



### Dates For Your Diary

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026**- Mass at 2.15pm (all welcome)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**- Children break up for half term holiday

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**- Children return to school

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**- St. Joseph's Day Mass at 2.15pm (all welcome)

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**- Easter crafts afternoon at 2pm (all welcome)

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026**- Disco from 3.15pm – 5pm

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**- Mass at 2.15pm (all welcome)

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**- Children break up for Easter holiday

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**- Children return to school

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**- Bank Holiday: Children not in school

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**- Year 6 SATs tests

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**- Children break up for half term holiday

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**- Children return to school

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**- Year 1 phonics screening check

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026**- Children break up for summer holiday

## Happy Birthday

to pupils celebrating their birthday during January



Luna Brielle Malak Chimaobim Bree Noah ES  
Hugo Harri-Lei Aria-Rose Michael Logan R Scarlett R  
Lucja Rosie S Ronnie Isabella W Scarlett W



## January Highlights

### Future Business Makers-

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January, our Year 6 pupils began an incredible journey – a 10-week project where they will develop and run their own business! The challenge? To design, make and sell their product at Durham Market.

### Team Up 1, 2 & 3-

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January, our Key Stage 2 children successfully started Team Up 1, 2 and 3, delivered by the amazing team at Go Well! These programmes are all about building confidence, developing teamwork skills and promoting resilience and wellbeing.

### Winnie Th Pooh Day-

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, we celebrated 100 years of Winnie the Pooh. We had a great day dressing up, listening to stories and having a big teddy bears' picnic.

### World Religion Day-

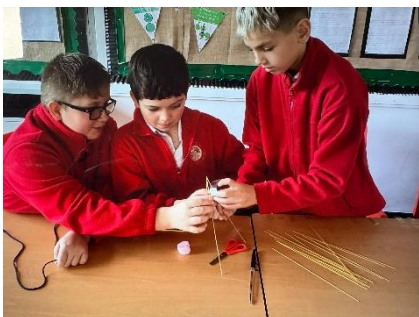
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> was World Religion Day. Our school council led a whole school assembly on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this and to explain how many religions have the same core values, e.g. love, kindness, peace, respect. The children explored these values in class during the week and on Friday, each class shared what they'd learnt with the whole school in our celebration assembly.

### Martin Luther King Day-

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January was Martin Luther King Day. Our school council led a whole school assembly to help us learn all about him.

### Holocaust Memorial Day

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, we learnt about Holocaust Memorial Day. We explored the concept of speaking out about injustice and ensuring everyone is treated fairly.



## **Attendance**

Children are required to be at school by 9am as our core subject lessons (English and Maths) begin immediately after registration.

Appointments should be made out of school time where possible please.

Holidays should be taken outside of term time.

**The Department for Education deems that if a child's attendance drops below 90%, they become known as a Persistent Absentee. All absences are monitored thoroughly.**

To celebrate great attendance, children with 100% in a week receive 10 dojos on a Friday. The class with the highest percentage will also receive 10 dojos per child.

Below are the percentages of attendance for each class for January

Matthew (Nursery/Reception) – 89.2%

Mark (Year 1/2) – 92.9%

Luke (Year 3/4) – 94.0%

John (Year 5/6) – 92.4%

**The government's target for attendance for primary school pupils is at least 95%.**

Our whole school attendance for January was 91.6%

A child is classed as late if they arrive at school after 9.20am.

0.1% of our pupils arrived late in January.

A child is classed as unauthorised absence if they arrive at school after 9.30am.

2.5% of our pupils had unauthorised absences in January.



## Uniform

School uniform promotes a sense of pride in the school and makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

**If your child is not in correct school uniform, we will ask for correct uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.**

Our uniform is:

- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan



- White polo shirt



- Grey trousers or skirt/pinafore dress



- Sensible, plain black leather shoes/ trainers



**Jeans and leggings are not permitted. Skirts and trousers should be grey not black.**

## Homework

Homework reinforces and helps your child to retain information taught in the classroom. It also develops study habits and independent learning.

For Year 1 to Year 6, we kindly ask that your child is listened to reading daily and their reading record is signed. Your child will receive a dojo for each signature in their record.

For Year 1 to Year 6, your child will also receive maths and spelling homework each Friday to be handed back in by the following Thursday.

Times tables are extremely important for children in Year 3 to Year 6. In Year 4, children take a times tables test. Every child has log in details for Times Tables Rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> We would greatly appreciate it if your child could regularly practise their times tables at home.

## **READING EVERY DAY...**

...**CREATES** lifelong readers.

...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.

...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.

...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.

...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.

...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.

...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.

...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.

...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.

...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.

**READ**  
Every Day  
Lead a Better  
**LIFE**

## PE

On PE days, children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit.

Mark (Year 1/2)- Monday

Luke (Year 3/4)- Monday

John (Year 5/6)- Monday

Our PE uniform is:

- Plain white T-shirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional sports teams



- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan or hoodie



- Suitable black trainers



**If your child comes to school in PE kit on a day which is not their PE day, we will ask for uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.**

## Jewellery and Hairstyles

Wrist watches are permitted but not smart watches.

Piercings (including earrings) are not permitted.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

brightly coloured, dyed hair, headwear with bold patterns or colours, excessive hair accessories.



# National Year of Reading 2026



## What is the Year of Reading?

This year, our school is celebrating a **love of books and reading**.

The **Year of Reading** is all about helping children enjoy stories, discover new authors and develop positive reading habits at home and at school.

## What will be happening in school?

Each month, children will focus on a **different author**.

They will explore stories, characters and writing styles.

Reading will be linked across lessons and activities.

## Reading Together – Families Welcome!

On the **last Friday of every month**, at 2.30pm, alongside our Community Café, we invite **parents and families** to come into school and **read alongside their child**.

This is a relaxed and enjoyable time to:

- Share books together
- Celebrate reading
- Show children that reading matters



## We look forward to welcoming you!

Reading together makes a difference – thank you for supporting your child's reading journey.