Weekly Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support and well wishes during our Ofsted visit this week. We look forward to sharing the final report with you once it becomes available.

As it is the end of term, I would like to give a huge shout out to our Team Captains this week who helped run our first Dojo Shop of the year. They had lots of happy customers!





Our next set of ‘What we are learning’ information is now on our school website which gives parents and carers an overview of the knoweldge and skills being covered, to help you support your child at home.

Click here - **What we are learning**



Finally, a reminder that school is closed on Monday 2nd November for staff training. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 3rd November.

Have a lovely half term,

Mrs Swinbank



https://kellslaneschool.co.uk

Character Development

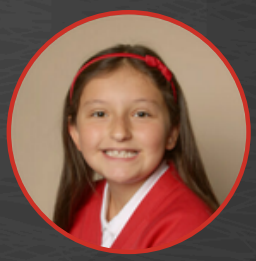
Brave Curious Resilient Empowered Ambitious Find your Remarkable

Emerald	Sapphire	Ruby	Amber
22310	18900	18500	17700

Half term winners!

Well done to our first half term winners Emerald. We hope everyone has a great half term and gets lots of sweets and chocolate when you trick or treat (if you celebrate). Just as another reminder if your child likes music please consider Rock Steady! We hope everyone has some good rest.





Head Boy & Girl

Y2 & Y3 Rocksteady



Year 2 & Year 3- There are spaces to join the Rocksteady bands - click the link (photo) for more information.

Focus Value

Brave

See more from the past week here -

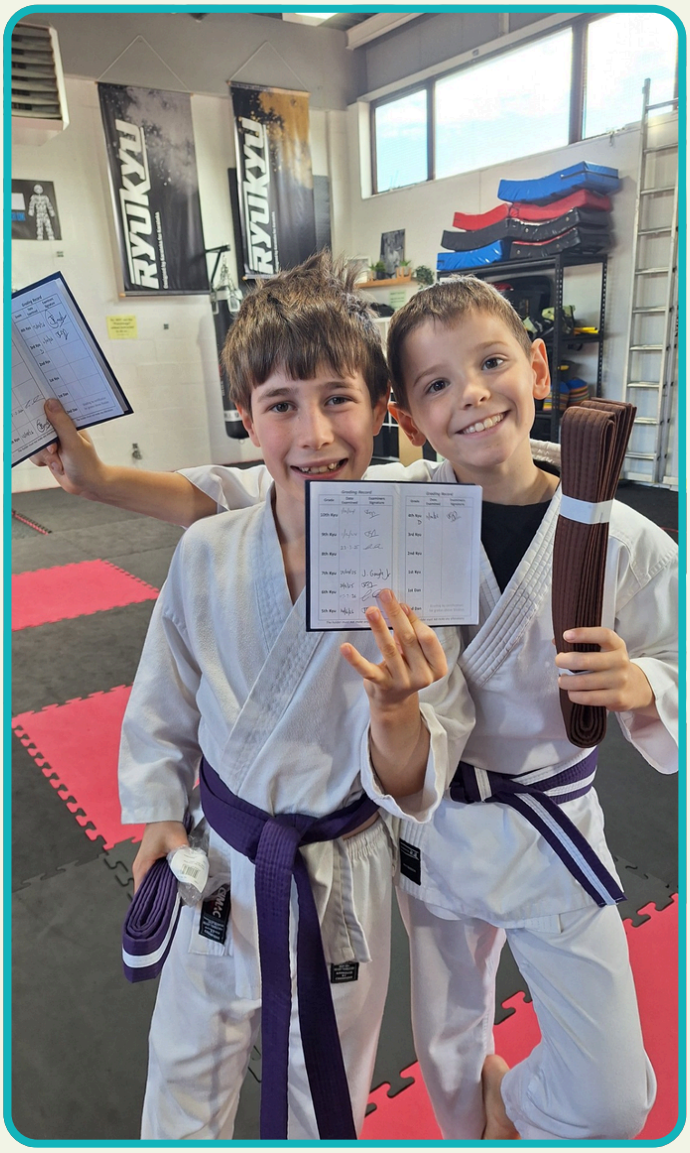
Click Here

Sporting Achievements

Find your Remarkable



A huge well done to this Year 1 pupil for achieving her level 5 gymnastics medal.



A big well done to these Year 4 pupils for achieving their next belts with distinctions in Karate.

Curriculum



Nursery

We read the stories Room on the Broom and ‘Not a Stick’ this week and explored all the wonderful possibilities of one of our favourite resources - a stick!

Some of us made magic wands, but others chose to use sticks in their clay sculptures this week.

In Maths, we have been recognising groups of 1, 2 and 3 without counting and went on a Superhero Subitising walk around the school grounds, to recognise amounts in our environment. We developed these skills through sharing fruit at snack time, showing amounts on our fingers in number rhymes and spotting groups of conkers.

During our outdoor adventure morning, we picked apples from the tiny apple tree outside our lunch hall and chopped and tasted these during snack time.

We transferred some of our skills learned in Dough Disco to making bread dough this week, using the pinching technique to make hedgehog rolls!

We also used these skills when we introduced children to the clay and were wow-ed by their creative and imaginative sculptures.











Curriculum



Reception

In **English**, we have been doing lots of writing based on our text Gruffalo Granny. We have drawn settings and characters and labelled them with initial sounds.

In **Maths**, we have been introducing 5 frames to the children as a means of understanding the composition of 5.

Our theme this week has been 'Changes around me – Autumn'. We went on an autumn nature walk, explored a mystery bag of conkers, pinecones and acorns, sorted our finds by colour, size and shape, and made vegetable soup.

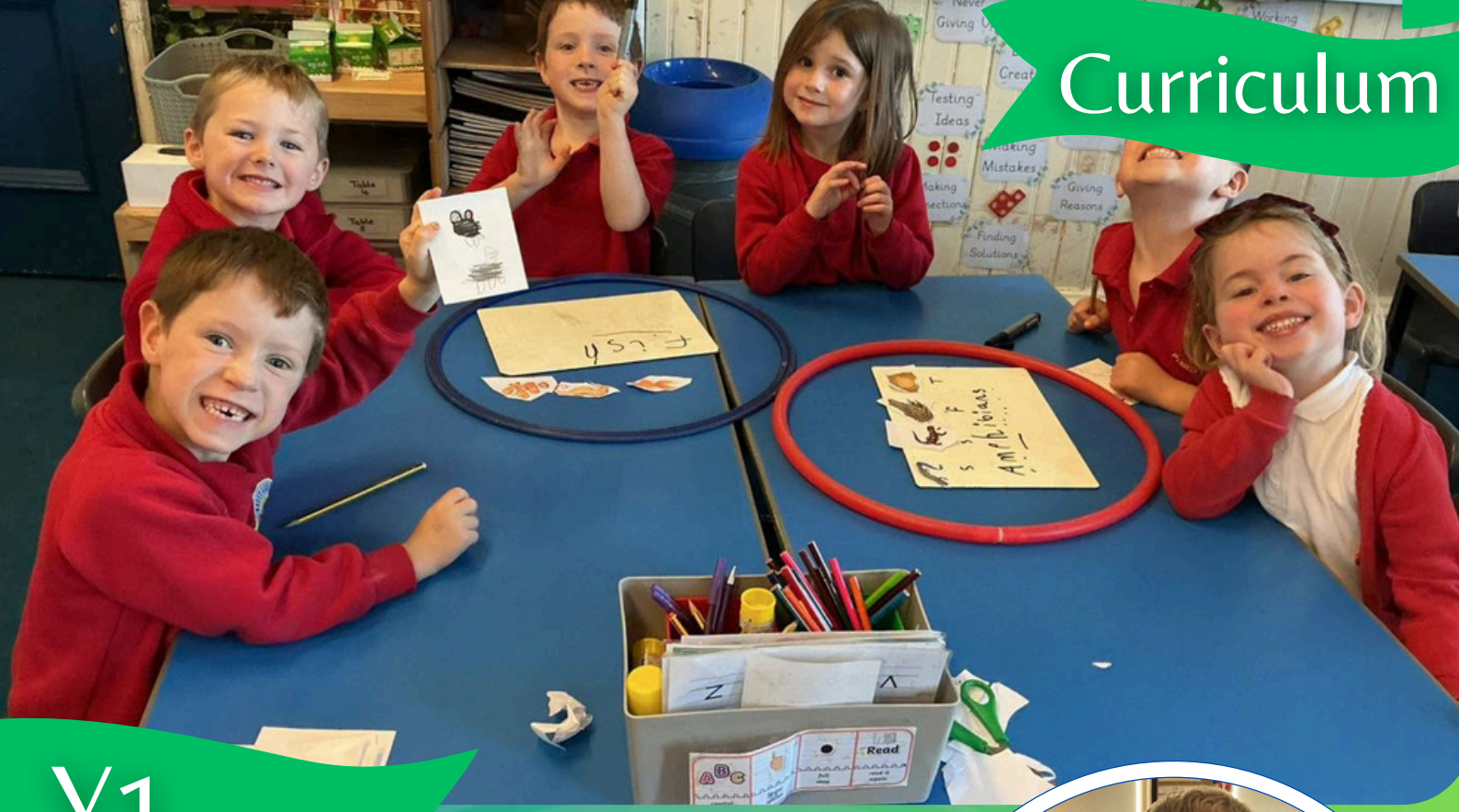






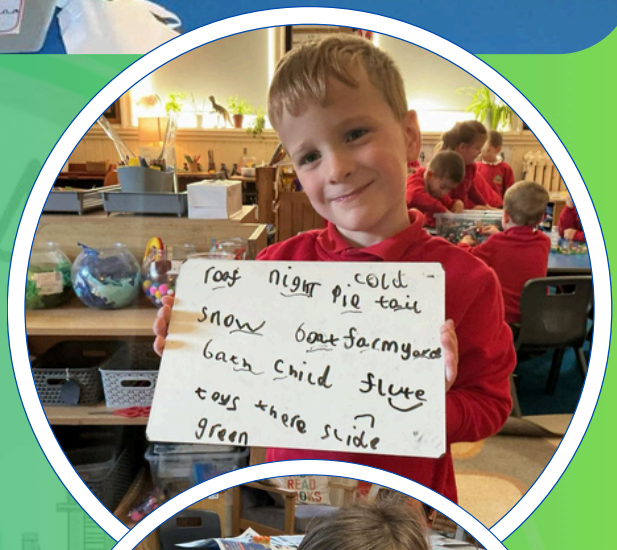






Curriculum

Y1







In **English** we have been writing sentences to describe the monster from our class story, linked to our class text Not Now, Bernard.

In **Maths**, we have been learning to subtract by finding a missing part, using bar and part-whole models, and exploring fact families.

In **Computing**, we have been learning that an algorithm is a set of instructions in the right order, and wrote one to make a jam sandwich.

In **Geography**, we have been finding out what physical features are and spotting them in photos of Low Fell.

In **Science**, we have been naming and sorting fish and amphibians, and learning how a tadpole grows into a frog.

In **Art**, we have been painting our clay thumb pots with bright patterns, inspired by the artist Clarice Cliff.

Curriculum



Y2



In **English**, we have been exploring the poem Someone by Walter de la Mare, writing similes and planning our own poems.



In **Maths**, we have been adding two 2-digit numbers, including exchanging across 10 using base-10 blocks.

In **Geography**, we have been finding out what the coast is, comparing sandy and rocky beaches and exploring Roker using Google Earth.



In **RE**, we have been learning how Christians around the world, including in West Africa and Poland, celebrate harvest.

In **Art**, we have been looking at how Van Gogh and Cézanne used brushstrokes and thick paint, and trying these techniques ourselves.

Curriculum



Y3

In **Maths**, we have been subtracting 3-digit numbers using the column method, exchanging across tens and hundreds, and checking our answers with the inverse.

In **English**, we have started our new book, Leo and the Gorgon's Curse, making predictions from the cover and practising reading with fluency and expression.

In **History**, we have been comparing the city-states of Athens and Sparta and finding out who lived in Ancient Greece.

In **Science**, we have been measuring our bones to find out whether they grow as we get older.

In **Art**, we have been making our own Greek pots using the coil method and evaluating them.

In **French**, we have been describing people using masculine and feminine adjectives.







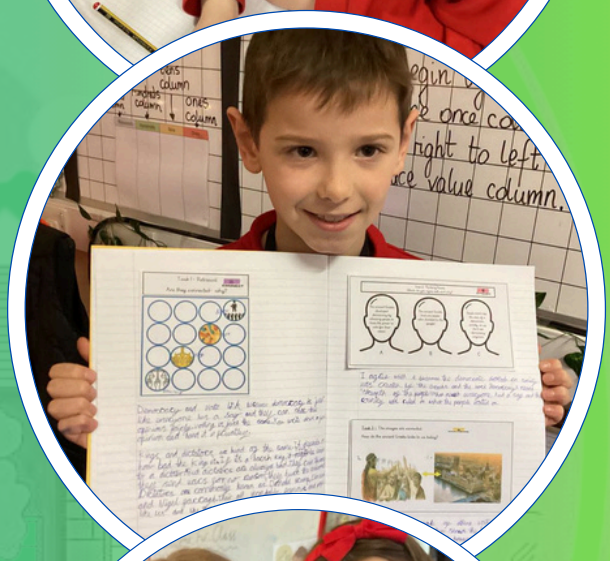
Curriculum



Y4



In **Maths**, we have been estimating answers to addition and subtraction calculations and using different strategies to check them.

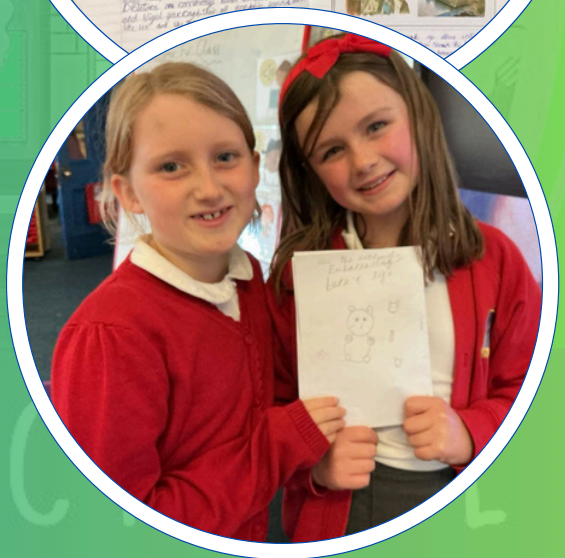


In **English**, we have finished Until I Met Dudley, writing and editing letters that explain how a light circuit works.

In **History**, we have been learning what democracy means and how the ancient Greeks let citizens vote.

In **Science**, we have been sorting plants into groups, such as flowering and non-flowering plants.

In **Art**, we have finished our drawn stories, presenting them and reflecting on what we are proud of.



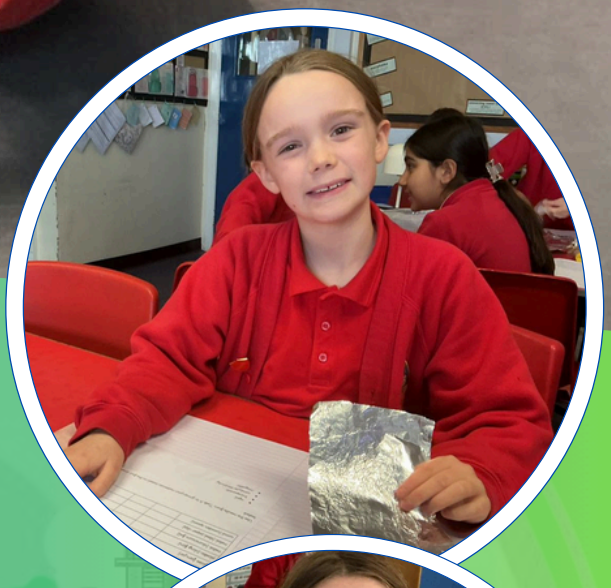
In **RE**, we have been learning a Hindu creation story.

In **French**, we have been learning the names of classroom objects.

Curriculum



Y5







In **Maths**, we have been learning about square and cube numbers, using our times tables to help us.

In **English**, we have planned, written and edited our own animal poems inspired by The Tyger, using rhyming couplets and metaphor.

In **Science**, we have been testing and grouping materials by properties such as transparency, conductivity and magnetism.

In **RE**, we have been thinking about the Good Samaritan today, learning about Oscar Romero and a church that supports refugees.

In **Computing**, we have started using Tinkercad, learning what computer-aided design is.



Y6







In **History**, we have been learning about the causes of the First World War and why we observe Remembrance.

In **French**, we have been learning to say 'they are' (ils/elles sont) and how adjectives change in the plural.

In **Science**, we have been learning how scientists classify animals, including vertebrates and invertebrates.

In **Maths**, we have been practising mental addition and subtraction, using known multiplication facts and simplifying fractions.

In **English**, we have been exploring heroic vocabulary in Beowulf and writing diary entries as the character Wiglaf.

500 Words Writing Competition



The 500 Words writing competition is now open, and we would love to see some of our Kells Lane writers have a go! Each year a handful of our pupils enter, and it is a brilliant chance for children to be brave, get creative and write their very own story of no more than 500 words.

Entries are written at home, in children's own time. The competition website has everything you need, including the competition details, terms and conditions, ideas for inspiration and helpful learning resources.

We would love to see what our writers create too! You can email their stories to the school office (KellsLane@klps.org.uk), for the attention of their class teacher, or bring in a printed copy, and we will share them in school.

Entries close at 9pm
Friday 6th November 2026

Find out more and enter here:
bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words

23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

INCLUSION & SEND

Tips for Parents of Toilet Avoiders

Small steps can make a big difference!

Does your child avoid the toilet, even when they need to go?

You're not alone! Many children feel anxious, distracted or just uncomfortable with using the toilet. Here are some helpful tips to make it a more positive experience.

Create a Routine

Try regular toilet times, such as after meals or before bed. A consistent routine helps build good habits and reduces anxiety.

Make It Positive

Use gentle encouragement, cheer, or a reward chart (even small ones!) to celebrate effort, not just success. Praise goes a long way!

Keep It Comfortable

Make sure the toilet is child-friendly. A step stool, a comfy seat, and a calm, private space can help them feel safer and more in control.

Avoid Pressure

Never force your child to use the toilet. Pressure can increase anxiety and make the problem worse. Let them go at their own pace.

Address Fears and Worries

Some children are scared of flushing, falling in, or feeling uncomfortable. Listen to their concerns and reassure them. You can even read books or talk about it together.

Encourage Healthy Habits

Keep them well-hydrated and offer high-fibre foods to help prevent constipation, which can make toilet time uncomfortable.

Be patient. Be positive. You've got this!

Every child is different, and progress takes time. Kindness and consistency work!

SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety for Under-5s

Children are experiencing digital technology from increasingly younger ages, whether that's watching videos, playing simple games or using tablets and other connected devices.
To help with this, Internet Matters has a dedicated online safety resource for parents and carers of **children aged 0–5.**

The guidance covers topics including:

- choosing age-appropriate apps, games and content;
- setting up parental controls;
- managing screen time and developing healthy habits;
- sharing photographs and information about young children;
- helping children begin to understand online safety.



Play On Gateshead

FAMILY FUN DAY

Free!

Friday 30 October

at **Gateshead International Stadium**

Join us 10am-12:30pm for:

- Inflatable Games
- Football
- Multi Sports
- Face Painting

...and more!



All ages welcome, but children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

FREE to sign up. Reserve your place at **www.gateshead.gov.uk/familyfunday**

Play On – Gateshead
www.gateshead.gov.uk/PlayOn

7E24R/PS/2025

Gateshead Council

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DIARY DATES

Any changes/updates will be highlighted in green

Autumn Term	
Tuesday 1st September	Inset day – no children in school
Wednesday 2nd September	Start of new term for children
W/c Monday 7th September	**Y6 Elm** Bikeability week
W/c Monday 14th September	**Y6 Larch** Bikeability week
Wednesday 16th September	**EYFS/Year 1** – Animals About Town (rearranged visit from summer term)
Wednesday 16th September	**Year 2** – Reading in Year 2 -session for parents 5pm
Thursday 17th & 23rd September (info to follow)	Photographer in school – individual and sibling photos
Wednesday 7th October	**Y5** visit to the Centre for Life
Wednesday 7th October	Kells Lane Fundraising Group AGM 7.30pm The Black Horse, Low Fell Everyone welcome
Thursday 8th October	**Y3** visit to Beamish Museum
Wednesday 14th October	**Reception** Stay & Play *(1 parent per child)* Early reading session for parents 1.45-2.15pm Stay & Play session 2.15 - 3.15pm Sign up information to be sent out
Thursday 15th October	**Reception** Stay & Play *(1 parent per child)* Early reading session for parents 1.45-2.15pm Stay & Play session 2.15 - 3.15pm Sign up information to be sent out
Wednesday 21st October	Y3 & Y4 Halloween Disco
Thursday 22nd October	Y5 & Y6 Halloween Disco
Friday 23rd October	**Last day of term** – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Half Term (Monday 26th – Friday 30th October) **31st October – deadline for secondary school applications**	
Monday 2nd November	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 3rd November	First day of term
Tuesday 3rd November	**Y5** visit to Segedunum
Monday 16th November	**Odd Socks Day** – all children invited to wear odd socks to mark anti-bullying week
17th, 18th & 19th November	Parents Evenings
Friday 20th November	**Children in Need-** children are invited to wear pyjamas to school to raise money for the charity
Wednesday 25th November	**Choir** Christmas Tree Light Switch On
Friday 27th November	Non-Uniform day - *Chocolate or bottle donation for Christmas trail tombola*
Wednesday 2nd December	**Reception (Cedar)** Nativity performance for Cedar parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm

Find your Remarkable

Thursday 3rd December	**Reception (Holly)** Nativity performance for Holly parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm
Sunday 6th December	KLSF Christmas trail
Monday 7th December	**Y1 Poplar** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Monday 7th December	**Flu Immunisations**
Tuesday 8th December	**Y1 Juniper** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Y3 & Y5** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**Y2 Beech** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Year 1 & Year 2** watching Christmas performance of Tinsel Tally in school
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas jumper day
Thursday 10th December	**Y2 Rowan** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Thursday 10th/Friday 11th December	Elfridges Christmas Sale for children (information will follow)
Thursday 10th December	**Reception** watching Christmas performance of The Littlest Elf in school
Monday 14th December	**Reception & Y4** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Tuesday 15th December	**Y1 & Y5** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	**Y4 & Y6** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 16th December	**Nursery & Y3** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner day
Thursday 17th December	**Y2 & Y6** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Friday 18th December	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Spring Term	
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Tuesday 12th January	**Y1** Phonics screening information session for parents 5pm
Wednesday 13th January	**Y6** – SATS meeting for parents (no children to attend) 5pm
Wednesday 20th January	**Reception Cedar** Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session 2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play
Thursday 21st January	**Reception Holly** Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session

	2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play
Friday 15th January	**Reception Application Closing Date**
Friday 12th February	**Last day of term** – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Half Term (Monday 15th – Friday 19th February)	
Monday 22nd February	First day of term
Friday 5th March	World Book Day – *children to dress as their favourite book character*
Wednesday 10th March	Y3 & Y4 Easter Disco
Thursday 11th March	Y5 & Y6 Easter Disco
16th, 17th,18th March	Parents Evenings
Sunday 21st March	KLSF Easter trail
Monday 22nd March	**Reception & Apple** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Tuesday 23rd March	**Y1** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Wednesday 24th March	**Blossom** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Wednesday 24th March	**Y2** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Thursday 25th March	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Summer Term	
Monday 12th April	First day of term
Monday 19th April	**Y5** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Tuesday 20th April	**Y4** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Wednesday 21st April	**Y3** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Thursday 22nd April	**Y1** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
W/c Monday 10th May	**Y6 SATS week**
Tuesday 18th May	**Y4 Robinwood Residential meeting for parents 5pm**
Wednesday 19th May	**Y6 London Residential meeting for parents 5pm**
Friday 28th May	**Last day of term** – non uniform day *(chocolate or bottle donation for summer fair tombola)*
Half Term (Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June)	
Monday 7th June	First day of term
W/c Monday 7th June	**Y4** Multiplication Check week
Wednesday 9th June	New Nursery Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm
W/c Monday 14th June	**Y1** Phonics Screening Check week
Monday 7th June SPORTS WEEK	**Sports Day – Confirmed** 9:30-10:40 - Year 3 and 4 11:00-12:10 - Year 5 and 6

Children should come to school in PE kit all week (please wear team colours)	12:30-13:40 - Year 1 and 2 14:00- 15:10- Reception
Wednesday 16th June	New Reception Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm
Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th June	**Y4** Residential to Robinwood
Monday 14th – Thursday 17th June	**Y6** Residential to London
W/c Monday 28th June	Whole school transition week
Wednesday 30th June	Y2 & Y3 Summer Disco
Thursday 1st July	Y4 & Y5 Summer Disco
Friday 2nd July	Parents to meet new class teachers @2.45pm (1 parent per child)
W/c Monday 5th July	End of Year Reports to be sent home
Wednesday 7th July	**Y2 (Rowan)** End of Year Production performance for Rowan parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Thursday 8th July	**Y2 (Beech)** End of Year Production performance for Beech parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Friday 9th July	**Summer Fair**
Date to be confirmed	**Y6** End of Year Production @ 5.15pm
Wednesday 14th July	**Reception** graduation @ 2.45pm
Thursday 15th July	**Y6** Leavers Assembly @ 5pm
Friday 16th July	**Last day of term –** children to wear school uniform. *Children may bring a toy (not electronic)*