course advise you of any changes. Also please check for other dates at the end of the newsletter.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Thank you to everyone that signed up to the after school clubs via the Arbor app for the Spring clubs. These will now run until the week commencing 18th March 2024. The majority of the clubs are now full but if you have any questions regarding the clubs, please ask Miss Devereux in the office who will be happy to help.

We will use the same system for the summer term so please keep an eye out for the letter nearer this time.

We try our best to provide after school clubs and would like to thank the teachers and coaches who run the clubs.

VALUES AFTERNOON

On **Friday 9th February**, as part of our values afternoon, we would like your child to express themselves by coming to school dressed as what they would like to be in the future or those that inspire them to be ambitious as they grow up. This has always been so successful over the past few years, and it is always wonderful to see the children's ambitions grow and change.

4-4-2 SPORTS CAMP

February half term camp

Time: **9:00 till 15:30**
Venue: **Fair Field Junior School, Watford Road, Radlett, WD7 8LU**
19/2/24 till 23/2/24
Multi-sports and Football
For children in Reception to Year 7

NOTE:
- Early drop off (08:30am and late pick up 16:00pm) is available with a fee of £5 per day per child. Please highlight below if you would like this.
- You need to complete the form via the link below, for every child you wish to attend.

Book using link by Copy and Pasting into google:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSnvm-hr4nTIC8ooyN3tMjrgjOV-jbz-4BWOUGcRilsUUAMA/viewform

Bank transfer to 4-4-2 Sports
Account Number: 37 10 49 62
Sort code : 30-98-97
Please note our new bank details

Camp is offered at a rate of £25 per day for football and multi sports,
£30 per day performing arts with Miss Emily

Early drop off and late pick up is priced at £5 per day.

Please note this camp is available to all children from all schools and will run in-line with government guidelines to ensure everyone has fun but stays safe.

Thank you
The 4-4-2 Sports Team

If you are a new parent you will need to sign up to Arbor so please see the details below. You can send messages via the comminications section and we ask that, if your child is absent, you use this or call the school and speak to a member of staff or leave a message. Please do not send emails to personal accounts as the office staff do not have access to these and the messages may not be picked up.

We will continue to send messages via the email and the in app messages along with our Facebook pages and Twitter as this seems to be working with the majority of parents getting these messages. **Please remember that you need to access the app to receive the comunications – this is your responsibility to do. If you need support with this, just ask.**

You may need to check your settings to receive notifications. If you are not, please advise us so we can look into this so you do not miss anything.

If you have still not registered, please follow the instructions below:

You can access Arbor either:
Through the **Arbor app** (search 'Arbor' on the iOS App Store or Google Play Store), or...
By going to https://woodlands.uk.arbor.sc on any internet enabled device.
In either case, look for **the 'First time logging in?'** or 'Forgot your password?' options, enter the same email address that we have on record for you, and follow the instructions. These will require you to click a link in the email you receive, select a password, and confirm your identity once more using your child's date of birth.

If you have any problems with logging on to ARBOR, please email with a photo shot of the issue to the school on admin@woodlands.herts.sch.uk or devereux@woodlands.herts.sch.uk This will enable us to forward to our ICT team if needed.

IT HAS RECOMMENDED BY OTHER SCHOOLS WHO ARE USING ARBOR, THAT YOU ACCESS ARBOR FOR THE FIRST TIME VIA A PC AND THEN DOWNLOAD THE ARBOR APP FROM THE APP STORE AFTERWARDS.

If you have any question or are having any problems, please speak to one of the office staff who will try to help in anyway.

HERTS CATERING LTD & SCHOOL MENUS

Herts Catering Ltd are still providing our school lunches. Can we please remind parents to check in with their children from time to time to make sure they are still liking their choice of food. We are unable to change this without your permission. If your child wants to change, please come to the office, and speak to Miss Devereux so she can amend the main copy of the menu and change it on the system. **Please advise your children not to change their choice when the registers are taken.** This is because you are then not aware of what they have eaten and there may be dietary reasons for your first choice. Also, we ask that your child does not swap from school dinners to packed lunches etc. If your child wants to have a packed lunch, then this also needs to be amended on the main menu and this pattern will then be adopted. The system of choosing the menu in advance was started to ensure the children were getting a choice of food that they like instead of having what was left. Also, it allows Herts Catering to order the right amount of food to reduce waste. Thank you for your cooperation with regards to this.

We will continue to encourage the children to eat their meals/packed lunches at lunch time and will try our best to advise you if your child is not eating their meals so you are aware and perhaps can make some changes.

SPECIAL MENUS

Herts Catering Ltd management have asked that we advise all parents that if your child is allergic to any food or if your child has cultural/religious requirements, you will need to complete a special menu application form.

Therefore, if you could please check and complete the following application via the link and this information will then be passed on to us:

The link is https://specialmenu.hcl.co.uk/

SCHOOL BILLS

Please note that the school meals for Year 3-6 is now £3.20 per day (£16.00 per week). We have been notified that the prices will be going up in April but have not been finalised yet. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Miss Devereux will continue to check the balances and will chase any outstanding school dinner bills as before. If you are having problems making a payment via this

app, please advise Miss Devereux for her to investigate. As before, any bills over £20.00 need to be paid for Herts Catering to supply further meals to your child.

If the debt is over £20.00, we will ask you to supply a home packed lunch until the debt is paid in full. Please contact us if you are having any problems.

PACKED LUNCHES

We are still encouraging a healthy home packed lunch. Some children are bringing in chocolate bars and an overabundance of food in their packed lunch boxes, especially the younger children.

We are aware that you may be giving your child a choice but sometimes too much is more overwhelming. We ask you to provide a savoury item such as a sandwich, a yogurt item, a piece of fruit and then a nut-free biscuit i.e., a penguin or a cookie, and a drink. This is normally more than enough.

A reminder……

Please remember we are **a nut free school** as we have children with a severe allergy. Therefore, please ensure you do not supply your child with any products that contain nuts. **This relates to chocolate spread in sandwiches and some Kinder Bueno chocolate bars as some of these contain hazel nuts. This also includes pesto sauce as this is also a nut hence, we cannot allow in school.**

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are aware that the cost of living has gone up and some parent's circumstances may have changed. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please check by visiting the Herts County Council webpage www.hertfordshire.gov.uk and complete the application form under FSM. We do see older siblings that are on the FSM list but younger siblings from Reception- Year 2 are not. Please make sure you are applying for all your child/ren if you receive benefits.

Please note that the applications cannot be back dated so it is better to check this sooner rather than later.

If you receive any of the following, please ensure that you have applied for Free School meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

As stated above, this applies to those children in Reception, through to Year 2 as well, who currently receive Universal Free School meals. It is important that you apply under the 'benefit umbrella' for the school to receive funds that can help your child. These include the dinner vouchers that have been issued during the school holidays during the covid period.

If you go on to the following website and follow the directions to Free School Meals to apply, you will get confirmation if you are entitled, and the school will be advised as well:

Free school meals | Hertfordshire County Council

PICK UP INFORMATION- COLLECTION FORMS

A reminder. if someone else is picking your child up, please ensure that you make a call to the school in plenty of time. If it is a regular arrangement, please complete the collection form and we will pass this information on to the class teacher and teacher's assistants.

If, for any reason the pickup information has changed, please complete a new form.

We do understand that it cannot always be helped but ask that you contact the school as soon as possible, the earlier the better! Many thanks for your cooperation regarding this.

ATTENDANCE

We will continue to monitor the attendance and lateness of all the pupils in the school. Attendance and being on time are important and as a school we want to improve and promote attendance across the whole school. The department of Education tracks attendance carefully, tracking to see how well the school is doing and we need your help to improve this by bringing your child in **every day and on time.**

Our target as a school is 97% so with the help of parents and children, we hope to reach this target this half term and continue this throughout the year.

If your child is ill and is not attending, you must contact the school by either a call, leaving a message if your call has not been answered or a message via the Arbor app. This way the message will be picked up by a member of staff.

If your child is off for longer than 3 days, we would advise that you call the doctor to get an appointment if possible and proof to show the school for our records. Also, just a reminder that if your child is sick, they should be off school for 48 hours from the last episode of the sickness/diarrhoea to ensure that they do not have a sickness bug. This is the guideline from the HSC Public Health Agency, which the school adheres to.

Please note if your child's attendance is very low, we will start to monitor their attendance to help improve it. Therefore, for those children whose attendance is being monitored, we will need proof that your child has attended the doctors to authorise the absence. Failure to do so may result in the attendance being mark as unauthorised and, if your child has more than 15 unauthorised sessions (1 session = half a day) in the current or previous term, could result in a fixed penalty notice being sent to both parents.

LATENESS

Please be aware that children that are coming into school late will be monitored and parents will be spoken to regarding this. We understand that sometimes being late cannot be helped due to several things. However, if your child is late on a regular basis, we will request a meeting with you regarding this.

It is a very important part of the day to allow the children to come into school and settle into the day. It can be a little daunting for children to come in late either during class or assembly. If your child is late, we request that you sign the late book. This is for several reasons but mainly for us to account for your child in case of an emergency. Also, now that we are using Arbor, the registers are now input by the class teacher and if your child is late, they will not be put down for a lunch. Miss Devereux then checks the late book to amend the register, so it is very important that the book is completed.

Children need to be on the playground ready to go in to class **at 8.55am.** The doors will then be closed, and you will need to bring your child to the office to get signed in. Your child will then be marked as late 'L'. However, if you arrive after 9.15am your child will be marked as 'U' which is late after registration, and this is an unauthorised mark. Please note that this counts as an unauthorised absence and as above, can result in a fixed penalty notice and a possible fine, so please try to get your child/ren in on time.

Holidays during term time are strongly discouraged. If you are intending to go on holiday during the school term, you will need to complete an exceptional leave of absence form along with a letter confirming why you are taking your child out in term time. This is then passed to the head to look in to. Generally, holidays will not be authorised unless it is exceptional circumstances.

ATTENDANCE 4TH SEPTEMBER- 31st JANUARY 2024

Year	%
Reception	**92.3**
Year 1	**91.9**
Year 2	**90.8**
Year 3	**96.5**
Year 4	**95.6**
Year 5	**91.4**
Year 6	**88.2**
Total	**92.3**

WOODLANDS VALUES

At Woodlands we believe every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential.

To help with this Woodlands has six values. We focus on one per half term. They are to be positive, kind, ambitious, passionate, confident, and curious.

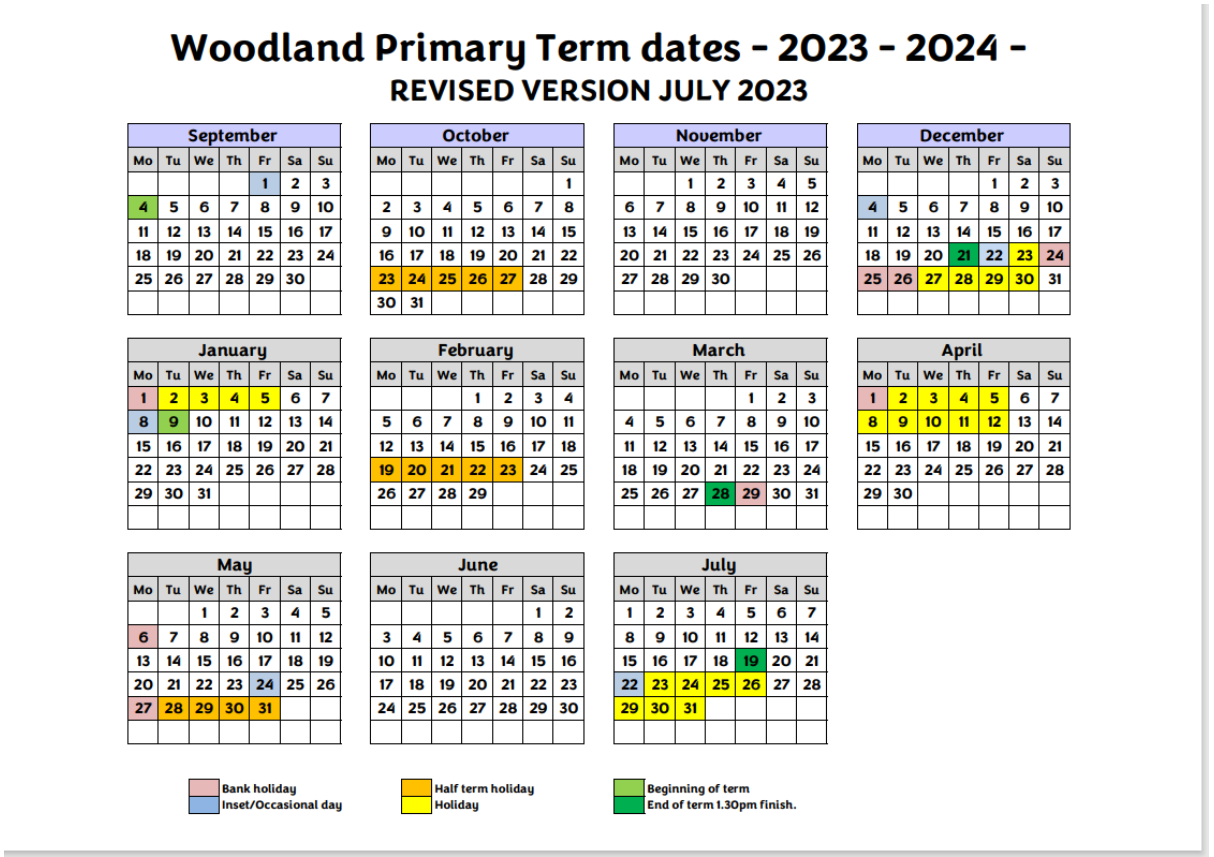
We are looking at our values with all the children and in the spring a term, we focus on being ambitious. These values are teaching pupils to be ambitious– both in and out of school, having ideas and dreams that they can work towards or aspire to be!

On Friday 9th February, as part of our values afternoon, we would like your child to express themselves by coming to school dressed as what they would like to be in the future or those that inspire them to be ambitious as they grow up. This has always been so successful over the past few years, and it is always wonderful to see the children's ambitions grow and change.

DATES FOR THIS TERM

February 2024	Tuesday 6th February 2024 Thursday 8th February 2024 Friday 9th February 2024 Friday 9th February 2024 Monday 12th February 2024 Monday 12th- Friday 16th February 2024 Friday 16th February 2024 Monday 26th February 2024	Year 3- Science Museum Year 5- Borehamwood Museum & Fire station Dress Up Day- What I'd like to be when I'm older Year 1 assembly Woodlands Cake Bake – see poster on page 2 Scholastics Book Fair in school Break up at 3.15pm half term. Return to school 8.55am
March 2024	Thursday 7th March 2024 Friday 8th March 2024 Friday 8th March 2024 Friday 15th March 2024 Wednesday 20th March 2024 Friday 22nd March 2024 Thursday 28th March 2024	World Book Day- dress up as favourite character. Year 5 assembly Mother's Day Secret room- see poster on page 2 Red Nose Day tbc Year 6- Hampton Court trip Year 6- assembly Break Up at 1.30pm for Easter break
April 2024	Monday 15th April 2024	Return to school 8.55am

Please note this is subject to change but we will try our very best to inform you of any changes or add events as soon as we can.



Woodland Primary Term dates - 2023 - 2024 -

REVISED VERSION JULY 2023

September

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Bank holiday
Inset/Occasional day
Half term holiday
Holiday
Beginning of term
End of term 1.30pm finish.