

Message from Mrs Gibson

Happy half term! Year Three have had a wonderful time on their trip this week and have created lots of historically accurate artefacts which I've really enjoyed looking at and I've been looking at independent writing across school which shows a huge range of imagination and creativity.

Everyone had a great time at their discos and had great fun dancing to the juke box – the staff enjoyed it as much as the children!

The whole school were delighted to attend a special assembly yesterday to celebrate Darcie, the very first ever Gold learner at Birley Spa! She gave a wonderful speech about how she shows the school values in different ways and the children worked out that she had earned 180 Learners' Code points this year!! What an amazing role model!



As a reward, she was given the chance to invite some Bronze or Silver learners to her Gold Learner's tea party where they enjoyed salted caramel frappes and chocolate fudge brownie frappes as a special treat.
Stay and play Nursery

We would love to invite you to join us for the launch of our new learning theme on Tuesday 4th June at 9am until 11am, it would be great if you could join us for some of this time. You will be able to join your child in developing curiosity and work together to investigate and explore new activities. We will be joined by a photographer from the trust who will be taking pictures which may be used to promote the school. (Only when publication permission has been granted). We are looking forward to seeing you for this event.

EYFS

We have had a very exciting week in EYFS. Our tiny caterpillars eventually became beautiful butterflies. We watched them flutter away to find new homes and are looking out for them coming back to visit us in our garden. We learnt so much about the life cycle of butterflies.

We had a fantastic time developing our physical skills dancing to the juke box at our Spring disco.

We are all looking forward to the half term break and returning for our next learning focus.

Year 1 & 2

As we approach the end of this half term key Stage 1 are happy to report that our caterpillars have successfully changed into butterflies. We have realised them into the school grounds. Our tadpoles have also changed into froglets and have been released back into their original pond habitat. The children found it fascinating watching how these animals change from one form to another.

In Science children have completed a unit on animals and their habitats. Children have learnt about what an animals need from their habitat and have created some simple food chains. In geography children have learnt the names of the continents of the world and their position on a map. You may have heard them singing a catchy song about them.

Year 3

In year 3 this week we went on an exciting trip to Western Park Museum where we were immersed in Bronze Age life. We made pottery that Bronze Age people would have drunk from, jewellery out of jet stone from Whitby and planned a Bronze Age meal. We then continued this learning on by building a replica of Bronze Age hill forts showing how they would have protected themselves.

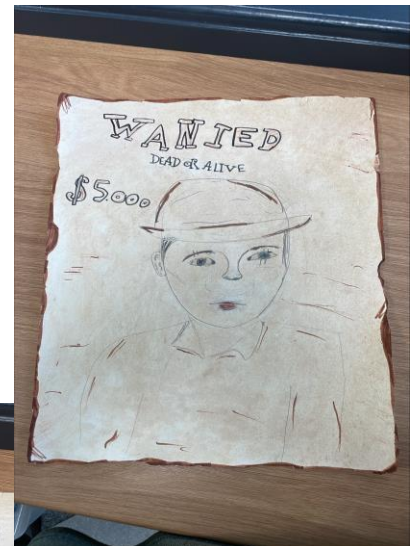
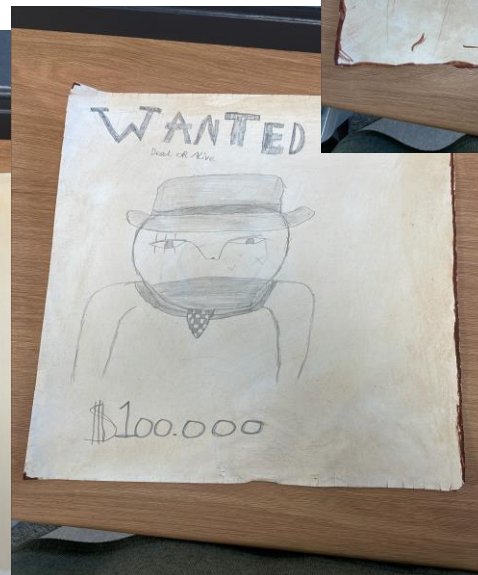
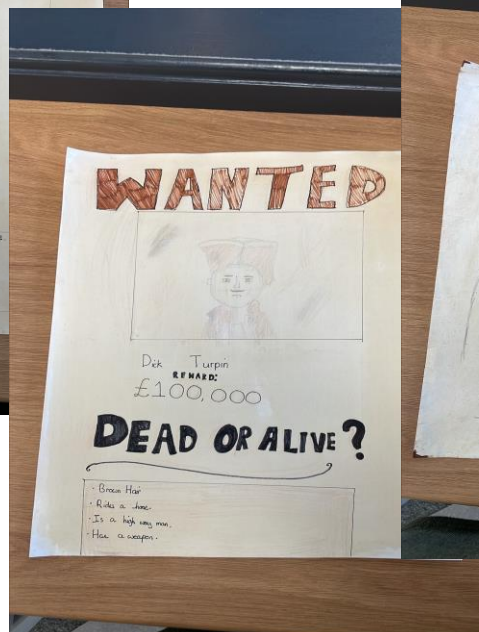


Year 4

In Y4, the children enjoyed using their knowledge of The Bear and the Piano to create their own narratives. Titles include "The Sloth and the Trumpet" "The Snake and the Harmonica" and "The Kangaroo and the Ukulele". They are looking forward to publishing their stories to share with adults and children across school. In Art, the children have created their final piece - a wanted poster for Dick Turpin linking to our History learning around Crime and Punishment. They enjoyed staining their poster to make the effect of an old piece of paper and using their portrait skills to complete their final portrait of Dick Turpin in order to catch the most famous Highwayman.

Finally, it is just a couple of weeks until the multiplication tables check. Please keep practising for a few minutes each day, it will make all the difference. You have all worked really hard!

Miss Morley and Miss Gostelow



Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant end to the term! We have taken part in 2 brilliant end of topic projects! They have made their own solar systems- painting their planets and creating their own starry backgrounds. We then added detailed descriptions of their creations for the target audience to understand our learning. They have also made a bridge out of recyclable items for Design and Technology, making sure it is durable and strong enough to hold an agreed weight. In English, the children have researched, planned and written a non-chronological report based on an unusual creature of their choice. They have used a success criteria to check many of the Y5 grammatical features are included, whilst writing using their own flair. In maths, we have started looking at coordinates, and this is what the children will continue to look at, at the start of next term.

Year 6

What a busy few weeks it has been for Year 6, pupils and staff alike. As you know, we were tremendously proud of the way the children conducted themselves during SATS week, so much so that we awarded Star of the Week to everyone!

When we come back from the half term break there will be plenty going on. As well as our usual curriculum there will be transition days at the children's new schools, Sports Day, and of course the Year 6 residential at Kingswood. For those not attending, we intend to ensure they don't miss out by creating an engaging, fun and challenging project to get stuck into. Fingers crossed for good weather, as we intend to spend lots of time outside.

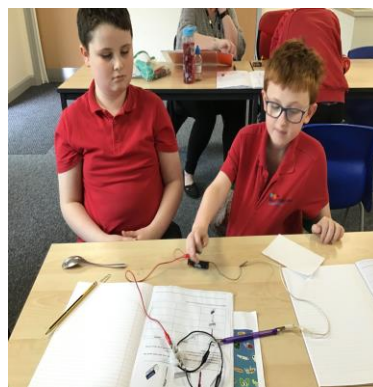
We hope you enjoy the break, and we look forward to the children coming back refreshed and ready to put their all into their last term at Birley Spa!

Class N

This half term seems to have flown by, probably because we have been so focused on learning! We have loved our Food Technology theme this half term – rolling and kneading, and this has meant we have been able to use rolling pins and our hands to help make some of the best tasting biscuits. Our favourites were most definitely the Malteser cookies! The children are now much more confident in weighing and combining ingredients, and they are beginning to understand what different foods contain. They have created their own concoction using marshmallows, cocoa powder, caster sugar, butter, golden syrup and flour – apparently it tasted great!

The children have worked really hard on using their timetables knowledge to help them understand and progress with their mathematical skills. They are noticing how important timetables are as they are used in many different mathematical concepts, including adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, fractions and time. As always, the 7s, 8s and 9s timetables are the trickiest and the ones the children need to practise the most. In Science, the children have been really engaged when learning about electricity, especially when we tested what materials are conductors and insulators within a circuit. The children spontaneously thought about how to make the investigation fair. They noticed, when analysing their findings, that the materials that conducted electricity were made from metal. We also discussed how to be safe with electricity and some of the hazards that could be in their homes and even school if people are not careful.

Class N have now demonstrated 300 acts of kindness and continue to add even more. As their reward the children would like to go on a visit to embed their learning, so watch this space!





12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The Christmas season has finally arrived and soon many of you will be opening your presents in the hope that Santa has listened to your request for the latest mobile phone or smart device.

Owning a mobile phone can be fun, but it's important to use it safely and responsibly. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that you set up your phone securely, keep your personal information private and enjoy using your phone in the healthiest way possible.

1 ALWAYS SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your phone without your permission. Make sure your password is memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share it with your parents just in case you forget it.

2 DISABLE LOCATION SETTINGS

This can usually be done from the device's privacy control settings. Disabling location settings means that your phone can't be tracked by others and strangers can't tell where you are when you're using it. It also helps to save battery.

3 ALWAYS USE A SECURE WIFI NETWORK

When you use your WiFi at home usually it is a secure network that only you and your family know the password to. Public networks, like those in coffee shops, can be accessed by anyone which means that people could potentially hack into your device and access your personal information without you realising.

4 ONLY PAIR WITH BLUETOOTH DEVICES YOU KNOW

A Bluetooth connection with another device means that you can send and receive data wirelessly. For example, you could listen to music wirelessly or receive pictures and videos from your friends. However, pairing your phone with a device you don't know means that you could be sharing personal information with a stranger or could leave your device open to receiving viruses.

5 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.

6 BEWARE OF BECOMING ADDICTED TO YOUR PHONE

Your phone can be fun to use and it's easy to become too attached, whether it's keeping in touch with friends, discovering new features or downloading the latest apps. Remember it's always good to talk in person, go out and have fun and get regular exercise. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just your mobile phone.

7 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Using your phone for too long, particularly in the evenings, can make you feel tired at school, affect your concentration and make you lose interest in other things in life. Only use your phone at certain times of the day and don't use it close to bedtime. You can set a 'screen time limit' via the settings on your phone. This will help you stay fit and healthy and means that you will still be able to focus and perform well at school.

8 THINK OF OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS

Don't take embarrassing photos of other people on your phone. If other people get access to the photo and share it with more people, it could make that person really upset and treated as a form of bullying. Always be mindful of the photos you take using your camera and who you share them with.

9 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This means that you will be able to use your phone safely and securely and won't accidentally do things you shouldn't do. The best time to do this is when you get a new phone or device so that you're protected from the very beginning.

10 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR PARENTS IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE

Sometimes, even though your phone is really secure, you might see something you don't like, or someone might contact you who you don't know. If this happens, always tell your trusted adult like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and advise you on what you should do next.

11 DON'T TEXT AND WALK

This might seem like a strange thing to say but it can be dangerous to stare at your mobile phone whilst walking outside alongside busy roads or bicycle paths. In some cases, children have been knocked over by cars or cyclists because they haven't been aware of their surroundings whilst texting or playing games on their mobile devices.

12 DON'T SHARE YOUR NUMBER OR YOUR DEVICE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW.

Never feel pressured into sharing your phone number with people you don't know and don't lend your phone to strangers or keep it where others could get hold of it. Look after your device and always keep it hidden from sight to avoid it being stolen or broken into.

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many dangers which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, links and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids edition) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18
COUNTRIES

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, a page or an advertisement, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilize the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.

APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny) it. This section only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.

SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been mislaid, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Hoyle is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Formerly the author of web-related The Register, Carly's recent freelance technology journalism includes work for:



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposely damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying. It intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too unnerving in the game. However, some of the 'mobs' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by sounds – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most game consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of menacing zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or creepy strangers. Ensure that your child knows how to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Geddes (a.k.a. Lunewolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2016, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunewolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

STAR OF THE WEEK

20th May 2024– 24th May 2024

Class:		
A	Khenan – For settling into new routines in Nursery and being creative .	Kenton – For his teamwork in Class A and becoming an independent learner.
B	Chloe – for her amazing attitude to all her learning and producing some great work.	Brody – For making great choices and having an amazing attitude to school values .
C	Georgios - For aspiration and resilience in all that he does. Georgios is always doing the right thing and is a role model for the rest of the class.	Layla W - For creativity and aspiration in all areas of the curriculum. Layla takes prides in her work and has lovely handwriting.
D	Isla - Isla you are amazing us in all your learning. Keep it up!	Drin - for showing empathy to his peers. You really are such a kind person.
E	Jaxon - For showing resilience with your handwriting and presentation. I can see lots of improvement. You show endeavor and aspiration in all your lessons and you are a role model for your friends.	Amelia - For showing all of our school values on a daily basis. You work hard and you want to help others. You are a super role model for your friends.
F	Darcy – For showing creativity in building and making Bronze Age artefacts in class and at the museum.	Willow – For showing creativity in building and making Bronze Age artefacts in class and at the museum.
G	Bryley – For always showing aspiration and trying his hardest no matter what the subject it is!	Colby - for being resilient with his creative writing in English
H	Cheetah - For showing aspiration in home learning which reflects in her work.	Isla - For showing aspiration and resilience , particularly in art.
I	Freddie - Showing aspiration in his reading. He has shown good understanding of a text and used his inference skills.	Samuel - showing creativity in his ideas within his independent writing.
J	Tayen – For showing resilience and creativity in her science.	Mason – For showing endeavour in his writing!
K	All children in Class K - For showing all the school values this week and being respectful, hardworking role models. Super stars!	
L	Mason – For aspiration and endeavour – trying his hardest in all his lessons.	Ella – for being a role model to those around her with her focus and resilience .
M	Ruby – For always being a superb role model, demonstrating all our school values , no matter what.	Jorja – for always showing all the school values . I have been particularly impressed with Jorja’s resilience this week.
N	Logan – For resilience and teamwork – Logan has worked really hard in PE and was an excellent team member who never gave up during a game of bench ball. Well done, Logan!	

Weekly Attendance

20th May – 24th May 2024

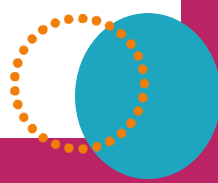
Whole School target: 96%



EYFS	A	88.7%
EYFS	B	97%
Y1/Y2	C	94.3%
Y1/Y2	D	98.3%
Y1/Y2	E	92.5%
Y3	F	90.3%
Y3	G	93.7%
Y4	H	90.4%
Y4	I	88.3%
Y5	J	92.1%
Y5	K	95%
Y6	L	92.3%
Y6	M	88.1%
Y3/Y6	N	80%
Whole School Attendance		91.5%

At Birley Spa Primary Academy we are committed to helping all pupils to achieve their full potential. Good attendance is a key factor in raising pupils' attainment and supporting their personal development. **In line with DfE and Local Authority policy, we do not authorise holidays taken in school time and we work with families to do everything they can to support their child to attend school every day.** Whilst it is appreciated that children are ill from time to time, please think carefully before allowing your child to be absent from school. The chart below provides an indication of how just a few days absence can significantly impact a child's overall attendance percentage and impede their learning:

Description	Attendance	Whole Days Lost	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100 – 99%	0 – 2	0 – 10
Good	98 – 96%	4 – 7.5	20 – 37.5
Requires Improvement	95 – 91%	9.5 – 17	47.5 – 85
Persistent Absentee	90 – 86%	19 – 27	95 – 135
Critical	85 – 80%	28.5 – 38	142.5 – 190



Dates for the Diary

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
27 th May – 31 st May 2024 3 rd June	Half term Holiday INSET day – School closed
4 th June 2024	School Reopens for children
14 th June 2024	Father's Day breakfast 8am, 8:30am and 9am
17 th June 2024	Father's Day breakfast 8am, 8:30am and 9am
19 th – 21 st June 2024	Y6 Kingswood Residential visit
26 th June 2024	EYFS sports day – 9am Year 1 and 2 sports day – 1.30pm
28 th June 2024	Year 3 and 4 sports day – 9am Year 5 and 6 sports day – 1.30pm
1 st – 5 th July 2024	Y6 bike ability
17 th July 2024	Reports to go home
22 nd July 2024	Summer Fayre
23 rd July 2024	Last day of the Academic Year
2 nd /3 rd September 2024	INSET Days – School closed