



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.45

March 2021

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

As of 29th March, the government guidelines have changed and the 'Stay at Home' rule has ended. People are now allowed to meet outside - including in private gardens - in groups of up to six, or as two households. Outdoor sports facilities can reopen and celebratory events, such as weddings, are now allowed to be held.



Whilst these are extremely welcomed changes, I would like to ask for our whole community to approach these new guidelines with caution. The guidance still remains that, from a school perspective, if we have positive cases confirmed then class bubbles will continue to close. I am acutely aware of the impact this has on everyone involved, not just on the children, but on parents ability to work with appropriate childcare in place for the duration of the 10 day isolation period. Our collective effort to limit the potential of further bubble closures would be very much appreciated, so that we can enjoy the new freedoms whilst still playing our part in keeping everyone at Highwood as safe as we can.

We have begun our reflections on the elements of our Remote Education provision that we think would be useful to stop, start or continue. One of the big successes we had was the use of Microsoft TEAMS and Year group email addresses as a form of communication and we plan to continue their use.



We have asked staff and children what, if anything, their suggestions would be and I would like to include parents in that conversation. If there is anything you think that you would like to feedback to the school then please do so via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Matt Hickey
Head Teacher



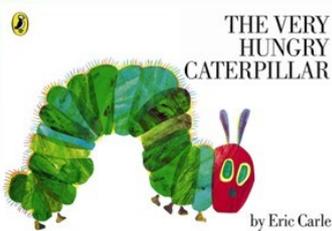
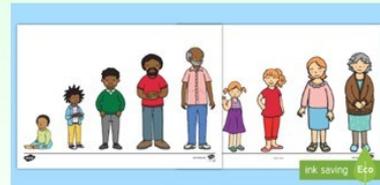
Foundation 1 News

Miss Nunn

Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Vanka, Miss Mair and Mrs Bailey

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy second half of the Spring Term in F1. We have continued to explore our topic which is **'Why do things change?'** and have welcomed another new group of F1 children into the setting. The children have settled back into nursery life beautifully and we are so happy to all be back together, learning and having fun!

We started off this half term learning about the changes in our bodies as we grow up. We spoke about what we wanted to be when we grow up and learnt all about the human life cycle.



The highlight of this half term has been exploring some other life cycles. Firstly, we learnt all about the life cycle of a caterpillar to a butterfly and grew our own butterflies in nursery. It was magical to watch the caterpillars at the different stages and we were amazed at how quickly they grew.

The main event was learning about the life cycle of a chicken and hatching our own chicks. The children have been so excited to watch the eggs hatch and see what they grow in to. It was wonderful to see the children experience the changes first hand and handle the chicks so beautifully. We have created a diary of our chick journey altogether to share with everyone.



We have had lots of fun doing a variety of Easter activities to round off the term. We have made chocolate Easter nests, decorated Easter hats, decorated our own Easter eggs, explored Easter sensory trays and did an Easter egg hunt around the nursery setting.

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during this half of term and we look forward to welcoming the children back after the Easter break!

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see what we are up to each week! @HighwoodPrimFS1



Foundation 2 News

Mrs Perrott & Mrs Parker

Mrs Jones, Mrs Fitzgerald, Miss Rapley, Miss Quelch,
Miss Finch, Mrs Long

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy learning about space as part of our topic: 'How is the World filled with colour' Take a look!



We started the half-term by discovering that a space ship had landed in Mrs Perrott's tree! We investigated the clues left behind to work out how it got there. Eventually we had to make a phone call to NASA to see if they were missing one of their rockets! Luckily they sent someone to collect it.

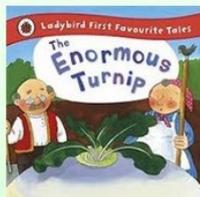


The children have been looking at 'teen numbers' and investigating one more and one less. We have also been learning to add and subtract single digit numbers using concrete objects to help us.

We have completed phase 2 phonics and are working our way through phase 3. The children are becoming really confident with writing words and simple sentences independently. We also like to play phonics games too, because it helps us to apply our knowledge.



Recently, we have been enjoying the story 'The Enormous Turnip'. The children enjoyed sequencing the story and they could retell the story using actions.



Well-being Wednesdays were a big hit, we had so much fun! From yoga to rainbows, it's all happening in Foundation Stage!



Thank you to all the parents who have continued to support us this half term, especially with the remote learning, and we look forward to seeing you after half term. Enjoy the holidays.

Find us on Twitter : @HighwoodPrimF2P, @HighwoodPrimFPS



Year 1 News - Spring 1

Miss Schlaefli, Mrs Schofield and Mrs Garner
Mrs Kearney, Mrs Butler, Mrs Long, Mrs La Porte, Mrs
Darekar

Will we play with the same toys when we are older?

Topic, Science and History

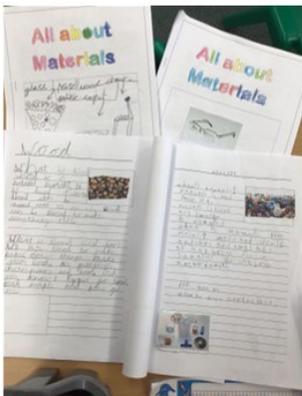
We have really enjoyed our topic this term as it was all about toys! We have learnt about toys from the past and thought about what toys in the future will be like. We have discussed our favourite toys and teddies and even shared them on our Online Assemblies. We had fun playing a variety of games from around the world too.



English

We started off the term focussing on the story of The Nutcracker. We learnt the story from memory using a story map and then wrote our own versions about a different toy. We used a variety of adjectives to describe the Nutcracker and our other toy characters.

We then moved on to writing fact files about materials. We investigated their properties in Science and then wrote about them to inform other children.



Maths

We have developed lots of different skills in Maths this term. We have had our first attempt at using Bar Models and we were really good at it! We have used practical resources to represent multiplication and division. We had lots of fun with using playdough to show halves and quarters of shapes. Our work on 2d and 3d shapes was really interesting, especially using 3d shapes to print different patterns.



Computing

We have really enjoyed our work on programming and we have programmed KUBO the Robot. We investigated the robot and worked out for ourselves how to make it move! We then had to plan journeys for it and give it the correct commands and write our own algorithms.



Check out our Twitter feeds at;

@HighWoodPrimISG (Mrs Schofield/Mrs Garner)

@HighWoodPrimIS (Miss Schlaefli)





Year 2 News - Spring 2



Miss Amor, Mrs Weir,

Miss Rajput, Mrs Lawrance, Miss Gunbie, Mrs Turnbull

Despite being a rather different term with lockdown, it has been amazing to have all the children back in school! Our key question has gone down like a storm and the children have loved packing their backpacks and travelling the world to learn all about the different countries and continents. We definitely have some budding adventurers and explorers!

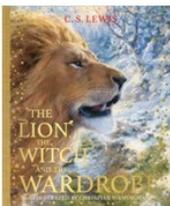
Where in the world would we like to explore?

English

To fit perfectly with our theme of exploring the world, Year 2 have written their own information text about the continents of the world! We have seen some wonderful teamwork to research facts about each of the seven continents. We have learnt how to use headings and subheadings to organise our information. Then, we published our non-chronological reports in our very own book! Finally, we will write a persuasive letter encouraging Woodley library to feature our book in its reading area!



Whole Class Reading



We have been reading 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' which is set in the wondrous land of Narnia. We have loved exploring this magical land and we have been gripped by the good versus evil battle!



Maths

Fractions, money, multiplication and division were our main objectives in Maths this term. We also spent the last two weeks exploring direction - perfect for our travels around the world! The children have worked hard to develop different strategies such as sharing and making equal groups to problem solve. We have also spent much time improving our explanations when tackling those all important Probing Questions.



Art

A clear highlight after our return to the classroom was making our clay pots that were inspired by the artist Clarice Cliff. We used this opportunity to learn more about Diwali and the diva lamps that are used during these celebrations.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A @HighwoodPrim2W



Year 3 News



Miss Bicheno, Mrs Hartgrove and Dr Read

Mr Phillips, Mrs Tindall, Mrs Garg, Mrs Leslie, Mrs Rudroju

Could we exist without water?

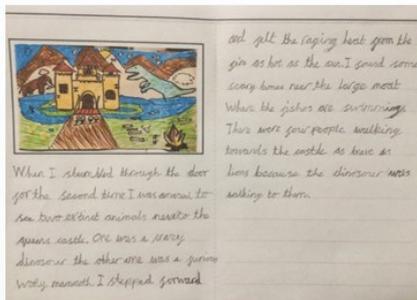
English

Maths

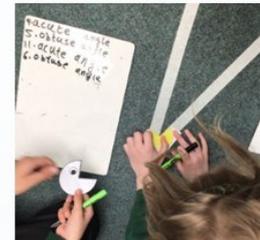
Year 3 have had great fun this term writing magic door stories, concrete poems and biographies. The biographies were inspired by women who have spent their life working with water. We loved researching about these inspirational people!

Our concrete poems on water looked amazing - we loved using onomatopoeia.

Our magic door stories transported us to many wonderful water-themed locations.



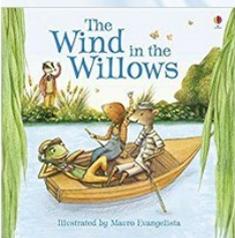
Fractions! We tried so hard with these during this term. The children have been able to bring in their prior knowledge of division to help them find fractions of amounts. We then moved onto looking at angles - you can quiz any of us about right, acute and obtuse angles! We also worked on parallel and perpendicular lines. Speaking of lines - we can measure really well now too! Recently, we have started to look at money, so watch out because now we can know exactly how much we would like in our piggy banks!



Topic

Whole Class Reading

We read the classic 'Wind in the Willows' this term and the children could see the differences between each of the character's personalities. There is so much wonderful vocabulary in this book! 'The River Singers' is similar to The Wind in the Willows in using animals as central characters. We even learnt the word anthropomorphism that describes the use of animals in human form, as seen in both books.



We started off our new key question gathering information on the different ways in which water is used daily and worldwide. The children were surprised to see how much of an impact water has on our lives. They also had great fun designing their own boats to introduce the importance of how water can be used as a form of transport. We were really impressed by their own research into different water-dwelling animals - amazing work, Year 3!



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3B

@HighwoodPrim3RH



Year 4 News

Mr Allaway, Miss Barrett, Miss Gibson and Miss Fulleylove

Welcome to this edition of the Year 4 news! Although we hit a bump in the road with everyone learning from home, this has not stopped the superb continuation of the school year. Please read on to find out about the incredible learning the children have been doing!

What did the Romans do for us?

This term year 4 have been learning all about the Romans and their invasion of the British Isles. It was incredible to see how much enthusiasm the children had for this topic, even though most of it was done remotely.

Maths

In maths this term the children explored everyone's favourite topic, fractions! We learned to find fractions of amounts, add fractions and find equivalent fractions.

After fractions we moved onto different methods for multiply mentally and formal written methods. Just to make it a bit more challenging, we threw in some problem solving, which the children seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

Since being back in school post lockdown, year 4 have moved onto methods of division. This has combined the children's knowledge of times tables, place value and grouping.



Writing

Over the lockdown period, year 4 learned how to write Roman myths. We learned how to structure the story and use appropriate characters for the time setting. The children wrote some terrific character descriptions using their tremendous vocabulary and grammatical skills.

After Roman Myths we moved onto Playscripts, which again were linked to the Romans. All the adults in year 4 were incredibly impressed with the engaging plots the children wrote, and who knows, we might have some budding playwrights in our midst.

Recently we have been working on biographies, starting with autobiographies and moving on to writing a biography of Boudicca.

Reading

This term we have been reading 'The Thieves of Ostia' by Caroline Lawrence. The children seem to have really

enjoyed the text so far and are curious to see who has committed the crime.

During lockdown we focussed mainly on the children's retrieval skills, asking them to find information contained in sections of the book. Since we have returned we have been working on our interpreting skills by taking images and quotes from the book and analysing what impact authorial choice has on the perceptions of the reader.

Please remember that your child is still signed up for MyOn and Get Epic so they can use these to find books to read at any time.

Home learning

Normally we would give you loads more information all about the different topic learning your child has been up to, but as they did the majority of it with you at home, this seems rather redundant!

The whole year 4 team would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you for all the effort and support you put into the children's learning during lockdown. The children have all come back to school with a positive attitude and been able to discuss their home learning.

It has been a pleasure to welcome year 4 back for the second half of the Spring term and we are all looking forward to spending the entire term (fingers crossed) together in the Summer.

Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to continuing our learning in the new term.

The year 4 team





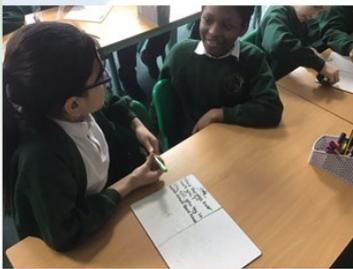
Year 5 News

Team: Miss Majer, Mrs Haden and Miss Rogers

Is Invasion Ever Justified?

Welcome to the third edition of the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!

English



All our English this term has been based around the story of Beowulf, the Anglo-Saxon hero who saved a sister town from the death of Grendel that was spreading! We've spent a long time analysing the text and collecting crucial vocabulary. After this, we created our own, vile monsters for Beowulf to defeat, using character descriptions to create wanted posters for the town of Heorot. During the final week of term, we've been writing our own Beowulf saga using these creatures too!

Maths

Our focus in maths this term has been fractions. Throughout the term, we have used bar models to look at equivalent fractions, converting mixed/improper fractions, as well as ordering and comparing fractions with different denominators. It has been a tricky process for us, but by using our times tables and division facts to find equivalent fractions to help us along our journey.



Key Question Lessons

Our key question for this term is 'Is Invasion Ever Justified?', where we are basing our learning all around The Vikings and The Anglo-Saxons. To kick off our topic, we started by exploring Anglo Saxon artefacts and asked historical questions to try and learn more about the civilisation. Through the topic, we have also looked at what physical and human geography features might come into play when deciding why you would invade a country and learnt about how the country was split into six key kingdoms.



Art

After lockdown, we finished our art unit which was all about using texture with acrylic paint.

We explored a range of artists that use texture in their art, including Jackson Pollock and explored how we could make different textures using a range of different tools to help us. We then combined everything we had learnt to make our final, space inspired pieces.



It has been a super start to the year. We look forward to continuing this hard work after half term

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5M



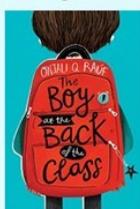
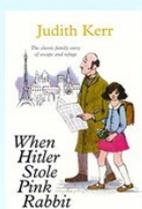
Year 6 News

Teachers: Mrs Raines, Miss Bocutt, Mrs Chaudhary, Mrs Anil and Mrs Nielsen

More than ever, this term has been a term of 2 halves. Lockdown (and remote learning) was a challenge for everyone and we were so grateful to have your support - many thanks! We have loved being back in school, to share our learning and to address our question '**What would a world without war look like?**'

English

We have loved reading this term. Both books addressed the issue of war and life for child refugees. This opened up great discussions and allowed for insightful comparisons to be made between our lives and the lives of refugees (in the present and the past).



In writing, we built on the descriptive writing about The Blitz (which the children did at home), to create newspaper reports. We have also learnt how to write a balanced argument "We should never go to war" in order to address the United Nations.

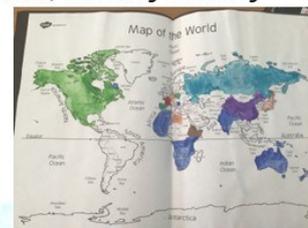


Edward Ardizzone). We then used their work to inspire our own water colour paintings of war landscapes.

History and Geography

The children showed a real enthusiasm for history. We were impressed with how much they had researched about WW2 at home. Our class discussions were interesting and informed. We spent time looking at how far the war actually spread during WW2, and why so many countries became involved.

We also looked at Reading and compared it to Dusseldorf (the city in Germany that Reading is twinned with), to see how WW2 affected both places.



Computing

In computing, we enjoyed the challenge of using the programme scratch to code a sequence for changing traffic lights. This needed considerable teamwork, creativity and perseverance.

PE

In PE, the children have been learning racket skills. This has involved tennis with Mr Edwards and badminton with Miss Bocutt. They have also had the opportunity to play golf.

Maths

Learning about fractions was a challenge (especially during lockdown). Since returning to school, we have practised these skills and the children have surprised themselves at how much they know! We have revised 3D shapes and learnt how to construct nets. Over the last 2 weeks, we have discovered a love of algebra in order to solve number problems.



Topic

Over the last few weeks, our topic has focussed on art, history, geography and computing.

Art

As artists, we evaluated the work of a variety of war artists (William F Draper, Laura Knight, Paul Nash,



We hope you have a lovely Easter break, and look forward seeing you in the summer term!

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim6R & @HighwoodPrim6B



The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey & Mr Bevan
Mrs Payne, Mrs Pithiya & Mrs Khan

This has certainly been a different start to 2021 compared to what we had been expecting! Firstly we'd really like to thank you for all your support during Lockdown this term. Children and families adapted really well under difficult circumstances. Having said that, it's been even better having all the children back in school and seeing all the learning that's happened already. The children were so pleased to be back and we were excited to see them too. We hope you all have a relaxing Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all back for the Summer Term. Don't forget that the Monday is an INSET day!

Resource Home Learners and Bubble Learners



A big WELL DONE is well deserved to all the Resource children (and parents!) who adapted quickly to working with different staff in the bubble groups and showed perseverance and creativity in their home learning on Teams during lockdown. We enjoyed regular phone calls, Seesaw messages

What Have We Been Up To Since 8th March?



Having lots of fun writing about Hansel and Gretel, playing number games, multiplication and division. We are so happy to be back in school!

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR





PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards & Miss Coleman

Welcome to the Spring edition "PE & Sports News Page" of academic year 2020/21.

PE Lessons:

PE lessons have continued, despite a lot of children having to complete their PE from home. I have been really proud of the children that have completed these tasks. There has been some real imagination when looking for equipment to use such as frying pans, brooms, rolled up pairs of socks and so many more. We have covered many of the curriculum skills within the sport specifics of Hockey, Basketball, Tennis & Tri-Golf. There has been a lot of hand-eye, spacial movement, striking, agility and target work. Miss Coleman has also been teaching year 5, year 3 and 4B PE this term which has also included badminton, Boccia and New Age Kurling. On top of that, Miss Coleman has also continued teaching dance, this time to the year 1 bubble and finishing off with 15G

At the moment we are still unable to continue the swimming lessons with our partners at Blue Coat School but we are hoping that we can resume after Easter.

Lunch & After School Clubs:

Due to the guidelines of not being able to mix bubbles in sporting events, we are still unable to run any clubs this term. We are hoping to start again as soon as we can.





PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

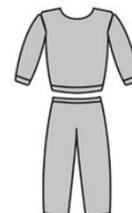
Spring Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

Again, unfortunately, due to the pandemic, there are no matches or tournaments being held against other schools to minimise the spread of infection.

What is most impressive to me is that we have been awarded the "Spirit of the Games" certificate for participation levels in every round. This just proves how much we value the physical side of education. However, we have continued with "Virtual School Games" that have been devised by "Get Berkshire Active". We have entered all 4 tournaments this term and reached county finals every time. Again, I wish to thank the parents in their support of the children taking part in these games from home. I have been particularly impressed with classes 2A and 2W who on average had 75% of their classes completing the PE lessons and virtual games.

Achievements outside of school:

With many sports clubs returning to training from 29th March, I would again like to see pictures to add in this section of the newsletter of the fun sporty things you get up to outside of school. Here again are last terms pics to give you an idea.



Next Half Term

PE Lessons:-

Outdoors - Athletics. Indoors - Dance

PE Kit required:-Summer Gear. Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, trainers, not plimsolls (Black Plain Track-suit optional). **No Earrings!**

I hope you all have a fun, relaxing and very chocolatey Easter Break.

Mr Edwards.



Governing Body News

I think I can safely say none of us have experienced a school term like the one we've just had! For those of us who are parents as well as governors, we definitely saw both sides of the coin when it came to full-scale remote learning this term!

I'm in awe of the immense amount of effort and time put in by our teachers to prepare and deliver meaningful lessons, in line with our curriculum, digitally via Microsoft Teams. Not only this, but having to do so while also teaching small groups of children in school.

As parents, it was up to us to supervise the kids as they worked through the lesson objectives - which I can tell you was easier said than done with my two! If your children were anything like mine, it took a huge effort every day to ensure the work was completed.

I totally identify with the difficulties experienced by those of us working from home while trying to implement remote learning...but I know I am not alone in gaining a new sense of appreciation for what a school does to nurture and educate our children on a daily basis. As a governing body, we are very proud of the efforts made by Mr. Hickey and the staff, under extremely difficult circumstances, to get the kids through this past year, and in particular this Spring term.

The governing body has continued to meet regularly - virtually of course! - across all of our normal committees, supporting the school wherever possible. We've also kept one eye on our longer term strategy as a school. We've remained engaged with governor training courses and have continued to make significant inroads with our preparation for any future Ofsted visit, recently meeting with one of Wokingham's School Improvement Officers.

The governing body is also supportive of the school's wellbeing initiatives for our pupils and staff. The conversation on mental health, which was already well underway before the outbreak of COVID-19, has become even more important as a result of the pandemic. To me, Highwood has always been a school that cares, an example being the weekly check-in phone calls, which were very much appreciated in our house.

To finish, the governors would like to place on record their huge thanks to our fantastic Highwood staff, our pupils and our parents. The whole Highwood community has pulled together in some, frankly, unimaginable circumstances. As we very slowly edge closer to some kind of normality, we can be confident that Highwood will emerge even stronger as a school.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter break.

Rehan Kamal

Co-opted Governor

Vice Chair, Resources Committee



Family Centre

Parent Support Advisor

Dear all,

This has been a very unusual term again, but it has been great to get to know more Highwood families and, (hopefully!), we will have even more chances to get a bit closer to normal school life in the next few months.

Mrs. Vaux and I ran an anxiety workshop earlier this term; it was great to work with families and a huge THANK YOU to the parents that took part. Now we are more confident with the technology, we are hoping to run more events this year. Keep an eye out for Information coming via ParentMail.

There is also a new Highwood PSA twitter account—@PSAHighwood - which I will be using to share useful links, articles and the occasional motivational quote! Please follow if you use Twitter.

A reminder of the First Days, pre loved summer uniform drive, taking place over the Easter holidays on Wednesday 7th April, 9.30 - 11am, in the Highwood car park. First Days will only be allocating uniform to families who have pre-ordered items, so please complete the order form on the link sent by ParentMail if you would like some summer uniform. Please help us stay Covid safe by only attending if you have pre ordered items, and following the one way system once you get into the car park at school.

I hope the holiday is restful for you all; see you soon for the summer term!

Lucy

Reminders

EARRINGS

Please note that our school policy is for earrings to be removed for PE, for the health and safety of the children.

It is recommended that ear piercing is only done in the first week of the summer holidays to allow the time for them to settle.

Please ensure that your child has practised taking them out as well.

Only stud earrings are allowed in school.

ABSENCE

Please contact the school office by 9.30am if your child is absent stating the reason for the absence. This can be done via ParentMail or by phone on 0118 9265493.

If your child is going to be late and requires a hot dinner this must be booked by 9.30am.

All requests for leave of absence must be made on the absence form available from the school office. Routine appointments should be made outside of school time.

Please see the latest Attendance Policy on the school website regarding Penalty Notices.

PARKING

There is no parking on the school site unless you have been authorised to do so. This includes dropping off children late as well as dropping off things that have been forgotten.

Please be considerate to our neighbours in Carrick Gardens and Kingfisher Drive by not parking on pavements, grass verges, across driveways and single yellow lines.

Please use the Park n Stride from the Waterside Public House



WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please ensure that your child does not bring any nut products into school, or food cooked in nut oil or containing any traces of nuts.

This includes Nutella.

Diary Dates



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Thursday 1st April 2021	Last day of spring term	School closes between 1.15pm to 1:30pm
Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April 2021	Easter holidays	School closed
Monday 19th April 2021	Inset Day	School closed
Tuesday 20th April 2021	First day of Summer term	School open
Tuesday 20th April to Friday 30th April 2021	Big Pedal event	
Monday 3rd May 2021	Bank Holiday	School closed
Monday 17th May to Friday 21st May 2021	Walk to School week	
Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021	Half Term	School closed
Wednesday 9th June 2021	Class photos & Year 6 leavers	AM
Tuesday 22nd to Tuesday 29th June 2021	Book Fayre in school	
Wednesday 7th July 2021	Secondary transition day	
Wednesday 21st July 2021	Last day of summer term	School closes at 1:30pm
Thursday 22nd July to Tuesday 31st August 2021	Summer holidays	School closed
Wednesday 1st September 2021	Inset Day	School closed
Thursday 2nd September 2021	First day of Autumn term for Years 1 to 6	School open to Years 1 to 6
Thursday 2nd to Friday 3rd September 2021	Foundation closed for home visits/calls	School closed for F1 & F2

Please note that more event dates will be added once more is known about the easing of the current restrictions.

We hope to plan in a virtual parents evening after the May half term.