Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

24th November 2023

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills and knowledge to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'

Dear Parents, Carers, Children, Staff and Governors,

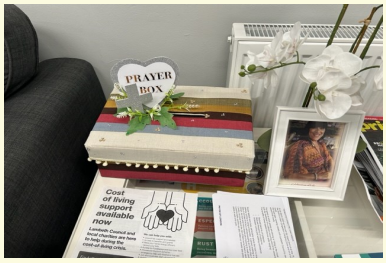
It has been another busy fortnight with children enjoying a range of outstanding learning experiences and opportunities across the St Mark's Curriculum. Juniper Class saw some of the famous sights of London as part of their learning on 'London Life;' many of our EYFS parents stayed and enjoyed playing with their children during last week's EYFS Stay and Play and children across the school learned valuable lessons around Anti-bullying in collective worship and in their PSHE lessons. A big well done to our children for their excellent work and also a thank you to our staff for providing great learning opportunities for their classes.

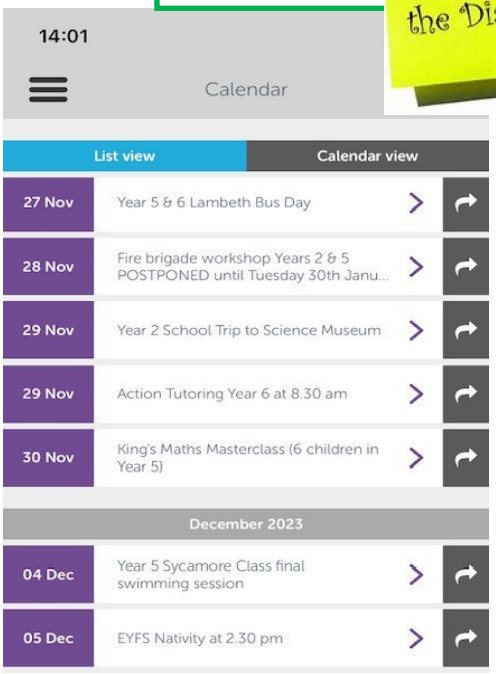
I just want to remind all Nursery parents that they still need to complete the online application form if they would like their children to attend St Mark's Reception Class in September 2023. The form needs to be submitted by 15th January 2024.

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE SCHOOL MOBILE SCHOOL APP? SEE MORE DETAILS IN PAGES 5 & 6

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, post it in our prayer box on the table in the reception area or come along to pray with others every Friday morning after drop-off.





VALUE OF THE WEEK

Self– Control

BIBLE VERSE

"Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control."

Proverbs 25.28

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Nursery - 94.34%
Reception - 91.45%
Y1 - 94.05%
Y2—89.27%
Y3 - 89.78%
Y4 - 93.33%
Y5 - 97.01%
Y6 - 82.38%
Whole School— 91.55%

What is happening at St Mark's

STAY AND PLAY EARLY YEARS

Thank you to all parents that were able to come to our Stay & Play session. A great opportunity to see children's learning n person .

EBONY CLASS

Children in Reception Class have been busy 'Going on a Bear Hunt' through long, wavy grass; a deep, cold river; thick, oozy mud; a big, dark forest; a swirling, whirling storm; a narrow, gloomy cave … and they were not scared!

Amazing Art work from children in Palm Class - Year 4.

'In Art, we looked at photographs of sunsets from the islands that we have been studying in Geography. Our focus was on the colours and the silhouettes of trees that the light creates.

We also looked at some paintings of sunrises and sunsets by famous artists like Joseph Turner, Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh.'

What is happening at St Mark's

JUNIPER CLASS BOAT TRIP

Year 1 have been learning about London Landmarks in Geography . To support their learning , the class took a boat cruise along the River Thames to sightsee some of the landmarks they have been learning about.

OLIVE CLASS

Year 3 went to Harleyford Road community Gardens to do some research on the area and local wildlife for their English task this week. They aim to write a leaflet to persuade people to take care of the local area .

What is happening at St Mark's

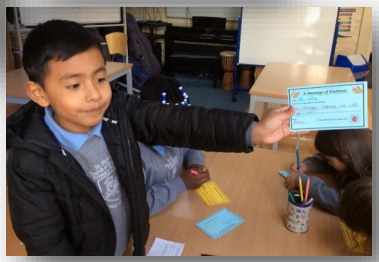
Last week was Anti-bullying week. Children across the school participated in a variety of activities promoting Anti-bullying behaviour

Designing and Colouring Odd Socks

Anti-Bullying Colouring

Chatterbox Making

Messages of Kindness



Launching St Mark's School Mobile App

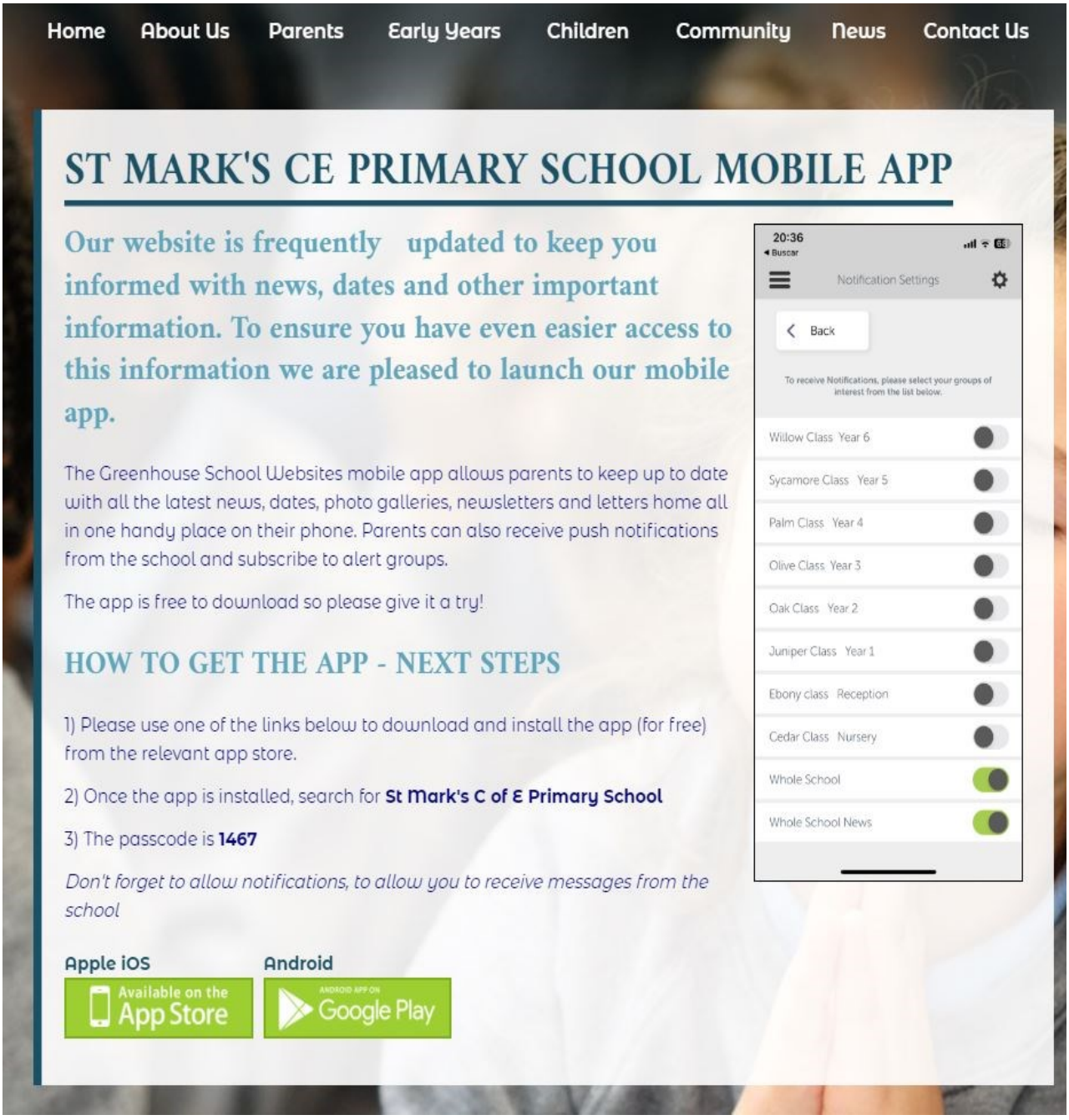
We are pleased to announce that we are launching St Mark's School Mobile App.

We hope this will enable facilitate communication with Parents. Among the great futures of the Mobile App:

- **To easily report child's absence**
- **To have direct access to letters**
- **To receive push notifications**
- **Key information, e.g. term dates, galleries, newsletters, calendar and contact**

You can download it directly from our school website.

https://www.stmarkscofeprimarylambeth.co.uk/St-Mark-s-C-of-E-Primary-School-Mobile-App/



Launching St Mark's School Mobile App

GET IT ON Google play

Download on the App Store

Install the app - it's free

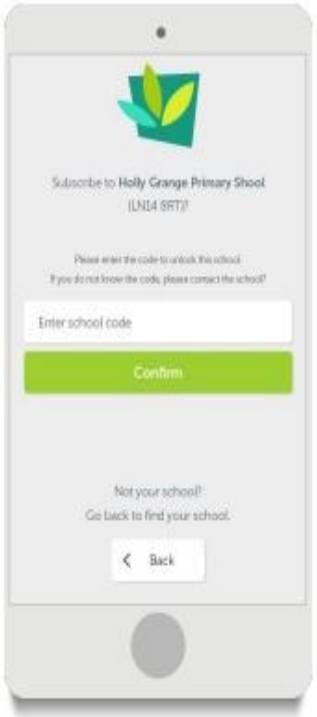
On your Apple iPhone...

- Find it in the App Store
- Or search for *Greenhouse Schools*

On your Android device...

- Find it in the Play Store
- Or search for *Greenhouse Schools*

Quick setup



1 Allow the app to send you notifications

Allows the school to send important notices

iOS devices only

2 Allow the app access to your media and calendar

Allows you to see photos and add dates to your own calendar

Android devices only

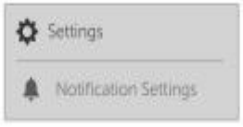
3 Add your school

Enter your school name, or tap 'Show schools near you' if you are located close by

4 Enter the school code

If the school has provided you with a code or password, enter it when prompted

5 Subscribe to your channels of interest



Tap your school name, followed by the Gear cog in the top right

Tap *Notification Settings* and select the channels relevant to you

St Mark's Diary Dates Autumn Term

MONDAY 27TH November 2023	YR5 & 6 Lambeth Bus Day	12.30 – 2.30
Tuesday 28th November 2023	Fire Brigade speaking to Year 2 Oak and Year 5 Sycamore Classes – Session postponed for Tuesday 30th January 2024	From 9.15 am
Wednesday 29th November 2023	Action Tutoring for Year 6 Pupils	8.30 – 9.30
Wednesday 29th November 2023	Year 2 School Trip to Science Museum	
Thursday 30th November 2023	Kings Maths Masterclass (6 children from YR5)	1.45 – 3pm
Monday 4th December 2023	Year 5 Sycamore Class final swimming session	
Tuesday 5th December 2023	EYFS Nativity	2.30pm
Wednesday 6th Dec	Action Tutoring for Year 6 pupils	8.30 – 9.30
Wednesday 6th Dec	Year 5 and 6 Music Concert	2.55pm Start in the hall
Thursday 7th December 2023	YR6 Junior Citizens trip – Clapham Fire Station	9am
Thursday 7th December 2023	YR 3 – 4 Music Concert	2.55 pm in the hall
Friday 8th December 2023	Christmas Jumper Day	£1 donation for save the children
Friday 8th December 2023	St Mark's Christmas Market	3.30-4.15pm
Tuesday 12th December 2023	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Tuesday 12th December 2023	Year 6 – School trip to the Garden Museum	10 am to 1.30 pm
Wednesday 13th December 2023	St Marks singing carols at the Oval Tube station	8.50 – 9.30am
Wednesday 13th December 2023	Action Tutoring for Year 6 pupils	8.30 – 9.30
Thursday 14th December 2023	St Mark's Carol Service 9.30am Held at St Mark's Church	Led by Key Stage 2. All are welcome
Thursday 14th December 2023	Whole school Pantomime	2pm start in the hall
Thursday 21st December 2023	**Last day of Autumn term**	**School ends at usual time**
Monday 8th January 2024	First day of Spring Term 3	In the line at five to nine!

School Days

Breakfast club
8.00 am to 8.50 am

After School clubs
3.30 pm to 4.25 pm

School Starts / End:

School gates open: 8:45 am

EYFS & KS1: 8:55am - 3:20pm (Monday to Friday) KS 1 Parents are to remain with children until the bell sounds

KS2 : 8:55 - 3:25 pm (Monday to Friday) Please be on time!

Health & Safety requirement:

When dropping off and collecting your child, please do not stop at any time by the entrance gates, keep moving, as it is blocking the way to others and it is against H&S, which we all have to adhere to.

Absences & Sickness:

If your child is unwell, please notify the school via phone or email and state the reason for the child's absence.

Thank to all parents and carers that are able to help on school events and trips. We would not be able to do so many of them without you.

Please note that, once given availability to help, the teacher **must confirm directly** with the parent/carer that they can accompany the class. Likewise, if you have a specific request, concern or interest, you must speak to the class teacher.

Notices & School Events

Applying for a Reception Place September 2024

Now is the time to apply for your child's primary school place if your child has been born **between 1st September 2019 and**

31th August 2020.

Please do not assume that pupils will automatically move from Nursery to Reception. You will need to apply online **via your home borough** and follow the instructions on the link to the Pan-London online Common Application Form (CAF) **https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/**

You MUST apply by **Monday 15th January 2024**. If you apply after this date the likelihood of gaining a place at your preferred school may be significantly reduced.

WINTER MARKET

Friday 8th December

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

An opportunity to share time together as a community and get some Christmas presents made by the children.

If you want to know more about the PSA, volunteer or have any other query, please contact **Miss Sithabiso (Tabs) Francis on 07568 452 944** or email her to **Tabs@tabsfrancis.co.uk**

Spanish speaker contact:

Mrs Arelys Ayala

07427 756 443

arelysayala @yahoo.com

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

Please look at the organisations' websites to double check times and arrangements

Upper Norwood Library: Storytelling Workshop – FREE

Saturday 25th November 3.00pm – 4.00pm, suitable for ages 2-8 yrs.

Upper Norwood Library, 39-41 Westow Hill, SE19 1TJ

Join author Ella Phillips for a multi-sensory workshop that blends storytelling, interactive fun and creativity to spark your imagination. Enjoy the story and take part in craft activity to create an adventure book. Book a place in advance:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/join-author-ella-phillips-for-a-sensational-childrens-workshop-tickets-740795438097?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1

Clapham Library: Saturday Link Up (11-16yr olds)– FREE

Saturday 25th November 2pm – 4.00pm - drop in

Mary Seacole Centre, 91 Clapham High St, SW4 7DB

A dedicated meeting spot for 11- to 16-year-olds to meet up, play games and to debate

Contact Liz Buchanan, Library Manager: 020 7926 0717 or email: ClaphamLibrary@lambeth.gov.uk

https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/events/saturday-link

National Maritime Museum – Polar Day & Safe Harbour FREE

Saturday 25th November

Maritime Museum, Romney Rd, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF
Tube: North Greenwich, DLR: Cutty Sark, Trains: Greenwich & Maze Hill

Polar Day 11am – 4pm Calling all budding polar scientists! This Saturday come and meet the UK Polar Network at the museum for a fun-filled day of events and activities where you can dress like a Polar Scientist, learn about indigenous groups in the Polar regions or find out more about Climate change in the Arctic.

https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/polar-family-day

Safe Harbour, 12.30 – 2.30pm Safe Harbour is a series of free workshops created to provide a safe space for foster and adoptive families with children under 13 years. Join us from 12.30pm, bring along a snack or lunch and say hello to other families, take part in creative activities inspired by the items in the National Maritime Museum. During the activities you can pop in and out as your family needs – session created in consultation with support organisations including We Are Family and local foster and adoptive families. Book free tickets in advance via link:

https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/safe-harbour

Clapham Picturehouse cinema - Kids Club - 'The Lego Movie 2' (U)

Saturday 25th November 11.45am Tickets: £3.30. No unaccompanied adults.

76 Venn Street, London, SW4 0AT; 020 7326 2649; www.picturehouses.com/cinema/clapham-picturehouse

Every Saturday morning at Clapham Picturehouse cinema is Kids Club – tickets are all £3.30.

Barbican Centre – Visit the Conservatory - FREE

Sunday 26th November 11am – 5pm

Level 3, Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2Y 8DS - Closest tube: Barbican)

Visit the second biggest Conservatory in London and explore our hidden tropical oasis, featuring spectacular suspended sculptures by Indian artist, Ranjani Shettar. Admission is free but book online in advance.

https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/the-conservatory-x-ranjani-shettar

Rachel Thomas, Windmill Cluster (rthomas@sudbourne.com)

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy *can* lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably *is*. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they *look* legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.11.2023

St Mark's CofE Primary School Term Dates 2023-24

Term Dates for 2023-24

Please find the term dates for the academic year. Please avoid taking holidays during term time as it can impact on children's progress.

	September 2023				
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	

	October 2023					
Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24	31
We		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

	November 2023				
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

	December 2023				
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
We		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31

	January 2024				
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

	February 2024					
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23		
Sat	3	10	17	24		
Sun	4	11	18	25		

	March 2024				
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31

	April 2024				
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

	May 2024				
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

	June 2024					
Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

	July 2024				
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

	August 2024				
Mon		5	13	19	26
Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

School Holidays | Bank Holidays | Pupil Days | INSET Days