



EMMANUEL CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Rob Christopher



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2020 (2)



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

As always, pulling together a termly newsletter is a great mindfulness exercise. It would be easy to think that everything has stopped due to current circumstances. We have missed some of our annual events but you will see, as you work through the newsletter, there have been plenty of enrichment activities pupils in all year groups have had access to.

Nationally, attendance has sat between 80 - 85% over the past few weeks. Attendance at EMS has remained at 95%. What an achievement. Pupils who enjoy school, feel safe and enjoy learning will turn up each day. Parents who trust in the safety measures and the quality of education their child receives, will send them to school. A huge thank you for working with us.

Pupils have been fantastic, they have 'just got on with it' and it is clear from dropping into lessons daily, they are working hard and learning well. As a team, we have continued to develop our pedagogy. We have never subscribed to the notion that being here or being open is enough. Staff have worked hard on practices such as multiple choice questioning, low stakes quizzing, checking for understanding, whole class feedback and modelling. Launching and making the most of Accelerated Reader, Hegarty Maths and Tassomai. Pupils have used these so successfully that we top Wimborne Trust leader boards and in some cases, topped national leader boards. Another great example of the engagement and endeavour our pupils show in their learning. Subject Leaders in school have been working for the past 12 months developing their curriculum, ensuring progression through the year groups and key stages. They have ensured pupils develop their cultural competence and character education through a knowledge focused curriculum. It is plain to see we have not stood still and accepted that these challenges should lower the aspirations we have for our pupils - your children.

In addition to the academic rigour, and equally as important, is the pastoral care delivered by all staff in school. Whether it is the office staff fielding calls and providing clarity for confused parents. Administering first aid and care. Teaching Assistants meeting pupils on the gate, providing reassurance and consistency in a world where each day is different. Launching hot school provision and offering breakfast and after school clubs for working parents. The Team at EMS is incredible and I know you will join me in thanking each and every member.

At the time of writing this, we know the government have yet another last minute directive coming our way. I will communicate this as soon as we have made plans in response. It continues to be a frustration we find out at the same time as you. I don't want to dwell on these negatives. There is much hope to come in the new year. My team will be recharged and ready to hit the ground running. The two training days are packed full on development work on the items referenced above. Please keep safe, please act responsibly. Please follow the advice and guidance. Particularly around testing and isolating. I am aware of some pupils attending school when family members have been symptomatic and awaiting test results. Please don't put our school community at risk.

I wish you and your family a great Christmas. Enjoy a slower pace of life for a while, whether you are taking the opportunity to travel, in accordance with guidance, or stay at home and enjoy our beautiful local area. I am blessed to have two very excited girls, who have counted down the days, enjoyed the process of selecting gifts for friends and family with genuine thought. We particularly enjoy our Christmas Eve wrapping of presents for their mum. These times are golden. I am sure you have little traditions that define the love, hope and happiness of the time of year.

Once again, thank you for your support, your feedback and most of all, your trust in us to shape the development of your most treasured gift - your children.

Best wishes

Mr Rob Christopher, Headteacher



END OF TERM

School finishes early for the Christmas holidays on Friday 18th December. Year groups will still be leaving at staggered times as follows:

Year 8 - 1.25pm
Year 7 - 1.30pm
Year 6 - 1.35pm
Year 5 - 1.40pm



IMPORTANT INFORMATION Administration of Medicines

If you wish school staff to administer medication to your child, parents **must** complete the consent form which can be obtained from the school office or on the school website (Information/School Forms). Staff will be unable to administer **any** medication (this includes Strepsils and similar throat lozenges) without the required form - **a note in the diary or a letter will not be acceptable.**

Staff are unable to administer aspirin or medicines containing ibuprofen unless they are prescribed by a doctor.

All medicines must be in their original box or container.

All prescribed medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the instructions for administration.

Pupils should not carry any medication (except for Asthma inhalers) in school for self-administration - all medicines must be handed into the school office with a completed form.



Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mr Rob Christopher (Headteacher) and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Elaine Robertson, (Head of Wellbeing). If you have any concerns related to child protection issues please contact them through the school office.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

As the winter weather is starting to make its presence felt, it is important that parents are aware of the procedures that are in place if the school has to close due to extreme weather conditions. The procedure is that Dorset County Council will publish a list of closures on their website on dorsetforyou.com. You can access this information on the website by going to <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>. The school will also put a notice on the school's website.



ACCELERATED READER AND CLASS READING NOTE

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has seen the introduction of Accelerated Reader to the whole school. All the children have been really engaged in reading their books, taking their quizzes, and competing with the other classes.

Despite the difficulties of social distancing, we have managed to set up a remote library lending service, with access to our library catalogue from home. Next year we will be installing a new library system - called Accessit - that will bring our lending system up to date.

We have delivered reading boxes to classes and our Whole Class Reading initiative has been a huge success. Every week, the children have been given opportunities to read independently or with their class, exposing them to a wide and varied range of vocabulary from many different types of text.

We will be rewarding the winning Accelerated Reader classes, in each year group, with a MUFTI day on Friday 15th January 2021. Look out for the winning announcement early in the New Year.

The amazing figures include:

Year Group	Quizzes Taken	Words Read
Year 5	611	10,653,642
Year 6	482	12,056,102
Year 7	427	13,983,641
Year 8	625	22,422,948



Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes from

Jerry Brenton
Head of English

PTFA

The PTFA would like to pass on their thanks for all your support this term. The response to the monthly draw has been fantastic and the Christmas Jumper Day raised over £350. These monies go towards funding activities in school like the Year 5 Greek Treehouse Theatre day and the reward vouchers and activities for the House prizes at the end of term (see reports later in the newsletter). The PTFA would also like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.



HOMEWORK

It has been a pleasure this term to see the fantastic level of engagement our children have shown to their homework. Thank you to all parents and carers for the work you have done in supporting your children with this. Our homework offer combines key areas of learning:

Accelerated reader is increasing the amount of reading for pleasure which children are taking part in. The ability to read effectively significantly underpins future success for children so please continue to encourage your child to complete books and take the accelerated reader quizzes. The classes in each year group who complete the most reading each term earn a mufti-day so there's all to play for.

Hegarty Maths has continued to be used by all pupils weekly. This resource is used by teachers to support new learning - the Hegarty videos are great for helping transfer the learning from the classroom to home. We are so proud of our children for enabling us to achieve number 1 for usage nationally earlier this term. Let's stay at those heights!

Tassomai quizzing has been embraced in KS3 English, Maths and Science. The Tassomai quizzes are designed to overlearn prior content - the cognitive science behind the quizzing is that we all need to revisit learning multiple times to ensure it is committed to long term memory and therefore retained.

I am very proud to be Deputy Head of a school where the children show such commitment to their learning. Please enjoy a relaxing festive break and I look forward to seeing the children refreshed and looking to maintain their fantastic standards in the New Year.

Mr Barker
Deputy Headteacher

Congratulations

Congratulations to Megan, Bethany and Drew whose card design was chosen, along with other entries, to be used for the Mayor of Verwood's Christmas card.

The Mayor, Cllr Matthew Parker, came into school to present the pupils with a framed copy of the finished card and to thank them for their excellent work.



School Lunches

Thank you for your support with the arrangements for the school lunches. The grab and go scheme is working well and will continue in the Spring term. The new Spring menu is available on the school website under the Parents tab.




FRENCH REPORT


Nos Champions!

Year 7 have been learning "Personal ID" this Half Term. Pupils wrote a CV or magazine article in the 1st person combining all class learning. Pupils had a word frame to help build accurate sentences. Adjectives of characters and likes had to be included in the task.

Un élève anglais écrit un article personnel:



Bonjour! Je m'appelle Vicky Dallen. J'ai onze ans. Mon anniversaire c'est le quinze Avril. J'habite à Verwood. Je suis très sportive, très bavarde et très déterminée. Je suis aussi sage, assez intelligente et aussi assez organisée. Je ne suis pas très timide. J'aime manger. J'ai une sœur, Megan. J'ai un chat, Spidey. C'est fantastique.



CURRICULUM VITAE

Nom: Je suis Ben Gibson.

Âge: J'ai 11/onz ans.

Nationalité: Je suis anglais.



Ville d'adresse: J'habite à Verwood.

Anniversaire:
Mon anniversaire c'est le douze Juillet.


Qualités:
Je suis Sportif, généreux et bavard.

Je ne suis pas timide et strict.


Aime: J'aime jour au football l'ordinateur.

Un élève anglais écrit un article personnel:



Bonjour! Je m'appelle Sophie Bartlett. J'ai onze ans. Mon anniversaire c'est le Vingt-deux Janvier. J'habite à Verwood. Moi, je suis très déterminée, très bavarde et très sage. Je suis assez sportive, aussi intelligente. Je ne suis pas paresseuse, très organisée et assez timide. J'aime nager et manger. J'ai deux sœurs Olivia et Lily et deux chats Quigley et Miliens. J'ai un chien Milla. Je n'aime pas dormir et copier.



Year 8 have been learning "Describing Others" this Half Term. Pupils wrote a Wanted Poster in the 3rd person combining all class learning. Pupils had a word frame to help build accurate sentences. Physical details, the superlative and comparative had to be included in the task.


Fantastic work from these pupils!

Mrs Fagge
Head of French

Paris Grande

RECHERCHÉ

Vol d'une grande quantité de l'argent et des bijoux.



L'incident s'est passé jeudi le 8 octobre 2020 à Paris.

Elle est Paris Grande. Elle a vingt-sept ans. Elle est petite. Elle a les yeux bleus. Elle a les cheveux blancs, mi-longs et raides. Elle n'est pas sportive et intelligente. Elle est la plus méchante. Elle est plus méchante que la Cambrivier. Elle porte un pull bordeaux. Elle ne porte pas des lunettes. Elle fait de l'équitation.

Récompense: 10,000 €uros

Contactez Agent
Officer Ross
00 33 09 56 52 94

Cara Caldwell

RECHERCHÉ

Vol d'une grande quantité de l'argent et des bijoux.



L'incident s'est passé jeudi le 8 octobre 2020 à Paris.

Elle est Cara Caldwell. Elle est assez petite. Elle a les yeux bleus. Elle a les cheveux bruns, longs et frisés. Elle est assez intelligente. Elle est la plus méchante. Elle est plus sportive que Sarah Caldwell. Elle porte un chapeau. Elle ne porte pas des lunettes.


Récompense: cinq cents €uros

Contactez Agent
Rachel Palmer
00 33 09 56 17 95

Violetta Paris

RECHERCHÉ

Vol d'une grande quantité de l'argent et des bijoux.



L'incident s'est passé jeudi le 8 octobre 2020 à Paris.

Elle est Violetta Paris. Elle est assez petite. Elle a les yeux bleus. Elle a les cheveux blancs, longs et frisés. Elle n'est pas sportive et intelligente. Violetta Paris est la plus dangereuse. Elle est plus méchante que la Cambrivier. Elle porte des lunettes. Elle ne porte pas une casquette. Elle a vingt-neuf ans. Elle fait du ski.

Récompense: €uros

Contactez Agent
Paris France
00 33 09 56 05 47



Greek Day - a true Olympian effort by all our Year 5 Greek heroes!

On Thursday 12th November, our courageous Year 5s bravely conquered Ancient Greece when they participated in Greek Day, led by the fantastic Ben Lindsay-Clark from Treehouse Theatre Company. Ben is a regular visitor to our school, always performing high quality educational theatre for the children, designed to reinforce topics that are being taught at Key Stage 2.

For one day only, the children ditched their school uniforms for Greek fancy dress and turned back the clock more than 2000 years to help bring this fascinating period of history to life. Throughout the day, all year 5 classes enjoyed different drama workshops to act out historical scenarios from this period, including: Greek creation stories; the Olympic Games; the Peloponnesian Wars; and classic Greek theatre scenes. The children adapted so well to the new safety and distancing measures and created a 'film in a day', entitled *War and Peace in Ancient Greece*. *They did themselves so proud and performed incredibly confidently in their roles as they presented a humorous and dramatic repertoire of 100 years of Greek history, from war with Persia to the fall of classical Athens.*

In other workshop sessions, the pupils also had opportunities to create ancient Greek pots in art and create their own Top Trumps for the infamous Greek Gods and Goddesses in their history lesson.

"My favourite parts of Greek Day were filming the Greek Creation Story and playing the part of an ancient warrior -the drama was so much fun. I also loved making the ancient Greek clay pots in art." Freddie Mullis, Year 5



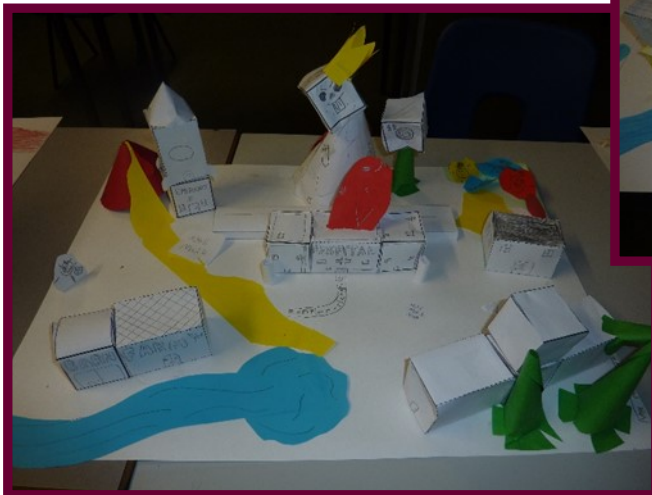
Skills Builder Day



On Wednesday 9th December, the whole school participated in the first of three Skills Builder Challenge days. The staff were trained the week before and worked hard to add extra detail to the planning. It was great to have all members of staff involved - we even had staff in NASA T-Shirts and Ms Fagge in her Moon Bopper head gear!

Over the course of the Operation Moonbase challenge day, learners applied all eight essential skills as they considered: What makes a successful society? They built a new society on a distant moon called Utopia, including selecting who would be the first citizens, creating an animal that would help people, designing a map and building a 3D model of a new city. They also made their own law and order system - deciding on punishments for crimes.

The most challenging part of the day was working to timed deadlines - especially making a 3D model of their designed city in 20 minutes!



Pupils were asked to write their reflections after each session and most pupils enjoyed the opportunities to be creative and problem solve. The standards of work produced was astounding and staff were delighted with the positive buzz around the school. We all had a great day and we are looking forward to the next Challenge day in the Spring term.

Mrs Robertson
Head of Wellbeing and Careers



Dance Fridays in the Cage!

On Friday 6th November, we officially launched 'Dance Fridays in the Cage' with Year 5s to bring some fitness and choreography to their Friday lunch breaks. So far, the children have enjoyed dancing to Justin Timberlake's Can't stop the Feeling, Taylor Swift's Shake it off and this week, Mariah Carey's All I want for Christmas will be bringing some festive spirit to the playground! Miss Stinson and I look forward to continuing this in the New Year and to including more of the children's inspiring dance ideas!



Sports Leaders

On Friday 11th December the Sports leaders attended a training session during lesson 1 and 2. We were fortunate enough to have Mrs Cole, who works across the WAT to come and help deliver the course alongside Mrs Stocks.

The Sports Leaders are now feeling more confident and looking forward to organising and running numerous activities, including house competitions after Christmas.



Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day is a time when we seek to learn lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at immediate risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

At Emmanuel Middle School we are committed to provide our pupils with age appropriate Holocaust Education. Last year our pupils created an artwork in response to the 75 Flames HMD theme and we are proud that it was chosen as one of 75 pieces to be displayed in London at the HMD service and is now touring the country.



As part of the Year 6 Curriculum and in response to providing meaningful, age appropriate Holocaust Education for our pupils we will be collapsing the Year 6 timetable on 27 January and all pupils will participate in various activities. For example they will hear stories about the Kinder, Kinder Transport and Nicholas Winton and they will participate in an Art activity around the 2021 theme "Be a light in the Darkness". More information about this day will follow in January.

"Be a Light in the Darkness" is a really powerful theme for 2021. 2020 has been an extraordinary year for us all, therefore we would love to receive your stories or pictures/photographs about how you or your community reached out to others during this time. As an example, myself and Mrs Anderson created a "Memories" classroom, where we reached out and encouraged dialogue with our pupils to share their Lockdown Memories. We hope we can incorporate these positive messages and discussions into our planning. Lastly, we would love to include our EMS family and wider community, if you can contribute we would be very grateful. You can do this via the school office.

Kerry Thompson
Head of Art



House Information

Thank you to all our Year 8's who applied to be House Captains this term. The following pupils have now been given their badges:-

Grylls

Captains - Drew Montgomery & Alice Weir
Vice Captains - Scarlett Jolliffe & Will Young

Malala

Captains - Libby McPherson & Zack Malduka
Vice-Captains - Bethany Clyde & Elliot Hemming

Vujicic

Captains - Bella Mason & Joshua O'Brien
Vice-Captains - Holly Pidgley, Charlie Mullis & Jamie Timmins

Watson

Captains - Matthew Crutchley & Ashleigh Prince
Vice-Captains - Danny MacManus & Isabelle Clapham

Next term our Captains & Vice Captains will be helping to organise House quizzes across the Year groups so that hopefully even more candle credits can be won by everybody!

Although we have not been able to run any inter-house competitions this term, we have still been able to have our termly raffle draws for a gift voucher or a reward afternoon across the year groups. Every 20 Candle Credits earned by a pupil gained them 1 raffle ticket for the draw so lots of pupils were able to enter multiple times! 3 Pupils from each year group won a £10 Amazon voucher. These were:

Year 5

Justin Burden, Holly Martin & Molly Matthews

Year 6

Zara Andrew, Bella Harding & Abi Kimber

Year 7

Paige Counce, Owen Lampshire & Olly Shipton

Year 8

Lucie Beale, Thomas Knight & Chloe Warr



House Information cont

In addition to this, 16 pupils from each year group won an afternoon off timetable so that they could watch a Christmas film and eat pizza / snacks. A huge thank you to Morrisons for helping to provide all the pizza and snacks for so many pupils - without their help we would not have been able to have let so many attend.

Also thank you to our amazing PTFA who have funded the reward vouchers as well as other things we ask them for during the year!

Year 7 enjoying their pizza & film afternoon.



Also congratulations to Watson House who managed to get the highest total this term - a whopping 15,071 Candle Credits - this means that everyone in Watson House is allowed to wear mufti to school on Friday 18th December.

A few other stats for you;-

Classes with the most Candle Credits this term -

Year 5 - 5HP

Year 6 - 6JH

Year 7 - 7MC

Year 8 - 8AE

Pupils earning the most candle credits in each year group:-

Year 5 - Emily Watts & Erin Montgomery

Year 6 - Evie Walker & Jessie Warwick

Year 7 - Ollie Bairstow & Brannan Curtis

Year 8 - Ashleigh Prince & Bella Mason

Well done everybody - please keep earning candle credits - they do all count towards raffle tickets at the end of term and everyone has a chance of winning!



Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the entire Year 5 Team, we would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas break. We could not be prouder of our new Year 5s and know that they will continue to thrive at EMS when we return in the spring term. They are continually impressing us with their resilience, their supportive nature, their enthusiasm for school life and their growing independence as young learners and young people. Well done Year 5s, you should be so proud of your start to Middle School life.

Many thanks for all your enthusiasm and support and please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via the office should you ever need to.

Happy Christmas!

Mrs Weir, Mrs Prestage, Mr Brennan and Miss Stinson



Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support through a very different term than we are used to. Thank you to so many of you for your communication throughout the term but especially on our first virtual parents evening.

We are really proud of what the children have achieved this term, especially having to adapt to new rules and ways of learning. They have shown maturity and resilience throughout all areas of the curriculum and made a great start to year 6.

We would like them to find some quieter moments in the holidays for individual reading and to complete some quizzes on books if they have finished.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2021.

Kindest regards,

Miss Howe (Head of Year), Mr Brenton, Mr Humphries and Mrs Anderson



Year 7

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great term the year 7s have had! They have completed their first term in Key stage 3 and have done so with resilience and accomplishment. Just reflecting on the challenges they have encountered since September, it is mind blowing how they have risen to each one. The on-line home learning platforms of Tassomai, Hegarty, Google Classroom as well as Accelerated Reader, were a real mountain to climb, but many of our year 7s have now built routines into their daily lives to accommodate them. This will form a firm foundation for organising course work in later years. We have also enjoyed the weekly reveal of class winners which we display on the year 7 noticeboard.

It was awe-inspiring to watch our classes on the Skills Builder Day last week. The teamwork and problem-solving skills used, gave staff a chance to really get to know personalities and showed the potential for leaders of the future. The 3D models made under timed conditions were amazing.

Obviously, we are still teaching under strange conditions, but we have all learnt to adapt- both staff and pupils. We have all grown much closer as a year 7 unit and we look forward to being able to enjoy more time together over the coming months. A reminder for the spring term- please check your child's shoes/ trainers- do they still fit? We do expect school shoes to be worn on non-PE days. Girls' skirts need to be knee length and painted fingernails are not for school days.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to thank the hard-working staff in the year 7 bubble: Mr Cotton, Mr Foord, Ms Fagge, Mrs Thompson and a special thanks to our TAs -Mrs Whittingham and Mrs Savage. We all hope you have a peaceful and restful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming your children back in 2021.

Mrs Robertson
Head of Year 7



Festive Greetings from Year 8

As the Autumn Term rapidly draws to a close and we all begin to look forward to the approaching Christmas holiday, I'd just like to wish (on behalf of Mrs. Etheridge, Mrs. Richardson, the rest of the Year 8 team & myself) everyone a peaceful and restful break.

I'd like to share with everyone that our Year 8 pupils have made us all proud with their mature behaviour and their ability to adapt so well to life within their year group bubble. I've found myself complimenting the pupils' joint conduct on numerous occasions and can only reflect on the positives that have come out of the changes that have needed to be made. Although our older children have been unable to circulate with their younger peers - in some respects this has proved advantageous - allowing individuals to flourish within their own cohort.

It's true, that this year, some of our established, Year 8 events such as the Beaucroft Christmas Party have sadly fallen by the wayside, but it was encouraging to observe how well our older pupils conducted themselves during the recent 'Skills Builder Day' - an opportunity that led to some intelligent discussion as well as some great teamwork being displayed.



The vast majority of the Year 8 children have also adjusted extremely well to using Tassomai quizzes & the 'Accelerated Reader Programme' and this bodes well for their meeting the potentially increased homework demands of their now chosen upper schools. Moreover, it's been intriguing to see a little healthy competition developing between our three respective tutor groups with regards to which class has read the most books, the word count totals and the Accelerated Reader quizzes past. I (grudgingly) suspect that 8KR are currently just 'edging it'!

Finally, following our recent parents' evenings, please can I just remind everyone that should pastoral, or academic issues arise or that you would like to discuss with your child's class tutor, please email the office and make a telephone appointment. It's essential that you feel confident to get in touch - as and when the need arises...

Have a safe and restful Christmas.

Kind regards,

Mark Rangdale
(Head of Year 8)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term

Staff Training Day (school closed)	Monday 4th January 2021
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Tuesday 5th January 2021
Return after Christmas holiday	Wednesday 6th January 2021 (Years 5 and 6 only)
Staggered Return - Whole School	Monday 11th January 2021
Time in a Bottle (Year 7)	Monday 18th January 2021 (details to follow)
Virtual Reality (Year 5)	Tuesday 2nd February 2021 (details to follow)
Half Term	Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2021
Return after half term	Monday 22nd February 2021
Break up for Easter	Wednesday 31st March 2021
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Thursday 1st April 2021

Summer Term

Return after Easter holiday	Monday 19th April 2021
May Day	Monday 3rd May 2021
SATS Week	w/c Monday 10th May 2021
Half Term	Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Monday 7th June 2021
Return after half term	Tuesday 8th June 2021
Break up for Summer	Friday 23rd July 2021

