



# DRUMBEAT SCHOOL

## Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It is lovely to see all our children settled back into school and having fun while also learning lots of new things.

As you probably know our curriculum now follows three pathways. We have appointed pathway leads Michael, Becky and Lucy so if you have any questions about your child's pathway please contact them.

We will be celebrating Christmas differently this year to keep everyone safe. Events will be posted online for you to view.

Happy Diwali to all those families celebrating this week.

Marie Neave  
Executive Headteacher

### *Dates for the Diary....*

#### **Friday, 5 November**

Individual Pupil Photographs  
Downham

#### **Friday, 19 November**

Individual Pupil Photographs  
Brockley

#### **Friday, 17 December**

Last day of term  
School will close at 1pm on  
this day

#### **Tuesday, 4 January & Wednesday, 5 January**

INSET days  
Pupils will not attend school  
on these days

#### **Thursday, 6 January**

Pupils' first day of term

**NO PARKING  
DO NOT BLOCK  
DRIVEWAY**

**Please be mindful when parking outside the school and ensure that local residents' drives are not blocked and bus entrances are kept clear.**



## **School Uniform**

Please name all your children's clothing as it is difficult to locate lost clothing without some form of identification.

Our school uniform consists of black trousers/skirt, plain white polo shirt and purple sweatshirt. If you would like to order uniform please visit [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com) and put the school name in the box, this will then take you to our page. The address is also on the school website under 'for parents'.

Whitehall Clothiers in Lewisham also has a limited stock of our uniform. They are at 244a Lewisham High Street, London, SE13 6JU (Tel: 0208 852 8967 or [www.whitehallclothiers.co.uk](http://www.whitehallclothiers.co.uk))

For swimming your child will need to bring a towel and swimsuit or costume. They will also need shorts and a T-shirt for P.E. lessons. These may be left at school, in a clearly marked bag.

In the 6th Form students can choose to wear their own clothes to school. In practice we find the vast majority of students choose this option and do not wear the Drumbeat school uniform.



## News from Pathway 1

### EYFS News



We have had an amazing start to the school year in Early Years. All the children have settled in wonderfully and it is so nice to see how happy they all are.

This term our topic is All About Me: we have been making self-portraits in Art, exploring different textures in Sensory Food sessions, cooking Autumn dishes in Cooking and learning lots during Maths & Literacy.

***Keep an eye out in your child's contact book for any upcoming dates including trips.***



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## News from Pathway 1

### Learning

This term Roots have been learning about 'Celebrations' in KS1 and 'All Creatures Great & Small' in KS2. We have been doing lots of messy play, Attention Autism and Intensive Interaction sessions. All pupils have settled into their classes really well and are happy to be back at school.

### Trips

We will be planning local walks soon and our Christmas trips so please keep an eye out in your child's contact book for more information.

### Don't forget....

To send in spare clothes (3 sets) with names in. We get really messy in Roots so it is very likely your child will need a change of clothes daily.

### Special Events

We celebrated Black History Month. We tried a range of foods, had cooking sessions and learned some African dancing.





## Turtle Class



Turtle Class have made a great start to the year. All the students have begun to get to know their new teacher, Ben, and we have engaged in lots of sensory activities that we have enjoyed.

This term we have been looking at different types of weather and joining in sensory activities based on the weather. We made a sensory display based on the weather using cotton wool and bubble wrap.





## News from Pathway 2

Welcome back! It has been a busy half term but lovely to see all the children settling in to their new classes. KS1 children have been learning about Celebrations. We have had birthday parties for children in our classes.



KS2 children have been learning about 'All Creatures Great and Small'. They have been reading Dear Zoo.

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KS2 have also been participating in cooking, art and music activities.



KS3 pupils have been working on communicating their wants and needs in an appropriate way. The topic has been 'All About Me' where they have been labelling features and body parts and using some descriptive language in their writing.



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KS3 pupils have also been exploring the topic of Black History Month by finding out about traditions from different cultures. The children created their own West African tribal masks and also did some "Kente Weaving" the traditional way of print weaving in Ghana.



Becky H  
Pathway 2 Lead



Hello from Zebra Class. We have been really busy this half term and have enjoyed being back at school. In maths we have focused on number and shape, we have sorted, matched and labelled a range of 2D and 3D shapes. For number we have been working on identifying more/less and subtraction and addition. In English we have engaged in Dough Disco, writing, communication and phonics sessions. We have also enjoyed engaging in weekly music, computing, PE, cooking and art sessions. This term we have been able to use both the sensory room and soft play which we have really enjoyed. For our topic story 'Celebrations' we have been learning about the 'Harvest Festival' and celebrated Kristal's and Evangeline's birthdays.



## Celebrations and Festivals

Birthdays and Harvest Festival

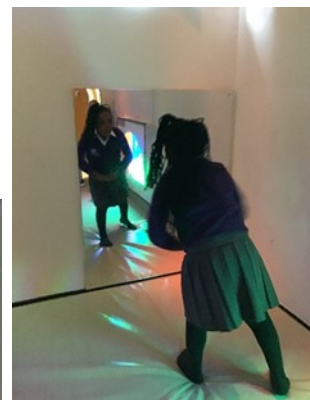
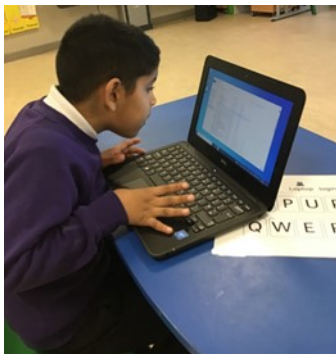


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Computing, PE, Cooking,  
Music, Art &  
Sensory Room

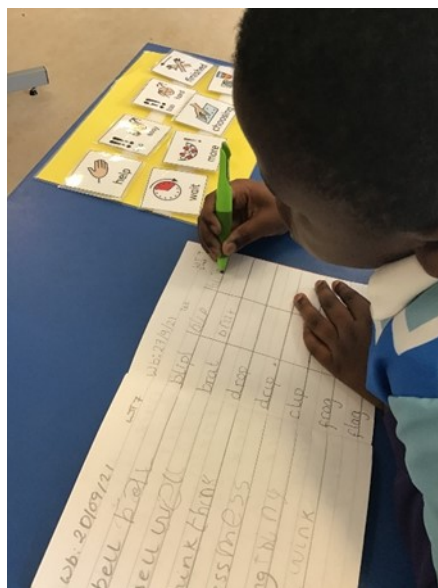


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## English



## Maths





## Flamingo Class

This half term we have been enjoying our topic 'All creatures great and small' and took our learning outside of the classroom when we visited the Dinosaurs at Crystal Palace Park.

Everyone had a fantastic day and the children made us all very proud with their brilliant behaviour and enthusiasm.



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## **Literacy**

We have really enjoyed our topic book 'Dear Zoo' this half term and the children have produced some lovely art work based on the book. We have used the story to explore adjectives and have had lots of fun with our animal small world tray. Flamingo class have also been developing their fine-motor and mark-making skills during our daily writing sessions and are all working hard on their individual communication targets. Our topic book next half term is – **'The Gruffalo'**

## **Maths**

Our topic in Maths this half term has been 'big and small' and we have had great fun exploring this a variety of different ways. The children have enjoyed Attention Autism sessions, sorting big and small items into the correct tray and developing their gross motor skills by demonstrating a range of big and small actions.

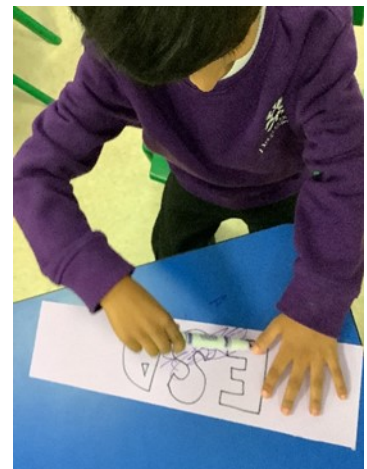
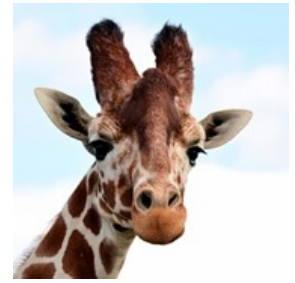
We have also been practising our counting skills and number recognition and our favourite way to practice our numbers is through song.

## **Food group**

Flamingo class have been enjoying weekly food group and cooking sessions where they are exploring new foods using all of their senses. While many of our children find trying new foods difficult, everyone has been willing to touch and smell a variety of food items and many of us are now licking and even biting new, unfamiliar foods. This is fantastic progress which we will continue to build on next half term. Well done Flamingo class.

## Giraffe Class

Welcome back! It has been a busy half term and both staff and children are exhausted! The children have settled really well into Year 1 and their new class. We have established routines and the children are becoming more independent in learning activities. Look at the fun we have been having!



Our topic is Celebrations and we have had two birthdays to celebrate already this term. We had a little party and blew the candles out on a cake. We will celebrate every child's birthday in this way. After half term we will be continuing to learn about celebrations and festivals, such as Christmas, Diwali and Bonfire Night.





Lions



Penguins



Seahorses



Galahad



Excalibur



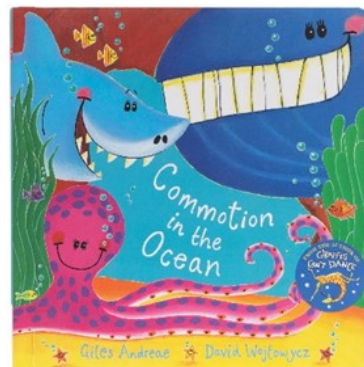
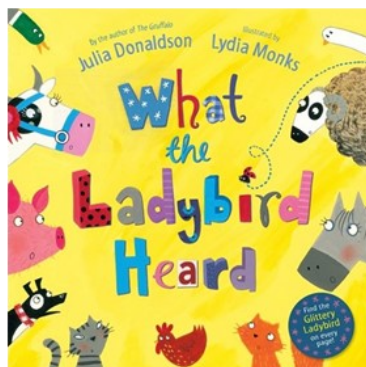
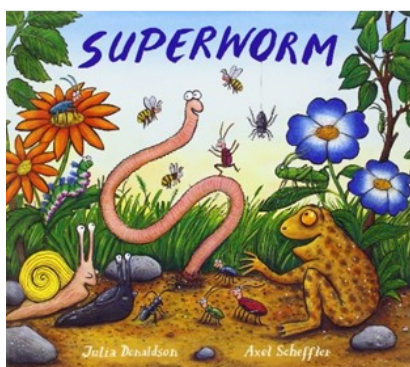
Lancelot

## News from Pathway 3

Pathway 3 have had a busy but exciting start back to school after the summer. There has been some fantastic learning happening in school but we have also been able to get out of school to go on some trips to bring our learning to life!

Key Stage 2 have been learning about All Creatures Great and Small.

Each class has been using a focus text to support our learning. If you would like to read these at home, the books we have used so far have been:



Each primary class has already been out on a trip this half term. Lion Class went to Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park and went on a mini beast hunt, tried bird watching using binoculars and caught a water scorpion when pond dipping!

Penguin and Seahorse Class visited High Elms Environmental Education Centre and explored the woodland there. They also learned a lot in the education centre looking at fossils and birds nests and investigated which creatures lived in the pond.

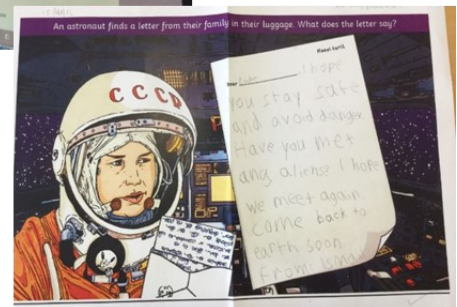


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Lancelot Class' topic this term was 'My universe'. They have been learning about the solar system, naming and ordering planets as well as identifying their main features. The students produced some fantastic creative writing about the topic and some great art work.



In Excalibur class, they have been finding out what goes into the food that we eat and are now able to plan and cook simple meals. Recently, they made Chicken noodles stir-fry. It was yummy!



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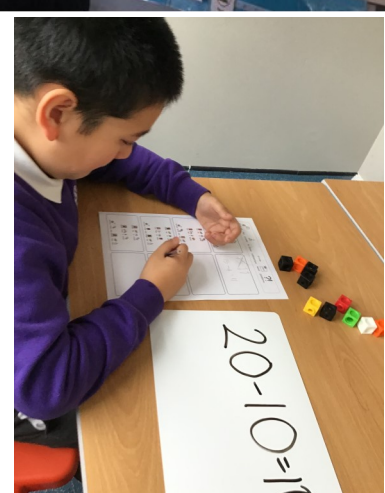
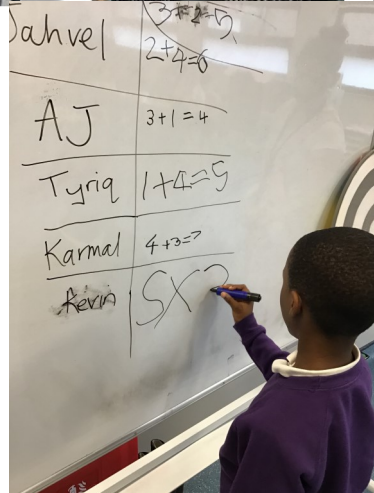
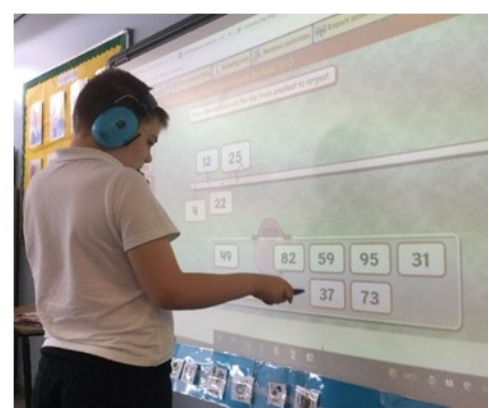


Galahad class have been learning about habitats and living things in our Planet Earth topic. They have been carrying out independent research through internet searches, watching videos and reading fact files.



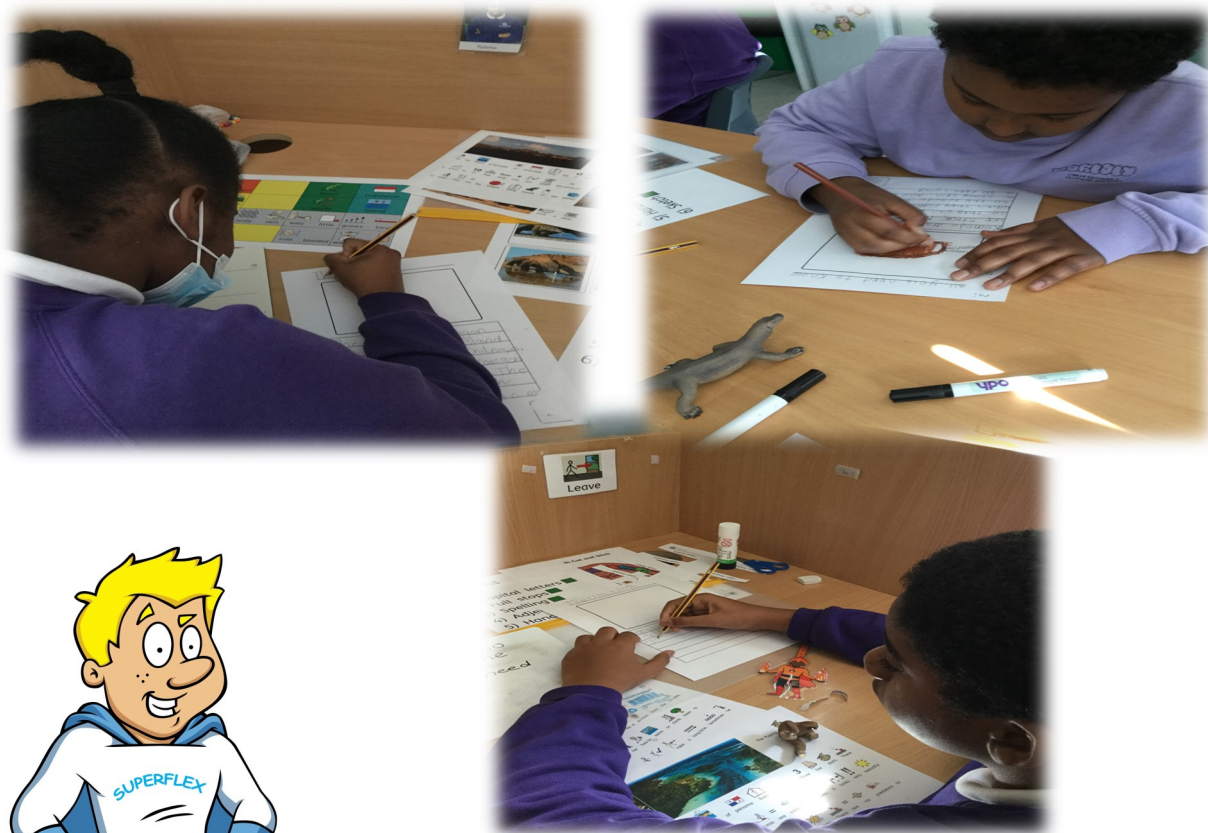
Alongside all this amazing work, each class has also been working extremely hard on their English and maths targets.

Some classes have been learning to use money in a functional way through role play experiences. They are beginning to work out how much change they would get if we pay too much. Other classes have been focusing on number and place value.



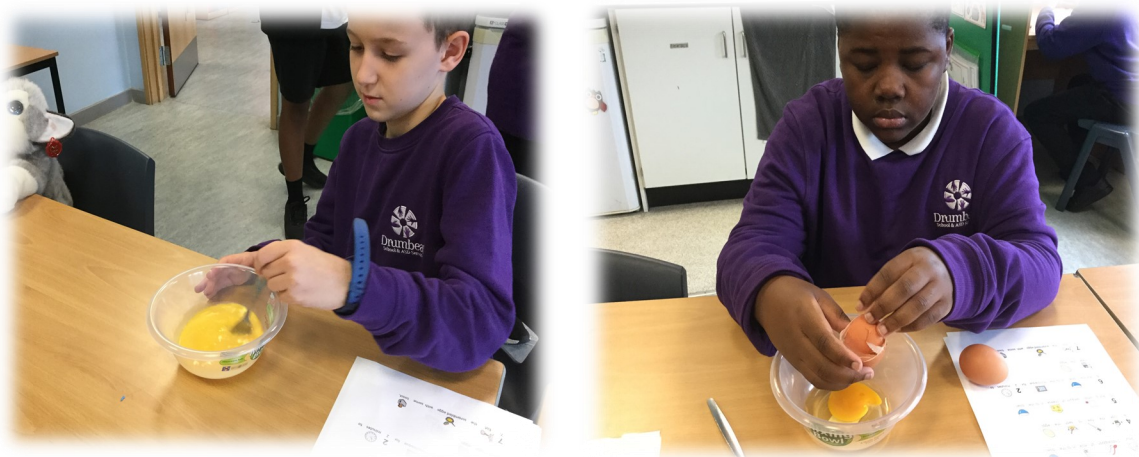
## Galahad Class

This term Galahad class have been learning about 'Our Planet.' The children have been exploring different habitats and animals through reading, writing and arts.



We have also been developing our social skills through Superflex. All the children have enjoyed learning about new unthinkable characters who make us behave in a socially unexpected way. Ask your children to tell you a little more about some of the characters.

We have also been working on our independence through cooking and self-help tasks. The children have been working in pairs to create a range of simple meals.





## Lancelot Class

Lancelot class students have been learning about prominent black people who made an impact in history. The students also enjoyed looking at some African artefacts, making African masks and tasting food from around the world.





## Camelot Class

To incorporate Harvest festival and Halloween into our curriculum, Camelot class were exploring the book "The enormous turnip" and roleplaying the characters and acting out the story with our rather large pumpkin grown by someone in our community on their allotment during lockdown.

We then carved the pumpkin for Halloween and did our foaming pumpkin experiment in science.





## Wimbledon Class

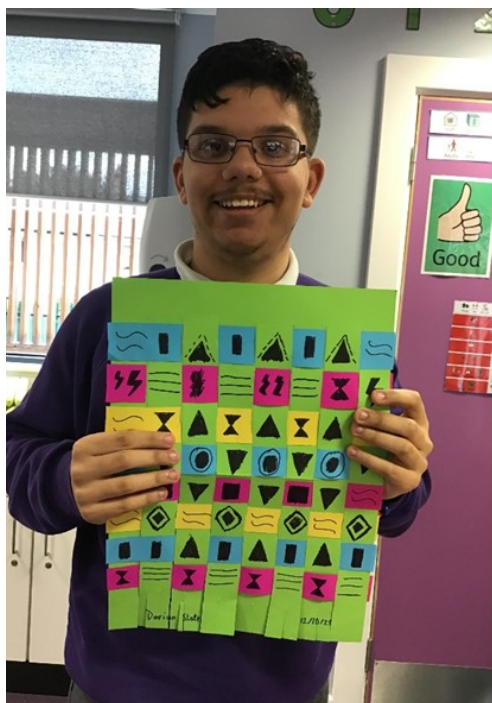
Wimbledon class have been doing lots of activities relating to Black History month. The students have researched activists, politicians and artists in Black culture. They have been cooking Caribbean food; we made salt fish fritters, fried plantain and Jamaican patties. The students have also been learning about geometric designs on Kente cloth. They wove repeating patterns using strips of card and then decorated their weaving with their own designs and patterns.



Making salt fish fritters  
and fried plantain.

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## Kente cloth designs



Researching black artists and making picture frames for the photos.



## Tower Class

Welcome to Tower class, where I (Andrea) work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Tim works Thursday and Friday. We have a wonderful committed staff team, Gary, Joy and Khana, who go over and beyond to make sure the students are settled and achieving their full potential. Julia also joins us on a Monday afternoon where she leads a group of students from Tower and Shard class in the new Life skills challenge curriculum.

It's great to welcome some new students to Tower class this year!

Aathithan and Harmony have joined us from a different school, whilst Ben, Humaid and Kirsty have joined us from other classes. We also welcome Tyrese and Jemiah from KS4 who have made a fantastic start to their sixth form education. All students have settled in really well and are working hard and making new friends.



It has been a very busy term so far with preparations for our new curriculum, enterprise, college visits, internal work experience, sports, fitness, cooking, gardening, arts and crafts, performing and media.



# **SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES — 2021/22**

## **AUTUMN TERM 2021**

**Autumn Term 1**                      **Wednesday 1 September – INSET day**  
**Thursday 2 September – Students first day of term**  
**Friday 1 October – INSET day**  
**Friday 22 October - Last day of term**

**Half Term Holiday**                      **Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October**

**Autumn Term 2**                      **Monday 1 November – First day of term**  
**Friday 17 December – Last day of term\***

**Christmas Holiday**                      **Monday 20 December – Monday 3 January**

## **SPRING TERM 2022**

**Spring Term 1**                      **Tuesday 4 January & Wednesday 5 January—INSET days**  
**Thursday 6 January — Students first day of term**  
**Friday 11 February – Last day of term**

**Half Term Holiday**                      **Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February**

**Spring Term 2**                      **Monday 21 February – First day of term**  
**Friday 1 April – Last day of term\***

**Easter Holiday**                      **Monday 4 April – Monday 18 April**  
**(Easter weekend 15-18 April)**

## **SUMMER TERM 2022**

**Summer Term 1**                      **Tuesday 19 April – First day of term**  
**Thursday 16 May — Students last day of term**  
**(May Day Bank Holiday will be taken on 2 May)**

**Half Term Holiday**                      **Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June**  
**(Spring Bank Holiday will be taken on 2nd June and**  
**Platinum Jubilee will be taken on 3rd June)**

**Summer Term 2**                      **Monday 6 June – First day of term**  
**Friday 22 July – Last day of term\***

*INSET days = Staff Training days. Pupils do not attend school on these days.*

*\*School will close at 1pm on the last day of the full term.*