



April Newsletter 2024

A very warm welcome to the April edition of our newsletter! We hope everyone enjoyed the Easter break, although, at times, the weather didn't seem to be on our side!

In this month's newsletter, we hope to have captured some of last term's highlights but also give a flavour of the exciting term ahead.

We have had an incredibly busy few weeks with sporting events, school trips and Easter celebrations to name but a few. We are certainly looking forward to the next few weeks as we begin our residential programme. These opportunities are so important for our children as they help them step out of their comfort zone in a safe, nurturing environment. We can't wait to be a part of our children's new experiences and achievements - watch this space for updates!

At the start of term, we take the opportunity to review our school Mission, Values and Philosophy. Each week, we discuss the importance of these as they help shape the ethos and culture of our school. They are referred to within assemblies and day-to-day through our teaching and positive behaviour systems. Our reward system is always positively received by our children as they work collectively towards their end of term treat!

This week, we are going to have a focus on our school value '**Kindness**'. An assembly will take place on Tuesday morning to 'launch' **Kindness Week**. Watch out for the 'limited edition' pink pompoms this week specifically given to children who demonstrate this value.

Our club offer has continued to grow this term as we strive to ensure every child takes part in a club, whether this is during the school day or after. We are pleased to announce that we will be working with

Saints Southwest to provide a football club both at lunchtime and after school on Friday. Please see our club list for further details.

We also love to hear about our children's achievements outside of school. This could be linked to an outside club your child attends, a particular talent or something special they have done to support our community. Please send any photos in to the office with a brief explanation.

Gentle reminder - We know parking at drop-off and pick-up can be some what of a challenge but please can we be mindful of our neighbours as they may need access to their driveways during these times. Many thanks.

We have lots of events planned for the Spring term - please see the dates below. These will be added to over the coming weeks.

Mrs King

FOSMS News



We hope you've all had a lovely Easter break and are looking forward to the summer term ahead. Looking back at the last week of term, we would like to thank everyone for their help and generosity in attending, donating and supporting our week of events.

We had a hugely successful Bingo evening with lots of positive feedback. This is definitely something we will be doing again. The Easter week of egg hunting, egg guessing and raffle was so much fun for the children, well done to all the winners, and again everyone who donated prizes. The sponsored hop was generously supported and the children really enjoyed taking part. Again, this is something we will be doing and perhaps building on this with an adult hop! We are just waiting for final amounts to come in and then we will be able to confirm the amounts raised.

I'm sure you've all seen but we have been lucky enough to be chosen for the Tesco Blue Token Scheme. When you're next shopping in store, please take a token and vote for us! Scheme open until 30th June!

If you haven't yet joined our Friends of St Merryn School Facebook Page then please do, we try to post up to date information on there, as well as on the notice board by Reception.

In the meantime, you can support us by joining our school lottery. Winners are drawn every week with the opportunity to be entered into the big draw where you can win up to £25,000! For details please ask one of the FOSMS team or Vicky in the office.

Our uniform shop is still available to those who need it. If you require anything then please see Vicky in the office or Sarah Hodson who will be more than willing to help.

Thank you for your continued Support, The FOSMS Team





Sporting News



Well, what a busy few weeks we had for sporting fixtures! The children who have represented St Merryn School have all made us so proud – such fantastic ambassadors for the school!

Cross country

The KS2 cross country running route is no mean feat! Its long and very challenging, but every single child that entered showed such incredible determination and perseverance. We were thrilled that all the children completed the event, and some children even made it through to the cross country finals! Very well done to all of you. We are waiting to hear the final results.

Year 3 and 4 Football Festivals

Well, what a fun afternoon this was! First, we sent a boys team and then a girls team the following week. All the children that went were so amazing, some were quite new to football, but they all played extremely well. The team spirit was just fantastic, and lots of parents commented on how proud they were. We now have a coach from Saints South West coming in to further expand their football and sports skills.

Gifted and Talented Academy

We are so proud to have 5 children who have been invited to join the Gifted and Talented Sports Academy. These children have been taking part in extra sporting fixtures and competitions, and continue to showcase what being an incredible sportsperson should look like. What a brilliant thing to be part of, and well done for representing the school.

Bikeability

Year 5 children all have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability cycling lessons on Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th Thursday 18th and Monday 22nd April. This is a fantastic opportunity to further improve their cycling skills, building up to cycling safely on the roads in St Merryn. Please ensure that you child has their bike and helmet in school on their allocated days, as per the letters. They will all have such a great time and we are pleased to be supporting this important life skill.

Mrs Cooper





Talents outside of school...

We always love to hear about our children's achievements outside of school...

We are all so proud of Ivy as she achieved her first British gymnastic grade this weekend with the top marks! Amazing job Ivy!

Well done to Coco who has completed her first ballet exam and was amazing - We are super proud of you!

Toby got his first blue Peter badge! He had to write 50 words describing his favourite book 'Tree: seasons come, seasons go' by Patricia Hegarty and then draw a picture with 20 words describing what he had drawn. Very proud of you Toby - I always wanted my own Blue Peter badge!!

Wow Connie - You certainly are an amazing artist! We can all see why you have been awarded North Cornwall Guides Artist of the Year! We are so proud of your achievement.







Meet Our Governors...

Hi, I'm Nic and I'm Chair of Governors here at St Merryn. I thought I'd introduce myself a bit as I'm aware that many of you may not know who I am.

I was asked to become Chair of Governors at St Merryn in 2018 after also being Chair over at Trevisker Primary in St Eval since 2014. This means that I have more involvement in Our Trust than the regular governors and possibly more of an overview.

My children have long since left Trevisker (they are nearly 18 & 16), but I am still very passionate about primary education and giving all our children the best possible start to their learning life.

I absolutely love being a governor; it's such a privilege to be part of the school and to help Mrs King and her team steer the school forward.

Children's mental health is a big interest of mine and it's something which is discussed at each meeting. Teaching and guiding our children not to be afraid to challenge their peers and to be mentally healthy will give them a great foundation for the next step to secondary school.

Outside of my role as a governor I'm quite active: I love being in the gym, hiking, travelling, or going to music festivals. I also own Kernow Chocolate along with my husband, parents and brother and sister-in-law.



Wagtails School Trip



Last term Wagtails learnt all about the Great Fire of London, they learnt about how it started, why it spread so quickly and the similarities and differences between buildings and fire engines then and now and even built their own fire engines and Tudor houses.

Wagtails were lucky enough to visit Padstow Fire Station where the firefighters showed everyone around, they taught the children all about the different equipment they use and how they stay safe when putting out fires, the children had lots of very interesting questions for them. Wagtails watched the fire engine zoom round with the lights flashing and even saw the firefighters climb a very tall ladder to demonstrate how they work as a team on a shout.

The children could not believe their eyes when the firefighters set fire to their Tudor houses, this was to represent how quickly the Great Fire of London would have spread through the buildings. The children then got to be firefighters themselves and help put out the fire with the hose, it was a fantastic afternoon! Thank you very much to Padstow Fire Station and all the volunteers that made the experience possible, the children and adults absolutely loved it.

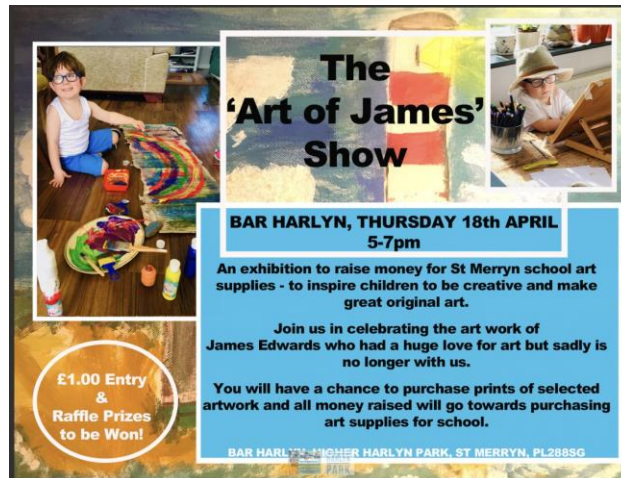
Miss East



The 'Art of James' Show

We are very touched that a local family have kindly offered to donate proceedings from their art exhibition to our school. This will help us to purchase further art resources. The art exhibition will be at **Bar Harlyn on Thursday 18th April between 5-7pm**. It is in memory of **James Edwards**, Noa's cousin, who was a keen and clever artist and tragically passed away age six, 3 years ago from a very rare brain tumour. His parents Jess and Simon held an exhibition before the Easter holidays at Wadebridge junior school and proceeds of sales of prints of his pictures went to raising money for art materials for the school he attended.

We would love to see as many families as possible supporting this event.



Year 6 SATs

Our Year 6s have been working extremely hard this year in preparation for their end of Key Stage 2 SATs, we would like to thank you for your continued support at home in helping us to ensure that the children are as prepared as they possibly can be and that they feel comfortable with the whole experience. They have shown courage in the face of new and complicated ideas, resilience when new concepts have been hard to master and most of all they have been supportive and kind to themselves and each other. I am certain that each and every one of them will achieve their full potential when they sit their exams at the end of this half term - we are already so proud of all they have achieved.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to me if you or your child has any questions about SATs week (13th May – 17th May)

Mrs Golay



Nursery and Early Years Updates



Nursery staff will be holding a **Teddy Bears Picnic on the 14th June** in our lovely outdoor spaces to welcome any new starters to our nursery and any who are interested in joining us. Please come along if you have children going into Nursery in September or interested in joining us in future.

School places for September

Congratulations If you have been offered a place to start Reception at St Merryn School in September! We can't wait for you to join us in our Robins class!! Details will be coming to you soon about transition meetings and 'stay and play' sessions.

Getting ready for school is really important to help your child have a smooth transition into their new school year. Tiny Happy People have some great ideas to help you talk and prepare your child for the big step. [School readiness: How to prepare your child for school - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

Mrs Muller

Residential Trips 2024

The children (and teachers!) are very excited to be going on the Year 5 residential next week. They will be taking part in a number of activities that will challenge and inspire them whilst enjoying time together as a cohort. We can't wait to hear all of the stories they will have when they return.

Our Year 6 London trip is fast approaching, and plans are well underway – we have secured our visit to parliament and all other activities are booked. The children are really looking forward to this trip which will be well deserved after a very busy half term!

We are holding a parent meeting this **Friday (19th April) 3:30-4:00** to share the plans for the Year 4 camp – this will be a fantastic local trip and a lovely opportunity for the children to experience their first residential in a familiar location.

Mrs Golay



Outdoor Learning



We have been working hard behind the scenes to continue to improve our outdoor learning spaces. Our Polytunnel is in the process of being put up (No more storms, please!) so that we can really get started on growing our vegetables for the kitchen.

The St Merryn Gardening society have been absolutely amazing and donated some money towards getting gardening tools and equipment for our children. We are really very grateful for their help!

Also in exciting news, we are in preliminary discussions with Eden Project lecturers about joining our forces to both improve our school landscape and outdoor space but also work together to deliver curriculum for both our students and Landscape Design and Horticulture students from the Eden Project University courses. Although we are at the very beginning of our discussions, we are really looking forward to working with them.

Truro School Year 5 Maths Masterclasses

Truro School: Year 5 Maths Masterclasses

Truro School would like to invite pupils from across Cornwall to join us for our Year 5 Maths Masterclasses. Our masterclass sessions provide an opportunity for pupils to experience engaging maths lessons at Truro School. Year 5 pupils from any primary school are invited to sign up. Pupils will engage in

a variety of different topics, meet fellow gifted pupils from around the county and develop deeper thinking skills. Each masterclass will consist of a 2 hour session with one of our specialist teachers. The sessions will include:

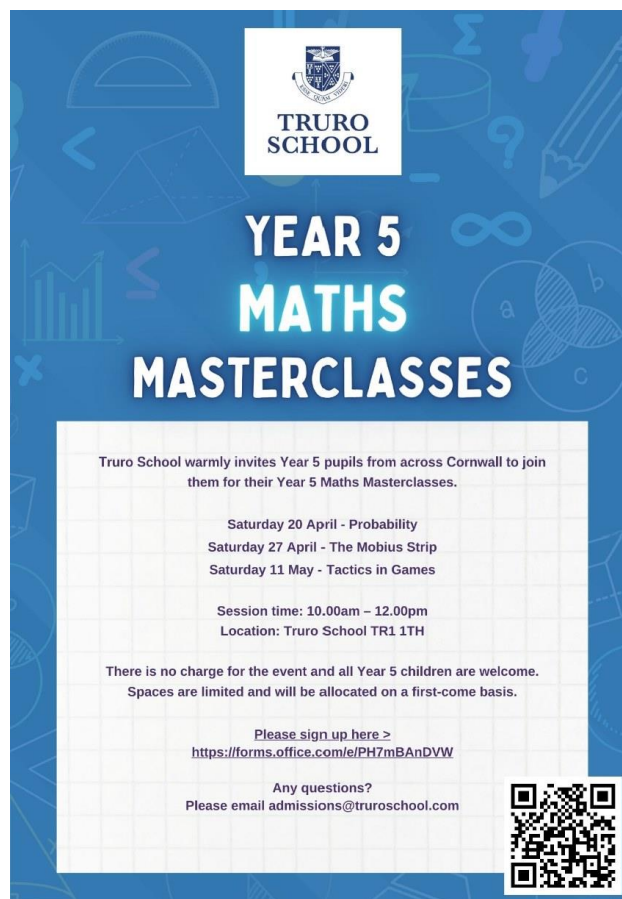
- Saturday 20 April: Session 1 - Probability
- Saturday 27 April: Session 2 - The Mobius Strip
- Saturday 11 May: Session 3 – Tactics in Games

The masterclasses will run from 10am - 12pm at Truro School (TR1 1TH), with snacks and drinks provided. There is no charge for the event and pupils are welcome to sign up for 1,2 or all 3 of the sessions.

To sign up, please follow this link: [Maths Masterclass Signup Form](#)

With many thanks for your support and very best wishes,

Muffy

A blue poster for Truro School Year 5 Maths Masterclasses. At the top center is the Truro School crest and name. Below it, the text 'YEAR 5 MATHS MASTERCLASSES' is written in large, bold, white letters. The background of the poster is blue with various mathematical symbols and icons like a protractor, a pencil, a question mark, and a bar chart. A white rectangular box in the center contains the following text: 'Truro School warmly invites Year 5 pupils from across Cornwall to join them for their Year 5 Maths Masterclasses.' followed by the dates and topics: 'Saturday 20 April - Probability', 'Saturday 27 April - The Mobius Strip', and 'Saturday 11 May - Tactics in Games'. Below this, it says 'Session time: 10.00am – 12.00pm' and 'Location: Truro School TR1 1TH'. A note states 'There is no charge for the event and all Year 5 children are welcome. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come basis.' At the bottom of the white box, it says 'Please sign up here >' followed by the URL 'https://forms.office.com/e/PH7mBAnDVW'. Below the white box, it says 'Any questions? Please email admissions@truroschool.com'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Year 4 Multiplication Check

The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for all year 4 pupils in England. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future

success in mathematics. It will help us to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided. We must administer the MTC to all eligible year 4 pupils between **Monday 3 June and Friday 14 June**. During the run up to the MTC, we can access the MTC service to prepare for the check from Monday 8 April. This enables pupils to get a feel for what it will be like on the day of the MTC and use a very similar service that is made available to them to practise with.

As a parent, you can support your child by ensuring they have regular access and time spent on Times Table Rock Stars, focusing on using the 'Soundcheck' function which allows them to be timed per question (6 seconds for each question).

If you have any questions, please pop in to see me.

Miss Redman



School Council - Charity Work



Thank you to all who supported Red Nose Day, The Big Plastic count and of course, World Book day. What a busy week of fundraising, celebrating and helping contribute to Greenpeace's audit.

As part of our Big Plastic Count, Mrs Berrington created a large artwork for our school hall. We asked our children to bring in interesting pieces of plastic to paint and add to the display. Please pop your head in to the hall to take a look!

Reading for Pleasure



What an amazing day we had celebrating World Book Day. We were amazed with all your costumes and loved hearing about your favourite books and authors.

One of the highlights was our buddy reading sessions. It was so lovely to see our older children reading to younger pupils. Everyone enjoyed having some extra time to enjoy various books.

Thank you also to Padstow Book Shop for providing all of our children with a book of their own to enjoy at home!

Here are a few photos of our buddy reading sessions.

Mrs Bateman



Inclusion Update...Information for Parents



Forest School - we are delighted to share that we have introduced our own Forest School here at St Merryn to support the needs of specific individuals. Sessions are currently split into two small groups for KS1 and KS2. If you think this is something that may benefit your child, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance. Sessions are run by our Autism Champion, Lindsay Chandler.

Autism Champions – we are fortunate to have two more members of staff attend the autism champion training last half term. They will work alongside Lindsay Chandler in ensuring that we can support all children in our school, not just children with a diagnosis.

Autism Cafes – thank you to those families that were able to attend the autism café at Trevisker Primary School. From the feedback we felt it provided an informative environment to talk to others and develop

networks of support. At St Merryn School we plan to start holding our own **family cafes led by Lindsay Chandler** which will give you an opportunity to chat to others and discuss areas you feel you might like support. We hope to then arrange some guest speakers and advisors that can attend following sessions.

We will share the information as soon as we have confirmed a date for the first autism café.

But in the meantime if you have any concerns about your child please do speak to us to see how we can support them.

Mrs Bateman

Attendance - New Attendance Strategy

We wanted to make you aware of a new attendance strategy that is being launched across our Trust to improve attendance in all our schools. We recognise that attendance is not at the level that we would like it to be currently and would like to work with you to improve it.

At Kernow learning we believe that working in partnership with yourselves as parents is the key to improving attendance, as well as ensuring that our schools are exciting, enriching, inclusive places to be.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you therefore that if you are struggling to ensure your child is attending school on a regular basis, please do not hesitate to come and talk to us so that together we can find a solution. We will talk to you without judgement and will always aim to provide support to you in a way that works for you.

Our aim is to work with you to remove barriers in school and help you and your children to access the support you need to overcome barriers outside of school. The support that we offer might include in-house support provided by us in school or an early help referral where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, we will explain the consequences clearly to you and ensure support is in place to enable you to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.

Only in circumstances where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, we will enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice in line with the National Framework or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education. This is because:

It is a legal requirement for parents/carers to obtain the permission of the Headteacher before removing their child from school to take any leave in term time. If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine

of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

However, we will endeavour to do everything we can to ensure that this stage is not met and ask that you do the same.

Should you have any questions at all about attendance or require any additional help and support then please get in touch.

Mrs King



What happens if a Penalty Notice is not paid?
If a Penalty Notice is not paid within the 28 days of issue (as per the dates listed on the Penalty Notice), Cornwall Council will progress the matter to the Magistrates' Court, for the offence of failing to ensure regular attendance, NOT for failure to pay the fine.
If found guilty:
- under section 444(1), it can result in the parent being fined up to £1000
- under section 444(1A), it can result in the parent being fined up to £2,500 and/or receiving a custodial sentence of up to 3 months
Cornwall Council may also apply for costs incurred in taking the matter to court.

Contact us
Education Welfare Service
educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk
01872 334298
www.supportincornwall.org.uk/families
www.facebook.com/TFFCornwall
@TFCCornwall

Penalty Notices
A guide to Education Welfare Services for parents and carers

Cornwall recycles
Remove it into efp@pfpys

www.cornwall.gov.uk/togetherforfamilies

Safeguarding - Snapchat



With children wanting access to social media earlier than ever these days, it is important to consider age-ratings, exposure to varied content and to set safety features if your child already has a social profile. The article below is an advisory article based on the app Snapchat.

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a popular messaging app that allows you to send images and videos to other users. These are known as 'Snaps'. One of Snapchat's unique selling points is that messages are normally only available for a short period of time and can only be viewed once.

What age-rating is Snapchat?

The platform is rated 13+.

How does Snapchat work?

The platform mainly operates as a messaging app where users can communicate with each other using videos and images. However, there are also other features available including private chat, games, and voice notes. You can also create short videos that can be posted to a public feed.

Tips to help keep your child safe on Snapchat

- 1. Make sure they sign up with the correct age** Set up your child's Snapchat account together to make sure they sign up with correct age. This will automatically enable settings that help to limit unwanted contact from adults and access to certain features.
- 2. Talk to them about how to feel good on social media** Children and young people can face lots of different pressures online. Use Childline's advice about [How to feel good on social media](#) to help give them the tools to manage their wellbeing online.
- 3. Set rules around friends** Before your child starts using the app, talk to them about who they can be friends with on the app. Tell them to come to you if they receive a friend request from someone they don't know.
- 4. Know where to report** There is a chance that your child could come across inappropriate or upsetting content on Snapchat. If this happens, you should report it to the platform. To report a Snap or a story, press and hold on it, then select 'Report Snap'.
- 5. Talk about what is ok / not ok to share** Ensure that your child knows what personal and private information is and what is and is not appropriate to share online.

[Is Snapchat safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

The link above advises on further information including the safety features that are available on Snapchat including ghost mode and privacy settings.

If you would like any further support or guidance around your child's use of Snapchat, please pop in to see me and I will endeavour to help where possible.

Miss Redman

Young Carers

As a staff, we have recently completed training re Young Carers. This will ensure we are well equip to support our families that may need some additional support.

Please speak to Mrs King if you would like further information.



ANIA
YOUNG CARER?

In partnership with
Believe in children
Barnardo's

If any of these sound like you,
you may be a Young Carer...

- Practical tasks -**
cooking, housework,
shopping and
gardening.
- Physical care -**
helping the cared for
in/out of bed, around the
house, outside the home.
- Emotional support -**
listening, talking and
showing empathy.
- Personal care -**
undressing/dressing,
bathing, using the toilet.
- Managing the family budget -**
paying bills, seeking benefits,
working to contribute
financially.
- Supporting with
Communication -**
Making calls, relaying needs
to professionals, helping a
sibling communicate.
- Dealing with Medication -**
collecting prescriptions,
giving medication,
attending appointments.
- Supporting family
members during crisis -**
calling emergency services,
providing emotional
support during hospital
visits, dealing with the
trauma after the event.
- Looking after siblings -**
feeding, bathing,
dressing, homework,
emotional support.
- Completing daily
nursing tasks -**
clearing peg/breathing
tubes, personal care,
feeding and bathing.

To find out more,
scan the QR code



Dates for the Diary



April

Monday 15th April - First Day of term

Tuesday 16th April - Year 5 Bikeability begins

Tuesday 16th April - RNLI Assembly

Friday 19th April - Year 4 Residential Parent meeting 3:30-4:00 (Kestrels classroom)

Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th April - Year 5 Residential

May

Wk beg: 13th May-17th May - Year 6 SATs week

Friday 17th May - FOSMS Cream Tea Event 2:00

Wk beg: 20th May - Key Stage 1 SATs week

Wk beg: 20th May - Year 6 Surf Week

HALF TERM - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

St Merryn School			Kernow Learning Building Excellent Schools Together		
School Terms and Holidays 2023/24					
September 2023 Mon 4 11 18 25 Tue 5 12 19 26 Wed 6 13 20 27 Thu 7 14 21 28 Fri 1 8 15 22 29 Sat 2 9 16 23 30 Sun 3 10 17 24 31		October 2023 Mon 2 9 16 23 30 Tue 3 10 17 24 31 Wed 4 11 18 25 26 27 Thu 5 12 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 Fri 6 13 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 Sat 7 14 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 Sun 1 8 15 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		November 2023 Mon 6 13 20 27 Tue 7 14 21 28 Wed 1 8 15 22 29 Thu 2 9 16 23 30 Fri 3 10 17 24 Sat 4 11 18 25 Sun 5 12 19 26	
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Key: School Holiday Bank Holiday Term Time Inset Day			Term dates summary: Autumn Term 1: 4th September - 20th October 2023 Autumn Term 2: 30th October - 19th December 2023 Spring Term 1: 4th January 2024 - 9th February 2024 Spring Term 2: 19th February 2024 - 28th March 2024 Summer Term 1: 15th April 2024 - 24th May 2024 Summer Term 2: 3rd June 2024 - 24th July 2024 TOTAL: 195		
Bank and Public Holidays 2023/24					
Christmas Day	25th December 2023	Easter Monday	1st April 2024		
Boxing Day	26th December 2023	May Bank Holiday	6th May 2024		
New Years Day	1st January 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	27th May 2024		
Good Friday	29th March 2024	Summer Bank Holiday	26th August 2024		