

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM 2022



Swiss
Cottage
School
Development &
Research Centre

Inclusive
Nurturing
Inspiring



This term's learning has been based on Patricia Hegarty's 4 book collection – 'Moon, Sea, Bee and Tree.' We travelled through space, forests and the ocean by engaging in sensory exploration, story telling and play based learning. The learners demonstrated their confidence with exploring and responding to different sensory props and we saw development across all classes with shared attention and engagement during story and play sessions.

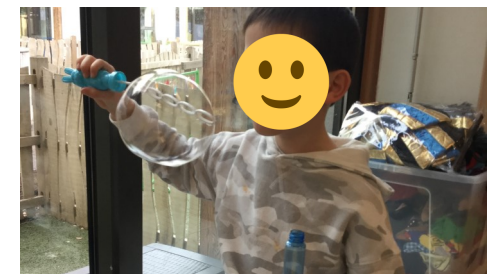
Ladybird Class have been working hard on their expressive communication and interaction skills through the use of different communication tools such as intensive interaction, Makaton, symbols, switches and eye gaze tracking. It has been wonderful to observe the learners become more independent with their communication, using their AAC spontaneously and for some, beginning to make their own choices. Caterpillar Class were delighted to welcome a new teacher, Noreen at the beginning of this term and have been focusing on building new relationships, transitions and developing play and interaction skills. These developmental areas have also been explored during some fantastic art sessions with the art teacher, in which we saw some brilliant creativity from the learners. Dragonfly Class have been building in some wonderful free flow sessions to their day, utilising space both inside and outside of the classroom. We have seen some fantastic development in independent play, choice making and problem solving through these highly motivating sessions in which all learners have been able to access and at their own pace.

All 3 classes engaged with The See and Learn Reading Programme this term, developing their understanding and use of key words through daily opportunities to explore objects, picture cards and sight words. Next term we will continue to develop understanding and begin to put the words into context and simple sentences through everyday activities. Even with a slightly challenging start to the term due to COVID, it was been wonderful to see how well the students adapted to changes in their routine and the progress they have made towards developmental goals.

As COVID restrictions lifted, we were thrilled to bring back our Open Class Sessions. These took place in the afternoons with each class offering a variety of free-flow activities linked to the different curriculum areas. Learners enjoyed a variety of activities ranging from messy play to music making in which we saw skills learnt in music classes with the music teachers, being tried out through learner's own play.

The highlight of each week has been our assemblies on a Friday afternoon, sometimes with a theme depending on celebrations or festivals happening that week (World Book Day, Chinese New Year etc) and other times, just a chance to wind down the week with music, dance and disco lights!

Early Years classes have enjoyed taking their learning outside both in their classroom gardens and the playground. Here they have continued to work on fundamental skills such as using waterproof clothing to practise dressing and undressing, transitioning between spaces, communication to request the environment they want to be in, problem solving and gross and fine motor planning skills.



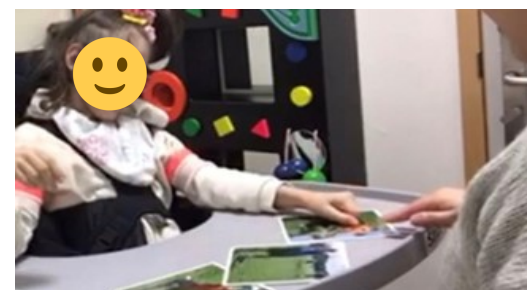
INFORMAL PATHWAY

The informal pathway has engaged in a range of meaningful and motivating learning experiences to support the themes this term, this includes music and food from around the world in Buttercup and David Weir, travelling to China through multi-sensory exploration in Alan Turning and Lotus thoroughly enjoyed learning about rainforests and how plants grow within their own environments.

Themes were also captured through sensory stories, TACPAC and what has been so exciting to see across the pathway is how engagement and independence has been developed through switches, apps and various technology-based programs.

All classes were involved in planting this term with the new planters we received. Each class within the informal pathway enjoyed a multi-sensory experience planting and watching bean plants grow, some started their journeys in bags on the windows which was a wonderful experiment for the pupils. We look forward to the outcome!

Outdoor learning has been a real focus this term and we have all really enjoyed the Outdoor Learning Challenges have included spelling with natural objects, the egg-box challenge and a photography challenge. And of course, our planting challenge has also enabled us to learn outdoors and has been a real inspiration across the pathway. We have also focused learning to include learning objectives from the Semi-Formal Curriculum to connect both pathways with challenging learning opportunities.



This term learners on the Semi-Formal Pathway in Lower School have had an enriching time developing their independence within all areas of the curriculum, using the theme of 'Environment' in creative ways to inspire learning.

Poppy and Violet class have been working on their life-skills tasks in class and other environments around the school, particularly with their laundry responsibilities, enjoying following sequences in order to complete their activities as independently as possible! In Iris class learners have had lots of opportunities to develop their life-skills in a different way, during snack preparation sessions. Lily Class have been doing some great work with their handwriting, using structured approaches to engage and support. Snowdrop class have also been interacting with their handwriting in a different way, having a lot of fun engaging with multi-sensory 'Mat Man' activities. Orchid Class have been doing some fantastic work on the zones of regulation, identifying and categorising different emotions to help support their understanding of their own and other people's emotions! Jasmine class have been doing some brilliant colourful semantic work as well as developing their functional communication throughout their day with their communication books and boards through different school contexts. Rose class have been developing their independence with focused TEACCH station activities – it's great to see how independent they are becoming!

Learners have enjoyed our cross-class assemblies later in the term with each class having the responsibility of organising a different activity. It's been a great success having learners socialising with their peers, at the sensory play table, fine motor table and relaxing in the quiet sensory regulation space.

At lunch times classes have had opportunities to interreact with adapted bike clubs in the playground, as well as trampolining and drama workshops inside the building. There have been 'appropriate play' activities in the playground where teams provide opportunities for learners to play together, with adult modelling and structured activities.



Pupils in the Semi-Formal Upper School have had a wonderful Spring Term developing their communication and thinking skills through all the areas on the curriculum pathway. There has been great focus on pupil's well-being, working to improve skills in managing their emotions and behaviours and learning to self-regulate with more independence.

Pupils in Maya Angelou held a beautiful Art Exhibition for the whole school to enjoy focusing on various artists such as Henri Matisse and Anslem Kiefer. The event was perfectly atmospheric and a great success. Pupils in Anne Frank class have been working on their job's skills; each week they are baking bread, packaging the goods and then delivering them to classes across the school. Delicious! Pupils in Tim Peake class have been developing their motor skills, thinking skills and communication in a range of different activities related to their story, bringing each page of the book to life, through meaningful and engaging activities. What fun! Pupils in Ellie Simmonds have been using different communication skills to discuss the hot topics featured in News Round, an activity that they thoroughly enjoy and request on a daily basis! Pupils in Frida Kahlo have taken part in wonderful drama sessions, held by our external friends 'The@rical'. They have had the opportunity to explore their emotions and develop skills for life through drama games and entertaining activities. Pupils in David Attenborough have been investigating sculptural materials. They have been building sandcastles, painting three dimensional shapes, balloon painting and investigating stacking and building on different scales. What fun!

Pupils in the upper school come together during break times and take part in a variety of outdoor sports such as tennis and velcro catch. Some might say it becomes a little competitive at times, however it is a great time for cross-class interaction! Each week pupils enjoy their Magic Breakfast together, a chance to interact with other classes and prepare for the school day ahead with!

Pupils in the upper school have taken part in the weekly outdoor challenge. A chance to explore nature and our beautiful surroundings whilst feeling a sense of well-being and freedom. The challenges that are set have various focus- sometimes there is a thinking task, an artistic task, a transition and orienteering task or a communication task, all with the idea of enjoying a calm and mellow environment. Once the challenge is complete, pupils receive a certificate. Congratulations to all those in the upper school who have completed the outdoor challenges so far! We look forward to setting more exciting challenges in the Summer Term!

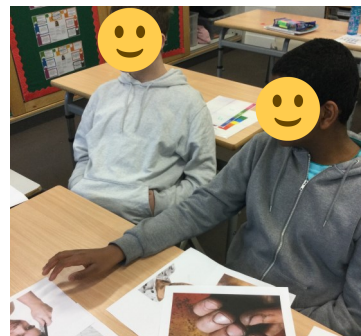
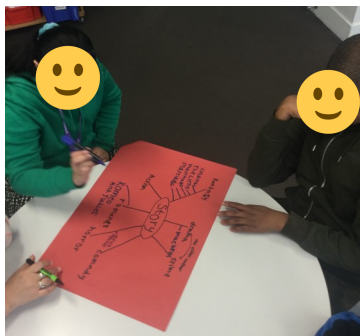
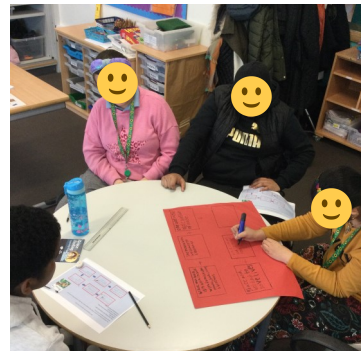
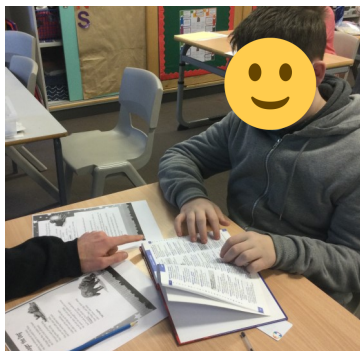
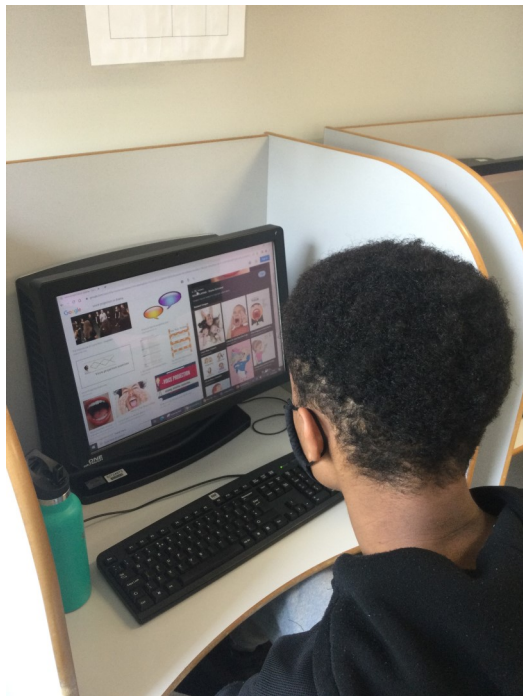


FORMAL PATHWAY

Maths and Finance: Lessons across the term have involved theoretical and practical lessons to apply concepts to daily situation. During the lessons they experienced the difference between analogue and digital clocks, they identified the placement of numerals and hands on an analogue a clocks and learnt the meaning of expressions such as 'O'clock', 'half past', 'quarter past', and 'quarter to'. Accuracy in reading time and the application of the skill in contextualised scenarios has supported application of this skill.

Language and Communication: We have focused on reading comprehension and writing skills of all students by different literacy strategies and styles. We have utilised strategies such as scaffolding, questioning, opportunities for high quality dialogue, learning new vocabulary, daily writing and reading activities in different context. Writing has also been extended to all core subjects. At the same time we have been working on developing comprehension, basic grammar rules such: the use of capital letters, full stops and the care of handwriting have been pointed as a focus.

Understanding the world: The curriculum for this subject has focused on learning about the body, human processes and experiments using our senses. The students always enjoy investigating and problem solving, especially with group activities where they need to negotiate how they will approach the learning challenge.



Such an exciting term for all Post-16 classes. Our highlights include:

- Learning in the community was very important and valued by the students from different Post-16 classes. They attended weekly shopping trips and visits to Primrose Hill as part of their Leisure & Choices timetable.
- Classes have been understanding healthy eating habits as well as cooking skills to make fruit salads and smoothies with increasing independence. We were so pleased to launch the reopening of the Magic Breakfast provision. Different classes from around the school enjoyed their breakfast daily in the 3rd floor dining hall, served by Post-16 students across pathway timetables.
- Students have also started rehearsals in preparation for their summer production for classes in the lower school.
- Camden Learn to Cycle – students have accessed training to develop bike riding skills, and to understand health & safety rules.
- Students interviewed employees around the school during Careers Week to learn more about their job role. The jobs roles the students were interested in included: nurse, teaching assistant, maintenance site manager and receptionist. Priyasha's mum joined us for the Careers Week assembly to talk and answer questions about her job.
- Students made ceramic tiles to create a seaside scenery for the Unique Art Awards.
- Two Year 14 students started work experience placements at Belsize Library and Waitrose, Finchley Road.
- A highlight assembly topic was the MLK Day assembly: We came together to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr Day and explore the civil rights movement
- Two workshops with the National Archives:
 - Travel Smart through time (online) – a sensory approach to the history of transport
 - Choosing for the Archives (in school) – the story of Sam King, the first black mayor of Southwark and founder of the Windrush foundation.



Evidence for Learning

Across this term we have shared your child's progress on a two-week cycle within the Evidence for Learning family portal. Thank you for the uploads you have shared back with the team so that we can bring those experiences into the classroom. We will continue with the two week uploads in the summer term after all of the positive feedback you have shared on your child's progress and development.

Website: Pupil Art Gallery

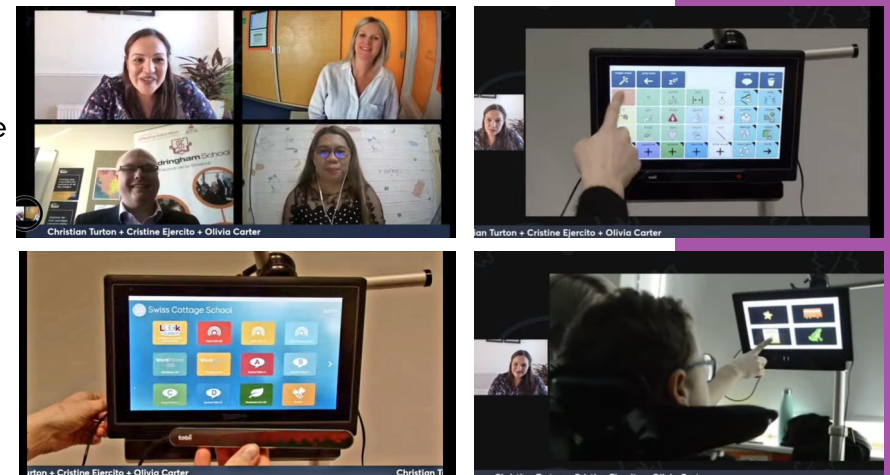
The website art gallery features the artwork of Lower School and Upper School classes across this Spring Term. Enjoy viewing this with your child through this weblink: swisscottage.camden.sch.uk/pupils/gallery

T4 International Tech Summit

Swiss Cottage School was highlighted for a second year in the International Teacher Tech Summit on 26th March 2022. 17 international schools were highlighted during the teacher masterclass.

We showcased the role of Virtual Reality technology through the eye gaze communication system. Olivia Carter (Teacher Ladybird Class and EYFS Pathway Curriculum Leader) and Ed Pitcher (Leader of Technology) showcased this through a video showcase and live presentation.

It is excellent to have educators and technology companies explore the role of technology for inclusion through this Teacher Masterclass!



Student Council

The final Student Council meeting of this term will be on Thursday 31st March to select 3 winners. The nominations come directly from students in the classes, and then there is a shortlist of 7 nominees confirmed by the panel of students for the Jack Petchey Award. We have valued how this is a prize from the students for their peers focused on key values.

The Student Council were going to meet with the 3 reviewers for the school's Challenge Partners quality assurance review this week. That review was postponed because one of the reviewers was unable to come due to illness, so we will ensure the Student Council have a voice with that review team to share their views!



Training Future Teachers

The school hosted UCL Institute of Education mainstream primary and secondary trainee teachers for a series of two-week placements. Their training programme involves training on special educational needs, strategies to support engagement in learning, understanding of communication approaches, and an understanding of what a special school is compared to a mainstream school. They then spend most of the two weeks as observers in classes to understand how the pedagogy and strategies are in action. The greatest impact we have in hosting the trainees is the development they feel in their confidence with our pupils, their sense of the wider population of special education needs, and an understanding on how every pupil has unique talents and skills.

20th April & 26th April 2022

Many parents and carers catch up with Vijita during the morning arrival and afternoon pick up time, and use this time to book a meeting with her. Vijita is offering two dates at the start of the Summer Term for any parents that may want to meet with the Principal to discuss topics or priorities. She is available from 10:00-11:30 on both dates, and the schedule will be organised by the school reception team. If you want to meet but cannot come in person, a zoom link will be sent so that you can still connect with Vijita. Please email admin@swisscottage.camden.sch.uk or call 02076818080.

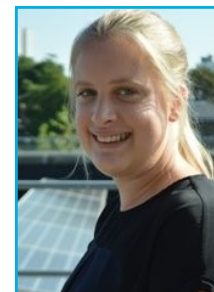
COVID-19 Vaccination (5-11yrs)

The school have received confirmation of a date for the national Covid-19 vaccination programme for children aged 5-11. The vaccinations will take place on Wednesday 27th April. The vaccinations will be delivered by the immunisation team from University College Hospital London (UCLH) at school. If you would like your child to have the vaccine you must complete the consent form that you will have received from the school nurses this week, you will also need to attend the appointment with your child as there is additional paperwork that needs to be completed on the day.

Please return the consent form as soon as possible, even if you do not want your child to have the vaccine, as this helps us to get a schedule together as quickly as possible and confirm the time of the appointment to you. Any queries please contact the NHS nursing team in school.

Vice Principal Maternity Leave

Vice Principal Rebecca (Becky) Shaw will be on maternity leave from May 2022. The maternity cover is planned as a secondment opportunity for a middle leader to step up into a senior leader role. Mia Dodsworth will be our only Vice Principal once Becky starts her maternity leave. We are pleased to confirm that Matthew Granados will be seconded to the role of Assistant Principal (Assessment & Semi-Formal Pathway).



Camden LA Easter Holiday Activities 2022

Young Camden Foundation and Camden Council have shared the Easter HAF Programme 2022.



All HAF participants will receive free access to physical and enriching activities and nutritional education each day. In addition, some providers will do on-site cooking where children / young people will be involved in activities and making their lunch on the day.

The range of activities is broad again this Easter, including sports such as football, basketball and cricket, and creative activities including photography, drama, dancing, art and craft. In addition, there are many enriching workshops, trips, and fun-packed experiences, all waiting to kick off this Easter.

The Easter 2022 HAF programme runs from 4 to 14 April. Times are usually between 10am and 3pm. Please visit the Camden HAF web page here to view all programmes and essential information. Place availability will be refreshed in real-time, and new activities will be added, so please tell parents / carers to check the website regularly.

For more information and to book, visit: haf.youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk

The Camden HAF booking link is now open. Places will be free for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals. The infant pupils who receive a free meal under UIFSM must also qualify for benefits-related FSM to be able to access a place on the HAF programme.





Camden Easter HAF 2022

Sports, leisure and culture activities this Easter
FREE for Camden residents who are eligible for free school meals! 4 days 4 hours a day during the Easter holidays! Free healthy meal everyday!

Camden HAF Easter providers

Action Youth Boxing Intervention 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 5-16 Rhyll Primary School, Rhyll Street, London NW5 3HB	Bloomsbury Football 4th to 8th April, Age Range: 7-13 Kings Cross Academy 4 Woburn Road, St. Pancras, N1C 4BT	Bloomsbury Football 4th to 14th April, Age Range: 7-15 Acland Burghley School 93 Burghley Rd, London, NW5 3JJ
Calverton Community Garden 12th to 14th April, Age Range: 5-11 258-274 Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X	Camden Sports Development Team 4th to 14th April, Age Range: 9-12 Talcare Community Sports Centre, Dalby Street, Camden, NW5 3AF	HW Art 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 5-18 Rhyll Community Primary School, 196 Grafton Road, London, NW5 4AX
Legacy Sports Camps 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 5-12 Fleet Primary School, Fleet Rd, London, NW3 2QT	Kentish Town Community Centre 4th to 14th April, Age Range: 5-16 23 Castlehaven Rd, Castlehaven Community Centre, NW1 8RU	Maze Academy 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 6-11 Rhyll Community Primary School, 7-31 Rhyll St., London, England, NW5 3HB
Legacy Sports Camps 11th to 14th April Age Range: 5-12 Argyle Primary School, Tardis Rd, London, WC1H 9EG	PACE Consortium 4th to 14th April, Age Range: 5-12 Across 10 venues. Please visit HAF booking page for more information	Our Parks 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 5-11 St Mary's Kilburn CE Primary School Queens Road Kilburn London NW6 4PG
ProTouch SA 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 6-15 BFC Recreation Club, Fleet Road, Hampstead, London, NW3 2QG	ProTouch SA 11th to 14th April Age Range: 6-15 Netley Primary School, 74 Stanhope St, London, NW1 3EX	Pro Touch SA 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 6-15 Christopher Hatton Primary School, 28 Layfield St, London, EC1A 4PQ
Queens Crescent Community Association 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 8-14 The Dome Youth Centre 170 Weedington Road, Camden, NW5 4NU	Fit For Sport 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 5-13 Brookfield Primary School, Chester Rd, Camden, London N19 5DH	Kentish Town City Farm 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 8-16 Kentish Town City Farm, 1 Cressfield Close, London, NW5
KCBNA 6th, 8th, 13th 14th April, Age Range: 11-16 Youth Centre Kings Cross Neighbourhood Centre, 51 Argyle Street WC1H 9EF	SHAK 4th to 14th April, Age Range: 8-16 APC Youth Club, Alexandra Resource Centre, Opposite 109 Rowley Way, NW5 0SW	Dragon Hall 4th to 14th April, Age Range: 8-16 17 Stukeley Street, WC2B 8LT
Learning and Development Centre 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 5-15 71 Kingsgate Road, London, NW5 4ZY	Platform Cricket 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 7-11 Somers Town Community Sports Centre, Chilton Street, Somers Town, NW1 1RX	YMCA 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 4-12 112 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3NP
Somali Youth Development Resource Centre 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 9-16 Ground floor, Pimlico Building Handyside Street N1C 4BQ	Newham Futsal Sports Club 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 7-12 West Hampstead Primary School, Donfield St, London, NW6 1JL	Ball Out of the Box 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 8-16 UCL Academy Adelaide Rd, London NW5 3AQ
Ball Out of the Box 4th to 7th April, Age Range: 8-16 Hamstead School Westmore Rd, London NW2 3RT	Ball Out of the Box 11th to 14th April, Age Range: 8-16 William Ellis School Highgate Road, London NW5 1RN	



Book your place soon

To view the main HAF booking page
<https://haf.youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk/>

For any queries please send us an email to info@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk

[Click here for more information](#)

Term Dates

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19th April to Friday 22nd July 2022

Tuesday 19th April 2022: **First day for pupils**

Monday 2nd May 2022: **May Day Bank Holiday – no school for pupils**

Half-Term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Monday 6th June 2022: **Additional Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday -
no school for pupils**

Monday, 4th July 2022: **Staff training day – no school for pupils**

Friday 22nd July: **Last day for pupils**

Autumn Term 2022

Thursday 1 September to Friday 16 December 2022

Thursday 1st September: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Friday 2nd September: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Monday 5th September: **First day for pupils**

Monday: 17th October: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October 2022

Friday 16 December 2022: **Last day for pupils**

Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 3 January to Friday 31 March 2023

Tuesday: 3rd January 2023: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023

Friday 31 March 2023: **Last day for pupils**

Spring Holiday: Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April 2023

Summer Term 2023

Monday 17 April to Friday 21 July 2023

Monday 1 May 2023: **May Day Bank Holiday - no school for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2023

Monday 26th June 2023: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Friday 21 July 2023: **Last day for pupils**

[View term dates on our website](#)