



June Newsletter

Attendance Matters

 AUTHORISED ABSENCE ✓ Genuine illness, such as high temperature, sickness or diarrhoea ✓ Doctor-advised absence ✓ Medical appointments	 UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE ● Overslept ● Too tired ● Birthday ● Days out ● Holidays not agreed by school
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Children are still able to attend school if they have a mild cold, sore throat or headache. We are able to administer Calpol in school with a completed consent form from the front office.

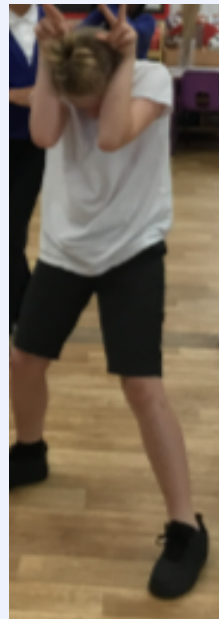
Shakespeare Workshop

On Wednesday 3rd June our Year 5 & 6 pupils were fortunate to have West End Schools in to deliver a drama workshop and help prepare the children for their summer play -A Midsummer Night's Dream.

This has linked in well with our History last term, which was about the Tudors and William Shakespeare.

Each class explored the storyline of A Midsummer Night's Dream and some of the characters. The children were encouraged to use their creativity and imagination, which lead them to be able to perform an abridged version of the play to each other.

This was also a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn some of Shakespeare's language and develop a creative way to express themselves ready for their performance in July.



Paultons Park EYFS

Early Years had a wonderful trip to Paulton's Park last term. We had lovely weather, no queues to rides and amazing behaviour from everyone. The giggles and squeals of excitement from the children were a delight to hear and all children thoroughly enjoyed the day. The coach ride home was very quiet with almost half of the children falling asleep, a sign of a successful fun-filled day!



WONDER DOME

At the beginning of this term, every class had the exciting opportunity to experience the Wonder Dome, a travelling planetarium that brought space directly to our school. The children were incredibly enthusiastic throughout the visit and truly amazed our visitor with both their excellent behaviour and their impressive knowledge of the solar system. Each class took part in an engaging and interactive projected show inside the dome, where they explored planets, stars, and other fascinating features of space. The experience not only captivated their imagination but also reinforced and deepened their understanding of previously learned topics. It was a fantastic enrichment opportunity that inspired curiosity and a real sense of wonder about the universe.



Wiltshire Libraries - Summer Reading Challenge

We're excited to invite your child to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge – Read to the Beat! - completely free at your local library!

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a fun, free way for children aged 4–11 to stay motivated to read during the summer holidays. Children set their own reading goal and can read anything they enjoy – all books count!

What will my child read?

Anything they like! We've also curated a special booklist featuring 55 titles for all reading levels, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and graphic novels, with dyslexia-friendly options too. From rap and K-pop to orchestras and opera, there's a music-inspired story for every child.

How can my child take part? (Library or online)

At the library:

- Visit your local library to sign up – it starts on Super Sign-Up Saturday 4 July!
 - Set a summer reading goal and choose from books, eBooks, or audiobooks. Check out the Read to the Beat Collection for suggestions
 - Receive a special sticker booklet and collect rewards for reading
- Or online · Visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- Sign up, set a reading goal, and get book recommendations
 - Unlock digital badges and earn a printable certificate

Don't miss out – head to your local library and sign up this summer!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tidworth Library 01980 843460

Yours faithfully, Diane Ratcliffe

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>





School council

I wanted to take a moment to share some of the positive comments from our recent School Council meeting. It was wonderful to hear directly from the children about what they feel is going well across the school:

- Key Stage 1 history learning - Children shared how much they are enjoying learning about the Victorians, particularly creating fact files. They spoke positively about how this helps them to organise their knowledge and understand what life was like in the past.
- Healthier choices at break times - School councillors have noticed an increase in children bringing and eating healthy snacks, especially more fruit. This shows a growing awareness from pupils about making healthier choices.
- Year 3/4 Matilda trip - The recent trip to see Matilda was a real highlight, with many children describing it as a favourite experience. They enjoyed the opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom and be inspired by live performance.
- Year 6 swimming sessions - Year 6 pupils are thoroughly enjoying their weekly swimming sessions. They spoke about building confidence in the water and developing important life skills.
- New play equipment - Many children commented on the new play time equipment, which has been very well received. They enjoy how it encourages creative and imaginative play, making break times more engaging and fun for everyone.



Service Families



At Ludgershall Castle Primary School, we are proud to welcome and support service children and their families, helping them to learn, have fun and succeed. We understand that moving and changing schools can bring both excitement and uncertainty, and we work hard to build strong, positive relationships from the very beginning.

We are supported by our Service Champion, Mrs Ormerod, who leads initiatives across the school. Most recently, this includes the introduction of purple lanyards for staff who have, or have previously had, connections with the armed forces. These have been shared with the children so they know they can speak to any adult, but also have the choice to talk to someone who understands and can offer additional support.

We are also currently working on revamping our Dandelion Club for service children - so watch this space!



Key Dates

Term 6

Monday 1st June - First day back of Term 6 for all children.

Monday 15th June - School development day. No school for pupils.

Wednesday 17th June - New EYFS intake parent meeting at 5.00pm.

Thursday 18th June - Book swap in school.

Wednesday 24th June - EYFS transition day with parents 9.30-10.30 or 1-2pm.

Saturday 27th June – Armed Forces Day.

Tuesday 30th June – CSI writing workshop visit for Yr 5 & 6.

Wednesday 1st July - EYFS children only transition day 9.30-10.30 or 1-2pm.

Friday 3rd July - Mental Health exhibition with external agencies for parents. Drop in 1-3pm.

Monday 6th July – School class photos.

Tuesday 7th July - EYFS/KS1 Sports morning at 9.30am.

Wednesday 8th July - KS2 Sports morning at 9.30am.

****Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July - backup Sports mornings if bad weather is due ****

Tuesday 14th July - Year 6 Leavers Church Service at 9.30am. Parents/ carers welcome.

Wednesday 15th July - EYFS children only transition day 9.30-10.30 or 1-2pm.

Wednesday 15th July - Year 5 & 6 play performance for parents at 2pm.

Thursday 16th July – ‘Bump up’ morning – children visit new classes for next academic year.

Monday 20th July - Year 6 Leavers assembly for parents at 9am.

Tuesday 21st July - Year 6 Leavers party 1.30-3pm.

Wednesday 22nd July - Last day of Term 6. School breaks up at 2pm. Non - uniform £1 voluntary contribution to the school fund.

2026-2027 Academic Year

Tuesday 1st September – Staff development day. No school for children.

Wednesday 2nd September – First day back of Term 1 for Year 1-Year 6.

Thursday 3rd September – First day back for new EYFS starters.

Please note some of these dates may be subject to change if needed and we may add more throughout the term.



New Reception Intake September 2026

We are delighted to be welcoming our new EYFS starters this September and we look forward to them beginning their journey with us.

To support a smooth transition, we have scheduled transition sessions on

- Wednesday 1st July, and
- Wednesday 15th July,

with two time options available: 9:30–10:30am or 1:00–2:00pm.

Please ensure you collect your child's welcome pack, including admissions paperwork, and return this to the school office as soon as possible.

We also have a dedicated page on our website to support you in getting your child ready for school - please follow the link below for helpful information and guidance.

<https://ludgershallcastle.web11.juniperwebsites.co.uk/new-intake-year-r-20252026>

<https://startingreception.co.uk/>



2026/2027 Term Dates

A reminder:

Term dates for the 2026–27 academic year, which are attached on the next page.

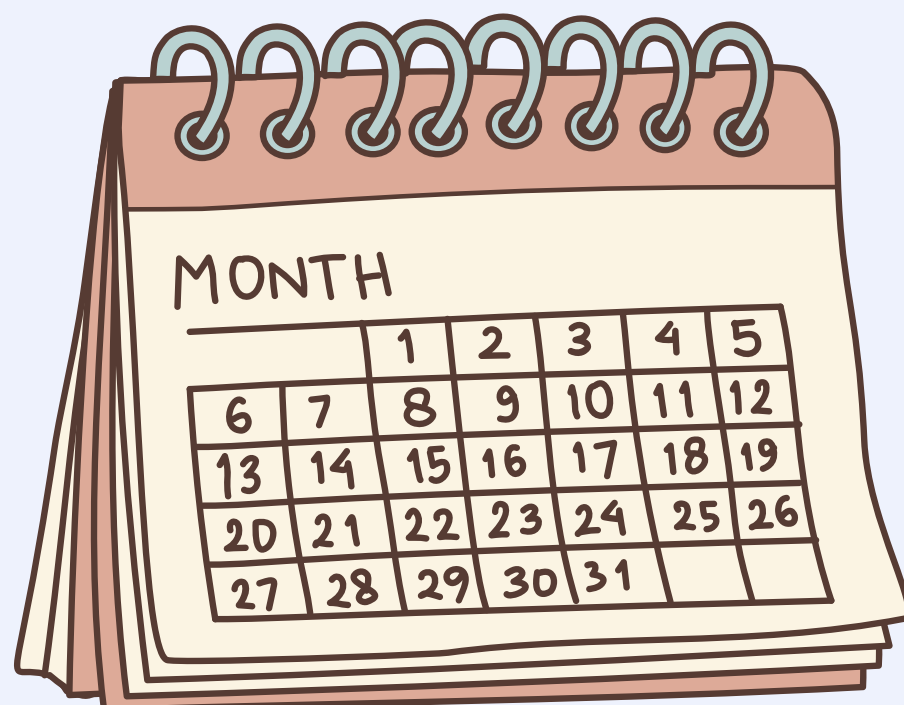
You will notice that we have planned three INSET days to join with the week and a half October break, resulting in a longer October half term. This decision has been made carefully and for several important reasons:

- It brings our dates into alignment with our local secondary school, which will benefit many families with children across both settings.
- It offers families greater flexibility and the opportunity to access lower-cost holidays during this extended break.
- It supports staff wellbeing and high quality planning, which in turn benefits the children.

Please note that, in line with Department for Education guidance, the school will not authorise holiday absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. We therefore strongly encourage families to use the published school holidays when making travel plans.

We hope that sharing these dates in advance helps you with planning for the academic year ahead. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



September 2026							October 2026							November 2026						
M		7	14	21	28		M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu	1	8	15	22	29		Tu		6	13	20	27		Tu		3	10	17	24	
W	2	9	16	23	30		W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24			Th	1	8	15	22	29		Th		5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25			F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27	
Sa	5	12	19	26			Sa	3	10	17	24	31		Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su	6	13	20	27			Su	4	11	18	25			Su	1	8	15	22	29	

December 2026							January 2027							February 2027						
M		7	14	21	28		M		4	11	18	25		M		1	8	15	22	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29		Tu		5	12	19	26		Tu		2	9	16	23	
W	2	9	16	23	30		W		6	13	20	27		W		3	10	17	24	
Th	3	10	17	24	31		Th		7	14	21	28		Th		4	11	18	25	
F	4	11	18	25			F	1	8	15	22	29		F		5	12	19	26	
Sa	5	12	19	26			Sa	2	9	16	23	30		Sa		6	13	20	27	
Su	6	13	20	27			Su	3	10	17	24	31		Su		7	14	21	28	

March 2027							April 2027							May 2027						
M	1	8	15	22	29		M		5	12	19	26		M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu	2	9	16	23	30		Tu		6	13	20	27		Tu		4	11	18	25	
W	3	10	17	24	31		W		7	14	21	28		W		5	12	19	26	
Th	4	11	18	25			Th	1	8	15	22	29		Th		6	13	20	27	
F	5	12	19	26			F	2	9	16	23	30		F		7	14	21	28	
Sa	6	13	20	27			Sa	3	10	17	24			Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	7	14	21	28			Su	4	11	18	25			Su	2	9	16	23	30	

June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
M			7	14	21	28	M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu		6	13	20	27		Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W		2	9	16	23	30	W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th	1	8	15	22	29		Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa	3	10	17	24	31		Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su	4	11	18	25			Su	1	8	15	22	29	

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time

 TD day

Term dates summary:

Term 1	01 September to 21 October 2026	37 days
Term 2	02 November to 18 December 2026	35 days
Term 3	04 January to 12 February 2027	30 days
Term 4	22 February to 25 March 2027	24 days
Term 5	12 April to 28 May 2027	34 days
Term 6	07 June to 23 July 2027	35 days
TOTAL		195 Days

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.

5 days are also available for professional training day closures during term time, set by the Headteacher and Governors of each school.

Bank and Public Holidays 2026/2027

Christmas Day Holiday	Fri 25th December 2026
Boxing Day Holiday	Sat 26th December 2026
Boxing Day Holiday (substitute day)	Mon 28th December 2026
New Years Holiday	Fri 1st January 2027
Good Friday	Fri 26th March 2027
Easter Monday	Mon 29th March 2027
May Day Holiday	Mon 03rd May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	Mon 31st May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	Mon 30th August 2027

Thank you Mrs Walker!

Mrs Walker from St James' Church, Ludgershall, and our Curriculum Governor recently visited Year 2 to deliver a special 'Open the Book' session on the theme of the Fruits of the Spirit. The children really enjoyed the session, which was engaging, thoughtful, and full of meaningful discussion.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Walker for her continued commitment to our school. She regularly comes in to deliver 'Open the Book' sessions across all year groups, and her time, enthusiasm, and support are greatly valued by both staff and pupils.



School Book Club

We really enjoyed reading Ghostlines by Katya Balen at our recent School Book Club meeting.



Our next Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday 14th July from 3.15–4.15pm, where we will be reading The Shapeshifter 1: Finding the Fox by Ali Sparkes. We will ensure copies of the book are available in each Key Stage 2 classroom, but children are also welcome to borrow a copy from the library or bring their own.

Reminder: Walk, Scoot or Cycle to School 🚶 🛹 🚲

We encourage all families to walk, scoot or cycle to school wherever possible. This helps to reduce congestion on our school road and creates a safer, calmer environment for everyone at the start and end of the day.

If you do need to drive, please park considerately, showing care and respect for our neighbours, and avoid using the doctors' practice car park. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe and accessible for all.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes such a difference to our school community.

