

Hurstmere News

30th June 2023

Edition 10

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www.hurstmere.org.uk



The focus of our Assemblies this coming week will be on **REWARDS**.

If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards.

Bear Bryant

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

DO something TODAY THAT YOUR future self WILL thank you FOR

In this special edition of the newsletter, we celebrate the Year 11's journey through Hurstmere and the commencement of the next chapter in their lives. Yesterday, we held our Year 11 Leaver's Celebration, an opportunity for the boys and staff to come together to reflect upon their journey through Hurstmere. The event began with an assembly, followed by a much-enjoyed BBQ with lots of shirt signing and BeReals – a new one for the staff!

Over the past 5 years, I have witnessed this year group grow and thrive, overcoming obstacles with determination, and achieving success with integrity. They have learned, explored, and contributed to our school community in ways that will leave a lasting imprint long after they have gone.

I am immensely proud, not only of their academic accomplishments, but also of the character they have shown. The empathy, respect, and responsibility they have exhibited are true testament to the exceptional young men they have become. I have seen them support each other, displaying kindness and understanding - these qualities, among the many others they possess, are the ones that truly matter in life.

Beyond the classrooms, they have flourished in a myriad of extracurricular activities, showcasing their talents, leadership, and spirit. The boys have risen to challenges, dared to take risks, and seized opportunities with courage and enthusiasm. These experiences have shaped them, honing skills and instilling values that will serve them well in the years to come.

And my final message to all our Year 11s:

"As you step out into the world, remember that you are armed with more than just knowledge. You are equipped with the ability to question, to empathise, to innovate, and to lead. You have the resilience to weather any storm, the curiosity to forever keep learning, and the compassion to make a difference to the lives of others."

Your time at Hurstmere may be drawing to a close, but remember this is not the end, but the beginning of an exciting new chapter. The world awaits you, and I am confident that you are more than ready to take your place in it. Continue to grow, to question, to strive, and above all, be the best versions of yourselves.

As you embark on your new adventure, remember the lessons you have learned here, the friendships you have forged, and the memories you have made. Carry these with you, for they are part of who you are, and who you will become.

Congratulations, Year 11, on your successful journey. You have the power to shape your future and to make a difference. The world truly is at your feet. I have no doubt that you will continue to make me proud and I look forward to hearing of your future successes. It has been both my pleasure and privilege to have been your Principal. Take very good care of yourselves and keep in touch. Once a Hurstmere boy, always a Hurstmere boy!"

Lynn Bennett
Principal

Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

Mrs. L. Bennett, Principal



I started at Hurstmere in 1996 as a newly qualified Geography teacher, little did I know at the time that 27 years later, I would still be here and have the best job in the world! I do miss being in the classroom and try to spend as much time with the boys as I can, getting to know them, finding out their views on what we do well and where we can do better. I am incredibly fortunate that I am still a part of the Geography Department and get the opportunity to support them on fieldwork. A particular highlight for me every year is accompanying them to Iceland with Year 11 – it's always a great experience seeing Geography in action with a great group of young people.

Contrary to what some of the boys think, I do not live at Hurstmere but do have a life outside of school! I am a very proud mum to two remarkable teenagers who keep me busy with mum's taxi service, but who don't always think I know much about how to revise! When I am not working or playing mum, I enjoy going to the gym. I try to walk every day - it's great exercise for the body and mind. I also enjoy watching all types of sport; rugby, cricket, F1 but sometimes, watching my football team can be somewhat challenging!

I spend a lot of time in the garden, either tending to my plants or hosting gatherings with friends and family. I love going on holiday, especially to sunny locations, visiting new places, eating out and on the rare occasion I get to sit long enough to indulge in historical fiction. I love listening to music, in particular hip-hop and rap, and quite often can be found dancing in my kitchen over the weekend, much to my children's disgust before it's back to being Mrs Bennett on a Monday morning.

Mrs. L. Davis, Senior Vice Principal



My love for Science was sparked by one of my remarkable teachers who clearly loved teaching, which in turn, made me love learning. He told our class that "Science is magic that works" and that real science can be far stranger than science fiction.

I have always wanted to be a teacher and qualified as a Science teacher 27 years ago after studying for a degree in Physiology at UCL. As a newly qualified teacher, I can still remember my first day of school, with a cocktail of emotions swirling in the depths of my stomach as I lined up my first class. However, I tried not to let my nerves get the better of me, after all, this was the first day of my dream job.

Throughout the years and across three different schools, I have held positions of responsibility including Sixth-Form Science Coordinator, KS4 Science Coordinator, Head of Science, Assistant Headteacher and I am now serving as a Senior Vice Principal. I have taught across departments including Art, Music and Maths, but for me, nothing beats being in a science lab!

As a teacher and senior leader, I have the great responsibility to impact our pupils' lives positively, giving them the reasons to push forward and motivating them to want to succeed in life. I have worked for 23 years at Hurstmere School, and it has a very special place; the staff look out for each other and they readily go the extra mile for our pupils to support their learning and personal development. I'm very lucky to work with people I like and admire.

Outside of school, I love spending quality time with my family and playing the piano, guitar and saxophone. I also enjoy looking after our two horses and being a first-time dog owner to a lovable English Springer Spaniel.

Meet Our Senior Leadership Team



Mr. J. Lever, Vice Principal

Born and raised in Brighton, I took the plunge and decided to move away at 18 to attend university, simply because I had no idea what to do, but I knew I had a passion for Geography and Sport during my school days. I found a course that combined both subjects and moved away to Kent. After almost 28 years I still live in Kent with my wife and three children.

1998... that was the year I took the decision to train to become a teacher of Geography. I started teaching Geography, Leisure and Tourism, and some PE at a large school in Margate. My first ever lesson was teaching Year 9s about life in Japan- a lesson I will never forget! With no interactive whiteboards, nor You Tube clips, I used a video player that didn't work properly and got my timings wrong, finishing 15 minutes too early! It was a steep learning curve, but after two years, I became Head of Geography and helped to grow the department further and to improve the results. I left the school in 2003 to become Head of Humanities at a school near Dartford, a completely different environment to what I had been used to, but I loved the challenge the post presented. I will never forget the day I arrived, sitting in the car, wondering whether I had made the right decision, but it was too late- so, I went in and gave it my all (something, which I consider to be one of my strengths).

After a few years of successfully leading a great faculty, I took the decision to change from subject leadership to working more directly with pupils, becoming a Head of Year and seeing a year group through to the end of year 11. I became a Director of Student Progress in 2011 and then became Vice Principal, leading on Teaching and Learning. In 2021, after 18 wonderful years in the profession, I took the decision to take on a new adventure at Hurstmere School as Vice Principal. I see it as a privilege to be here, working with great staff, and although no two days are ever the same, it is great to see the marginal gains, to celebrate our achievements, and to see the boys get over those hurdles that school life throws at them. Maybe one day I will find a fellow supporter of my hometown football team amongst the boys to help me deflect some of the negative comments made about my football team's performance on the pitch!



Mr. B. Lyon, Vice Principal

I studied History at Manchester University before undertaking my PGCE in History and Maths teaching back home at London University (IoE). Whilst in Manchester, I represented the University in Football and was in the Officers Training Corps. I made wonderful friends who I am still in contact with today, spanning all four corners of the globe and would recommend the experience to anyone.

The first 25 years of my career were spent in various schools in East London and the last fifteen of those as a school leader, with the last eight of those as Deputy Head at two different schools in Walthamstow and Stratford. I have always believed with a passion, that all children should have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and that our challenge is to remove all barriers to them achieving all that they are capable of. Alongside that we have a responsibility to open their eyes to the amazing breadth of opportunities out there and, once they have seen these, to push them to at least have the choice of whether to pursue paths towards them. Young people have a great energy and will never cease to surprise you or keep you on your toes- so it has been hugely rewarding.

Coming to Hurstmere has been wonderful and the boys are fantastic. Not only are they talented and genuinely respectful of the work you do - I have found a wonderful empathy for their love of football, which is my other love. I coach outside of school at a competitive level, and constantly read around the subject from guides and manuals through to histories of great clubs and biographies of star players. I am proud that the boys I coach at Ryan FC are current London Champions at their (u13) age group, as well as double league winners across the Saturdays and Sundays that they play. I have had the honour to come up against several of Hurstmere's excellent players in competition - sometimes successfully and sometimes not - but have always been impressed by their professionalism and respect alongside their obvious talent.

Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

Mr. K. Wadsworth, Assistant Principal

Hi, my name is Mr Wadsworth, and I am one of the Assistant Principals here at Hurstmere. My main roles include the management of the day-to-day operational matters at the school and line managing the Year 10 RSL, Mr Maher, and his team.

I have been at the school for 22 years, and it has been my privilege to serve the pupils at the school in many different roles throughout this time. I started in July 2002, after completing my degree at the University of Greenwich, Avery Hill campus. My final placement was at Hurstmere and I enjoyed it so much, that when I was offered a position at the school, I accepted it without hesitation.

My first role was as a PE teacher and after a few years I was promoted to the position of Head of PE and then Director of Sport for the school. In 2014, I joined the senior leadership team.

I have taught hundreds of pupils from the local area, and it is always a pleasure to meet and talk to ex-pupils about their time at school and what they have achieved since leaving.

I am still passionate about sport and I watch it as much as I can, either live or on the TV.



Mr. C. Ballard, Assistant Principal

Hello everyone, I am Mr. Ballard. I have worked at Hurstmere for 6 years now, joining as Head of Music and now in the position of Assistant Principal.

My teaching career began just up the road at Christ The King: St Mary's, where I worked as a technician/unqualified teacher. I supported and taught a variety of different A' Levels, whilst also completing my Master's degree in Audio Technology. After this, I spent 5 years teaching at a secondary school in Bermondsey, which helped me develop my understanding of how to be a teacher. In both places, I always enjoyed my work with the pupils and supporting them in building their knowledge, achieving their goals and enthusing them within my subject. This has always been, and continues to be, the best part of my job.

I joined Hurstmere in 2017 and for me, this school has been the most important one in my development as a teacher. It has allowed me to grow and discover my passion and enthusiasm for teaching in a way I had not felt before. I have loved being a member of staff here and look forward to being a part of its bright future.

Mrs. S. Bayar, Assistant Principal

I have worked at Hurstmere for 16 years, having arrived in 2007 as the Head of Science. A year later, I became the Director of Science and since 2010, I have been one of the Assistant Principals.



Meet Our Senior Leadership Team



Mr Reddy, SENCo

I am originally from Hertfordshire and grew up just outside of London, spending a lot of time in North London, where my grandparents lived. I was a keen footballer and played for a number of teams, often on the right wing, with my best season scoring tally being 18. When I completed my A' Levels, I could not decide what to do, but I knew that I wanted to keep studying. After visiting some different universities, I decided that I wanted to study Geology at Southampton University, where I spent 4 years studying and living.

In 2006 I made the choice to move back to London to train to become a teacher. Having completed my training in London, I joined Hurstmere School in July of 2007 with one of my very first classes having our very own Mr Dye within it. Since joining Hurstmere, I have been lucky enough to have travelled all over the world with our pupils and staff and look forward to the next adventure that Hurstmere has in store.



Mrs. L. Ebers, Business Manager

I started working at Hurstmere School in 2020, having worked at two all-girls secondary schools previously.

I am a trained Paediatric Nurse, but changed career direction and completed my Accounting Technician Qualification, doing the one thing I used to say growing up I would never do, and that is working behind a desk! At this point, I decided that with so many schools converting to academies and requiring an accountant, I wanted to venture into education and applied to Blackfen School for Girls for the position of Finance Manager. It was not long before I realised that this was my vocation in life, working within the education sector and supporting the staff and pupils.

Although I really enjoyed my role as Finance Manager, I wanted to be able to contribute to decisions being made that had greater impact on the children in the schools I worked in. I studied School Business Management, enabling me to be part of the Senior Leadership Team, of which I feel so privileged to be part of at Hurstmere School.

I am responsible for all the areas that provide a safe and healthy working, learning environment for staff and pupils within Hurstmere School, including facilities, finance, technology, procurement, and support staffing.

In my spare time I am a volunteer at my GP surgery, working within the "Patient Voice" group, supporting patients of the surgery. I also love spending time with my family and walking with our springer spaniel called Luna. I also enjoy travelling with the family, exploring the UK in our caravan!

Year 11 Leavers Celebration – A Message from Mr. Joyce

That was certainly a different 5 years in the education game! I remember coming to see many of you on my primary school visits and being excited because I was told I would take your year group through the five years at Hurstmere (previously I have either taken on a year group already at Hurstmere or stayed with being the Head of Year for Year 7 only. In typical Joycey fashion, I got to know all your names within the first 2 weeks and took on the protective figure, looking after and guiding you, especially in those early days on the Year 7 playground with all other year groups trying to get involved.

Year 7 went superbly well with everyone settling in and with the B-team footballers winning the Kent Cup, which they went on to defend in Year 8. We also had our end of year trip and gained some great memories at Marchants Hill on the PGL adventure.

The dreaded Covid hit in the March of your Year 8, and we then endured some strange times over the rest of that year, with Home learning being something that we had never come across before. Some of you did some amazing things during that period and it was great to have gained so many family memories, and for some of us, some sad ones too.

In Year 9, we had the 2-hour lessons and shortened breaks and only the English Zone to work in. It was tough, but we got through it so well and with style. During Year 9, our B-team footballers were successful again. We won the ultimate crown- The English School's Cup with a superb performance at Selhurst Park, Crystal Palace FC's ground, which is something Hurstmere had never achieved before. The whole school watched during the PSHE lesson and the atmosphere in the school was electric!

In Year 10, our cricketers didn't want to miss out on the action, and they themselves were victorious, winning the North Kent Cup. That left Year 11 and our A-team footballers hit their peak; they played the most amazing football and came away as Kent and North Kent champions. Double winners!

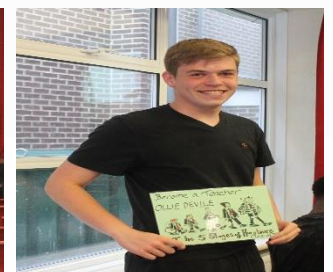
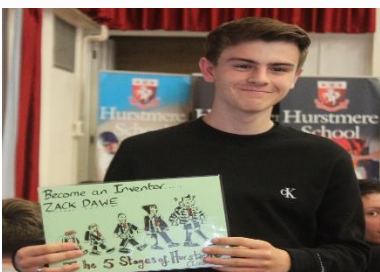
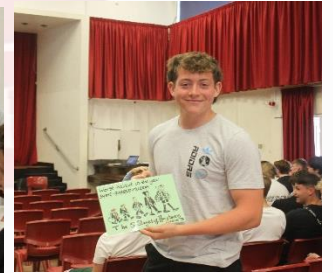
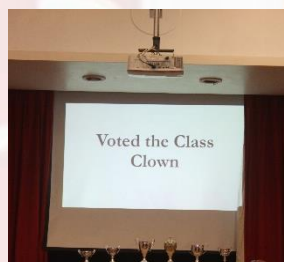
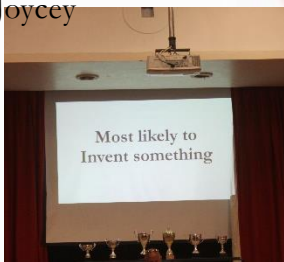
Many of you enjoyed the Iceland trip and/or the USA ski trip and the photos captured the amazing time you all had! During Year 10 and Year 11, the GCSE years saw many of you coming of age. The amount of focus and effort you invested in all the interventions was the best school had ever seen, and let's hope the results reflect that.

As a year group, I could not have asked for a better one; I have been a Head of Year/Raising Standards Leaders for over 20 years and you are my last year group before I retire next year. Your company has been a delight, especially with breaks and lunchtimes; it was great fun being out there with you as you relaxed from your incredible studious efforts in the classroom. The way you have approached these examination years shows what a top bunch you are; these are tough years and you have gone through some difficult times, but you have come out the other side as such mature young men.

Thank you for being you and thank you for making my penultimate year in teaching such a pleasurable one.

Enjoy all that you do as you go on into adult life. Take everyday as a new day and do it positively and with a smile.

Yours as always,
Joycey



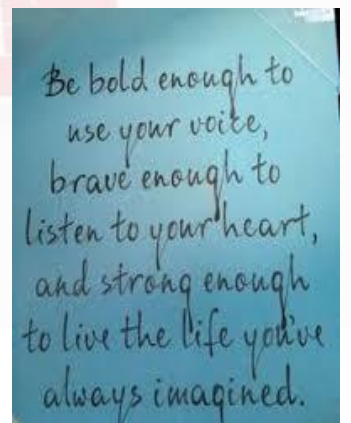
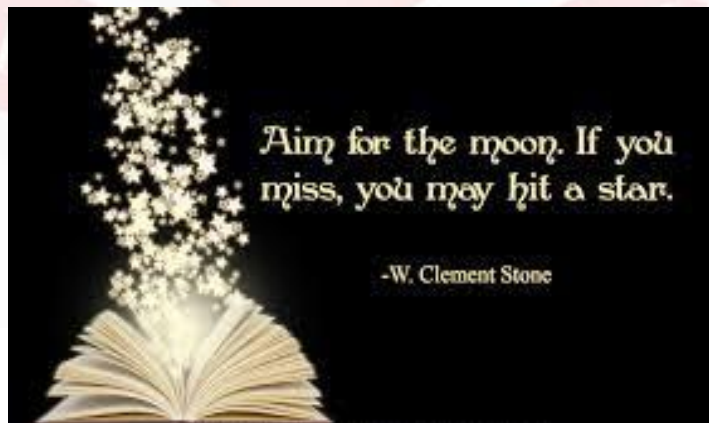
Year 11 Leavers Celebration



Year 11 Leavers Celebration



Year 11 Leavers Celebration



Year 11 Memories: The Beginning



PGL Trip – 2019



Year 11: Our Memories



Sports Day – 2019 Year 7



Keeping active during the Covid pandemic in Year 7



Pizza Parties & School Trips



Year 11: Our Memories



Sporting Events
Iceland Trip
Skiing in America



Year 11: Our Memories



Principal Reward
Vouchers,
Fundraising and
School Trips



Year 11: Our Memories during the Ukraine Fundraising Events



Bexley School Games



It was the turn of our Year 7 and 8 Sports Leaders to run a School Games event this week as we welcomed Hook Lane, Sherwood Park and St Peter Chanel to Hurstmere. Each school brought along children from Year 2, 3, and 4 to take part in a Change4Life Festival to support young people to achieve their 60 active minutes a day. Each school moved around 5 different activities - crazy catch, parachute games, scramble madness, target ball and rob the nest, all designed to build on their physical skills, activity levels, teamwork and enjoyment of physical activity.

The Sports Leaders have been training hard in recent weeks and all their efforts paid off as they delivered an excellent event, demonstrating all Hurstmere RTRAILS and doing themselves and the school proud.



During National School Sports Week our Year 9 Sports Leaders welcomed SEND children from Bedonwell, Pelham, Royal Park, Shenstone and Upton Primary Schools for a Boccia Festival. Boccia is a paralympic precision ball sport, similar to bowls and pétanque. To ensure the children could develop their hand-eye coordination and general skills our sports leaders delivered 5 different Boccia challenges for the schools to have a go at. Throughout the event, our sports leaders demonstrated patience and understanding, adapted activities to suit the varying different needs of individual children and above all else made sure that everyone had a fun afternoon. The teachers praised the boys and commented on how well they explained the activities and helped the children.



Can You Help ?

SHARE THE GIFT OF READING!
Book Drop Crate Donations

What can be donated?
 You can donate any book suitable for pupils.
 They can be new or used!
 Please donate books that are in a good physical condition.

Drop off your good books here!

Uniform Donations

If you would like to donate any uniform (especially ties and blazers) please can you put these in a bag and drop it off at the school office.

Thank You!



We have some fantastic news! Hurstmere is the hub school for an incredible project called, 'Through Our Eyes'. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded end2end TV CIC a grant of £152,683 to engage young people across Bexley in the research and production of digital resources about the heritage of their schools. The project is being run by end2end TV in partnership with Bexley Council Archives, Bexley Music and Hall Place & Gardens, Bexley. The project will work with four local schools (Burnt Oak Junior, Old Bexley C of E Primary, Bexley Grammar and Hurstmere) and will run until December 2024. The pupils will plan and film documentaries about their school's history from WWII to the present day. They will be interviewing multiple generations of alumni about their time at school, as well as their experiences of entrance examinations. On completion of filming and editing, the project will be launched at Hall Place & Gardens in February 2024. Digital outcomes will be exhibited in The Stables Gallery there, during Spring 2024, before touring libraries in the four corners of the borough. Heritage meets innovation in this ground-breaking project, where young people discover and create history simultaneously! You can find out more and follow the project developing at www.throughoureyes.uk and on social media @historythroughoureyes (Twitter @Hthroughoureyes)

e2e end2end TV is 😊 feeling proud.
3 d · 🌐

We loved welcoming Kay, from Sky TV's FYI News programme, to our studio today. What an amazing opportunity for our Hurstmere School Media & News Teams to discuss topics for the 'Your Shout' part of the programme. Well done boys - you were fantastic Hurstmere ambassadors and raised some inciteful and interesting points. 🌟

Kay loved the fact that our studio had a different backdrop for each group too! Our studio has various zones to encourage learning, using our inclusive, hands on approach.



CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 13 AND 18 YEARS OLD

If you are between 13-18 years old and would like to try out an ArtsTrain songwriting session, Bexley Music are holding an **open session** for our Academy programme on **Thursday 6th July - from 5-7pm at The Exchange, Erith.**

About the Academy

The Academy programme is free for gifted and talented young musicians to develop their creativity and musicianship in a unique environment, whilst meeting and collaborating with our musicians their age. They get exciting performance opportunities like performing in the London Jazz Festival and other Bromley and Bexley based events.

Capturing Sports Day 2023 in Pictures



And the Principal Reward goes to...



A Principal Reward Voucher entitles the bearer to one main meal and a dessert, compliments of the school. This reward is in recognition of our pupils demonstrating one of our school values,
R-Trails (Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Ambition, Integrity, Leadership and Self Belief).

*Freddie B
Cameron A
Giacomo V
Dylan I
John R
Johnny T
Ayodeji A
Toby F
Bobby P
Josh R
Dan F
Woody L
Alfie D
Kerem K*



*Sam A
Louis P
Samuel F
Tommy F
Ollie S
Dylan W
Charlie A*





Hay fever at School

If your son suffers with hay fever, please do seek medical advice to determine if it would be appropriate to administer a one-a-day/long lasting hay fever tablet before school. This may help your son feel more comfortable and minimise any possible impact on his attendance.



Our Friends of Hurstmere's first Quiz Night was a massive success raising £600.00 - the evening was great fun and THANK YOU to everyone involved.



PRE-SEASON TRAINING CAMP FOR GOALKEEPERS C4F

GOALKEEPER SPECIALS: SPECIALS TRAINING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AT 110 TO 120 TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE COMING FOOTBALL SEASON. ALL COACHED BY ACADEMY EXPERIENCED FA JUNIOR QUALIFIED AND CMO COACHED

1ST TO 3RD AUGUST | 22ND TO 24TH AUGUST
AT BARDON SPORTS CLUB, 46 PITCH
10:00 TO 15:00

1 DAY £35 | 2 DAYS £55 | 3 DAYS £75

Learn and play on the 1925

Singing & Music Making for Writing

at St John's Hall, 144 West St
H40, OXFORD

18 June 2022	28 June 2022
26 July 2022	26 August 2022
27 September 2022	24 October 2022
17:30 - 19:30 pm	19 November 2022

for more information call 01235 425701 or visit the Herald

BLACKFEN SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 8th July

11am-3pm

Lots going on all day both in the library and out and about in Blackfen

Look out for more info coming soon!

Information for Parents

Diary Dates

4 th & 6 th July 2023:	Induction Days For New Year 7s (9am – 2.30pm)
Thursday 6 th July 2023:	New Year 7 Parents Welcome Evening 5.30 – 7pm
Thursday 13 th July 2023:	Year 7 Parents Evening 4 – 7pm
Friday 21st July 2023:	Last Day (Early Closure)
24th August 2023:	GCSE Results Day (10 – 12am)

Term Dates



Last day of Summer Term is Friday 21st July 2023 (Early Closure)

Autumn Term starts Tuesday 5th September 2023

INSET Days– 4th Sept, 20th Oct, 30th Oct, 1st Dec 2023, 19th Feb 2024

Half Term – Our last day is Thursday 19th October 2023

Back to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023

Last day of Autumn Term is Thursday 21st December 2023 (Early Closure)



Spring Term starts Monday 8th January 2024

Half Term – Last Day is 9th February 2024

Back to school– Tuesday 20th February 2024

Last day of Spring Term is Thursday 28th March 2024

Term Dates for Summer Term 2024 are available on our school website

