

2nd October 2026

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I once heard a story about an Irish parish where the local priest was becoming increasingly concerned. Whenever volunteers were needed, there were never enough readers, singers, eucharistic ministers or helpers willing to step forward. The life of the parish seemed to rest on the shoulders of the same small group of people.

To make a point, the priest announced a funeral and invited the whole parish to attend. Naturally, everyone wanted to know who had died. As parishioners approached the coffin to pay their respects, they were surprised by what they saw. Inside was a mirror. Looking back at them was their own reflection.

The priest's message was simple yet powerful: the future of the church depended on its people. They were the Church. If the community was to thrive, everyone had a part to play.

The message struck a chord. In the weeks that followed, more people came forward to volunteer, new ministries were formed, and participation in parish life increased significantly. As individuals took ownership of their role within the community, the parish began to flourish once again.

There is an important lesson here for our own school community. St John Fisher is already a thriving and flourishing community, thanks to the support, generosity and goodwill of our families, staff, and volunteers. We are incredibly grateful to those who give their time through the PTFA, Babies and Tots, helping with reading, supporting educational visits, assisting with gardening projects, serving as Governors, and many other forms of volunteering.

However, like many schools, churches and community organisations, we are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit new volunteers and participants. Family life is busy, and we all have many commitments. Yet communities are strongest when many people contribute a little, rather than a few people contributing a lot.

If you are able to offer an hour occasionally, share a skill, or become involved in activities such as the PTFA, Governors, school trips, Babies and Tots, or reading with children, your contribution would be greatly valued. Every helping hand strengthens the sense of belonging and community that makes St John Fisher such a special place.

As the story reminds us, flourishing communities depend on the participation of everyone.

God bless,
Mr Gallagher
Headteacher

DATES FOR DIARY

OCTOBER

- 1st - CENSUS Day - Menu change - please see below
 - Cross Country at Victoria Park - selected Year 3,4,5 & 6 pupils
- 2nd - Adults Quiz Night - All Welcome - Tickets available on Arbor
 - Deadline to order the PTFA Class Christmas Fundraising Orders
- 6th - Year 6 at Warning Zone
- 13th & 15th Parent's Evening - Please book via Arbor
- 14th - Open Afternoon for new parents
- 17th to 25th HALF TERM
- 26th - Year 5 Bikeability
- 29th - Harvest Mass
- 30th - Girls Football at Judgemeanow Community College

NOVEMBER

- 2nd - School Photos
- 4th - Year 3 & 4 - Visiting Synagogue, Leicester
- 5th - Travelling Books week
- 6th - Open morning for new parents
- 20th - INSET DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED

DECEMBER

- 3rd Advent Mass & Confessions
- 4th - Year 6 Menphys
- 8th & 9th - Reception & KS1 Nativity Play - more information to follow
- 16th - Pantomime a.m.- whole school
- 17th - Christmas Dinner Menu
- 18th - 2 p.m. finish- LAST DAY OF TERM (END OF TERM 19th to 4th January 2027)

JANUARY

- 4th - BACK TO SCHOOL
- 19th Year 6 School Musical at St Pauls

CATHOLIC LIFE

We are delighted to invite parents and families to join us for our upcoming Celebration of the Word and school liturgies throughout the year:

Meet In My Name

📖 Branch 1 - Year 4

15 October 2026 at 9:00am

📖 Branch 2 - Year 3

10 December 2026 at 9:00am

📖 Branch 3 - Year 5

11 February 2027 at 9:00am

🌸 Mothering Sunday Liturgy - Reception
2 March 2027 at 2:30pm

✝️ Stations of the Cross - Year 6
16 March 2027 at 9:00am

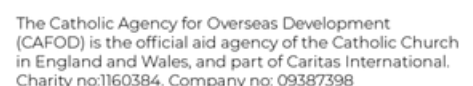
🌸 May Assembly - Year 1
18 May 2027 at 9:00am

📖 Meet In My Name - Branch 5 - Year 2
10 June 2027 at 9:00am

We look forward to welcoming parents, carers, family members and friends to celebrate these special occasions with us.



Kind regards,
Mrs Beaumont



Harvest Mass

 Harvest Mass Food Collection 

As part of our upcoming Harvest Mass, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items to support local food banks and families in need within our community. This year we are supporting St Vincent De Paul.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to put our Gospel values into action by helping those who may be facing difficult times. Any donations, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to local families.

Suggested items include:

- Tinned foods
- Pasta and rice
- Cereals
- Biscuits and snacks
- Long-life juice or squash
- Long-life milk

 **As a thank you for supporting this important cause, children will receive 1 Dojo point for each item donated.**

Please send all donations into school by Wednesday 28th October.

Thank you for your generosity and support. Together, we can help make a positive difference in the lives of others.

 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."
(Matthew 25:35) 

SCHOOL MEALS PRE-ORDER

School Meal Bookings - Important Information for Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

To help improve the efficiency of our morning routines and ensure accurate meal numbers are provided to our kitchen team, we are introducing a new process for ordering school meals.

From now on, all parents/carers must book their child's meal choices in advance through Arbor.

What you need to do:

1. Log in to Arbor.
2. Go to Meals.
3. Select your child's meal choice for the following week.

You can choose to:

- Book meals one week at a time.
- Book meals for a whole month.
- Book meals for an entire term.

Please note: We require all parents to complete this, even if their child has a packed lunch.

Each Monday, we will provide the kitchen with meal numbers and choices for the week ahead, so it is essential that bookings are made in advance.

This system is already being introduced in many schools and offers several benefits:

- Reduces valuable classroom time spent by teachers recording meal choices each morning.
- Helps the kitchen plan meals more accurately and reduce waste.
- Gives parents and children the opportunity to discuss meal options together before school.

We would appreciate your support in ensuring meal choices are booked in Arbor ahead of time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Consent

Trip and Event Consent

To help ensure that school trips and events run smoothly, **please provide consent by the deadline given.** Late responses can impact a number of important preparations, including:

- Finalising pupil attendance lists.
- Confirming staffing and supervision arrangements.
- Completing risk assessments and safeguarding checks.
- Ensuring all administrative procedures are completed on time.
- Avoiding the need for staff to make follow-up phone calls on the day of the trip or event.

Your prompt response helps us organise activities efficiently and ensures that children can participate without unnecessary delays.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

SPORT NEWS

YEAR 5 SPORTS DAY - LEICESTER TIGERS

Year 5 had a brilliant day out at the Leicester Tigers ground! The children participated in lots of activities, from mastering new skills in our sports session to uncovering the fascinating history of rugby. A real highlight was our exclusive behind-the-scenes stadium tour!

The children represented our school beautifully and came back with great excitement.



SPORT NEWS

YEAR 3 & 4 - INSPIRE SPORTS FESTIVAL



Our Year 3 and 4 pupils recently enjoyed attending a Sports Festival, where they took part in a variety of exciting multi-sport activities. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and enthusiasm throughout the event, while developing new skills and having lots of fun. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude and sportsmanship they showed whilst representing our school.



1st

CROSS COUNTRY



Cross Country Success! 🏃 🏃

Huge congratulations to everyone involved in the cross country festival! We had a record entry of 49 runners, and the effort, resilience, and endurance on show from every single child was just fantastic.

A massive thank you to our incredible team:

- * Mr Gallagher, Mrs Akoto, Mrs Ngon, and Mrs Jones for brilliant management. Mr Gallagher & Mrs Jones train the teams every Thursday and Friday.
- * Mrs Astill for seamlessly handling all the running gear changes

Major Highlights

- * Team Highlights: Year 3 Boys team and the Year 6 Girls team! Year 5 boys and girls for coping well with the extra lap!
- * Progress: many children had personal bests in positions. Lots of top tens
- * New runners: year 3s and newbies in other year groups did very well in their first race in front of big crowds Layla and Kade won their respective races in their first cross country event!
- * Clean Sweep: SJF achieved a clean sweep of first place in all of the girls' races! congratulations to Saoirse, Ivy, Ava, and Clara who all won their respective races against massive fields of 80+ runners!

Keep going with the active mile not just for competition but a great way to help out children keep fit and healthy.

Thank you to all the runners:

Year 3: Aika, Magdalena, Poppy, Rosie, Harriet, Kit, Saoirse, Henry, Connor, Cole, Patrick, Nova-Rae, Eliana-Ann & Eyi

Year 4: Marlowe, Kyron, Ifenna, Finley, Amelie, Aliona, Lulu, Ivy, Lorenzo, Ariya, Orestis & Lucia-May

Year 5: Elodie, Michael, Tofunmi, Ava, Ayaan, Sofia, Quinn, Cody, Vanessa, Ronnie, Kaito, Kade & Layla

Year 6: Matilda, Niamh, Florence, Harper, Emilio, Annie, Franky, Aisling Evelyn, Theo, Clara & Eleni



GIRLS football



Yesterday in their first evening of football this season, the girls had 5 matches. Our 1st match was against St Thomas More. As usual it was a tense match with our girls winning 1-0 thanks to a goal from Sofia. Next we played Thurnby Mead. Throughout the match our team was dominant but despite many chances and a resilient defence, only won 1-0 courtesy of a penalty from Vanessa. Our third match was against Humberstone in which the girls were again the stronger team. This they won 2-0 again due to goals from Vanessa and Sofia. Our 4th match was sadly only 6 a-side due to Whitehall not fielding a full squad. Despite going a goal ahead, thanks to Annie, having gone down to 5 players, Whitehall rallied and put pressure on our defence and scored an equaliser. The last match was against Krishna Avanti, in which the girls proved too strong and both Vanessa and Sofia scored one more each. A fantastic effort from all of the team. 4 wins and one draw leaves us in a strong position in the league.



Volunteering

Reading Volunteers Needed!

Can you spare a little time to help our children develop a love of reading?

At our school, we are passionate about helping every child become a confident and enthusiastic reader. We are looking for parents, guardians, grandparents, and other family members who may be interested in volunteering as Reading Volunteers.

By giving just a small amount of your time each week, you could make a huge difference to a child's confidence, fluency, and enjoyment of reading.

What does a Reading Volunteer do?

- ✓ Listen to children read on a one-to-one basis
- ✓ Encourage confidence and enjoyment of books
- ✓ Support children in developing their reading skills
- ✓ Help foster a lifelong love of reading

No teaching experience is required. We will provide guidance and support.

Volunteer Recruitment Process

As part of our commitment to safeguarding the children in our school, all volunteers are required to complete our HR recruitment and vetting process before they can begin volunteering.

This process includes:

- Proof of identity (ID)
- Two satisfactory references
- An enhanced DBS check
- Completion of relevant volunteer documentation

Our school office and HR team will guide you through each step of the process.

Interested?

We would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in becoming a Reading Volunteer, please contact the school office or speak to a member of staff for further information.



BABY & TOTS GROUP

💖 Volunteers Needed for Our Baby & Tots Group 💖

For many years, our Baby & Tots Group has been a wonderful way for families with young children to connect, make friends, and become part of our school community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kayleigh, who has devoted so much of her time and energy to running the group over the years. Her commitment and enthusiasm have made a huge difference to many local families, and we are incredibly grateful for everything she has done. As Kayleigh is now stepping down from her volunteer role, we are looking for someone who may be able to help run the group on Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 10:30am.

If you, a family member, friend, grandparent, or anyone you know may be interested in volunteering, we would love to hear from you. No special qualifications are required, just a friendly, welcoming nature and a willingness to help bring local families together.

Without volunteer support, we may unfortunately be unable to continue running the Baby & Tots Group, which would be a real loss for both our school and the wider community.

If you would like more information or wish to express an interest, please contact the school office.

🙏 Thank you for your support and for helping us keep this valued community group running for future families. 💙



PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2027

Applications for Primary School places in Leicestershire for September 2027 open on 1 September 2026 and close on 15 January 2027.

Important: Our School Has a Two-Step Application Process

1	Apply through the Local Authority (Leicestershire County Council Admissions Portal)
2	Complete and return the School Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

Both steps must be completed. Submitting only one part of the process is not sufficient for your application to be fully considered.

Key Dates

Applications Open	1 September 2026
Applications Close	15 January 2027
National Offer Day	16 April 2027

Who Can Apply?

Children born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023** are eligible to start primary school in Autumn 2027.

Parents Checklist

- Apply through Leicestershire County Council
- Complete the School Supplementary Information Form (SIF)
- Submit both by 15 January 2027



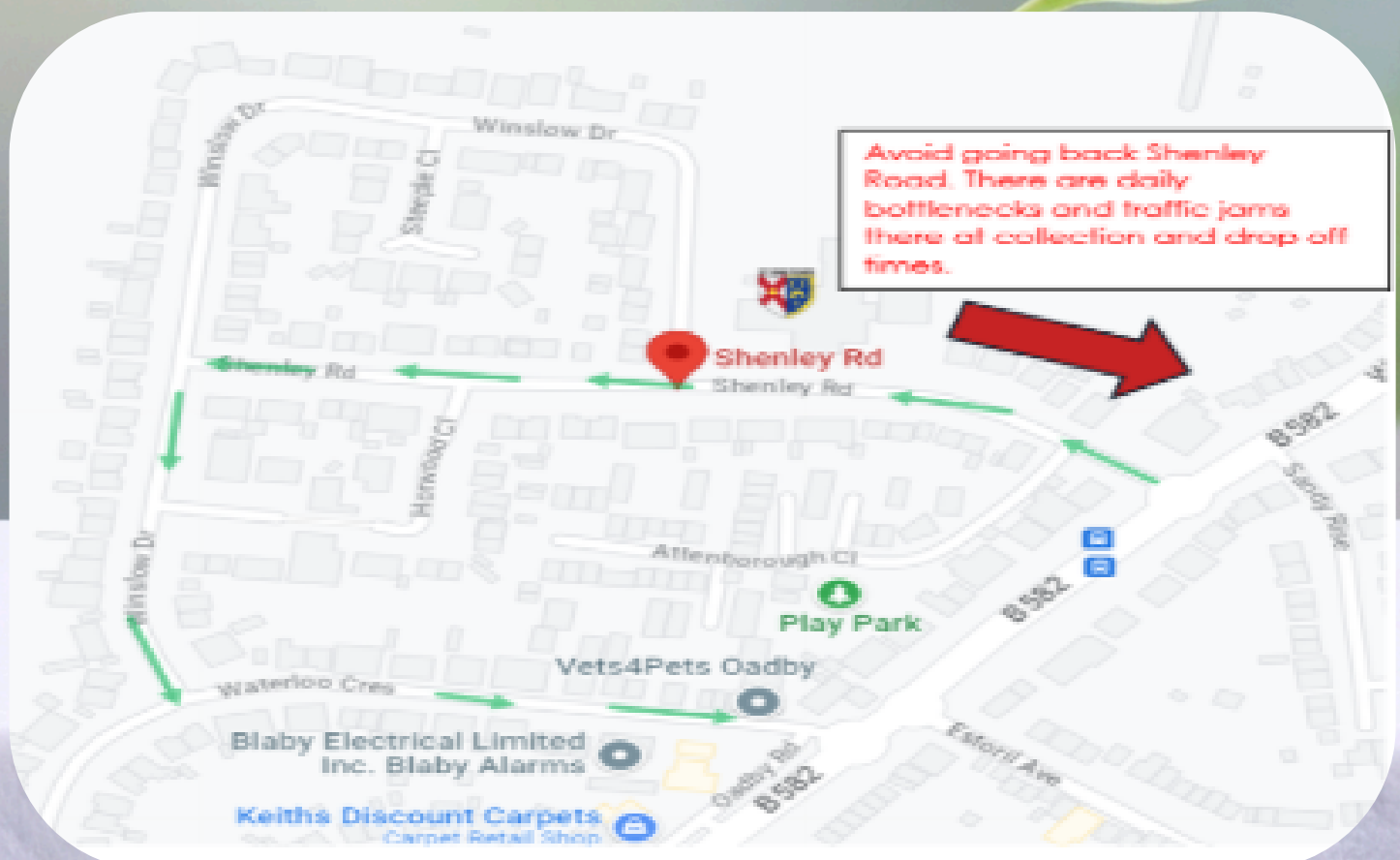
Let's Keep Our School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safe and Smooth!

Thank you to all the families who already show great care when driving and parking around school. Your efforts make a real difference to everyone's safety.

To help keep things running safely and smoothly, please remember:

- Plan ahead: Give yourself a little extra time.
- Park responsibly: Avoid corners, driveways, and anything that blocks visibility.
- Drive safely: Please avoid U-turns near school and try not to reverse onto main roads.

Your support helps create a safe, welcoming environment for all our children. Thank you for your cooperation!



Saturday 3rd October

5:30pm Confession St. John Bosco's
6pm Vigil Mass St. John Bosco's, Kathleen Kidney RIP

Sunday 4th October - 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Holy Mass St. Edward's, Robbie Herron & Hannah McCay RIP
10:30am Rosary St. Mary's
11am Holy Mass St. Mary's, Peggy Turner RIP
5:30pm Confession St. Mary's
6pm Holy Mass St. Mary's, All Parishioners

Wednesday 7th October - Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

10am Holy Mass St. Edward's, Thanksgiving for newborns

Thursday 8th October

10am Holy Mass St. Mary's, Rachel Sulch RIP
7pm Parish Evening St. Mary's, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 9th October (No Meat Today) - Feast of St. John Henry Newman

10am Holy Mass St. John Bosco's, Rev. Patrick Nicholson RIP

Saturday 10th October - Memorial of St. Paulinus of York

5:30pm Confession St. John Bosco's
6pm Vigil Mass St. John Bosco's, Pat Ballentyne RIP

Sunday 11th October - 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Holy Mass St. Edward's, Health of Edwin, Reman & Clayton
10:30am Rosary St. Mary's
11am Holy Mass St. Mary's, Patrick Hunt RIP
5:30pm Confession St. Mary's
6pm Holy Mass St. Mary's, All Parishioners

Saints This Week

Our Lady of the Rosary - This memorial reminds us of the gift of the Rosary, in which we contemplate the life of Jesus with Mary. Through the mysteries of the Rosary, we are drawn more deeply into the Gospel and learn to trust God as Our Lady did. It is a simple prayer that can be prayed anywhere,

although anyone aged under 18 on the day will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. There is a requirement to be able to participate in the Pilgrimage route, which will be about two miles. To book contact Father Simon Gillespie - simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk 6th October.

Bishop Patrick's Statement on Marriage

Marriage is a lifelong vocation of a man and a woman to a community of life and love open to children, and, between the baptized, it is a Sacrament. Aware of the many pressures today which can endanger family life, the Church is constantly concerned to make sure that those of you planning to marry are prepared as well as possible. We would like to remind those who wish to marry of the following:

1. It is important that a couple go to see their priest in good time before their wedding. Normally, at least six months' notice should be given.
2. Marriage preparation is carried out by the priest, often assisted by a group from the parish. Courses arranged on a Deanery basis are recommended.
3. Catholics are reminded of their obligation to preserve their faith and to do all they can within the unity of their partnership to have all their children baptized and brought up in the faith and practice of the Catholic Church.
4. Non-Catholic partners will be informed of this promise, but they are not asked to make this or any similar promise.
5. Dispensation for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic to take place in a non-Catholic church can only be granted for a serious reason. Couples who wish to marry in a non-Catholic church should discuss the matter with their priest in good time before their wedding day to see whether a dispensation could be granted.

All couples marrying these days need the support of the local Church. In this way they will be strengthened in their preparation for marriage, in celebrating their marriage, and in living out their covenant with one another. We wish to thank all those married people who show such constancy and fidelity to their vocation of marriage. May their example inspire those planning to marry in the Church.

Right Reverend Patrick McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham

First Confession and First Holy Communion

We want every child to come to know and love Jesus Christ, and to be ready to receive Him with faith in the Eucharist. Before First Holy Communion,

alone or with others, and is especially encouraged during the month of October.

St John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was an English priest, theologian and convert to the Catholic Church. His long search for truth led him to enter the Catholic Church in 1845, and he later became a cardinal. His life reminds us to seek the truth sincerely and to follow God faithfully wherever He leads.

St Paulinus was one of the early missionaries who helped bring the Catholic faith to northern England in the seventh century and became the first Bishop of York. Together with the other Anglo-Saxon saints honoured in our diocese, he reminds us that the faith we practise today was handed on through the courage, prayer and missionary work of generations before us. Their example encourages us to treasure the faith we have received and to pass it on faithfully to others.

St. John Fisher: Word of the Week — Rosary

The Rosary is a beautiful Catholic prayer that helps us to think about the life of Jesus with Mary. As we pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, we reflect on important moments in the Gospel, from the Annunciation and the birth of Jesus to His Cross, Resurrection and glory in Heaven.

The Rosary is not simply repeating words. It is a way of slowing down, becoming quiet, and allowing the mysteries of Christ's life to lead us into prayer. Mary always points us towards her Son, and when we pray the Rosary we ask her to pray with us and for us. October is traditionally a month especially associated with the Rosary. At home, at school and in our parish, we can make time to pray part of the Rosary, perhaps one decade at a time, and bring our families, worries and intentions to God.

This week, we can ask: Can I make a little time to pray the Rosary?
Which mystery of Jesus' life can I think about more deeply?
Who would I like to remember in my prayers this week?

The National Eucharistic Congress and Procession. Adoremus, is being celebrated in London next Saturday, 10th October. Places are still available for parishioners to participate in the Day, with coach travel (leaving Clifton at 6.45am and returning at 9.30pm) which includes a talk and exhibition, Mass in Southwark Cathedral, the Eucharistic Procession from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral, and then departure from there at about 6pm. The subsidised cost is £15 per person. There's no age restriction.

children prepare for First Confession, learning about God's mercy, forgiveness, and the joy of beginning again with Him.

Our parish uses a personal pathway rather than a fixed annual course. Families can begin at any time, with support from parents, a parish mentor, or our online app. Sunday Mass and prayer at home are at the heart of preparation. Families are also warmly invited to our Thursday evenings at St Mary's, where they can experience different parts of Catholic life together, including prayer, Scripture, devotions, catechesis and worship.

There is no pressure to keep up with anyone else. We simply want to help each child grow in faith and receive the sacraments when they are truly ready.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a beautiful step in the life of faith. Through this sacrament, a baptised Catholic is strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live the faith with greater courage, understanding and commitment.

Preparation is personal and can begin at any time. We help each young person grow through Sunday Mass, prayer, catechesis and parish life, rather than simply asking them to complete a set course. Our Thursday evenings at St Mary's are also a good way to experience the richness of Catholic life, from Adoration and the Rosary to Scripture, teaching, sacred music and discussion. Above all, we want our young people to know that the Church is their home, that their faith matters, and that we are here to walk with them as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit more deeply in Confirmation.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — Thursday Evening

This Thursday evening at St Mary's, we will spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration is a quiet time to be with Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist. There is no need to know special prayers or to stay for the whole hour. You may simply come, sit quietly, pray, read, or place before the Lord whatever is on your heart. In the middle of a busy week, this is an opportunity to stop, be still, and spend time with Christ. Whether you come regularly or have never been to Adoration before, you will be very welcome.

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. John Owens, john.owens@dioceseofnottingham.uk
SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: Hilari Chetwood: 07734 690611
SVP: 07587 355870 or email: svpwigston@hotmail.com

Term dates 2027-2028

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Holidays

Bank Holiday

Please note the training dates on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th August.
All other staff training will take place after the school day.