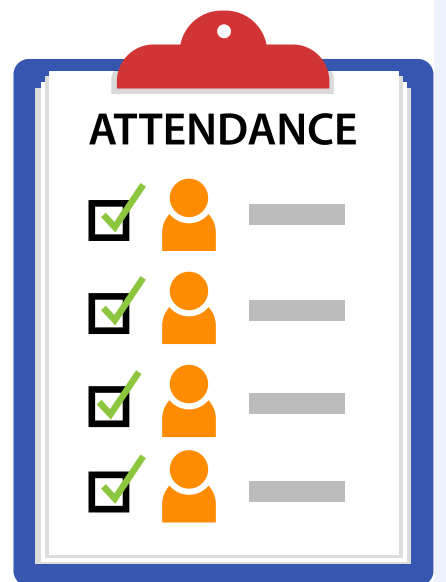




May Newsletter

Attendance Matters

Parent Responsibilities for Attendance



We ask parents and carers to support good attendance by:

1. Making school attendance and punctuality a priority every day.
2. Ensuring children arrive on time – **school gates are open from 8.35am to 8.45am.**
3. Ensuring children attend school regularly and only keeping them at home when genuinely unwell.
4. Informing the school by 9.15am on the first day of absence and advising when their child is expected to return.
5. Avoiding holidays during term time and completing a Leave of Absence Form in advance if exceptional circumstances apply (please note these are rarely authorised).
6. Booking medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible.
7. Supporting good morning and bedtime routines to help children arrive on time and ready to learn.
8. Working with the school if attendance concerns arise, so we can support children effectively.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring all children benefit from being in school every day

We would like to remind parents that pupil attendance is being monitored very closely. Please ensure your child attends school every day unless there is a genuinely unavoidable reason for absence.



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 24th June,
- 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/>



Art Workshop

On Thursday 7th May, LKS2 took part in an exciting art workshop led by a visiting artist, where the children explored the fascinating world of Stone Age cave paintings. However, instead of creating traditional Stone Age scenes, the children were challenged to imagine what cave paintings would look like if they were created today. The pupils produced some wonderful artwork inspired by the things most important to them, including pets, favourite games, friends and family. It was fantastic to see their creativity and individuality shine through in such thoughtful and imaginative pieces of art.



Matilda Trip

On Thursday 14th May, our Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to watch Matilda. The children were a credit to the school, demonstrating exemplary behaviour throughout the day and representing us brilliantly.

They thoroughly enjoyed the performance, engaging fully with the story, music and atmosphere of a live theatre production. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children (and adults!) to experience and appreciate a professional theatre performance, and one that will surely be remembered for a long time.



Key Dates

Tuesday 19th May - New EYFS cohort welcome pack collections.

Wednesday 20th May - EYFS trip to Paultons Park.

Friday 22nd May - New EYFS welcome pack collections.

Friday 22nd May - Last day of Term 5. Break up at 3.15pm. Non-uniform £1 voluntary contribution to the school fund.

Term 6

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

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

Thursday 18th June - Book swap in school.

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

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

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 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.

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

Tuesday 21st July - Year 6 Leavers party.

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

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

2026/2027 Term Dates

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

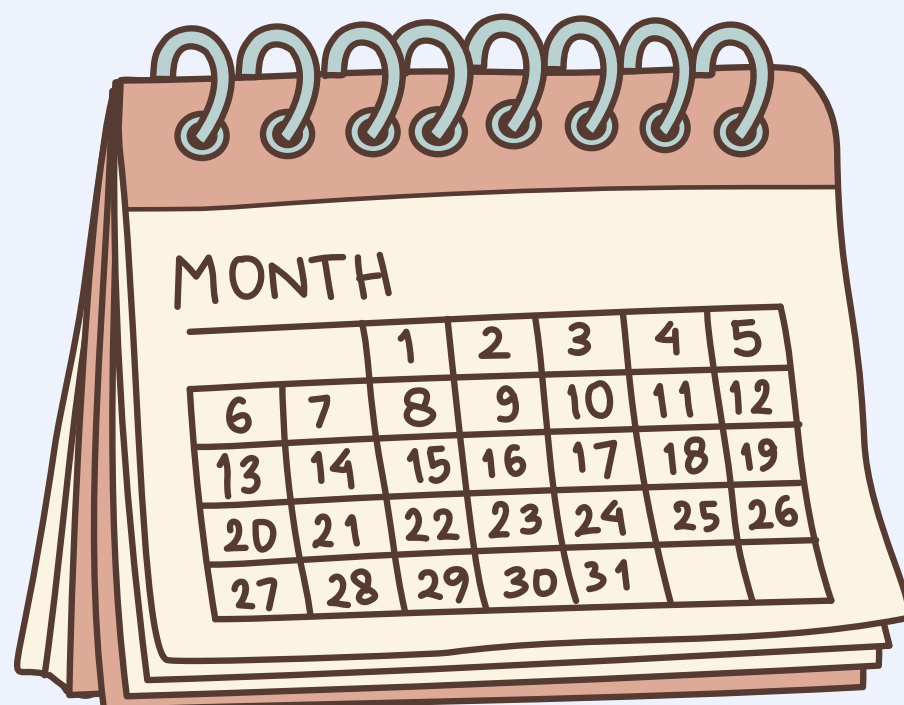
You will notice that we have planned three INSET days to join with the week and a half October break, resulting in a longer October half term. This decision has been made carefully and for several important reasons:

- 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

School Book Club

We really enjoyed reading *The Last Firefox* by Lee Newbery at our recent School Book Club meeting.



Our next Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday 9th June from 3.15–4.15pm, where we will be reading *Ghostlines* by Katya Balen. 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.



Summer Term

As we welcome everyone back for the summer term, we are hopeful of warmer, sunnier days ahead and lots of exciting learning opportunities. Please ensure that children continue to wear the correct school uniform each day so they are comfortable and ready to learn. When the weather is sunny, children should come to school prepared with a named sun hat and have sun cream applied before the start of the school day. We also understand that mornings can still be chilly, so bringing a coat is a good idea for cooler days.

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

