



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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[www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.



St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

## May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Stewardship'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Grateful and Generous'



Dear parents and carers,

8th May 2026

It has been a quieter week in school, with our children on site for only three days, yet it has been rich in meaning and purpose. As we enter the month of May, we have taken time to honour our patron, St Mary, culminating in a beautiful May Procession where our statues were crowned in the prayer garden. My sincere thanks to the parish and to all the parents who joined us and supported this cherished moment in our school calendar.

Our Year 6 children have continued to work with great determination as they make their final preparations for SATs week, and across the school there has been a wonderful sense of joyful learning. Classrooms have been filled with curiosity, creativity, and calm purpose – everything we hope to see in our vibrant school community.

### Next Week – important information for Year 6

#### Year 6 SATs

As our Year 6 pupils prepare for their SATs next week, we keep them in our prayers. These tests are only a small part of their journey. Each child is wonderfully made, with gifts and qualities that cannot be measured on a paper. May they approach each day with calm hearts, confidence in their efforts, and trust that they are valued far beyond any result.

#### Breakfast Club for Year 6

To help our Year 6 children feel calm and ready for their tests, a good rest over the weekend and an early night on Sunday will make a real difference. Next week, Year 6 pupils should arrive at school for 8:00am to join our free breakfast club, which will give them a settled and positive start to each day.

Mrs Yorke

**You are so much MORE than a SATs grade**

**SATs WEEK – WE ARE PROUD OF YOU**

You have worked hard, you have grown, and you have so many gifts to share. Do your best, have confidence, and remember – God is with you every step of the way.

**REMEMBER...**

- You are brave
- You are capable
- You are kind
- You are creative
- You are unique
- You are loved by God

**A PRAYER FOR YOU**

Loving God,  
Be close to our Year 6 pupils this week.  
Give them calm minds and steady hearts.  
Help them to remember all they have learned, and to do their best without fear.  
Remind them that they are your children, loved, gifted and unique.  
May they know that no test can measure their kindness, creativity or courage.  
Bless them with your peace, and guide them in all they do.  
Amen.

**JESUS SAYS...**

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."  
John 14:27

Do your best, be yourself, and know that you are amazing!

**WE BELIEVE IN YOU. WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU. God is with you always.**

FAITH | HOPE | LOVE | TRUST | COURAGE

# CATHOLIC LIFE

## This week's Gospel

John 14:6

*'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel, we: -

- **Trust** that He is always there for us and calls us to Him;
- **Find Him** through the person of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life;
- **Share** His love through our words and actions.

Lord Jesus,

You told your disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'  
As we begin this day, still our hearts and steady our hands.  
You are the Way that guides us, the Truth that grounds us,  
and the Life that sustains us in all we do.

Amen.

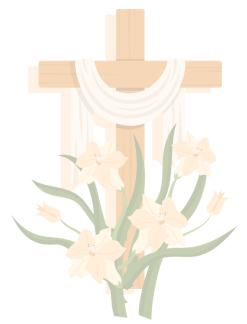
## Masses

Whole School Mass - 06.05.26 - 5<sup>th</sup> week of Easter

This week, the whole school came together for our May Procession and the Crowning of Our Lady. This special celebration marks the beginning of the month of May, a time traditionally dedicated to Mary. Our children processed reverently to the prayer garden, where we crowned the statues of Our Lady with flowers- a beautiful symbol of honour, faith, and community. It was a joyful and reflective moment for the entire school. Thank you to our families that provided potted plants to honour St. Mary, in the school's prayer garden.

Our next Mass - Year 6 Mass -  
7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter - Pentecost

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 20th May 2026, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 will gather for our Mass and Year 5 will also be in attendance - all parents are welcome to attend.



# OUR DEVOTION TO ST. MARY



## Flowers to Mary

Thank you children for bringing in flowers and potted plants to present to Mary in our May Procession – they will now be planted in our prayer garden filling it with life and colour.

## PRAYER



## Child-Led Prayer

Children have led prayer this week focused on Our Lady.

## Praying the Rosary

The children in KS2 begin each day by praying a decade of the Rosary.



## Prayer bags for home

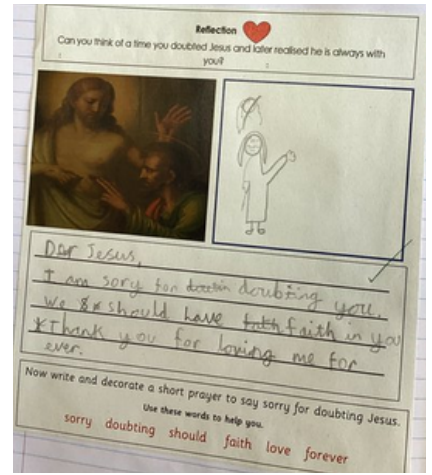
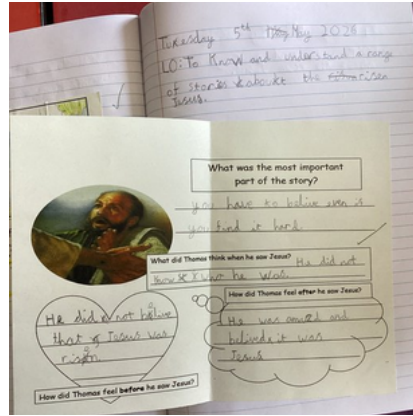
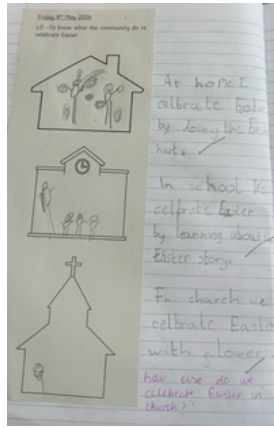
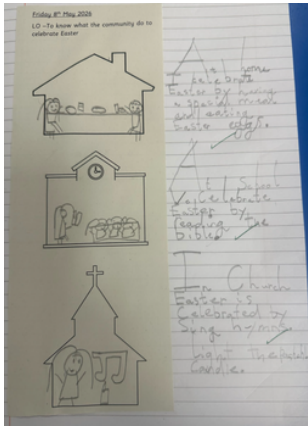
Thank you to the Spiritual Council for preparing the prayer bags for praying to Mary this May.



## Rosary Club

Fr Hilary is leading a rosary club every Friday during May for the children to come and pray the rosary in our beautiful prayer garden.

# CELEBRATING OUR RE LEARNING



## Year 1

Year 1 have been thinking about how the community celebrate Easter.



## Year 2

Year 2 have been looking at the story of Doubting Thomas and exploring how he felt before and after he saw Jesus.

## Year 4

Year 4 created their own triptych of the risen Jesus and a character from the Easter story before and after discovering Jesus was alive.



## Year 6

Building on their learning about Doubting Thomas, Year 6 reflected on how blessed we are because we believe without seeing Jesus.



## Year 5

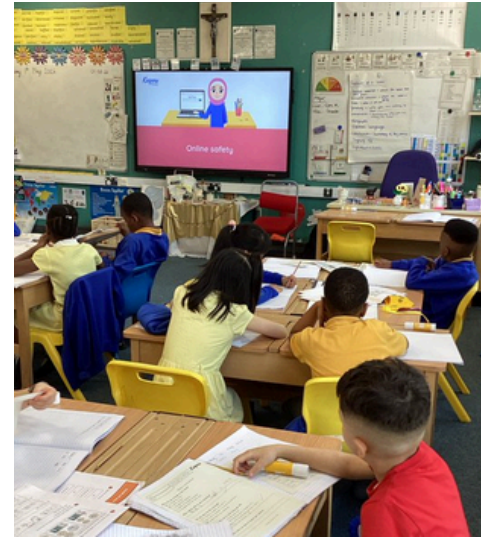
Year 5 have been exploring the resurrection through artistic interpretations.

# CURRICULUM



Reception class have been making mini-beasts as part of their understanding of the world learning.

Children in Year 1 are using bead strings to support them when counting in 10s.



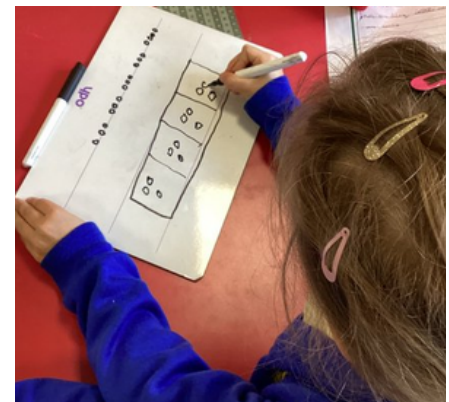
Year 4 have been learning about the importance of conserving water and using it sustainably.

Year 3 enjoyed their online safety lesson about sharing information online and what is not safe to share.

In their Science lessons, children in Year 5 have been investigating how different surface types effect the distance of an object, due to friction.



Some of our children at St. Mary's took part in the Junior Run for Birmingham Children's Hospital at Alexander Stadium this weekend. We're incredibly impressed and proud of you.



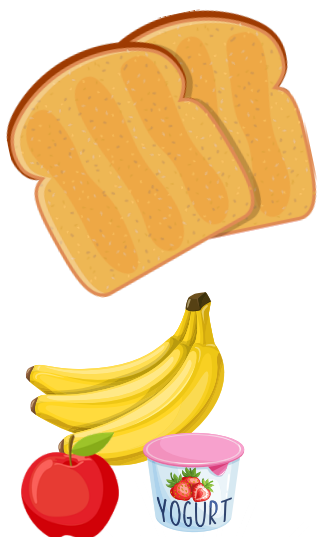
In Maths lessons, children have been finding a quarter of an amount.

## Breakfast Club for Y6 SATs week

We will be running a Breakfast Club for Year 6 during their SATs week (Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026) in the school hall – this is free and **for Year 6 only!**

Research has shown that children can concentrate and perform better in tests and exams if they are relaxed and have eaten beforehand. By attending, we can ensure that all children are in school on time, have had time to relax with their friends and feel settled.

**All Year 6 pupils are to attend breakfast club between 8:00am – 8:30am during this week. Thank you :)**



## Year 1 Assembly 14.5.26 at 2:30pm

Our Year 1 children would love their parents (and grandparents) to join them for their Assembly on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 2:30pm.



## Special Treat – 15.5.26 – all day

As a special treat for all the children, the PTA has organised a fun, curriculum-based day in school on Friday 15th May to mark the end of SATs week and to celebrate the hard work and effort shown by all of our pupils.



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 4:00–6:00pm**

Support our PTA event with an exciting netball competition between teaching staff and parents. You can join in by either signing up to a team or paying to spectate. All funds raised come directly back in to the school. We are really looking forward to it.

### Support our PTA!

Our PTA plays a vital role in enriching school life by bringing families and staff together, fundraising for extra opportunities, and helping to create a warm, supportive school community.



## Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 11th May – Thursday 15th May 2026**
- Year 2 SATs take place **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026** for 3 weeks
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026**



**Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates.**

Further details will be given out nearer the time.



### Reception Assembly 22.5.26 at 9:15am

Our Reception children would love their parents (and grandparents) to join them for their Pentecost Assembly on Friday 22nd May at 9:15am.

### Year 5 trip to Wyre Forest – 22.5.26 – all day

Year 5 will be taking part in a fieldwork study trip to support their learning in their Rivers unit. Children will travel by coach and spend the day exploring river features and practising key mapping and fieldwork skills. Pupils should wear their PE kit with suitable footwear and weather-appropriate layers. All children will need a packed lunch and water bottle; those eligible for free school meals will receive a school-provided packed lunch.

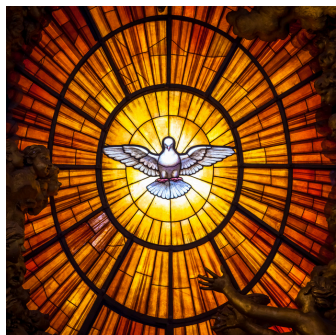


### World Ocean Day – wear blue on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

We are excited to announce that on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026, our school will be celebrating World Ocean Day. This year, we are supporting the Marine Conservation Society, a registered charity dedicated to protecting our seas, shores, and wildlife. To show our support, we invite all children to wear blue and, if possible, donate £1 to the Marine Conservation Society (Registered charity in England and Wales 1004005) – on Gateway. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Severn Trent, who will be delivering assemblies to all children and conducting workshops for Year 4 students. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn more about the importance of our local water systems and the steps we can take to preserve them.

We appreciate your support in encouraging your children to participate in this important event. By wearing blue and making a small donation, they will be part of a global movement to protect our precious marine environments.

Thank you for your cooperation and generosity.



## Year 6 Confirmation Mass – 5.6.26 at 7pm

Our Year 6 children will be making their Confirmation on

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm**

We look forward to welcoming Bishop David to St. Mary's

## Holy Communions

6.6.26 10:00am

6.6.26 2:00pm



Our Year 3 children will be making their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church on this weekend. This marks the third major step on the children's journey of faith, when the children receive the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.



To celebrate that many of the children will have made the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we invite all Y3 children to bring in their Holy Communion outfit/smart clothes, to school on Wednesday 10th June 2026. The children will wear their clothes/outfits to their Y3 Mass in Church on that Wednesday morning at 9:15am and will receive a special blessing from Fr. Hilary. All families are welcome to this Mass. Following the Mass, the children will have a little celebration in school before changing back in to their school uniform/PE kit.

Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Please bring in Holy Communion outfits, in a named bag or on a named hanger. Please do not bring 'accessories' e.g. bags, gloves, veils and jewellery as we do not want anything to be lost/damaged.

## Sports Day for Year 4, 5 and 6 – 10.06.26




Years 4, 5 and 6 will be heading to Tudor Grange Stadium for their Sports Day—a highlight of the school year and an experience the children absolutely loved last year! It's a fantastic opportunity for them to compete, cheer each other on, and enjoy the excitement of a real stadium setting. Children should come to school in their PE kits with a water bottle and arrive promptly for 8:30am, as the coaches will be leaving at 8:45am. Parents are very welcome to attend and enjoy the event from the designated spectator area.

## Year 6 Residential – Alton Castle

**15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

If your child is going to Alton Castle and you were unable to attend the meeting on 30/04/2026, please ensure that you pick up an information pack from the School Office. A polite reminder also that the second instalment of £50 is payable by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May.





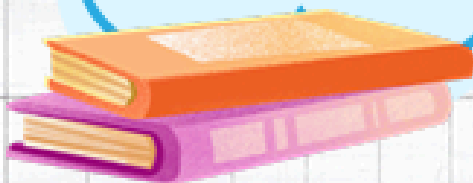
Reception 2027

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2026

- Morning Tour: 10:30 - 11:30
- Afternoon Tour: 13:45 - 14:45

Email: [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)  
to book your place

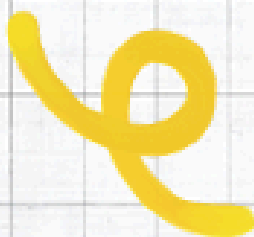


## OUR MISSION

TO LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS  
BY  
LEARNING TOGETHER  
LOVING OURSELVES  
LOVING EACH OTHER  
LOVING ALL PEOPLE  
LOVING LIFE ITSELF  
AND  
CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR  
EXCELLENCE  
WORTHY OF OUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS.

For more information call our school  
office on: 0121 464 2141 or visit our  
website:

[https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/september\\_2027\\_reception\\_class/720099](https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/september_2027_reception_class/720099)



# Parent/Carer Information

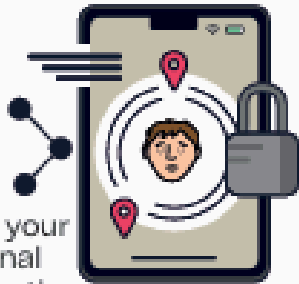


TOP TEN TIPS TO



## STAY SAFE ONLINE

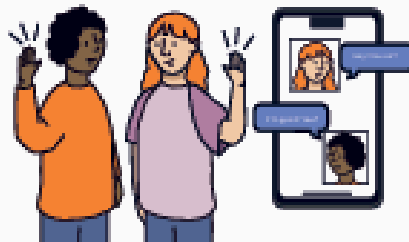
1



Don't share your personal information

2

Only talk to people that you know



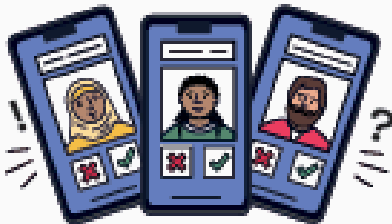
3

Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online



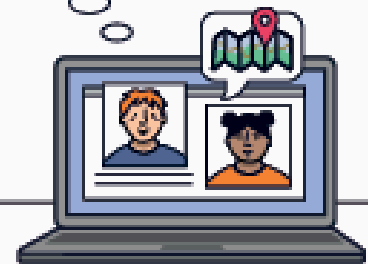
4

Only accept friend requests from people you know personally



5

Always think carefully about what you post



6



Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts

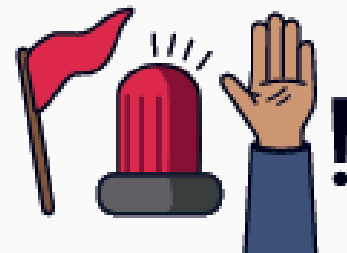
7



Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are

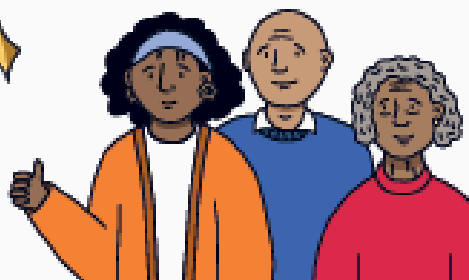
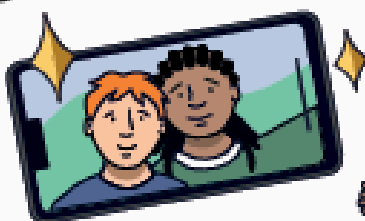
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Report inappropriate content immediately

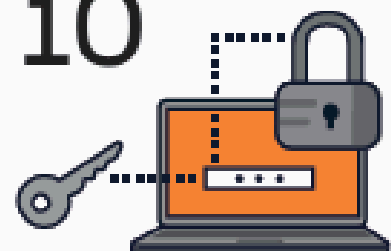


9

Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing



10



Never share your passwords

We are an operation encompass school. Therefore school is working alongside the police to ensure support for any child who has been involved in or witness to domestic abuse. Please find more information about this on our website or contact the school office.

## Pastoral Team

If you require any support from school please speak to a member of our pastoral team

### If you require any support from school please speak to a member of our pastoral team

If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure (intentionally or unintentionally) you must contact one of the following staff members as quickly as possible:



Laura Noone  
Lead DSL  
DHT



Louise Yorke  
Headteacher



Jade Preedy  
AHT



Rachel Jones  
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame  
School  
Counsellor



Rachel Richards  
EYFS Lead



Shania  
Birchenall  
SENDCo

## Do not book holidays during term time

This is a reminder that holidays during term time are unauthorised. If you intend to take your child out of school during term time, we ask that you complete a holiday request form at least 2 weeks prior to the leave date where possible. Parents may be fined by the Local Authority for taking unauthorised leave of absence. Children need to be in school every day so please ensure holidays are only booked during school holiday time.

Good attendance, continues to be a school and government priority. Good attendance is 96% and above

Remember below 95% is a concern and below 90% is classed as persistent absence. If you have any problems with regards to getting your child to school or you are struggling to improve your child's attendance, please speak to Mrs. Yorke or Mrs. Noone.

We will announce the attendance for the previous week in this section of the newsletter each week.

## Attendance and Punctuality: -

Our attendance for last week was -  
Attendance

Week 04/05/26-08/05/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	97	91	95	97	96	98	97	99	95	92	96	99	97	96
Lates	4	1	2	1	1	1	4	3	0	2	0	0	0	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96%			School Target				97%	

Well done 3T and 5F: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for next half term

Summer theme -

Summer 2

1st June 2026 - all day

**WB 01.06.26**

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 - all day

3rd June 2026 - 9:15am

5th June 2026 - 7:00pm

6th June 2026 - 10:00am

6th June 2026 - 2:00pm

5th June 2026 - all day

**WB 08.06.26**

10th June 2026 - 9:15am

10th June 2026 - am

15th to 17th June 2026

17th June 2026 - 9:15am

19th June 2026 - 9:15 or 1:15

24th June 2026 - 9:30am

26th June 2026 - 3:30pm

1st July 2026 - all day

2nd July 2026 - pm

3rd July 2026 - pm

8th July 2026 - 9:15am

9th July 2026 - 2pm

10th July 2026 - 2pm

14th July 2026 - 9am

14th July 2026 - all day

15th July 2026 - 9:30am

16th July 2026

Stewardship

Attentive and Discerning

Children return to school at normal time

**Year 4 Multiplication check window - 3 weeks**

School Council (KS2) trip to the Houses of Parliament

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 6 classes attend) - parents welcome

Confirmation Mass for Year 6 in Church with Bishop David Evans

Holy Communion Mass for Year 3 in Church

Holy Communion Mass for Year 3 in Church

**World Ocean Day - wear blue**

**Phonics check for Year 1 this week**

Year 3 Mass in Church and Holy Communion celebration - parents welcome

Years 4, 5, 6 Sports Day at Tudor Grange - wear house colours - parents welcome

Year 6 Residential at Alton Castle

Year 1 Mass (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Fathers' Day Inspire for Reception to Year 6

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

PTA event - Party in the Playground (ticketed event)

Transition Day (inc. new Reception cohort) - children meet their new teacher

Reception Sports Day - wear house colours

Years 1, 2 and 3 Sports Day - wear house colours

Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Year 2 Prayer Service for parents

St Alphonsa House Feast Day - wear own clothes

Year 6 Leavers Mass (Whole School) - parents welcome

Break up for Summer holidays

Early finish time

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Year 6 shirt signing on final day in school and 2:00pm guard of honour

## Next Year's Term Dates - 2026-2027

<b>Autumn Term</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>

### School Closed:

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 - May Bank Holiday

### INSET DAYS

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026
  - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026
  - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027
- 2/3 more INSET days to be confirmed