Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2026

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
117 SELLY OAK ROAD KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM B30 1HN
TEL: 0121 458 2458
www.stjosb30.bham.sch.uk
This newsletter is available to view on our school website.

Prayer

A Prayer for School

Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Our first family of faith,
we come before you as a family of faith
in this school, this community, our neighbourhood.

In all that you ask us to do, give us generous hearts.
When we find things difficult, give us compassion,
and when others struggle may we give them our time and our care.

Keep us in your care, show us the right path
and lead us as pilgrims to the Joy of your Kingdom.
Amen.

A Message from Mr Greavy

I would like to offer a warm welcome back to school to all of our children and their families for this academic year. It has been a great start to the new academic year with the children settling into their new classrooms very well. It has been lovely to welcome our new reception children and their families to St Joseph's- the children have settled so well during their first two days. Please take time to note down key dates for your diary for this academic year that are within this newsletter. They are great opportunities to celebrate school life with your children along with getting opportunities through our workshops/ welcome meetings to meet teachers and understand how you can work alongside the school to support your children's learning.

Thank you to parent/carers who have joined or plan to join your children's teachers at the class welcome meetings. All class presentations will be available to access via the class pages on the school website by next Friday.

Attendance and Punctuality

At St Joseph's, we know that excellent attendance and punctuality are key factors in helping children achieve their very best. We are incredibly proud that our overall attendance for the last academic year was **97.1%**, which is significantly above the national average. Thank you for your continued support in helping us achieve this fantastic result. This year, we will continue to promote the importance of being in school every day whenever possible and arriving on time, ready to learn. By working together, we hope to build on this success and achieve even higher attendance levels, ensuring that every child benefits from the full range of learning opportunities, experiences, and friendships that St Joseph's provides.

Finally, we look forward to lots of opportunities and exciting events ahead this year. Well done to our year 6 children who led with liturgy during our first Prayer Service of the year this morning in school. Thanks to our families for joining us. Please see our dates for Masses and class that are leading. Families are always welcome to join us each week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Greavy

Well done to the following pupils who have been awarded
'Star of the Week'
for their hard work.

Class	Week ending Friday 4th September
1	Zelzah
2	Theo
3	Tighe
4	Ethan
5	George
6	Finn

Attendance

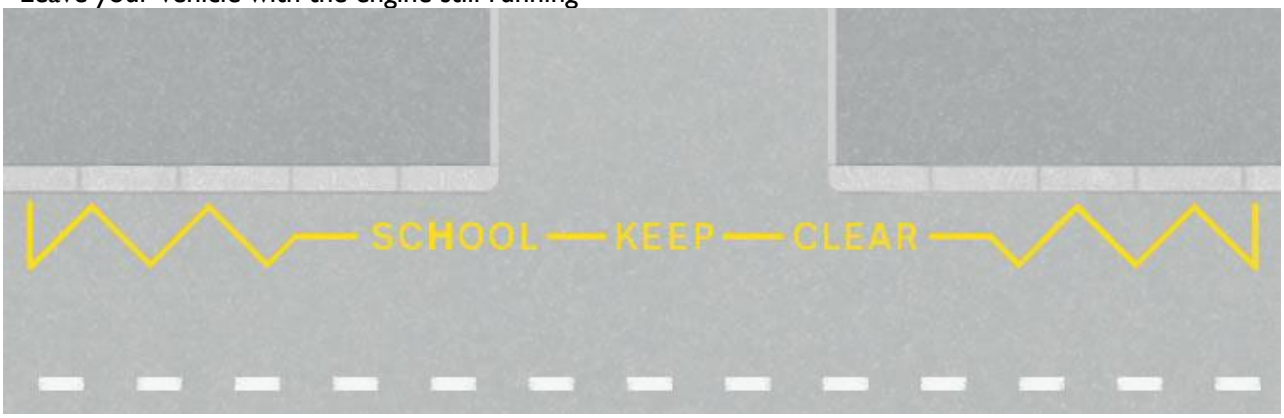
- **If your child is unwell and will not be attending school, please contact the school office before 9am.**
- After a case of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, your child MUST remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode.
- A Leave of Absence request should be completed for all planned absences from school.
- We would request where possible medical appointments are not arranged in the school day. If your child has a medical appointment, an appointment card/letter must be provided to enable us to authorise absence from school.

Parking

Please be mindful of parking in Selly Oak Road/Beaumont Road, have respect for our neighbours, **park legally and think of our children's safety.** Remember you may use Rowheath Pavilion Car Park and walk round to school.

What can you do to help keep everyone safe around the school gates? Please don't:

- Block the road – emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways
- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running



School Start Time

At 8.45am each morning a member of staff opens the school gates, and the children may make their way straight into their respective classrooms where they will begin the day with a calm, purposeful activity e.g. handwriting, reading etc.

We would like to re-emphasise that the start time of school is 8.55am, however, we would encourage our families to take advantage of the earlier start as the children enjoy the calm 'soft' start to the day. We would like to assure our families that any children arriving at 8.55am will not miss any curriculum teaching, this early period will be used as an opportunity to apply taught skills from previous lessons in the supervision of their teachers.

Children attending Breakfast Club move into their classrooms from 8.45am.

As per our standard school routine, at 8.55am the morning registration bell will ring, and the gates will be closed. Inside, the children will then finish their early activities whilst the teacher takes the morning register. The children will begin their guided reading sessions promptly at 9am.

Important Request from the School Office

To help reduce the number of visitors entering the school foyer and to ensure the smooth running of the school day, we kindly ask parents and carers to note the following:

- If you need to pass a message to a member of staff, please contact the school by emailing **enquiry@sjo-lumenchristi.org.uk** or telephoning **0121 458 2458**.
- Please ensure that your child arrives at school with all the items they need for the day. If you do need to bring something into school after drop-off, we ask that you leave it in the foyer until a member of staff is available to collect it.
- If someone different will be collecting your child from school, please email the school **by midday** for the attention of your child's class teacher. As part of our safeguarding responsibilities, staff cannot release a child to an unfamiliar adult without prior notification or confirmation from a parent or carer. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep our pupils safe.
- In the event of an emergency change to collection arrangements, please contact the school office by telephone. Please be aware that the class teacher may need to verify the information with the office before dismissing your child, and we would appreciate your patience in these circumstances.
- If you have any letters or forms to return to school, please send them in your child's book bag wherever possible.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Working together helps us maintain a safe and efficient environment for all our pupils

PE Days 2026/2027

On PE days, your child can wear their PE kit to school with their school shoes and school jumper or cardigan. Their PE kit must be in the school colours, as outlined on the uniform policy:

- White t-shirt with or without the school crest
- Black shorts
- Grey or black joggers

Trainers may be worn for outdoor PE but children will need a pair of black plimsolls/pumps for indoor PE. These need to be sent into school in a suitable named bag to be kept on your child's peg.

Monday	Year 6
Tuesday	Year 4
Wednesday	Year 2 and Year 1
Thursday	Reception and Year 3
Friday	Year 5

Woodland Adventure

Woodland Adventure is an opportunity for your child to experience nature and the outdoor environment in a safe, secure and hands on way.

Our 'Woodland Adventure' is our woodland outdoor education area and is located behind our key stage 2 playground. The children are encouraged to investigate & explore but also to respect all living things. Children learn best from first hand experiences. Building a sense of independence, high self-esteem and teamwork are important parts of our Woodland Adventure.

All children will have the opportunity to experience Woodland Adventure for at least one half term. Children will change into their wellies that are kept in school for OPAL for their Woodland Adventure session.

CLASS	WOODLAND ADVENTURE
RECEPTION	Every Thursday
YEAR 1	Spring 2
YEAR 2	Spring 2
YEAR 3	Autumn 2
YEAR 4	Autumn 1
YEAR 5	Summer 1
YEAR 6	Summer 2

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM ARE LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

If items of clothing are left around the school site, it is extremely difficult to return them to their owner if they do not have a name in them.

Please help to save valuable time in school – put a name in their clothes!

Additionally, please do a quick check to ensure your child has brought home their correct clothing. If you have something belonging to another child, please return to school promptly.

OPAL

For the comfort and well-being of your child, please provide a pair of wellington boots to be left in school; these should have your child's name clearly written inside. Could you please also ensure your child brings/wears a waterproof coat to school every day. We are keen for outdoor sessions to take place in most weathers; however, we will risk assess against the forecast for the day.

Jeans for Genes – Friday 18th September

On Friday 18th September we are raising money for Jeans for Genes. Pupils can wear jeans with their school polo top & jumper. Voluntary donations for Jeans for Genes can be made via ParentPay. Further information about the charity can be found at; https://www.jeansforgenes.org/funding-in-action

School Photographs

Academy Photographers will be in school on **Tuesday 29th September**. Under the GDPR Legislation we have to obtain consent to enable the children to be photographed by an outside organisation. The consent enables the children to have an individual photograph taken and to also appear on the class photographs. As we will be using Academy Photography again this year previous consents will still apply. Please support the school by returning the consent form promptly if you receive one for your child.

Christmas Project

We may have only just returned from the summer holiday, but we are already making plans for Christmas!

Over the next couple of weeks children will be producing artwork that can be turned into Christmas Cards, gift tags, mugs, wrapping paper and more! Artwork will be sent home with pupils with details of how you can **order and pay on-line**.

Look out for further information coming soon!

Morning Break – Snack/Tuck

The NHS free fruit scheme for KS1 pupils is continuing this academic year. Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 pupils will be offered a piece of fruit morning break.

KS2 pupils have the opportunity to have tuck at morning break or may bring in a piece of fruit / healthy snack (no nut products, biscuits, chocolate or crisps.)

Payment for KS2 tuck needs to be made before each half term via ParentPay; an email will be sent advising the cost and payment deadline.

The cost of tuck for the first half of the autumn term (from Wednesday 2nd September to Thursday 22nd October) is £11.40. This is calculated at 30p per day.

If you would like your child to have toast each day at morning break, please login to ParentPay and pay the KS2 Tuck item by 9am on Tuesday 8th September 2026.

Unfortunately, the kitchen are unable to provide children with toast if payment has not been made via ParentPay for the half term.

Nut Allergy
We have pupils in school who have a nut allergy; it is therefore imperative that your child does not bring any nuts or nut based products (including Nutella chocolate spread) into school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Birthdays
If your child is celebrating their birthday and you would like to send a treat in for them to share with their class (e.g. sweets), please ensure that they are individually packaged. We will distribute at the end of the day; however, **we expect parent/carers to decide whether you are happy for your child to eat the treat provided.**

Year 6 Notices

- We would like to remind you that Secondary Schools are holding their open sessions this term for Year 7 admissions September 2027. Online applications are now open and choices for secondary schools should be submitted by **31st October 2026** at the latest via www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.
- Advance notice that SATs week for Y6 will be week commencing **Monday 10th May 2027** this academic year.
- If you want your child to walk to the top of the drive or home on their own, then school requires this in writing or sent via email to enquiry@sjo-lumenchristi.org.uk so we can add this to our records.
- **Phones & Electronic Devices -** Children are not allowed to bring phones or other electronic devices into school. If your child is nearing Secondary School age and you feel they require a mobile phone as they come to school on their own please be aware of the procedures we have in place with regards to mobile phones brought into school;

1. School recommends that children should not bring a mobile to school. They are not allowed to be used at all during the school day.
2. Phones brought into school by children who are making their own way home unaccompanied must be switched off and handed into the class teacher on arrival to school and collected at 3.30pm.
3. Police advise that high value phones can make a child more vulnerable on their walk home from school and the child should keep that phone hidden, to only be used in an emergency.

- **Year 6 Residential Visit – Wednesday 16th – Friday 18th June 2027 -** We are pleased to announce the dates of the Year 6 Residential visit. A letter will be coming home this term with all the details.

STACS Open Evening
The Open Evening for St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School is being held on Thursday 18th September 2025 between 6pm – 8.30pm. There will be an opportunity to hear from the Principal, meet key staff, visit different subject areas and enjoy lots of demonstrations. You will also be able to see the brand new Science labs and hear about the A level results this summer which were truly outstanding! Tickets are now available to book at www.stacs.org - don't miss out!

School Meal Plans – September 2026

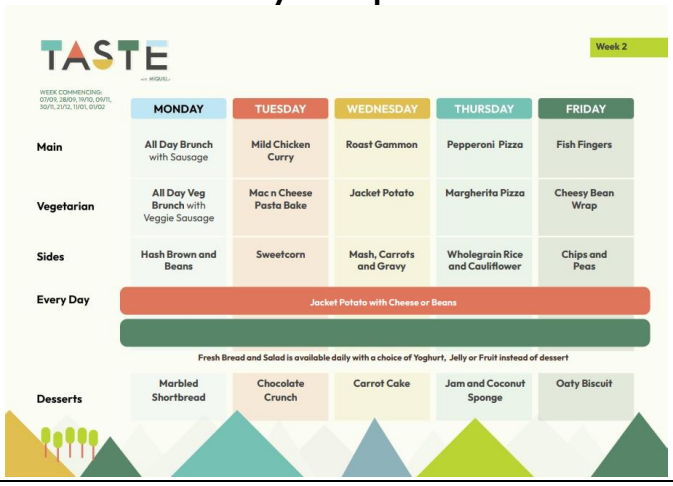
School meals are charged at £2.80 per day. Below you will find the meal plan payments for the autumn term. The following information should be used by parents to calculate the amount to be paid. **Please pay for school meals weekly in advance, via ParentPay**.

One week's notice is required to change meal plans, please complete the Change of Meal Plan form which is available from the office or on the school website.

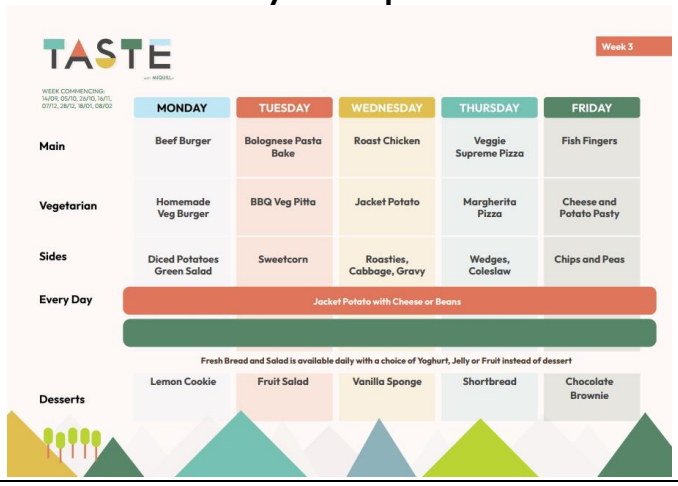
	1st Half Term		2nd Half Term		
DAY	**2/9 to 22/10**	**AMT**	**2/11 to 18/12**	**AMT**	**TOTAL**
MON	7	£19.60	7	£19.60	£39.20
TUES	7	£19.60	7	£19.60	£39.20
WEDS	8	£22.40	7	£19.60	£42.00
THUR	8	£22.40	7	£19.60	£42.00
FRI	7	£19.60	7	£19.60	£39.20
TOTAL		**£103.60**		**£98.00**	**£201.60**

School Menu week commencing

Monday 7th September



Monday 14th September



Additional Funding for School

Are you eligible for Free School Meals? There is an easy way to find out!

Did you know …just registering your child for Free School Meals means the school gets extra money? We'd like to make sure we're not missing out on vital funding for our school …and need your help! The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their best. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'.

Through a link to a Government database, we are now able to automatically track whether pupils are entitled to Free School Meals.

You can do the check yourself by using this link https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/ or if you prefer you can come to the school office and the staff there will be able to help. The Pupil Premium funding makes a huge difference to the school budget and allows us to provide additional teaching and provision in the school. We have a duty to ensure this funding directly supports eligible families so it is imperative all families check their eligibility. Please help us to ensure we receive the funding we are entitled to.

Thank you for your support.

Breakfast Club – Autumn Term

Breakfast club is charged at £5.25 per day.

Parents must book and pay for breakfast club in advance via ParentPay.

The following information should be used by parent/carers to calculate the amount to be paid for the autumn term.

	1st Half Term		2nd Half Term		
DAY	**2/9 to 22/10**	**AMT**	**2/11 to 18/12**	**AMT**	**TOTAL**
MON	7	£36.75	7	£36.75	£73.50
TUES	7	£36.75	7	£36.75	£73.50
WEDS	8	£42.00	7	£36.75	£78.75
THUR	8	£42.00	7	£36.75	£78.75
FRI	7	£36.75	7	£36.75	£73.50
TOTAL		**£194.25**		**£183.75**	**£378.00**

Tax Free Childcare

By visiting the Childcare Choices website, you will be able to find out if you could get Tax-Free Childcare.
https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Tax Free Childcare is available to over a million working families, including many who don't get other types of government support. This can result in 20% of the families childcare costs for each child. The website includes a childcare calculator which parents can use to work out how much financial support they could get.

To continue to get Tax-Free Childcare, parents must check and reconfirm their details with HMRC every 3 months. Reconfirmation is simple and quick to do. It is parents' responsibility to reconfirm on time, although they will get a reminder email from the childcare service.

ParentPay charges when pupils are absent

Charges for breakfast club, peripatetic music lessons and school trips will still need to be paid if pupils are absent from school. St Joseph's still incurs charges from suppliers whether pupils attend or not and the school budget cannot withstand covering the shortfall due to pupil absence.

Reading volunteers
We warmly welcome volunteers to support regular reading within school. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to hear children read, please contact our school office.

SEND News

Birmingham Local Offer

You can find help, advice and information about the services available for your child or young person from birth to 25 years with a special educational need or disability (SEND).

Home - Local Offer Birmingham

FREE Youth Work Mental Health Workshops

The STICK team is the Early Help CAMHS service for young people aged 5-18 registered with a Birmingham GP.

But did you know that, for many Birmingham schools (Y6-Y13), STICK's Youth Mental Health Team offers completely free workshops for parents and young people, offering early help and mental health support. The workshops teach young people about mental health awareness and give them the tools to support their mental health both inside and outside of school.

Please speak to Mr Potts if you would like to discuss support.

Citizens Advice Sessions – Thursday 17th September 2026

Please see the information detailing an opportunity to have a 1:1 appointment with a staff member from Citizen Advice Birmingham (CAB) at St Joseph's school on the **morning of Thursday 7th September.**

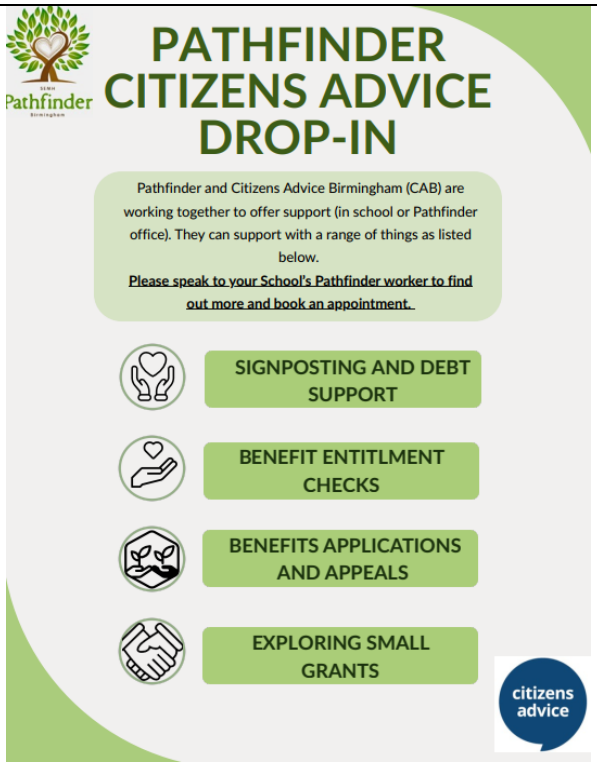
CAB can offer support with :

- Benefits
- Housing
- Work and training
- Debt and finances
- Consumer issues
- Legal and immigration
- Family and relationships

These appointments can be in person at school, or over the phone.

Appointments will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please contact our office by 4pm on Tuesday 15th September if you would like to book an appointment.



Other News

Congratulations to the following children for their various achievements:

Ava H Year 3 – received her 25m distance swimming award.

If you have any good news that you would like to share with the school and the community, please let us know and we'll put it in the newsletter.

Friends of St Joseph's (FOSJ)

Book Bags & Water Bottles

Book bags and water bottles with the school logo on, are available for sale from the school office. All profits go to the Friends of St. Joseph's School Fund.

- Basic bookbag **£6.00**
- Heavy duty bookbag (with strap) **£9.00**

Water Bottles **£3.50**

Community News

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

AUTUMN TERM 1 26/27	
Mondays	**Year 4 woodland adventure every Monday in Autumn term 1.**
Monday 7th September	Reception pupils start full time. 3:45pm – Y3 welcome meeting in the Y3 classroom - a chance for parents to come and meet the teachers and get more information about the Y3 curriculum.
Tuesday 8th September	3:45pm – Y4 welcome meeting in the Y4 classroom - a chance for parents to come and meet the teacher and get more information about the Y4 curriculum.
Wednesday 9th September	3:45pm – Y5 welcome meeting in the Y5 classroom - a chance for parents to come and meet the teacher and get more information about the Y5 curriculum.
Thursday 10th September	3:45pm – Y2 welcome meeting in the Y2 classroom - a chance for parents to come and meet the teacher and get more information about the Y2 curriculum.
Friday 11th September	9:15am KS2 Mass led by Year 5. 3:45pm – Reception welcome meeting in the reception classroom - a chance for parents to come and meet the teacher and get more information about the EYFS curriculum.
Friday 18th September	**Jeans for Genes Day - pupils can wear jeans with their school polo top & jumper. Voluntary donations for Jeans for Genes via ParentPay.** 9:15am Whole School Mass led by Year 4.
Friday 25th September	9:15am KS1 & Y3 Mass led by Year 3.
Tuesday 29th September	**Families, Individual & sibling photographs.**
Friday 2nd October	9:15am Year 6 Class Mass.
Friday 16th October	9:15am Whole School Mass led by the Mission Team.
Thursday 22nd October	Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm)
Friday 23rd October	Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils.
Saturday 31st October	**Closing date for secondary school applications.**
AUTUMN TERM 2 26/27	
TBC	**Year 3 woodland adventure once a week in Autumn term 2.**
Monday 2nd November	Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am)
Friday 18th December	Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm)
SPRING TERM 1 26/27	
Monday 4th January	Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils.
Tuesday 5th January	Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am)
Friday 12th February	Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm)
SPRING TERM 2 26/27	
TBC	**Year 2 woodland adventure once a week in Spring term 2.**
TBC	**Year 1 woodland adventure once a week in Spring term 1**
Monday 22nd February	Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am)
Monday 4th March	**Secondary school offer day.**
Thursday 25th March	Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm)
SUMMER TERM 1 26/27	
TBC	**Year 5 woodland adventure once a week in Summer term 1.**
Monday 12th April	Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am)
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday, school closed to pupils.
Mon 10th – Thurs 13th May	**Year 6 - KS2 SATs**
Thursday 27th May	Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm)
Friday 28th May	Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils.
SUMMER TERM 2 26/27	
TBC	**Year 6 woodland adventure once a week in Summer term 2.**
Monday 7th June	Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils.
Tuesday 8th June	Return to school. Registration 8:55am. (Breakfast club from 7:35am)
Weds 16th – Fri 18th June	**Year 6 Residential – further details to follow.**
Wednesday 7th July	**Year 6 secondary school transition day.**
Tuesday 20th July	Last day before half term holiday. School closes 3:30pm. (After school club at 5.30pm)
Wednesday 21st July	Staff Inset Day, school closed to pupils.