



# ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

*In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning*

Academic Year 2025-26

Edition 2 of 6 – Autumn Term 2

December 2025

## In This Issue:

- From The Headteacher
- News from the Classes:
  - Ladybirds
  - Butterflies
  - Parrots
  - Tigers
- Parent's Information
- Dates for Your Diary

## From The Headteacher



What a wonderful few months we have enjoyed as we headed towards the Christmas break. It has been a busy, joyful, and very productive half term, filled with learning, creativity and lots of seasonal celebrations.

At the start of this half term, the children spent time observing the beautiful changes taking place in our garden as Autumn set in and the leaves turned from green to vibrant shades of red, orange and yellow. This led us into our learning about Autumn, where the children explored the natural world around them and enjoyed a range of activities linked to the season. Soon after, we were excited to celebrate both Firework Night and Diwali.



The children created some fantastic artwork and greeting cards. These moments of creativity and cultural celebration really helped bring our curriculum to life.

We were pleased to send home the children's reports recently. We hope you were as delighted as we were to see the start to the year that they have made. Their achievements are a reflection of their hard work, the care and dedication of our wonderful Roxeth staff team, the benefits of our small class sizes, which allow us to tailor learning to the needs and interests of every child, and the support from you, the parents. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

As we approach the end of term, our Christmas celebrations have been in full swing. The children were treated to a lively performance from "Panto in a Day," which filled the hall with laughter and the traditional "He's behind you!" spirit of panto fun.



We have also enjoyed a Christmas party, a very special visit from Santa, and our heart-warming Nativity performance, which, at the time of writing, is in its final stages of rehearsal. We cannot wait to share it with you.



Thank you for your continued support this term. We wish all our families a peaceful, joyful, and well-deserved Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year, on 6<sup>th</sup> January, refreshed and ready for more exciting learning ahead.

With best wishes, Mrs Mackintosh

## News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



We are delighted to share what a wonderful Autumn Term we have had in the baby room. After the half-term break, the children settled back in beautifully and quickly reconnected with their friends, familiar routines, and the exciting activities we had planned. We began the term exploring the theme of Autumn, where the children enjoyed tuff trays filled with acorns, leaves and conkers. They created lovely handprint leaves and helped decorate a colourful Autumn wreath. One of the highlights was singing our Autumn song "Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down," where the children had great fun watching dried leaves fall gently through the air as they joined in.

As we moved into Firework Day, the children enjoyed using paint and stamping to create their own bright and vibrant firework patterns. They explored colours, shapes and movement while learning about the festivities. We then moved on to our topic of Nursery Rhymes, where we focused on favourites such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "The Wheels on the Bus." The children loved singing with musical instruments, joining in with the actions and exploring sensory tuff trays filled with foam. These activities helped support their language skills, imagination and confidence, all while having lots of fun.

We ended the last two weeks of term with the magic and excitement of Christmas. The children practised their Nativity performance, enjoyed a fantastic Pantomime, and had a wonderful time at our Christmas party. One of the biggest highlights was the special visit from Father Christmas, which brought so much joy and excitement to the room. The children also continued to enjoy performing arts sessions, joining in with singing, music and movement. Alongside these festive experiences, the children took part in lovely Christmas crafts where they painted paper plates to create Christmas trees, decorated stockings with soft cotton, and made their own colourful baubles, which they were very proud of.



In January, Miss Chrisy moves to the Toddler room and Miss Pallavi to the baby room for another term of exciting activities, laughter and cuddles.

We wish all our families a lovely Christmas break and hope you have a wonderful time together with your loved ones. Wishing you all a very happy New Year.

With warm wishes, Miss Shaheen and Miss Chrisy



## News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



And that's a wrap, another half term complete!

This half term has been filled with fun learning opportunities, along with plenty of arts and crafts. We were delighted to welcome a new child, Karishma, to Butterfly Class. We also celebrated Rudra and Joseph moving up from the Baby Room. We're so pleased to see how beautifully all the children have settled into their new classroom and routines.

The children continue to enjoy their weekly Performing Arts sessions, taking part in 30 minutes of music, movement, and lots of smiles.

Our topics this term began with Autumn, giving the children the chance to learn new vocabulary, explore the changes we see in nature, observe seasonal animals, and notice the beautiful colours of the falling leaves. With the weather staying so mild, we made great use of the garden and enjoyed lots of outdoor play.

We then moved on to Nursery Rhymes. The children loved singing their favourite rhymes, joining in with actions, and dancing along — it has been such a joyful topic! They also created lots of related crafts to brighten up Butterfly Class, helping them stretch their imaginations and feel proud of the wonderful artwork now on display.

We have now begun our Christmas topic. There are many exciting activities planned, including a pantomime, our Christmas party, and of course, our nativity performance. The children have been practising so confidently — they are going to make the cutest little herd of lambs!

In January, Miss Pallavi moves to the Baby room and I will be joined by Miss Natalie and Miss Chrisy for another exciting term of learning. For now, Miss Pallavi and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. See you all in 2026! Miss Faye





## News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)

What a lovely half term we have had! It really has flown by, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled in, grown in confidence, and engaged in all of our activities. We have been incredibly busy and have enjoyed a wide variety of exciting experiences both indoors and outdoors.

We began the half term by learning about autumn and seasonal festivals. This topic captured the children's interest straight away. We talked about how autumn is a time of change, and the children loved observing the world around them. They learned that the weather becomes cooler, the days get shorter, and leaves change colour before falling to the ground. We went on an autumn hunt in the garden and around the outdoor area, collecting leaves, acorns, conkers, and twigs. The children looked closely at what they found and enjoyed describing their colours, shapes, and textures. We were lucky to spot squirrels in the garden too! This sparked a lovely discussion about how animals prepare for the colder months ahead. The children learned that squirrels gather acorns and hide them to eat during winter. We also talked about nocturnal animals, especially hedgehogs, and how they sleep during the day and come out at night. The children really enjoyed creating their own hedgehogs with playdough, and we added cinnamon to give the dough a special autumn smell. This made the activity not only creative but also a wonderful sensory experience.



Throughout the topic, we read lots of autumn themed stories, sang songs together, and created a fantastic range of autumn artwork using paint, collage materials, and natural resources. Their artwork looked beautiful on our display board and the children felt very proud when they saw their creations up on the wall. We also set up an autumn tuff tray with leaves, conkers, and pinecones for the children to explore through imaginative play.



Afterwards, we moved on to nursery rhymes, which the children absolutely loved. We spent time singing well known rhymes together each day, encouraging the children to join in with the words and actions. Nursery rhymes are fantastic for developing early language skills, memory, and rhythm. We provided lots of themed activities so the children could extend their play through looking after baby dolls by putting nappies on them and using the doctors' kit to check they were healthy. They also enjoyed playing with ducks in the water tray while singing "Five Little Ducks," which helped them practise early counting skills in a fun and playful way.



Recently, we have been getting into the Christmas spirit, and the excitement in the room has been wonderful to see. The children have been listening to and singing a variety of Christmas songs, practising new actions, and learning to



perform with confidence. They have also taken part in lots of festive arts and crafts, using glitter, paint, ribbons, and other craft materials to make decorations and gifts to take home. It has been lovely to watch their creativity and imagination shine as they explore different ways of designing and making things.



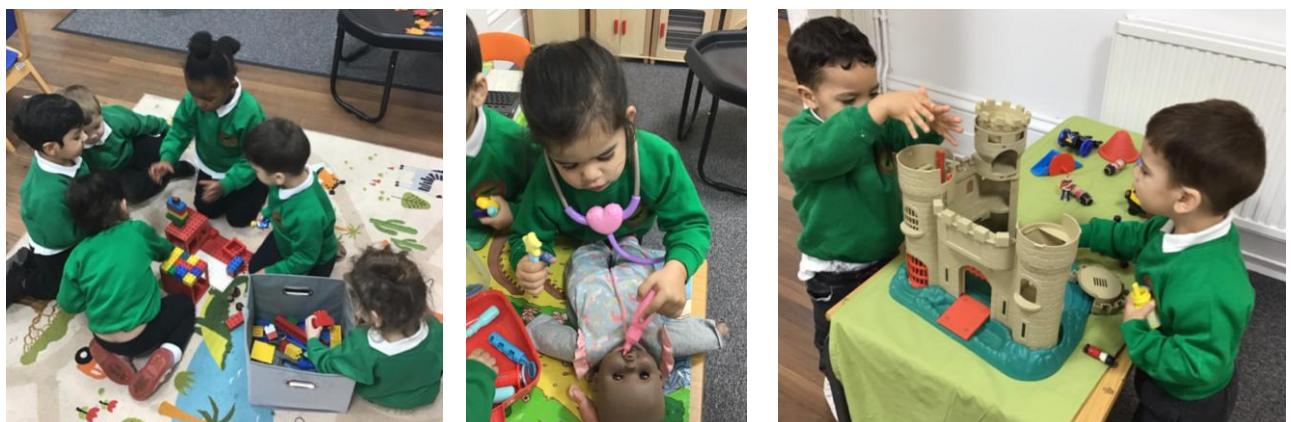
One of the highlights of this half term has definitely been our nativity preparations. The rehearsals are going extremely well, and the children have worked very hard to remember the songs and actions. Some children have even been practising at home! We know how special this performance will be for families, and we truly hope you enjoy watching it as much as we have enjoyed helping the children prepare.

Overall, it has been a fantastic half term full of learning, laughter, and new experiences.

Every child has made wonderful progress, and we are very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you for your continued support, it makes such a difference.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy the break, stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you all again in the new term, ready for more exciting learning adventures.

Warm wishes, Mrs Sheikh, Miss Layla and Miss Natalie



## News from Nursery (Tiger) Class



As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, the children are full of excitement as they look forward to the Christmas party, a visit from Santa, and their Nativity performance. They have been busy rehearsing while also keeping up with their topic work, phonics, maths, cooking and various art and craft activities.

After half term, our first topic was *Autumn*. The children enjoyed a walk around the school garden, collecting colourful leaves and acorns, spotting bare branches, and gathering leaves into a big pile to jump in. They acted out the story *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt*, travelling through a dark forest, climbing a mountain, rowing across a lake, and dashing away from a skunk! They created repeating patterns using conkers, acorns, leaves, twigs, and pinecones, made leaf prints, painted hedgehogs and squirrels, and mixed colours to paint Autumn leaves. We learned about hibernation, sang a song, and even added our own lines to include the hedgehog.



To mark Remembrance Day, the children made poppies and learned about the importance of the occasion. Bonfire Night sparked their curiosity about the story of Guy Fawkes, and they enjoyed painting colourful firework pictures.

Throughout this term, the children have continued practising their phonics and working on correct letter formation.



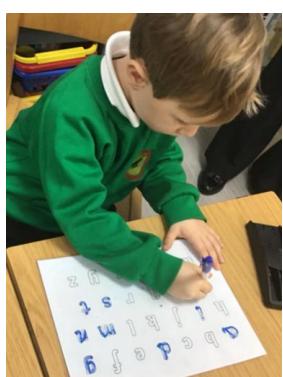
Our next story was *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The children loved listening to and acting out the story, sequencing the story with pictures, and spotting speech bubbles in storybooks. They sang the story as a song, coloured the pictures of characters and made masks. We created a giant beanstalk—almost the entire length of our room and the children added numbered leaves to it. They also used unifix cubes to measure beanstalks of different sizes, used shapes to build Jack's house, and drew the giant and the beanstalk on whiteboards.

We then moved on to our Christmas topic. The children listened to Christmas stories and shared how they planned to celebrate. They made wreaths and cards, painted candles and stockings, coloured festive pictures, and created cheerful reindeer. They were delighted to see their beautiful work displayed around the room, helping to bring a festive spirit to our classroom.



This half of the Autumn Term has flown by and the children have been wonderfully busy. They have worked hard and met every challenge with enthusiasm. I am incredibly proud of each one of them and would like to thank all our parents for their support, your involvement makes all their progress possible.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.  
Mrs Kalsi, Mrs Ghatora & Miss Gohil.





# Parents' Information



## Topics for Next Half Term:

WONDERFUL WINTER WONDERFUL WORLD	W/b	Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
	January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Winter / animals / simple clothing	Winter including weather, clothing & arctic animals.	Winter including weather, clothing & arctic animals. <b>The Snowy Day</b>
	12th	Sensory - hot and cold incl. ice		<b>The Mitten (Jack Brett)</b>
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Rhymes 2, <b>Jack &amp; Jill</b> , 3 little ducks; 10 little monkeys	<b>Book – Snow Bears (Martin Waddell)</b> <b>First day of Winter</b>	<b>A Loud Winter's Nap</b>
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Space – <b>Rocket to the Moon</b>	Space <b>Whatever Next</b>	Space <b>Look Inside Space</b>
	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>			
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year (17 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	Chinese New Year (17 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	Chinese New Year (17 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Half Term				

## Start of the day

Just a reminder that our school day begins at 8:30am. The children ease into the morning with free play, and our planned activities start promptly at 9:00am. If your child arrives after this time, they may miss the morning welcome song, circle time, and some of our early learning activities. After 9:00am it may also take us a little longer to answer the door, as staff are busy supporting the children in the classroom. We know Nursery attendance isn't compulsory, and of course there is no penalty for arriving late. We simply want to make sure you're getting the most out of the time you're paying for, and that your child has the chance to enjoy all the lovely activities we have planned each morning.

## No Nuts

Our school is a nut-free environment. Please ensure your child does not bring any food containing nuts to school. This includes items such as peanut butter and pesto, as pesto often contains pine nuts. We also kindly ask that you avoid sending foods with sesame seeds. While sesame is technically a seed, its proteins can sometimes trigger severe allergic reactions in individuals with nut allergies. Thank you for your support in helping us keep all our pupils safe.



## Starting School September 2026?

If your child is currently in Tiger class, you will by now have a good idea about which school you would like them to attend next September. If you are planning to apply for a state school, rather than an Independent school, please use the link below to submit your application:

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

Please note that all state school applications must be submitted by 15th January 2026.

## Tax-Free Childcare: Support for Families

Did you know that working families can get help with the cost of childcare through the **Tax-Free Childcare scheme**? Here's how it works:

- For every **£8** you pay into your childcare account, the government adds **£2** (up to a maximum of **£2,000 per child per year**, or **£4,000** for a child with a disability).
- The money in the account can be used to pay your nursery fees.
- The scheme is available to most working parents of children under 12 To check if you're eligible or to open an account, visit the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

## 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>

## Carol Singing on the Green



The Harrow on the Hill Trust invites you to their annual Carols on the Green on **Sunday, December 21st at 4.30pm**.

Everyone is welcome to join them on The Green, High Street, Harrow on the Hill. Bring a lantern or torch and a Santa hat and join in the sing-a-long. A local choir will be on hand to encourage those of us with quieter voices!

We are happy to confirm that Woodward Estate Agents will be providing hot chocolate & mince pies.



## Supporting Your Child's Language Development

Helping your child develop strong language skills is one of the most valuable ways you can support their learning, confidence and future success. Children learn language best through everyday interactions, and there are lots of simple things you can do at home to encourage their communication.



### 1. Talk—about anything and everything!

Children learn new words by hearing them used in real situations. Whether you're cooking, walking to school or tidying up, try to talk about what you're doing. Describe objects, name actions and comment on what your child is showing interest in. These small moments build a rich vocabulary.

### 2. Read together every day

Sharing books is one of the most powerful ways to support language development. Look at the pictures together, talk about what might happen next and encourage your child to join in with repeated phrases. Even five minutes each day can make a big difference.

### 3. Encourage conversation

Give your child time to respond when you ask a question, and show that you value their ideas by listening carefully. Open-ended questions such as "What do you think will happen?" or "How did that make you feel?" help children develop more detailed sentences and expressive language.

### 4. Sing songs and rhymes

Nursery rhymes, action songs and simple chants help children hear the rhythms and patterns of language. They also support memory and listening skills—and they're fun to do together!

### 5. Limit background noise

Turning off the TV or radio during playtime and mealtimes helps your child focus on conversation. Children learn best when they can clearly hear speech and see your facial expressions.

### 6. Expand their language gently

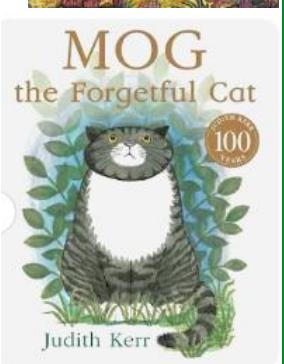
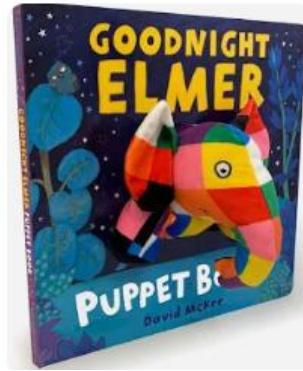
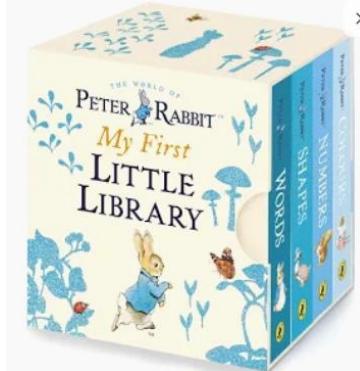
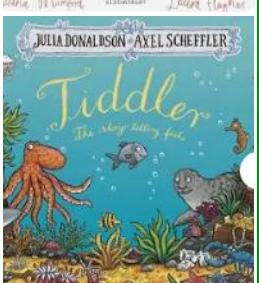
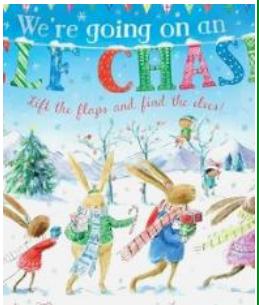
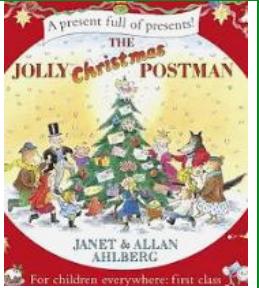
If your child says "car go," you might respond, "Yes, the red car is going fast!" This shows them how to build longer sentences without correcting or discouraging them.

Every child develops at their own pace, and small, consistent interactions make a huge difference over time. If you ever have concerns about your child's speech or language development, please feel free to speak to us—we are always here to help.

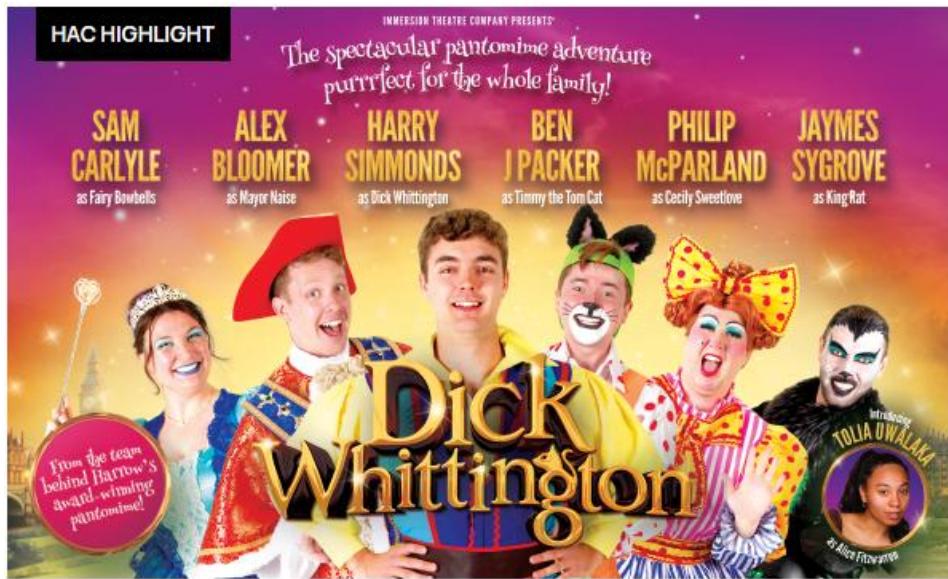
## Christmas Book Gift Ideas for 2- to 4-Year-Olds

Here are some recommended titles, both seasonal and more general, that make for perfect Christmas presents. These choices come from expert lists and trusted sources.

- **The Jolly Christmas Postman:** A festive classic full of letters, envelopes, and surprises — very interactive and full of charm.
- **We're Going on an Elf Chase:** A lift-the-flap adventure that brings elves to life and delights little hands.
- **Tiddler:** By Julia Donaldson — a fun, imaginative sea-creature story that appeals to young children's love of rhythm and adventure.
- **Mog the Forgetful Cat:** A sweet, gentle story about Mog, perfect for reading together and sharing soft moments.
- **Bluey: Awesome Box of Books:** A collection of 10 short books based on the beloved Bluey series — ideal for little fans or for introducing a favourite character.
- **Peter Rabbit My First Library:** A selection of classic tales from Beatrix Potter, beautifully illustrated and wonderfully timeless.
- **Goodnight Elmer Puppet Book:** Includes a little puppet so you can make bedtime even more interactive and fun.
- **Tiny Christmas Mini Story Pack:** Two sweet, small Christmas-themed stories — great for stockings or as a little festive surprise.



## Harrow Arts Centre Presents Dick Whittington 6<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December



## Christmas with CBeebies Parenting

Top tips and support to help parents through the holidays, from financial advice to recipes and crafts that keep the kids entertained and learning. Follow this link

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/topics/c6206jn0yddt>



info@selectschoolofdance.com  
@selectschoolofperformingarts

select  
School of Performing Arts  
JOHN LYON

STREET DANCE LAMDA SINGING DRAMA BALLET MUSICAL THEATRE

High-quality performing arts training that  
nurtures confidence, creativity, and  
individuality

2 WEEK TRIAL  
SCAN BELOW!

SATURDAYS - JOHN LYON SENIOR SCHOOL (HA2 0HN)  
Book a 2 week trial to join in on the fun!

9AM - 9:45AM - Ballet  
9:45-10:30AM - Street Dance  
10:30-11:00AM - Baby Music & Movement  
11:15-12PM - LAMDA & Drama

select JOHN LYON info@selectschoolofdance.com  
@selectschoolofperformingarts



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DECEMBER		
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	Break up for Christmas
12 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup>	8 – 5pm	Holiday Club available
JANUARY 2026		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>		Staff Training - No holiday club as all staff will be involved in first aid training
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	From 8am	Children back for new term
FEBRUARY		
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>		Half Term - Holiday Club available
MARCH		
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Break up for Easter at midday
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>		Holiday club available
APRIL		
1 <sup>st</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>		Holiday club available

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>		INSET for Staff. Holiday club available
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>		Children back for new term. Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July.
<b>MAY</b>		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>		May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>		Visit from Zoolab – Wriggle & Crawl workshop
25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup>		Half Term - Holiday Club available
<b>JUNE</b>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>		Children back following half term
		Farm Trip tbc
		Sports Day & Picnic tbc
<b>JULY</b>		
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Holiday Club available

## TERM DATES 2025-2026

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> July*

Summer Holiday Club Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August