

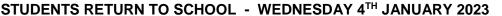
Holywell News



Issue No: 165 December 2022



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!





Mr Simpson's Headlines

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and coping amidst a range of challenges: health challenges (everything from Covid-19, scarlet fever, chicken pox to viruses and sickness bugs); financial challenges (the rising cost of living); transport and postal challenges; and snow! ... and yet, in spite of everything, we have our Holywell spirit which keeps us 'daring to do', 'being the best we can be' and caring for each other. Our Advent values of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love have also helped guide us through December ... with students and staff showing compassion for each other with thoughtful support and perspective.

It was a total joy to see the return of our family Carol Service last Friday – hosted at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Cranfield. Rev Isaac welcomed our Choirs, our Junior Worship Team and the Recorder Group to celebrate the Christmas story together.







The students sang. read and played beautifully. A particular highlight was a retelling of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens – this had been requested by members of the Junior Worship Team themselves and artfully delivered by Charlie, Harry and Maya.



The students have shared this lovely service today with the rest of the school ... unfortunately, we were unable to go to the church but the Macfarlan Room was a safer venue which resonated with wonderful singing, readings and community fellowship.

Our annual Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day was another example of the school coming together in community. Everyone enjoyed eating together and there was much laughter at the terrible Christmas cracker jokes. Community will be the theme of our first day back after the Christmas break on Wednesday 4th January. This will be an 'off-timetable' day when students will be exploring the concept of community and really getting to know each other in their tutor groups and as a whole-school community through quizzes, activities



and shared games. Students will need to wear their PE kit all day and we will report back on this in the New Year.



Company Jelly Bean: Josie, Poppy and Alice

As I reflect back on the term, the highlights for me are always those moments which catch me unaware: the entrepreneurial students who created their own stickers which they then sold and raised money for charity;

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the kind words of parents at tutor evening (the fact that we were able to hold these 'in person' again was another highlight!);

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Comments from the recent Tutor Evening questionnaires:

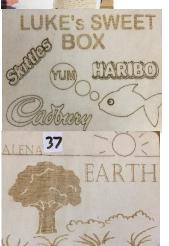
- Thank you for the ongoing support
- Very happy overall with my child's progress over the year – thank you
- Our son has thoroughly enjoyed being at Holywell over the last 4 years
- Brilliant support from the school
- We are happy with the school and our child's development – they are happy at school!
- Thank you for all that you do
- Keep being amazing!!

and the creativity of students with their work – be this a letter in role as Scrooge from Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol or the cleverly-designed boxes in DT.

We always strive to be the best we can be at

Holywell and not everything goes well or according to plan; we value feedback – especially when kindly,

respectfully and thoughtfully conveyed with compassion and understanding; we listen; we adapt and evolve.



We also have to adapt and evolve when staff and students move on to new places, new challenges and new ventures. Today we say 'au revoir' to Mrs Brightman, Mrs Davies, Miss England and Mr Ulph. Between them, they have helped and supported many students and families and have all served the school community with passion, enthusiasm, integrity and care. We wish them every success for the future and we will miss them all already!

Have a wonderful and hopefully healthy Christmas break. I wish you all a happy, peaceful New Year and we look forward to 2023 with hope, joy, peace and love in our hearts.

Best wishes

Mike Simpson Headteacher

Staff News

Thank you to Mrs Brightman, Mrs Davies, Ms England and Mr Ulph – they are all leaving today for new adventures and we wish them every success.





Mrs Davies and Mr Ulph have been key members of the Senior Leadership Team. They both leave such a wonderful legacy of care, high standards and advocacy for students. They have both worked tirelessly to support students and families ... and they have been tremendous colleagues, supporting and helping staff to develop as much as the students. From January, joining myself and Mr Van Der Merwe as part of the Leadership Team are:

- Mrs Purves (Deputy Headteacherl)
- Mr Eames (Senior Leader)
- Mrs Butcher (Senior Leader)
- Mrs French (Senior Leader)
- Miss Lau (Senior Leader)

Miss Lau and Mrs Johnson will be our Designated Safeguarding Leads.

You may be wondering who Mrs Butcher is ... Mrs Butcher is Miss Norman – just before Christmas, Miss Norman is getting married; we hope she and her husband have a very special day and we wish them every happiness together.

We also welcome some new staff to school in January. Mrs Bradbury joins us in Science and Mr Crighton is joining us in Maths.

WEDUC Communications from School



WEDUC is the web-based messaging app we use to communicate with home. Designed with parents in mind, Weduc is a flexible and user-friendly mobile app that is perfect for keeping the whole-school community, up to date.

From emergency notifications and school messaging, to student attendance and payments for school trips, Weduc brings all the tools needed to communicate with parents/carers into one single platform. If you haven't signed up or need help downloading the app, please contact us at school for further information (school@holywellschool.co.uk ... and put 'WEDUC' in the title line).

We STRONGLY RECOMMEND that at least one parent/carer downloads the WEDUC app. If parents/carers need an enrolment code, please email Miss Watson on awatson@holywellschool.co.uk who will be able to supply one. Thank you.

Preparing for Snow

Please remember a few key points of how the school handles this.

We work extremely hard to stay open – including having our own snow blower! However, if the weather does overwhelm us and it is decided to close the school before the start of the school day (eg. in the event of severe weather conditions), we will notify you in the following ways:

by message on WEDUC

ALLIANCE in PARTNERSHIP

- on the school's website (www.holywellschool.co.uk)
- on the Central Bedfordshire Council website using their 'State of Schools' (SOS) system: https://apps.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/
- Via the local radio station (BBC Three Counties (95.5 or 103.8 FM / www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties)

It is usually when Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Transport departments deem the roads too dangerous for buses to run and cancel transport that we decide to close the school. In the event of *us* deciding to close, we contact the bus companies to ensure that they do not bring students into school.



School Caterers

Please note the School Caterers operate a cashless system, so no money is taken at the kitchen. A small number of students

are still bringing in cash for lunch. Please can parents regularly check the balance on their child's Parent Pay account via the ParentPay website: https://www.parentpay.com/. If there are any difficulties with loading money onto the account, please contact the school office.

PE Department News

Year 7 Netball - League Winners

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls who have won the Redborne Partnership League. What made this achievement even more impressive is the fact that they remained unbeaten throughout the season! A massive 'well done' to all of those students who played (and Ms Stephens/Miss Kotur!) and we wish them well in the County Finals.

KS3 Cross Country

Well done to those students who took part in our first 2 cross country league fixtures. Runners first performed on a tricky course at RBA and then a cold/windy/hilly course at Alameda. Special mentions to Mason Reader, Elliot Gregory and Daisy Watt, who all recorded top 10 finishes.



Badminton Mentoring

Last week a selection of students were lucky enough to work with Badminton expert Mhairi Armstrong (European and World Masters medalist). The students had a great time and we look forward to continuing to work with her in the future. For anyone interested in further badminton coaching then please contact Mhairi using the info below:

www.smashers.info

https://www.facebook.com/SmasherArmstrong2020

BEsmashers@gmail.com

Zack Ashpole - Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Champion!!

Massive congratulations go to Zack Ashpole (6GJ) who has recently become not only the Welsh and English Open champion but is also now the European gold medalist — an amazing achievement! This means that next year he will be able to enter the 'Worlds' competition — best of luck from all at Holywell!



Lessons

It is still cold outside so please can you

continue to ensure that students bring the correct kit for their lessons - please see the PE kit section in the students planners. For lessons on the field, such as rugby, football and health and fitness, students will need football boots (shin pads for football, gumshields for rugby) and long, black socks. Students should also ideally bring a spare top and bottoms to lessons, in case they get muddy.

Clubs

If attending a PE club, students should wear their normal school uniform to school and then change into PE kit before the club. If they have PE on the day of the club they are attending, students should wear their PE kit to school BUT bring spare kit to change into if there's a chance they could get muddy!

Many thanks for your continued support.

The PE Dept.

	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:00	15:45-16:45
Monday	Y5 Netball (MK/EM) - SH	Y7/8 Gymnastics (ES) - Gym Y7 Badminton (MK) - SH	Y5/6 Badminton (MK) - SH
Tuesday	Y5/6 Rugby (ME) - Field Y7/8 Girls Basketball (ES/MK) - SH	Y7/8 Boys Basketball (ZI) - SH Y5/6 Gymnastics (SM/MK) - Gym	Y7/8 Dodgeball (MK) - SH
Wednesday	Y6 Basketball (MK) - SH Y7 Boys Rugby (ZI) - Field Y7/8 Girls Rugby (ME) - Field	Y5 Basketball (MK) – SH	
Thursday	Y8 Badminton (ME) - SH Y5 Boys Football (ZI) - Field	Y6 Badminton (MK) – SH	Y7/8 Badminton (ME/ZI/MK) - SH
Friday	Y7/8 Girls Football (MK) – Field Y8 Boys Rugby (ME) - Field	Y5/6 Girls Football (MK) - Field	Y5/6 Dodgeball (MK) - SH



If your child is away from School

A telephone call or WEDUC notification is required on the first day of absence, before 10.00 am.

The Office Staff prepare the official registers and need to know the reason for <u>all</u> absences. It is therefore important that they are made aware of absences and they will inform your child's Form Teacher.

Please could parents remind students to <u>report to the office</u> if they arrive at school after registration. Students leaving school during the day, for whatever reason, must also use the front entrance to the school and sign out.

Essential Equipment

We are now stocking essential stationery items in the School Office.

Students may purchase a **pencil case** which contains the following items: **Handwriting pen, pencil, green, red and blue pens, dry-wipe pen and a 15cm ruler** for £2.50 (see photo).

Stationery items are also available to buy individually. (Empty pencil case £1, other items 10p – 50p each).



Attendance and Holidays in Term Time

SCHOOL Attendance

Parents / Carers should be aware that under current government guidelines we can <u>NOT</u> give permission for any holiday in term time. Holidays will be classed as unauthorised absence for your child. Please note that requests for leave of absence should be sent into school <u>at least 4 weeks in advance of the proposed absence</u>.

There may, however, be events that a student takes part in out of school which require him / her to miss a school day – we will continue to consider that sort of request. However, it is clear that the government and external authorities will want a very persuasive argument for us to be allowed to record any absence as a permitted time out of school. **No leave will be authorised during the <u>first two weeks of the school year</u> or during <u>exam periods</u>.**

Science Department News

What a fantastic first term we have had in the science department at Holywell! It has been action-packed with students in all years engaged in their learning and working hard to develop their scientific knowledge, understanding and skills.

Back in September, we welcomed our new Year Five students and they quickly settled into life at Holywell. In our introductory topic, it was wonderful to see the students estimating, measuring, and recording whilst working collaboratively. Our focus on scientific skills continued during the next topic where students learned about the properties of materials. They investigated the absorbency of different sponges, the strength of different threads and the difference between artificial and natural

materials. Using their knowledge, they designed and made kites to test. We had to be very patient whilst waiting for the perfect conditions to go kite flying! Great fun was had by all. The students also excelled in modelling the three states of matter —



acting as particles on the playground and organising themselves into the correct particle arrangement. Bravo! Year Five.

Year Six also started the year developing their scientific skills. Investigations included building flying straws and finding out which surface around school was the hardest, using bouncing balls. The students' investigative planning skills really improved. Later in the term, we focussed on reversible and irreversible changes. Students quickly developed observational skills looking for evidence that chemical reactions had taken place. The highlight of the first term for many students in Year Six was earning their Bunsen burner licence! To achieve this important milestone, students had to demonstrate a secure understanding of safety in the lab, set up a

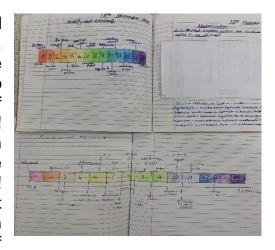
Bunsen burner correctly, light it safely and use it to investigate the burning time of various materials. An anxious time for some transformed into confidence and we were thrilled with the effort shown by all students.



In Year Seven, we began the year studying cells and life processes. Students made cell models and developed their knowledge and understanding of cell and function. Usina the microscopes inspired many students as we zoomed into the magical microscopic world! Later in the term, we studied particles and their behaviour and considered solids, gases. properties liquids. the of and Investigating the melting and boiling points of substances gave the students an opportunity to use the Bunsen burner skills they learned in Year Six. Towards the end of term. Year Seven focussed on the structure and function of body systems. An in depth look at the skeletal, circulatory, and breathing systems allowed us

to carry out some interesting dissections of organs including the heart, lungs, and kidneys. Not for the faint hearted but an inspirational learning experience.

Year Eight thoroughly enjoyed our Health and Lifestyle topic at the beginning of the year. Studying diet and nutrition, food testing, and the digestive system made learning relevant to everyday life. There were many inspired pieces of work showing the 'Journey of a cheese sandwich'! The highlight for many students was our work on acids and alkalis. Chemistry always provides the 'Harry Potter' moments, the magic of reactions! various substances with Testing different indicators produced a rainbow of colours and an appreciation of the acidity and alkalinity of everyday items.



As we end our first term, we look forward to the exciting learning opportunities in the new year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

Mr Colbourne & The Science Department



History Department News

We have had a very busy half term with students working right up until the final week to finish their units of work. In Year 5 we have completed our unit on the History of Cranfield and have refined our history skills. I was very impressed with how far many students have come in their understanding of this difficult subject – well done to them!

In Year 6 we have completed our learning about the Anglo Saxons with a critical examination of the term 'Dark Ages' and whether or not it is a justifiable nickname for the Saxon period of history. Next term we will continue looking at invaders as we move on to learn about the vicious Vikings!

Year 7 students are continuing their study of medieval history and are learning about how effective medieval kings were at dealing with their people. Having learnt how badly they dealt with the problems posed by a powerful church, we move on next term to see if they fared any better when dealing with their nobles or their peasants.

In Year 8 students have been exploring the effects of industrialisation on other aspects of life, such as the coal mining industry and transport. We have also been looking in more detail at industrial inventions and trying to demonstrate how they have proven to be a turning point in history, inspiring other inventions and welcoming in the modern age. Many of our students are looking forward to enriching their experience further next term with a two day visit to Ironbridge.

RE Department News

Our students have been working hard in their RE lessons this term. Year 5 have finished learning about the Jewish religion, practices and beliefs and have just embarked on their new Christianity unit: The Life of Jesus. This, understandably, began with a look at the symbolism involved in the birth of Jesus.

In Year 6 students have been developing their ability to link Christian teaching with Christian action. Having studied Jesus' teaching on love, peace, forgiveness and wealth, they have learnt about key individuals and how they have put these teachings into practice in the modern world. Next term they will be expanding their learning of other world religions with an in-depth study of Sikhism.

Our Year 7's have completed their study of the Islamic faith, including for many an immersive and spiritual session when the classroom was turned into a mosque allowing students the opportunity to experience the practices of wudu and rak'ah for themselves! They have also been developing their understanding of the challenges facing Muslims living in a non-Muslim country, such as the UK.

It is a very exciting end of term for our Year 8 students as they have been competing in 'The Great Debate' which allows them to learn debating skills and argue convincingly for or against the existence of God. The final for this competition is taking place this Thursday and we cannot wait to hear their speeches and declare an overall winner! Well done to all our Year 8's who have taken part and it has been lovely to see your confidence and enthusiasm in this topic!

English Department News

"A book is a gift you can open again and again!" so be excited to receive or read lots of books over the Christmas period. I'm adding this entry into the newsletter to give you some inspiration about what to read over the holidays!

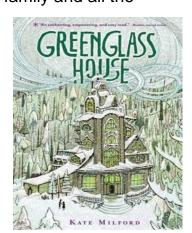
KS2: "The Winter Wish" by Helen Mortimer. A glorious Christmas story, full of festive sparkle from the illustrator of The Primrose Railway Children.

William lives in Words of Wonder, a perfect book shop full of stories and delights. He has always lived there with his family, ever since he was a baby, and now he is 37 books tall. But times are hard, and the book shop is struggling, so William takes it upon himself to create the most beautiful Christmas window to draw people in - with a leaping reindeer, pulling a sleigh full of stories. And then one night, as Christmas draws near, the reindeer comes to life and all William's wishes for his family and all the

shops around come true . . . making a Christmas to remember through the power of words and hope. Something that links to our Holywell Values!

KS3: "Green Glass House" by Kate Milford. In this New York Times bestseller, popular with tweens and younger teens, is the story of 12-year-old Milo and the mysterious Winter at his home, an old smuggler's inn, Greenglass House, when a series of unexpected guests arrive, all of whom are harbouring secrets. When items begin to disappear around the inn, a mystery ensues for Milo and his bossy friend, Meddy, to solve.

THE WINTER



Keep an eye out in January for our Whole School Reading Homework which will be a short questionnaire to allow you to give ideas on how we can make reading even better at Holywell! There will also be a chance for parents to have their say too.

Miss Mayles

"The more you read the more things you know.

The more that you earn the more paces you'll go."

-Dr. Seuss

Merry
Christmas
and A Happy
New Year!
Remember
to keep
reading over
the
Christmas
time!



Art Department Update

Year 5











Year 5 have enjoyed exploring the seven elements of art this term which culminates with them doing a drawing and a painting of a soft toy. Here is a selection of them, we are really impressed!



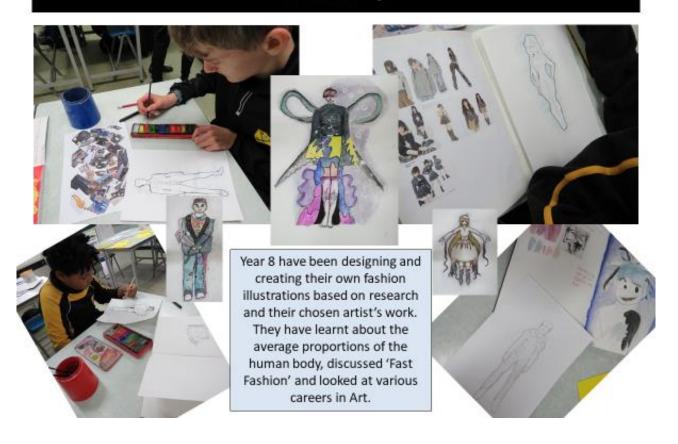
Year 6



Year 7



Year 8

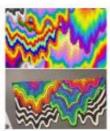


Year 8 Option Group









Our Year 8 option group have now started working on their first independent piece, with the theme Mythical Beasts, see their progress in the next newsletter! To begin with though, they made some great Drippy Art inspired by Jen Stark, it's really brightened up the Art Room!

French Update

Students have produced some excellent work in French lessons this term, many of which is now on display. You can see examples here of some of the best posters created to showcase our main topics. Year 5's topic for this task was "Classroom language". In Year 6, the students created displays on the theme of "Families". In Year 7, we spent much of the first term looking at "Places around town", and in Year 8, the main topic was "Sports and injuries".





Payment for Uniform, Trips and Sundries

Please pay online whenever possible, with the link on our website.

<u>Tucasi (Scopay.com)</u> For payment of the following:

- Ordering School ties / blazer badges
- Trips
- Early risers/breakfast club (booking form must also be completed on Weduc)
- Lost or damaged library books

If you have not previously logged in to Tucasi you will need an access code from the school. Please email finance@holywellschool.co.uk for this code.

If you are unable to pay online we have the facility to pay by credit/debit card in person at the school office or via telephone.

If you are unable to pay online or by card please contact the school office.

Parent Pay (Payment for tuck/school dinners)

Please remember to check your child's Parent Pay account balance regularly.

You can set up to receive a reminder email when the account credit goes below a certain level. To do this log in to your parent pay account>communication>alert settings>balance alerts> under threshold set an amount and tick email alert. Once the credit goes below this level you will receive an email reminder to top up the balance.

For queries with regards to Parent Pay please email: school@holywellschool.co.uk

For web pages for the above please go to https://holywellschool.co.uk/ Parents>online payments.



Charity News

Children in Need: As the result of a Mufti Day on 18th November 2022, the amount we raised for Children in Need was £532.10.



Christmas Jumper Day: Our Christmas Jumper Day Fund-raising this year was in support of King's Arms Project supporting local homeless people. We raised £248.72. Thank you very much.

Non-uniform days are a simple way to raise money and to make a HUGE difference. Wonderful generosity Holywell!

PRACTICAL REMINDERS



- **Hydration Guidance**: All students should have a water bottle (labelled) and they are encouraged to take regular sips during the day.
 - o Bottles must be anti-spill bottles NOT GLASS with sports tops
 - Water bottles should be carried separately from school books and library books
 - o Water bottles are not allowed near electrical equipment
 - Water bottles and drinks must be for personal use only
 - o Teachers have the final word in lessons as to when and if they can be used
 - Bottles must contain still WATER! Flavoured still water or sugar-free squash is also an acceptable alternative, however, water is best! (Fizzy drinks – including sparkling water drinks or power drinks – are not allowed in school.)
- Uniform In order to represent our community appropriately it is important that our students wear the correct school uniform with pride and look well presented at all times. Below is a reminder of our school uniform and expectations. PE Kit should only be worn into school on days where students have PE. If you are refreshing uniform over Christmas, please make sure that the correct uniform is purchased ready to be smart in January. Make sure that shoes are shoes (no trainers)! Trousers and skirts should be grey and not black; skirts should be the correct length

UNIFORM		
Blazer	Black	
House Badge*	For blazer	
Trousers / Tailored Short Trousers	Plain grey, not cords or denims	
Skirt	Plain grey pleated, below the knee	
Jumper/Cardigan	Plain grey, 'V; necked	
Shirt	White	
School Tie*	Black and gold clip-on	
White polo shirt	Summer term only	
Socks	White, grey or black (No trainer socks)	
Shoes	Black, no boots, trainers or heels higher than 4cm	
Coat	Any plain style	
SPORTS UNIFORM		
Rugby Shirt*	Black/Gold reversible*	
Shorts	Black	
Skirt	Black	
Sports shirt*	With school logo*	
Socks	Knee length black* and short white	
Trainers	NB. not basketball boots	
Football boots		
Track suit	Optional – black	
Shin pads	Optional	
Towel		

Items marked with * are available from school

Items marked with * are available from school

 Chewing Gum – Chewing gum is not allowed and should not be brought into school.

- Mobile Phone Policy Reminder that we are a non-smart-phone school. <u>Smart phones</u> are <u>not to be brought on-site</u>. Non-smart phones for communicating with parents out of school hours are allowed with a permission slip and are the responsibility of the child. If smart-phones are found on-site, they will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. Full policy on the website.
- Behaviour To / From school and on the buses we expect the same high standards of student behaviour on the bus and walking to and from school.
 Students should also make sure they are behaving safely at all times – eg. seat belts on, walking a safe distance away from the pavement, not crossing in front of vehicles, etc.
- **Haircuts** Keep it professional! No fashion cuts, no lines or patterns, no colours, nothing shorter than Grade #2.
- Essential Equipment Having the right equipment in school is essential to students demonstrating that they are ready to learn and taking their lessons seriously. Whilst we understand that everyone forgets things from time to time, we're seeing an increasing number of occasions where students are not bringing any, or consistently missing key pieces of equipment into school. We'd like to therefore take this opportunity to remind students that it is their responsibility to ensure that they have the correct equipment in lessons and that they come into school ready to learn. We've updated the list of what is essential below and would appreciate your support in ensuring that students come to school with the correct equipment.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

- School Organiser
- Handwriting pen
- Green pen
- Red pen
- Blue pen
- Black pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Mini white board
- White board pen
- Pencil Case
- Reading book
- Water bottle (labelled with name!)
- Bag (rucksack)

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Coloured pens or pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Dictionary



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



AUTUMN TERM 2022

End of Term – Friday 16th December

SPRING TERM 2023

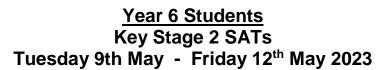
Closure Day – Tuesday 3rd January Term Begins – Wednesday 4th January Half Term – Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February End of Term – Friday 31st March

SUMMER TERM 2023

Closure Day – Monday 17th April
Term Begins – Tuesday 18th April
May Day – Monday 1st May
Coronation Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May
Half Term – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
End of Term – Friday 21st July

Please note that dates may differ from other schools

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2023



All Years - GL Assessments - Maths and English Week commencing 5th June 2023

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME



A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON: WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023

