



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2025-26

Edition 1 of 6 – Autumn Term 1

October 2025

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From The Headteacher

Welcome to the new academic year, and a special welcome to the new families who have joined our Roxeth Mead community this term.

Over the past few weeks, you will have received updates and photos of your child enjoying their activities via the EY Log. Our half-termly newsletter takes a wider view, celebrating the learning and achievements across the whole school - and what a fantastic first half term it has been! The children have settled beautifully into their new classes, and it has been a joy to see such wonderful examples of learning in action. From babies learning to walk in the Baby Room, to Pre-School children singing new songs, to Nursery pupils mastering letter formation, every day has been a hive of activity, growth, and fun. Alongside this, we have seen social skills blossoming, sharing, turn-taking, listening, and thoughtful sitting, helping to build the foundations of confident, kind learners. We hope you enjoy the photos included in this newsletter, which capture just a snapshot of the children's enthusiasm and delight as they explore their topics.

We are thrilled to welcome our new Performing Arts teacher, Miss Joanna, who has already filled the school with energy, creativity, and music this term. She began by introducing the ukulele, teaching the children some lively new songs, before leading them in imaginative music-making activities. With fairy wands in hand, the children moved to the music, up high, down low, and side to side, bringing rhythms to life through expressive movement. Colourful sensory scarves added extra sparkle as they twirled, shook, and swirled around the room. To finish, the children explored animal sounds, using instruments to mimic and invent their own playful soundscapes. It was a joyful and inspiring experience that has already set the stage for a wonderful year of Performing Arts at Roxeth Mead.

Our Curriculum - At Roxeth we teach the Early Years Framework, as outlined by the Department for Education. Beyond this, the Roxeth curriculum is designed to encourage our children to be successful learners and confident individuals. Our aim is that ROXETH runs through every lesson, experience and activity, as follows:

Respect – activities rooted in respect of others and our surroundings

Opportunity – activities that are ambitious and create memorable moments

EXcellence – in all that we do

Engaging activities that create enthusiasm and a joy of learning that will last life long

Transferable Skills – that can be applied in a range of contexts

Humour – activities that enable fun and laughter (after all, we all learn best when we are having fun!)

If you wish to find out more about our curriculum, please refer to our website at <https://roxethmead.com/curriculum/>

Wishing you a restful half term break.

Mrs Mackintosh



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News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



We have had such a wonderful start to the term, and the children have all settled beautifully into the Baby Room. It has been a busy few weeks filled with fun, learning, and lots of giggles and cuddles!

We began the term with the topic “My Family”, where the children enjoyed looking at their family photos, making handprint houses, and creating a family tree. With the lovely weather, we also made the most of our outdoor garden and spent time in the sensory room.

Next, we explored “My Body”, singing favourite songs such as Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, looking at ourselves in the mirror, and using chalk outside to draw body outlines in the garden.

We then moved on to “Sensory Play”, where the children explored different textures such as soft, bumpy, rough, and shiny through tuff trays. They particularly enjoyed the That’s Not My... books, which linked in perfectly with the theme. This led us into exploring the senses, where the children had fun investigating with magnifying glasses, making fresh orange juice, and squishing and moulding playdough.

More recently, our topic has been “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”. The children have loved listening to and joining in with the story, taking part in messy play with porridge, and decorating their very own bear faces. They also enjoyed having a special tea party with the bears and going on a fun adventure to find the bear!

Alongside these topics, the children have also been taking part in Performing Arts every other Tuesday, which they have enjoyed immensely dancing, moving, and listening to music has been a real highlight for everyone!

To finish off the half term, we will be celebrating Diwali – the Festival of Lights. The children will take part in a variety of creative activities, such as making lanterns and exploring colourful powders to create rangoli inspired patterns.

This half term has flown by, and we are so proud of how well the children have embraced each new experience. Thank you to all our parents for your continued support.

We wish you a lovely half-term break and look forward to seeing you all again in two weeks!
Miss Shaheen and Miss Chrisy



News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class

Wow, what a fantastic start we've had in Butterfly Class! The children have been busy building new relationships with Mrs. Faye and Miss Pallavi and are settling beautifully into our daily routines. We're so excited for the academic year ahead! We also welcomed a new friend, Loughlin, and the children have enjoyed getting to know him.



Our topics this term have been full of fun and engaging learning experiences, helping the children develop new skills and vocabulary. We began by getting to know each other through our 'All About Us' and 'Our Families' topics, learning more about our five senses and exploring sensory play.

We've been blessed with some lovely weather, so the children have spent lots of time playing and exploring in the garden, building friendships and confidence outdoors. On alternate Tuesdays, the children have also been taking part in performing arts sessions, and it has been wonderful to see them relax, express themselves, and grow in confidence each time.



As I write, we are exploring colours, shapes, and patterns. We'll also be learning about the celebration of Diwali, discovering new vocabulary and finishing the week with a fun Diwali party!

We wish everyone a wonderful break, and we can't wait to see you all back soon for more fun learning and exciting experiences!

Miss Faye and Miss Pallavi





News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)

Well, what an exciting half term we have had! The children have settled into their new classrooms really well and have been an absolute delight to have so far.



Our first topic this term was 'All About Me and My Family'. The children enjoyed learning about and recognising their body parts. We provided mirrors for the children to identify their facial features and used a variety of art materials to create self-portraits, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We also encouraged the children to move their bodies in different ways through fun activities.

We then moved on to talking about our families. The children proudly shared their family photos with their peers and talked about the people who live in their homes. They loved creating houses using art materials and building their own homes from Lego. We also made family trees by using footprints as tree trunks and adding family members to the branches. The children particularly enjoyed listening to stories about families, such as Owl Babies.

Our next topic was Dinosaurs, which the children absolutely loved! They had great fun hunting for dinosaur bones in the sand, learning the names of different dinosaurs, and singing dinosaur songs. The children explored size by identifying which dinosaurs were big or small while playing in the tuff tray and made dinosaur paw prints using paint. We also provided frozen dinosaur eggs for the children to crack open and discover which dinosaur was inside! They enjoyed creating a range of dinosaur-themed artwork using different materials.



Our final topic of the half term was The Three Little Pigs. The children discussed the emotions the pigs felt during the story and used words such as scared, sad, and angry to express their ideas. Using props, we re-enacted the story together and repeated well-known phrases like "I'll huff and I'll puff!" The children created pigs, wolves, and houses using a variety of materials. They also enjoyed a tuff tray activity where they built their own houses for the pigs using playdough, spaghetti, and small bricks. We

explored size by ordering pigs and wolves from smallest to largest, and the children sequenced the story using cut-out shapes. During our cooking lesson, the children also made pig-themed treats, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



To end the half term, we created a range of Diwali-themed artwork, including diyas, lanterns, and Diwali cards. The children explored Rangoli patterns through messy play. We also talked about Black History Week, learning about the flags of Caribbean islands and various African countries. The children will be reading books, listening to steel pan music, watching videos of carnival celebrations, exploring different types of food, and learning about how children of Black heritage care for their hair.



We have been encouraging the children to practise their fine motor skills through cutting, tracing lines, and exploring with playdough.

Our cooking lessons have been going really well. The children look forward to their cooking sessions each week and are always excited to see what we will be making together.

We wish you all a lovely half-term break, and to those celebrating, Happy Diwali!

Warm regards, Mrs Sheikh, Miss Layla & Miss Natalie



News from Nursery (Tiger) Class



It has been a pleasure welcoming the children to Tiger Class and watching them settle in so well. They are now becoming familiar with the daily routines and are learning to become more independent. Many new friendships have been formed and the children are developing positive relationships during playtime.

In Phonics, we have been using the Read Write Inc. scheme to introduce letter sounds. The children have shown great enthusiasm, practising letter formation by writing in foam and tracing on paper. They have also been listening for initial sounds in words and identifying rhyming words.

In Maths, learning has been hands-on and engaging. The children have explored ordering numbers to 10, counting out quantities, identifying 2D and 3D shapes and comparing objects by size and length. They have also enjoyed creating and continuing repeating patterns. A class highlight was measuring each other's height to find out who was the tallest, with some surprises as a few children were the same height!



Our first topic was **'Me, My Family, Senses and Emotions'**. The children enjoyed creating self-portraits and drawing pictures of their families. During a sensory walk in the garden, they explored their senses, feeling the rough bark of a tree, hearing a police siren, and smelling lavender. They learned about the human body using non-fiction books, songs, and picture cards. Together, we assembled body parts to make a person and the popular "Skeleton Dance" got everyone moving! They also drew faces showing two emotions of their choice and listened to a song about feelings.



Next, we explored the story of **'The Gruffalo'**, which the children listened to with great interest. They eagerly discussed what might happen next and took turns acting out their favourite parts. They created Gruffalo masks and used natural materials such as leaves, sticks, acorns, conkers and soil to build a miniature forest floor in a tuff tray, complete with minibeasts!

Our final topic for this half of the Autumn term was **'Dinosaurs'**, a theme that sparked



excitement from the very beginning. The children were keen to share their favourite Dinosaurs and loved finding them in non-fiction books. They learned Dinosaur-themed songs, listened to engaging stories, painted Dinosaurs, used stencils for drawing and colouring, and even created Dinosaurs using 2D shapes.

To celebrate **Diwali**, the children made colourful Diwali cards and learned about the traditions and celebrations surrounding the festival of lights.

This has been a great start to this academic year in Tiger Class and the children are happy, well settled and enthusiastic to learn. Wishing you all a good half term. Mrs Kalsi, Mrs Ghatora & Miss Gohil.







Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term:

		Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
FESTIVALS	Nov 3 rd	Autumn incl.	Autumn incl.	Autumn incl.
	10 th	& Festivals incl. Fireworks (5 th)	& Festivals incl. Fireworks (5 th)	& Festivals incl. Fireworks (5 th)
	17 th	Remembrance (11 th)	Remembrance (11 th)	Remembrance (11 th)
	24 th	Nursery Rhymes 1	Nursery Rhymes (<u>ch'n choices</u>)	Fairy-tale: Jack & The Beanstalk
	December 1 st	Christmas.	Christmas.	Christmas.
	8 th	Pantomime & Nativity prep Xmas Cards	Pantomime & Nativity prep Xmas Cards	Pantomime & Nativity prep Xmas Cards

Starting School September 2026?

If your child is in Nursery Class, you need to start thinking about your choice of school from next September. The admission process for next September starts **now** in all schools. Below are some links to Independent Schools that many of our pupils have moved on to in the past.

Most move to Orley Farm.

<https://www.orleyfarm.harrow.sch.uk/admissions/4-entry/>

<https://www.habsgirls.org.uk/admissions/open-events/>

<https://www.habsboys.org.uk/admissions/open-events>

<https://www.st-johns.org.uk/open-morning1>

If you do **not** want an Independent School, but a Harrow State School, please follow this link...

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/schools-learning/apply-primary-school-place>



Christmas Arrangements

Photographs – Wednesday 5th November

We are delighted to let you know that a photographer will be visiting school on **Wednesday 5th November**. Children may come dressed in party clothes, Christmas jumpers, or their usual school uniform. If you would like to have a photo taken with your child, please let Mrs. Mackintosh know so that we can arrange a suitable time. Families who do not usually attend on a Wednesday are also very welcome, just contact Mrs. Mackintosh to schedule your slot. Photographs will be available to order and will be ready before the end of term, making them a lovely Christmas gift for family and friends. Photo sets start at £12.50 and will be available online to order from the week after the photo shoot.

Post Box

Our Christmas Post Box will be in the entrance for children to post cards to each other, if they wish. This will be there from **Monday 1st December to Wednesday 10th December**. Please ensure the name and class is clearly written on the envelope. A list of first names of each class member will be emailed home.



Pantomime – Thursday 4th December

We will be bringing a traditional Pantomime to Roxeth Mead on **Thursday 4th December**. 'Panto in a Day' will be visiting to perform "The Wizard of Oz". If your child does NOT normally attend on a Thursday, they may come in at 9.30am and be picked up again at 10.45.

Christmas Party – Tuesday 9th December

We have arranged a Christmas Party for the children on the morning of **Tuesday 9th December**. This will include party games. Uniform is NOT required on this day, the children may wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes to mark this special day. If your child does NOT normally attend on a Tuesday, they may come in at 9.45 and be picked up again at 11.30. We have invited Santa to our party, so we hope he can make it!

Nativity – Thursday 11th December 10.45am ALL PUPILS TO ATTEND

The children will be performing a special version of the Nativity on the last day of term, **Thursday 11th December**, at **Christ's Church, Roxeth Hill, HA2 0JN** (opposite Roxeth Primary School). Parents and extended family members are warmly invited to join us for this festive celebration.

Children should be brought directly at the Church at 9:30am, dressed in their costumes. Babies can be brought at 10:30am, as they do not need to take part in the rehearsal.

Please note:

- Children do not need school bags or lunch on this day — just a light snack and a water bottle.
- Breakfast Club will run as usual for those parents who need this facility. Staff will walk the breakfast club children to the Church at 9:15am.
- After dropping your child at 9.30, please return to the Church at 10:30am, ready for the performance to begin at 10:45am.

Following the performance, there will be refreshments in the Church lounge and a chance to chat with other parents and staff. Children should be taken home after the refreshments. School closes at midday on the 11th.

For the refreshments, we ask each family to bring along a small donation of cakes, sandwiches or fruit that we can lay out for everyone to share. If you are able to help organise or serve refreshments, please let us know — your support would be greatly appreciated.

XMAS HOLIDAY CLUB – Will be available on Friday 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th December. School is then closed for 2 weeks and will reopen on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Our Uniform Provider

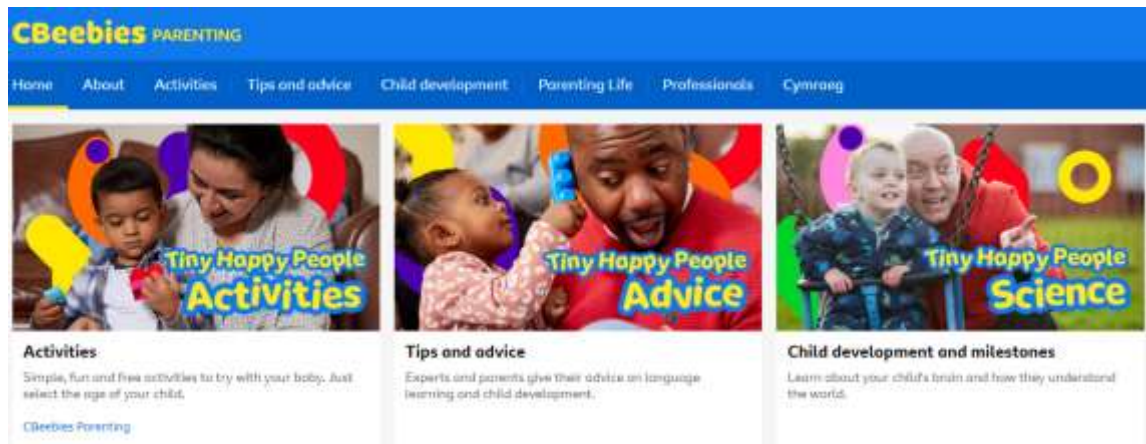
Our uniform is available online. Everything is made to order, so you need to allow 7-10 working days for the order to be ready. <https://www.aceclothing.co.uk/products-school/roxeth-mead/uniform-3/boys-girls>

Hot Meals

A reminder that meals are available to book for £5.00. All meals are either Annabel Karmel or Little Dish Range. Both ranges promise 1 or more of your 5 a-day, low in salt, 100% natural ingredients and no added sugar. You can also book snacks.

Parenting Advice from CBeebies

CBeebies has a "Grown-ups" area (for parents/carers) offering articles on parenting, child development, activity ideas and more at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>



HARROW HEALTH & WELLBEING FAIR

Meet your integrated neighbourhood teams (INT), share your views, and discover support available in your area.

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

11AM – 3PM

VICTORIA HALL, SHEEPCOTE

ROAD, HA1 2JE.

(Main entrance next to St John Baptist Church)

**FREE
EVENT**

TAKE PART IN:

- Q&A sessions with a local GP
- Practical exercise and lifestyle tips- 5 steps to a healthier, happier you
- Free blood pressure checks
- Fun, creative activities promoting wellness and relaxation

COME ALONG AND GET ADVICE ON:

- Cost of living
- Fuel poverty
- Debt & Housing
- NHS App support

Food and refreshments will be available

Dami - 07823570914

Khadijah - 07468753054

NHS

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You can download the latest Families Magazine by clicking here...

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/nw_london_oct



Parent's Guide - Bedtime

Some steps for parents to follow to help children get the right amount of sleep and avoid problems around bedtime.

Getting a good night's sleep for your child, and ultimately yourself, is often something that parents dream of. But by settling your child into a consistent bedtime routine it can become a reality and you can even have some time to yourself to recharge.

IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

Sleep is essential for our survival:

- Inadequate sleep can impair brain function, but good sleep supports cognition, concentration, productivity and performance. It can help improve problem-solving skills and aid memory.
- Some physiological processes occur primarily while we're asleep, such as muscle growth, release of growth hormone and tissue repair.
- Poor sleep can lead to poor behaviour and hyperactivity.

SLEEPING HOURS

The amount of sleep that your child needs will change as they get older. The NHS recommends that babies and children have the following approximate hours of sleep:

- 3 months Daytime: four to five hours/Night time: 10 to 11 hours
- 6 months Daytime: three hours/Night time: 11 hours
- 9 months Daytime: two hours, 30 mins/Night time: 11 hours
- 12 months Daytime: two hours, 30 mins/Night time: 11 hours
- 3 years Daytime: none to 45 mins/Night time: 11 hours, 30 mins to 12 hours
- 4 years Night time: 11 hours, 30 mins
- 5 years Night time: 11 hours

SETTING A BEDTIME

Having a set bedtime helps your child to get a good night's sleep and enables them to function.

Establishing a bedtime routine for your child has many benefits:

- It will signal to your child that it's time to rest and help them to fall asleep, stay asleep and wake up rested.
- The familiarity is comforting and can help your child relax and ease separation anxiety.
- It helps your child to learn how to transition from the busy day, soothe themselves and settle for sleep.
- It can help prevent children from developing sleep problems in the future.



According to a study by University College London, children with irregular bedtimes were found to experience behavioural problems, such as emotional difficulties and hyperactivity. This was attributed to natural body rhythms being disrupted, which can cause sleep deprivation. It can actually take the stress out of putting your child to bed and help it to become a special time for you both.

ROUTINE TIPS

Every family is unique and has different needs, but doing the same relaxing things in the same order and at the same time each night can help to promote a good night's sleep:

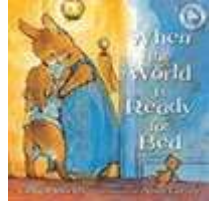
- When it's approaching bedtime, an hour before if possible, make the home environment as calm as possible. So turn off loud music, any TVs or other screens and avoid rough and tumble games.
- Try to keep bedrooms screen-free zones. The backlighting on screens awakens the brain and can confuse the circadian rhythms, which are responsible for telling us when we need to go to sleep.
- Avoid giving your child large amounts of food before bed which can disrupt their sleep.
- If there is time, a warm bath – not hot – can help soothe a child and signal it's time to rest, followed by cleaning their teeth and putting on nightwear.
- Ensure your child's bedroom is conducive to sleep by having it dark – which encourages your child's body to produce the sleep hormone melatonin – and at a comfortable temperature, around 18 to 24°C. Consider investing in blackout blinds or a nightlight, depending on your child's preference.
- Introduce a lovely snuggly bedtime story to help your child to relax before bed. Sharing a book together promotes a bond between you and your child by giving you relaxed one-to-one time in a calm environment. It can also help your child to develop a love of books as they associate reading with a pleasant, positive experience.
- Dim the lights and chat to your child about their day or what the plans are for tomorrow to help put any worries to rest and help them prepare for sleep before kissing them 'night night'.
- If you've tried all these tips but are still having problems settling your child to sleep, consider seeking advice from your key person, health visitor or GP. They may refer you to a sleep expert for additional support.



Good Books for Bedtime

When the World is Ready for Bed by Gillian Shields

As the whole world gets ready for bed, so does a family of bunnies – brushing teeth, closing curtains and sharing a story.



Kiss Good Night by Amy Hest and Anita Jeram

On a rainy, windy night, Mummy Bear tucks in Baby Bear, reads a story and brings hot milk. Only one thing is missing.

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd

Bunny says goodnight to familiar things, one by one – a bedtime classic that has lulled generations of children to sleep.

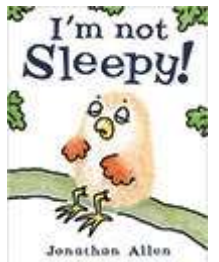


Bedtime with Ted by Sophy Henn

Ted is too busy for bed – he's cleaning his teeth with a crocodile and bathing with some penguins.

I'm not Sleepy! by Jonathan Allen

Baby Owl insists he's not tired. He's not yawning; he's just bored.



Positive Language

Phrases that begin with 'no' and 'don't' can often be overused with younger children who are keen to explore, touch and interact with everything in easy reach. Using phrases that begin in the negative can overtime become ineffective; cause frustration; limit the conversation between adult and child; develop a negative behaviour cycle/reaction; cause confrontation.

Trying to find alternative language phrases can help encourage positive behaviour, and develop problem solving, executive function and critical thinking skills, while maintaining children's innate curiosity and drive to explore.

Positive Language Alternatives to 'No' or 'Don't'

Don't say that!	Please use kind words.
Don't touch/play with that.	Let's try doing something else. Maybe you can do that some other time. You could play with this instead. I wish we could play with that but... Thank you for keeping your hands away from that. Tell me why you'd like that? I'd like to understand.
Don't run.	Walk please. Walk please, it might be slippery. It is slippery/frosty/dry today, how shall we move around? We walk inside.
Don't get upset.	It's ok to feel sad.
No throwing.	Let's remember gentle hands. Put it on the floor please.
No snatching.	Would you like to play with that? That's his/her toy. We need to share. It's your turn next.
No, it's not time for that now.	I know you like... we can do that later.
No, you can't bring in your toys.	Your toy will be safely waiting at home for you.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



OCTOBER

Mon 20th to Fri 31st Half Term Holiday (2 weeks) - Holiday Club available

NOVEMBER

Monday 3rd Return to school following half term

Wednesday 5th am Photos ready in time for Christmas

W/b Mon 24th Reports issued to parents

DECEMBER		
Monday 1 st to 10 th		Christmas post box in entrance hall
Thursday 4 th	am	Pantomime Company visiting the school - Wizard of Oz
Tuesday 9 th	am	Christmas Party. Pupils may wear party clothes or a Christmas jumper
Thursday 11 th	10.45am	Nativity at Christ Church. All pupils to attend. Meet at the Church at 9.30am in costume. Refreshments afterwards at the church
Thursday 11 th	Noon	Break up for Christmas
12 th to 19 th	8 – 5pm	Holiday Club available
JANUARY 2026		
Monday 5 th		Staff Training - No holiday club as all staff will be involved in first aid training
Tuesday 6 th	From 8am	Children back for new term
FEBRUARY		
Mon 16 th - 20 th		Half Term - Holiday Club available
MARCH		
Friday 27 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter at midday
Monday 30 th		Holiday club available
APRIL		
1 st to 17 th		Holiday club available
Monday 20 th		INSET for Staff. Holiday club available
Tuesday 21 st		Children back for new term. Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July.
MAY		
Monday 4 th		May Bank Holiday
25 th to 29 th		Half Term - Holiday Club available
	tbc	Visit from Zoolab
JUNE		
Monday 1 st		Children back following half term
		Farm Trip tbc
		Sports Day & Picnic tbc
JULY		
Friday 10 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday
Monday 13 th		Holiday Club available

TERM DATES 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Inset for Staff: Monday 1st September & Tuesday 2nd September

Term Begins: Wednesday 3rd September

Half Term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Term Ends: Thursday 11th December at midday after the Nativity – NO afternoon provision
 Holiday Club – available 12th to 19th December
 School Closed 2 weeks over Christmas

SPRING TERM 2026

Inset for Staff: Monday 5th January

Term Begins: Tuesday 6th January

Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February (holiday club available)

Term Ends: Friday 27th March (holiday club available)

SUMMER TERM 2026

Inset for Staff: Monday 20th April

Term Begins: Tuesday 21st April

Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May

Half Term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May (holiday club available)

Term Ends: Friday 10th July