



# Holywell News



Issue No: 168  
May 2023

## Headlines from Mr Simpson:

As we reach Half-Term and we come to the end of the month of May, we reflect back on several weeks of pure **JOY**. Throughout this half-term so many of our students have brought us much joy and cause for celebration. It has been a packed six weeks with everything from a wonderful PSHE Day to the formal assessments of KS2 SATs for Year 6, from Maths challenges to the Year 5 Lifepath Trip, from the King's Coronation (we loved the commemorative mugs and the famous bunting challenges) to a wide range of sporting successes to the Year 6 theatre visit to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child ... all of which you can read about later in the newsletter along with updates from many curriculum areas. We are blessed to have such great people who care about providing students with a wide range of opportunities within and beyond the curriculum – all helping our school community to 'Live Life in all its Fullness'. During a student voice interview this week, one student commented: "What I like best about the school is the staff who help us. They make lessons fun and engaging; you can tell they take care by the time they put into making the lessons."

We have had our share of challenges this term too and we continue to hold steadfastly to our values, aiming to encourage everyone to be the best they can be whilst remaining 'in community'. One of the main challenges has been in the misuse of social media – particularly outside school and, for all the brilliant things happening on TikTok, we hope that students avoid the anti-social challenges, using technology to reach out and support friends, to build relationships and to help others in need. We will be exploring how we can support others in need during our Values Day on 14<sup>th</sup> June where we will be exploring 'Equality'. As we embrace the benefits of apps such as Facebook and Twitter to help with our communication home, if you haven't signed up for the new Holywell Twitter (and Holywell Facebook (Holywell School Bedfordshire) pages, please do as they will help to keep everyone updated on successes and events.

Whatever you have planned for the Spring Break, please stay safe and God bless.

MG Simpson  
Headteacher

JOY  
is a  
Gift from God



# Hydration Guidelines

At Holywell we encourage students to keep hydrated and we recognise the importance of drinking water regularly through the day.



## Why is water important?

Water makes up approximately 80% of the brain and is an essential element in neurological transmissions. Poor hydration adversely affects a child's mental performance and learning ability. Dehydration is simply not having enough water in your body. Mild dehydration may include tiredness, headaches, reduced alertness and ability to concentrate. Mental performance including memory, attention and concentration can decrease by about 10 per cent, once thirst is felt and continues to decrease as dehydration increases. Thirst is usually felt when dehydration results in 0.8 - 2 per cent loss of body weight lost due to water loss. As children don't always recognise the early stages of thirst, they are at risk of becoming dehydrated. Even mild dehydration can make children irritable, and can cause tiredness, headaches, lack of concentration, reduced mental performance and dry skin. Water consumption also has an immediate alerting and revitalising effect. The key to boosting the capacity to learn is to keep well-hydrated throughout each day (ideally from a personal water bottle within arm's reach).

## Organisation in school

- All students should have a water bottle (labelled) and they are encouraged to take regular sips during the day.
- Bottles must be anti-spill bottles - **NOT GLASS** - with sports tops.
- Water bottles should be carried separately from school books and library books.
- Water bottles are not allowed near electrical equipment.
- Water bottles and drinks must be for personal use only.
- 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.)



## Sunhats and Sun Protection Cream

Please ensure that your children are equipped for any hot weather with a sunhat (baseball cap style) and sun protection cream. Students can bring sun cream into school, but must be able to apply it themselves – staff are unable to apply it for them.

**Students are encouraged to have water bottles and sun hats with them during P.E. lessons.**



## If your child is away from school

A telephone call, email or WEDUC notification is required on the first day of absence, before 8.30 am

## WEDUC Communications from School



Please note that we use WEDUC to communicate with families.

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](mailto:awatson@holywellschool.co.uk) who will be able to supply one. Thank you.



### Hairstyles, Make-up and Jewellery



Please remember that **extreme haircuts and colours** are not part of our school uniform!

- **HAIRCUTS MUST NOT BE SHORTER THAN A NUMBER 2**
- **'CUT IN' DESIGNS (INCLUDING LINES) ARE NOT PERMITTED**
- **DYED HAIR IS ALSO NOT PERMITTED**

If you are in any doubt about the acceptability of a hairstyle, please contact the school beforehand.

**Make-up** (including **nail varnish**) is **not** allowed.

To avoid loss and any dangers or accident to the wearer or another pupil, expensive items of jewellery must **not** be worn.



### Summer Uniform



**During the summer**, students have the following two options re: uniform:

- a) **Either continue to wear blazers, white shirts and ties.**
- b) **Wear a white polo shirt (without a tie) and a blazer**

**Shorts:** School shorts are now an option all throughout the year ... however, we know that they are more popular in the Summer Term ... so just a reminder about style and length: The length should be just above the knee to just below the knee. The shorts must be plain grey tailored shorts (ie. no combat style shorts, skinny / cycling shorts, or shorts with pockets further down the leg; no designs / appliqué or stripes; no denims, cord, linen, combats or cropped trousers allowed).



- **As with school shorts, skirts must be pleated and just above the knee to just below the knee in length.**
- **Socks must be plain grey, black or white.**
- **Shoes are required as part of our school uniform.**
- **PE Kit to be worn on days when PE lessons are scheduled.**

## Essential Equipment

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

Pupils 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



Parents / Carers should be aware that under current government guidelines **we can NOT give permission for any holiday in term time.** Holidays will be classed as **unauthorised absence** for your child. 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 first two weeks of the school year or during exam periods.**

Parents/carers wishing to apply for leave of absence are required to fill in a **Leave of Absence Application Form** **at least 4 weeks in advance of the planned absence** and before making any travel arrangements (available from the school office and to download from the school website). We always take a reasonable, supportive approach to requests (especially with regard to fines) however, taking 'the odd day' here and there can have a HUGE impact on learning.

## No Aerosols Please



Please remember that aerosols / sprays (deodorants, hairsprays, etc.) are **NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED IN SCHOOL.**

We have students and staff with allergies to the gases and spraying such aerosols can cause severe allergic / medical reactions. Please be considerate.



## Emergency Contact Details



**Please remember to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details.** This includes **change of your home address, telephone numbers** (even temporary changes) **and doctors' details.** This is very important, as it enables us to reach you in case of emergency. Thank you.

# Music Department News

## Year 5

Year 5 have been listening Hans Zimmer's beautiful 'Earth' piece and have drawn what they think is being represented in the music. They have then taken these ideas to inspire their own 'Earth' compositions.

Groups have chosen to create music inspired by: volcanoes, rainforests, countryside fields, mountains, waterfalls and beaches.

Utilising the instruments available to them in the classroom they have created individual motifs and have developed them into complete compositions. We are looking forward to hearing their final performances after half term!



## Year 6



Year 6 have been learning about the functions of film and television music, including the use of musical clichés.

Using the stimuli of the Wallace and Gromit film – The Wrong Trousers, students have created their own four-part story boards and are composing their own music to accompany the scenes.

Working on keyboards the students are utilising the hundreds of voice options to really bring their film music to life!

## Year 7

Year 7 have been introduced to playing the guitar and are able to identify all of its parts. Inspired by listening to some of the guitar greats including Paul McCartney and Eddie Van Halen, year 7 students started by learning E minor and D major chords in order to perform the famous 'Drunken Sailor' sea shanty.

They then move on to learning E major and A major chords in order to play Bob Marley's reggae classic 'Three Little Birds'.

We have seen some fantastic guitar playing and look forward to continuing progress into next half term.



## Year 8



Year 8 have been working on a brand-new unit of work which focuses on the popular song. Whilst learning about popular song structure, melody, lyrics, arrangements and riffs – students have listened to a plethora of popular music including songs from across the decades.

Students were given the task to create their own arrangements of an Ed Sheeran song using a lead sheet.

We have been blown away with the amazing work so far and are excited to hear the finished performances.

## Charity News - The Big Help Out

As part of the King's Coronation Celebrations, the Bank Holiday Monday was 'The Big Help Out' Day.

The money raised in our Coronation Mufti Day was: **£207.10**. This will be shared between these three local charities:

- **HELP AMAZING MARGOT**
- **HARRY'S RAINBOW**
- **CHUMS**



# PE Department News

Before we talk about the Summer round of fixtures we must say a HUGE congratulations to the Year 8s who become district champions at the end of last term. In the final they played a strong RBA side in poor weather conditions but still managed to triumph 9 tries to 1!



## Athletics:

KS3 are in the process of finishing of their league season with the potential to still reach the final at Bedford athletics track. However, they have also competed in the District Athletics Championships against schools from our Partnership but also all over Bedford. Competition was fierce and for the vast majority of students it was the first time they had competed at a proper stadium, on a professional running track. Collectively there were some excellent performances and lots of PBs. Lois Fordham and Elliot Gregory finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in High Jump and 1500m respectively – well done to you both! However, we also managed to have 2 individual champions!! A massive ‘congrats’ goes to Noki (100m and Long Jump) and Izzy (Long Jump)!! KS2 start their fixtures after half term.



**Lois Fordham has managed to break the Year 7 girls High Jump Record with a jump of 1.30m!!**

### **Rounders/Cricket:**

Year 7 and Year 8 still have plenty of rounders and cricket matches to play due to postponements – detailed match reports will be in the next newsletter.

Year 5 and 6 rounders teams have started to play their first matches this week so good luck to them.

The Y5/6 cricket team will have a tournament in the next few weeks so fingers crossed for some good weather and excellent performances!

### **Successes outside of school:**

It is always so nice to hear of students competing outside of school – big congratulations go to Jack B, who has been signed up by Stevenage Borough for another year; Freddie B and Arthur W, who represented Luton Town in a recent tournament in Holland; Jacob H in Y5 whose team triumphed at the recent Shortstown football tournament, Abbey P-W who presented with most valued player / manager’s player at the end of season football awards and lastly Lara Bloyce, who not only is signed up for Arsenal, but recently won a prestigious national tournament with her team! Congratulations to all of you!!



We also have talented gymnasts at Holywell...Edward in Y6 did extremely well at a recent competition and won 4 golds and 2 silvers across 6 pieces of apparatus, earning him a gold overall! Well done to you!

**Please do make us aware of any sporting success your child has outside of school – they could feature in the next newsletter!!**



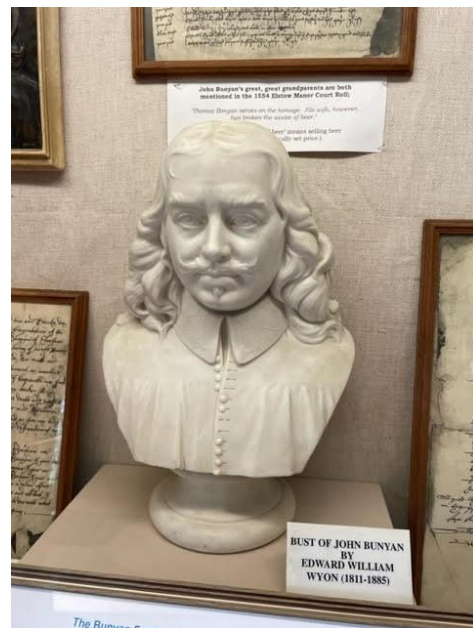
## Sports Day:

Our annual Sports Day is scheduled for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Students are invited to represent their Houses at traditional Athletics events. Due to the sheer number of events and students taking part, 'Field events' take place the week before, during lunchtime. If you wish to watch your child competing then they will need to sign up to events that take place on Sports Day itself. More info will be given to students and parents/carers after half-term.

As always, we would like to thank all those students who have attended clubs and represented the school this half-term. We would also like to thank all the parents, carers and spectators for your continued support of the department; it is much appreciated!  
The PE Department

## Year 5 Lifepath Elstow

Year 5 students have been following in the footsteps of John Bunyan this week on the annual Lifepath trip in Elstow. Students had a great day following in John Bunyan's footsteps, learning about the Pilgrims' Progress, playing games and making crafts from the past! Everyone had a fantastic day experiencing the life and journey of a local Pilgrim!



JOHN BUNYAN	
1628	Birth at Elstow, the son of Thomas and Margaret Bunyan. Put to school to learn to read and write.
1644-7	Service in the parliamentary garrison at Newport Pagnell(?)
1649	Return to Elstow and marriage to first wife.
1650	Birth of blind daughter, Mary.
1653	Member of the Independent congregation meeting in St. John's Church, Bedford.
1658	Death of first wife.
1659	Marriage to second wife, Elizabeth.
1660	Arrest near Harlington, and beginning of 12-year imprisonment in County Gaol, Bedford (congregation now meeting in a barn in Mill St.)
1666	Publication of "Grace Abounding."
1671	Appointment to the pastoral office of the Bedford congregation.
1672	Release from prison, residence in Bedford, and inception of ministry.
1675	Issue of warrant against Bunyan for preaching at conventicles.
1677	Second imprisonment by tradition in the Town Gaol, but probably the County Gaol, for 6 months.
1678	Publication of "Pilgrim's Progress."
1680	Publication of "The Life and Death of Mr. Badman."
1682	Publication of "The Holy War."
1688	Death at London, and burial in Bunhill Fields.

# UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) 2023

On Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, fifty-seven of our most confident maths students from Year 8 were invited to take part in the Junior Maths Challenge.



The JMC is a 60-minute, multiple-choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the JMC are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

The Challenge is aimed at students in Year 8 or below (England and Wales). It is the UK's most popular mathematics competition with over 300 000 students usually taking part each year.

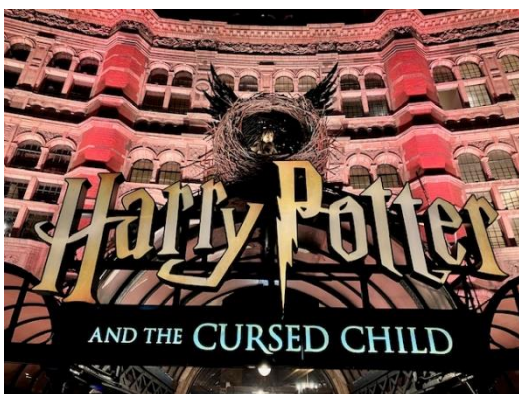
To recognize the highest performers in the Challenge, the top-scoring 50% of participants are awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. So I am really pleased to say that over half of our students who participated managed to obtain these higher levels, which is a really pleasing achievement. This year, Holywell students have received 1 Gold, 13 Silver and 16 Bronze awards between them.

In addition, over 10,000 of the very highest performers are invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo. So, I would like to give a special mention to Ibrahim Iqbal who achieved 'Best in School' for his very high scoring Gold and for making it through to the Junior Kangaroo.

Well done again, and thank you to everybody who took part, and to those who helped with organizing the Challenge.

**Ms Mollis**

## Harry Potter Trip



On 17<sup>th</sup> May, 62 Holywell Students and 6 teachers went to London to watch Harry Potter and the Cursed Child at The Palace Theatre! We set off, feeling excited (not sure if they were more excited because of the sweets they were currently engulfing, the show or the anticipation of ordering their own McDonald's).

We arrived and got to our seats. The show started, and it was full of magic, disappearing cast members and amazing imagery.

After Part 1, students were intrigued and they were, as us, left on the edge of our seats. The children absolutely loved it; there were jump scares, magic writing and dementors!!

Students enjoyed some fresh air as we walked to McDonald's and ordered their dinner by themselves. We saw some acts in Leicester Square before taking a stroll back to the theatre ready to watch Part 2. There was an opportunity to visit the gift shop too where some children bought a souvenir. Part 2 saw more cliff hangers, a plot twist and no time for eating snacks. Thank you to all the parents who signed up and gave them this opportunity, and to the children for being so well behaved. I look forward to organising more trips like this in the future!

**Miss Lau**

*It was amazing!!!! Thank you so much for taking us, I've told my mum she NEEDS to go and watch it! My favourite part was the Death Eaters!*  
 - Leighton Grant (6SHA)



*In my opinion, the school trip to London was high and it was very good. McDonald's was nice and overall was a great school trip. 5 Stars!*  
 - Dylan Paramore (6ZI)

*I really enjoyed Harry Potter. It was very exciting. My favourite part was probably the McDonald's... Just joking. Probably the Time Turner parts. Another thing was it was extremely loud, but enjoyable. I covered my ears for part of the show as I didn't know when the jump scares were coming. I really enjoyed Harry Potter and I would definitely go again. Thank you Miss Lau.*  
 - Sophie Smith (6BS)

## PSHE Day

The annual PSHE enrichment day took place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. The students had a great day and the sun even shone for us.



**Year 5** covered range of activities which focussed on personal safety. These included bike, water, fire, internet and personal safety.

The theme for **Year 6** was wellbeing. This included sessions on mindfulness, funky circuits, the effects of exercise on the body, resilience and healthy eating.



**Year 7** sessions looked at British Values and included activities connected to the King's Coronation - including making clay monuments and values models.



**Year 8** activities were on the theme of Careers. They had the opportunity to have a Q and A session with a selection of people with a variety of careers and we had Bedford Town Football Club exploring all the different roles involved in running a football club. They also worked on their teamwork and presentation skills.



The engagement and good behaviour of our students was commented on by our external visitors and I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to go and see the diverse range of activities. Visitors to Holywell always say what a friendly and welcoming school it is.



**Mrs Gough**

# READING NEWS!

## KS2 BOOK CLUB NEWS!

We have been very busy in Book Club this term reading Ross Montgomery's "The Midnight Guardians". The children have been coming Tuesday lunchtimes to read this book or even their own book with hot chocolate and cakes! We have missed a few sessions due to strike days so please don't worry! It is back on as normal after half-term with some summer treats and drinks! Please ensure you collect an early lunch pass from me if you are school dinners! (We may even venture out onto a sunny place on the field to read!)



## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS OVER THE HALF-TERM!



**KS2** The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors. The gardens surrounding the large property are Mary's only escape. Then, Mary discovers a secret garden, surrounded by walls and locked with a missing key. One day, with the help of two unexpected companions, she discovers a way in. Is everything in the garden dead, or can Mary bring it back to life?



**KS3** Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

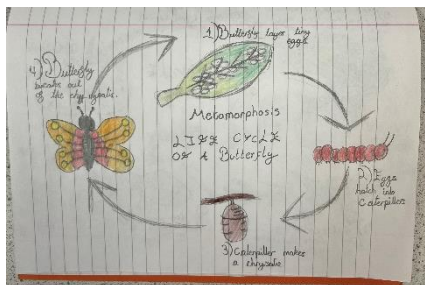
Set during World War I, Private Peaceful charts eight hours in the life of Tommo, a young soldier at the Front, as he looks back over the formative events of his life: his father's early death, his relationship with his loving mother and brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and their beloved school friend Molly - all set among an evocative and beautifully realised rural landscape.

## A Message from Miss Mayles @

Remember to keep reading over the half-term! Grab a book and go and sit in the sunshine! Be prepared for some summer reading competitions next term with prizes! If you haven't attended book club before, make sure you come and find me on the Monday back so I can get enough supplies! Have an amazing half-term and I will see you all when we are back!

# Science Department News

As the first half of the summer term comes to an end, we reflect on the opportunities we've had to develop our knowledge and understanding of Science.



**Year Five** have been busy learning about 'Life cycles' and 'Microbes'. The natural world is at its busiest at this time of year, taking the time to stop and appreciate the world around us brings us joy! Half the year group spent time looking at the life cycles of insects, amphibians, birds and mammals. The students produced fantastic work showing the various stages in the life cycle of a butterfly and frog. Other students were fascinated by the hidden world of microbes. They have revisited the time of the great plague and found out how microbes can be harmful but also helpful to us.



**Year Six** have been working on our topics 'Evolution and inheritance' and 'Light'. Half of the year group started with evolution and inheritance. They enjoyed finding out about Mary Anning and her important work as a fossil hunter. The students made their own fossil imprints and developed their ideas about evolution and natural selection. The other half of the year group investigated the properties of light and made their own shadow puppet theatre. Great fun was had by all!



**Year Seven** have thoroughly enjoyed our topics 'Reactions' and 'Forces'. It was great to see them looking for evidence of chemical reactions in 'Elephant toothpaste' and 'Screaming jelly baby' demonstrations. The students completed lots of practical investigation looking at thermal decomposition, conservation of mass, and exothermic and endothermic reactions.

**Year Eight** have been focusing on 'Reactions of metals', 'Adaptation and inheritance' and 'Green plants' on a topic rotation. The students set about discovering the reactivity of metals with acid, water, and oxygen. A brief encounter with polymers allowed us to create some slime – always a winner! and to delve into the world of plastic. This was an emotive part of the topic that gave our students the chance to research the problems faced due to plastic pollution.



In the biology topic, students reaffirmed the idea that green plants are vital to life on Earth. They looked in detail at leaf structure, and tested leaves to find out if they had been photosynthesising.

Happy Half Term!

**Mr. Colbourne & The Science Department**

*We have been asked to put the following into our Newsletter:*

## **Football Players Wanted**

**Wootton Rangers Youth FC** are looking for players in years 6-8 to join our fun, supportive and inclusive teams in preparation for next season.



# **PLAYERS WANTED**

**Open Trials**  
**Sunday 4th June 10am**  
**Wootton Recreation Ground**

We are currently looking to bring in new players to strengthen existing squads for the upcoming season for our u11s, u12s, 13s, 14s, u15s and u16s teams (school years 6-11 from September)

If you are interested in coming along to try out or want to have a chat to learn more, please send us a message or use the QR code to fill out our contact form.



<b>5 June</b>	Students return to school after half term
<b>22 June</b>	Sports Day
<b>29 June – 1 July</b>	Year 8 French Trip
<b>4 &amp; 5 July</b>	Year 4 transition students in Holywell Year 8 students to Wootton Upper School
<b>11 July</b>	Summer Concert (provisional date)
<b>13 July</b>	Year 8 Awards Evening
<b>20 July</b>	Year 8 Xscape Trip
<b>21 July</b>	<b>End of Summer Term</b>

## Term Dates for Next Academic Year 2023 - 2024

<p><b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2023</u></b></p> <p><b>Closure Day</b> – Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> September  <b>Closure Day</b> – Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September  <b>Term Begins</b> – <b>Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>  <b>Half Term</b> – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October  <b>Closure Day</b> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November  <b>End of Term</b> – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</p>
<p><b><u>SPRING TERM 2024</u></b></p> <p><b>Closure Day</b> – Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January  <b>Term Begins</b> – <b>Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>  <b>Half Term</b> – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  <b>End of Term</b> – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</p>
<p><b><u>SUMMER TERM 2024</u></b></p> <p><b>Closure Day</b> – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April  <b>Term Begins</b> – <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>May Day</b> – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May  <b>Half Term</b> – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May  <b>End of Term</b> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</p>

*Dates are correct at the time of printing. Please note that dates may differ from other schools.*