



# January Newsletter 2025

Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter for 2025. We have aimed to reflect on some of the festive highlights as well as looking ahead to what promises to be an exciting Spring term.

We are busy behind the scenes organising our residential experiences for our Key Stage 2 children. We are looking forward to taking our Year 6 children to London later this year. We will also be taking Year 5 to PGL again following a fantastic trip last year. Year 4 will also have the opportunity to camp in school over night with a day of beach activities to follow! We are also planning a number of trips across the next few terms to compliment the curriculum learning of each class.

Swimming lessons will begin this term. We aim to ensure that all of our KS2 children can swim competently and proficiently a minimum of at least 25 metres. Once this is achieved, children will be offered the opportunity to attend optional surf lessons in Year 5 and 6.

## **Staffing News**

As we begin the Spring term, Mrs Daniels and Miss East will continue to teach our Wagtails class. Mrs Bateman is hoping to return at February half term. Mrs Daniels will continue to teach

Wagtails until Mrs Bateman is ready to return to her substantive post as Wagtails class teacher (2 days a week) and Senco (1 day a week).

Miss East is planning to begin her maternity leave at February half term. We are aware this class has experienced much change. With this in mind, we are finalising plans to fill this post with an experienced teacher already known to the children. As soon as the process is complete, we will of course share this news with both yourselves and the children.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

### **Clubs**

This term, we have continued to listen to our children's preferences and hopefully have a club on offer for every child. Please encourage your child to 'sign up' to a club - we are aiming for 100% of children accessing a club this term!

We have lots of exciting plans for this New Year...watch this space for details!

Mrs King

## **Sporting News**

We have had a fantastic start to the new year, and the children are excited to start using their new playground sports and play equipment. Thank you again to FOSMS for raising the funds to buy this.

### **Clubs**

Having listened to the children's requests, we have had a fantastic number of children sign up to our clubs again this half term. There is a great range, from art and gardening to football and Minecraft.

### **Sports**

We are lucky to welcome our coach back again from LJD Coaching, to support and enhance the learning in P.E. He will also be running our lunchtime and after-school football clubs.

Wagtails Class will be having swimming lessons every Thursday this half term.

Upcoming sports events:

Monday 13th January – KS2 Cross-Country

Thursday 23rd January – KS2 Swim Safe Festival

Monday 3rd February – Year 5 and 6 Netball festival

Mrs Cooper



## Supporting Charities



We are so proud of Toby who has raised an amazing £530 for “The Little Princess Trust” and has donated his hair to be made into a wig for children with cancer. This is a huge act of kindness of which we know so many families will be so very grateful.

Well done Toby!! 🥰

### **Mission Christmas**

We would like to thank everyone who kindly made a donation at the church supporting the Mission Christmas appeal.





**MISSION  
CHRISTMAS**  
cash for kids



**Thank you!**

**St Merryn Primary School**

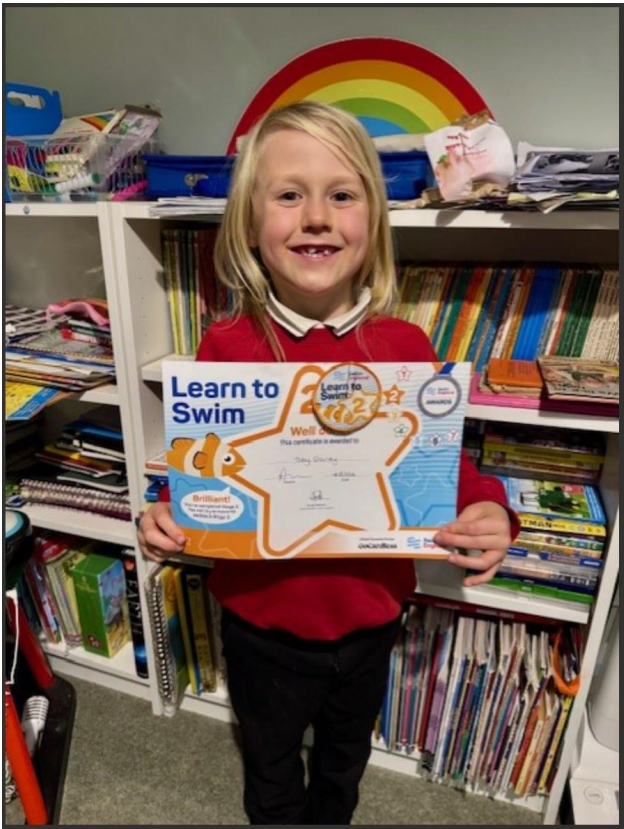
for

For supporting the Cash for Kids Cornwall Mission Christmas Appeal  
with your kind donation of £20.70



© 2014  
Registered charity 1122062, 80041021 & 80003334

Talents outside of school...





Not only do we see our children's amazing talents in school, we also love hearing about their achievements outside of school!

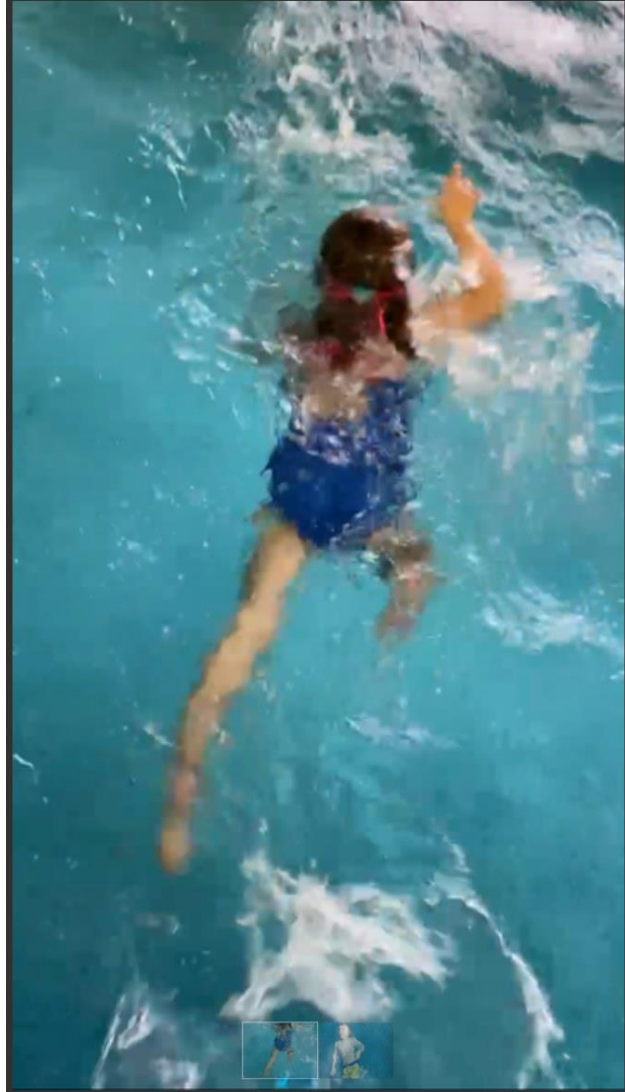
Last month saw both Toby and Kiki achieve swimming awards!! Well done to you both - we are all very proud of you! 🥳🥳

Isaac has also made us incredibly proud as he was awarded a very nice trophy for achievements in sailing. Excellent work Isaac!! 🥳

Pe'ahi and Nālā have recently taken on their own challenge to swim 200 metres. Having been taught to swim by Mum from a very young age they are very proud to have achieved their challenge. Their secret to success is to go swimming regularly and have fun in the water! 🥳









## Nursery and Key Stage 1 Nativity



The beginning of December saw our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children put on two fantastic performances of 'The Big Little Nativity' for their families. They all worked incredibly

hard to learn songs, dances and speaking parts, impressing everyone with how well they took to the stage – a very talented bunch indeed. We are very proud of you all!

Mrs Daniels

## Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance

### **Aladdin**

Our Key Stage 2 performance this year was absolutely fantastic, and we are so proud of all of the children who took part in making this year so special. The children were kind, supportive, encouraging and patient with each other, creating a fabulous atmosphere where everyone was able to excel in their roles. The KS2 Christmas play is such an important part of the children's education at St Merryn as the children have such a valuable opportunity to enhance their personal development by being part of something that is bigger than just their efforts. This year, we witnessed some amazing camaraderie with the whole of Key Stage 2 working as one team and building and securing friendships. Some of our children realised and displayed talents that will open many doors for them in the future and we cannot wait to hear how they get on. It was an absolute pleasure to work with the children this year creating such a wonderful performance, something to be remembered for a long time to come. Well done KS2!

Mrs Golay

## Christmas Carol Service



Thank you to all who attended our Christmas Carol performance on Friday 20th December. For me, as I know it is for many, a perfect way to celebrate the end of a busy term. We were lucky enough to have the fabulous St Merryn Church choir perform as part of the service. We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did!

Mrs Muller





## FOSMS News

What a wonderful run up to Christmas we had, both raising money and giving the children treats before Christmas.

We started with our wreath making and the festive drinks before the evening performances of the Nativity and Aladdin. Then the fun for the children...Nursery visited Santa with the rest of the school having a trip to the Hall for Cornwall to see the Jack And The Beanstalk pantomime.

We celebrated the term with a week full of fun games, ending with the children having to find hidden Christmas chocolates around the school and having a hot chocolate, as you can imagine all were a huge hit!

Big thanks to **Trerair Farm shop**, **Tesco Wadebridge** and **Barnecutts** for the donations!

We would also like to send our heartfelt thanks to everyone for supporting and making this happen.

We are once again already planning for the coming months, if you have any ideas or would like to get involved please join us at our next meeting.

Watch out for more FOSMS activities in the near future!

### **Meeting**

Our next meeting is **Friday 17th January at 2pm.**

Everyone is welcome.

### **Reminders**

#### **Have you joined the school lottery?**

You can support us by joining our school

lottery. Winners are drawn every week with

the opportunity to be entered into the big draw where you can win up to £25,000! For details, please ask one of the FOSMS team or see our facebook page.

Our **uniform shop** is still available to all. If you require anything then please see Vicky in the office or Sarah Hodson who will be more than willing to help.

If you haven't please join our **Facebook group** for our latest news.

**The FOSMS Team**



## Early Years Updates

For those families with children who are due to start in Reception Class in September 2025, please remember that your applications for your preferred school should be made to Cornwall Council by **Wednesday 15th January 2025**. If you need any help or support with applying for a school place, please do not hesitate in contacting our school office. You can also get help from the School Admissions Team at Cornwall Council on 0300 1234 101, by emailing [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)<sup>1</sup>, or by visiting the admissions website [School admissions - Cornwall Council](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions)<sup>2</sup>

You would also be very welcome to come and see our Reception and Nursery in action.

To book yourself in, please contact the school office who will be pleased to arrange this for you.

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk>

<sup>2</sup><https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cornwall.gov.uk%2Fschoo-education%2Fschoo-education%2Fschoo-admissions%2F&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|70fdac0d029747fea98d08dd2d9b3970|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638716867007217141|Unknown|TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=hebANmN5ri9HDhJxp1DGq7ygTYVWx78kqBQyGZxnckg%3D&reserved=0>



Mrs Muller



## Nursery

Nursery are looking forward to an exciting term learning all about '**Animals in our World**'. This theme will give us lots of opportunity for outdoor learning. Exploring wildlife, jumping in puddles, bushes to hide in, sticks to build dens and trees to shelter under - all of which offer a rich landscape for children's imagination.

We will be celebrating **Chinese New Year on Wednesday 29th January** - Year of the Snake. We will be doing some food tasting and plenty of fun activities throughout the day.

Our continuous provision will include:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

All of these playing a crucial role in nurturing essential social skills and preparing children for a more structured educational setting.

Nursery Team





## Outdoor Learning

As we continue our **Wild tribe lessons** throughout winter, it is really important children are sent in with the correct clothing...It can get very chilly! ❄️

Below are the days allocated to each class. We will send a text if we need to change this day for any reason.

**Barn Owls - Friday**

**Kestrels - Friday**

**Starlings - Monday**

**Wagtails - Tuesday**

**Robins - Thursday**

We will also be continuing with our gardening curriculum with each class been allocated a set week this half term.

Mrs Muller



## Music Updates



We have been lucky enough to be recognised for our work relating to music and performance this year.

Our school has been awarded the **Music Mark** by our local Music hub ASONE. We have been gifted it in recognition on the value we put on music and performance in the school - all based on our teachers' hard work and our children's enthusiasm for learning. We are really pleased to have this acknowledgement.

### **Ukulele Christmas Performance**

Last term we were very fortunate to have a Christmassy performance from **The Offshoots**. It was such a fantastic performance and the children had a great time joining in with the songs for a big sing song. Thank you so much to The Offshoots for coming along.

### **Music Lessons**

Our additional music lessons continue this term. If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please see Mrs Muller in the first instance. Although these lessons are very popular, we will do our best to accommodate as many children as possible.

## Reading for Pleasure



If you're looking for a way to encourage some more reading at home, why not kick start the year with The Reading Agency's Winter Mini Challenge. A great confidence booster! The Winter Mini Challenge is a fun online challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading across January and February. It's free to take part on [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk), where children can collect rewards for logging and reviewing books. Whatever your interest, it all counts.

Unlock special badges and earn a certificate of achievement once you meet your reading goal!

Miss East

## Safeguarding - Online Safety



This is an important e-safety message for parents of children in Years 5 and 6 who may have access to TikTok or Instagram, as well as parents of secondary school students. Attached, you will find links to two websites—one for Instagram and one for TikTok—that provide detailed information about specific settings and privacy features for Teen Accounts.

About Instagram Teen Accounts | Instagram Help Center<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup><https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhelp.instagram.com%2F995996839195964&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|1c923a325da845b854f008dd298770b1|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638712383881194042|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDA>

## Teen privacy and safety settings | TikTok Help Center<sup>4</sup>

It is crucial that these settings are implemented if your child has access to these social media platforms. Some key features of Teen Accounts that distinguish them from adult accounts include:

- **Default private accounts:** Teen accounts are automatically set to private, ensuring that only approved followers can view their content.
- **Restricted messaging:** These accounts are set to receive messages only from users they follow or have previously connected with.
- **Controlled tagging and mentions:** Tags and mentions are limited to people they follow.

These are just a few of the features designed to enhance safety for younger users. We strongly encourage you to review and apply these settings to help ensure your child's safety while using social media.

Miss Redman

## Inclusion

As we begin a new term at St Merryn we look forward to working with our children and their families. If you have any queries or questions about your child's educational development or possible needs please do not hesitate to make an appointment so that we can discuss the various options and support that might be available. We are able to 'sign post' our families to a number of services including the Early Help Hub, School Nurse and Mental Health Support team.

'In house', we can offer additional emotional coaching, support with children who have experienced trauma and individualised packages through our own forest school provision.

We also have trained autism champions which can provide additional advice/support where needed.

Please contact the school office in the first instance. Alternatively, please talk to Mrs King or Mrs Golay.

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<sup>4</sup><https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsupport.tiktok.com%2Fen%2Faccount-and-privacy%2Faccount-privacy-settings%2Fprivacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|1c923a325da845b854f008dd298770b1|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638712383881217036|Unknown|TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslIYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOijXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWfPbClIsIdUjjoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=2LG1tyLidP%2Bq8%2BBgpKHeCFIIKQp0y43a9hPZ75L4HWg%3D&reserved=0>



## Mental Health Support Team

**NHS** Cornwall Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers please join us at our 1hr online Worry Workshop

Monday 13th January - 9:30am & 2pm  
Tuesday 14th January - 11am & 4pm  
Wednesday 15th January - 09:30am & 1:30pm  
Thursday 16th January - 11am & 4pm

This workshop aims to provide psychoeducation on "What is worry?" and "Why does my child worry?" Also includes practical strategies for helping children manage their worries.

To book a place please complete the online form [HERE](https://forms.office.com/e/YR5MeEwtEF) <https://forms.office.com/e/YR5MeEwtEF> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of primary aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 6 in any school in Cornwall

The poster is a colorful illustration with a blue sky, sun, clouds, and green hills. It features a cartoon fish with a rainbow on its back and a speech bubble. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.



**NHS**  
Cornwall Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Resilience Workshop

Monday 20th January - 9.30am & 4pm  
Tuesday 21st January - 11am & 2pm  
Wednesday 22nd January - 11.30am & 4pm  
Thursday 23rd January - 9.30am & 1.30pm

This workshop aims to talk about the meaning of resilience, explore building resilience and look at how and when a young person should ask for help.

To book a place please complete the online form [HERE](https://forms.office.com/e/TE2UmBZrHK)  <https://forms.office.com/e/TE2UmBZrHK> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of primary aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 6 in any school in Cornwall

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST



Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Behaviour Workshop

Monday 27th January - 9.30am & 2pm  
Tuesday 28th January - 11.30 am & 4pm  
Wednesday 29th January - 9.30am & 1.30pm  
Thursday 30th January - 11.00am & 4pm



*This workshop provides parents with practical strategies to foster positive behaviour and communication at home.*

To book a place please complete the online form [HERE](https://forms.office.com/e/1PwGDXSQ40)  
<https://forms.office.com/e/1PwGDXSQ40> or scan the QR code



**This workshop is open to parents/carers of primary aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 6 in any school in Cornwall**

**NHS** Cornwall Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Sleep Workshop

Monday 3rd February - 11am & 4pm  
Tuesday 4th February - 9.30am & 2pm  
Wednesday 5th February - 9.30am & 1.30pm  
Thursday 6th February - 11am & 1.30pm

*This workshop aims to provide psychoeducation on sleep hygiene and sleep routines. Also includes practical strategies for helping children*

To book a place please complete the online form [HERE](https://forms.office.com/e/7ac7qHLPhc)  
<https://forms.office.com/e/7ac7qHLPhc> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of primary aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 6 in any school in Cornwall

Community Events at St Merryn Church

# Coffee Morning



Every Tuesday  
10am-12 noon



Pre-loved clothes  
Books-Bric-à-brac  
Children's Toys  
Local Veg  
Prize Winning  
Baking cakes  
& savoury  
Lots of Raffle  
Prizes to be won!



St Merryn Church Hall  
FREE PARKING PL28 8ND  
**CHURCH SERVICE**  
**AT 11:15 EVERY SUNDAY**

*Join us in  
St Merryn Church Hall*

# **Barn Dance Ceilidh**

**with**

*If you are not sure  
what a ceilidh is,  
imagine a group of  
enthusiastic folk  
musicians playing  
foot tapping music  
to encourage some  
dancing (not  
compulsory).*



**7.30pm Friday 31st Jan**  
Pasty Supper Tea/Coffee avail. or BYO drink

**Tickets available from St Merryn Garage  
or call Elizabeth: 07714 075039**

*Large free car park PL28 8ND*

Tickets £10
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## Additional Information

Delivered by the Foundations for Life team



### SPACE Supporting parents and children emotionally

SPACE is a new **free** programme for **any parent or carer** who wants to better understand and support their children's emotions, as well as their own.

**This 5 week online programme will cover:**

- Understanding what is meant by a Trauma Informed approach
- Understanding toxic stress and the flight/fight response
- Practical approaches to support children to regulate their emotions
- Healthy coping strategies for dealing with stress
- Managing different emotions
- Understanding behaviour
- Building resilience in ourselves and our children
- Adopting appropriate expectations of children
- Enhancing your ability to provide nurturing care

All parents welcome of children/ young people aged 5 and under.

Where: Online Microsoft Teams

When: January 16th, January 23rd, January 30th February 6th, 13th 13:00 - 14:00

To find out more information and book a place please click or scan

[Headstart Kernow SPACE for Parents/Carers](#)



## Dates for the Diary



January

**Monday 6th - Children return to school**

Thursday 9th - Wagtails swimming begins

Monday 13th - KS2 Cross-Country

Friday 17th - FOSMS meeting (2:00pm at school)

**February**


Tuesday 11th - Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th - FOSMS meeting (2:00pm at school)

**HALF TERM - Mon 17th - Friday 21st**

**Monday 24th - Inset Day**

**Tuesday 25th - Children return to school**



**School Terms and Holidays 2024/25**  
St Merryn School

September 2024					October 2024					November 2024							
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25		
Tue	3	10	17	24		Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	3	10	17	24	31	Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	
December 2024					January 2025					February 2025							
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24		
Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	4	11	18	25		
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30
March 2025					April 2025					May 2025							
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26		
Tue	4	11	18	25		Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	6	13	20	27	
Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thu	6	13	20	27		Thu	3	10	17	24		Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25	
June 2025					July 2025					August 2025							
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25		
Tue	3	10	17	24		Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	3	10	17	24	31	Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	31

Key:		Term dates summary:	
<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	School Holiday	Autumn Term 1:	3rd September - 25th October 2024
<span style="background-color: #008000; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Bank Holiday	Autumn Term 2:	4th November - 20th December 2024
<span style="background-color: #FFFFFF; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Term Time	Spring Term 1:	6th January - 14th February 2025
<span style="background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Inset Day	Spring Term 2:	24th February - 4th April 2025
		Summer Term 1:	22nd April - 23rd July 2025
		Summer Term 2:	2nd June - 23rd July 2025
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>195</b>

Bank and Public Holidays 2024/25			
Christmas Day	25th December 2024	Easter Monday	21st April 2025
Boxing Day	26th December 2024	May Bank Holiday	5th May 2025
New Year's Day	1st January 2025	Spring Bank Holiday	26th May 2025
Good Friday	18th April 2025	Summer Bank Holiday	25th August 2025