

all together better

WOODSIDE
ACADEMY

The Woodside Way

Volume 12 – 16th December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

As this term and year draw to a close it is good to reflect on all of our achievements as we have supported one another through an extraordinary time of change. Changes in all of our lives due to the pandemic, local changes in school with new members joining our community in September whether they be children, families, staff or governors. Through all of this and together with you, we have kept each child and young person's wellbeing, education and safety at the heart of all that we do.

I pay tribute to the staff team in particular for their good cheer, determination, dedication and focus in our pursuit of excellence for every child.

Thank you sincerely for your ongoing partnership with us and for your many cards and messages of thanks and encouragement. It is such a privilege to belong to the community which is Woodside Academy.

In this season which can feel pressurised as well as enjoyable, I would like to pass on a reminder of the importance of connecting through a research article which Mrs Wood has shared with the whole Woodside team.

'In all the time you spend with your child, which moments do you think contribute most to their well-being?

Expected answers included holidays, days out or events such as birthdays and Christmas.

The article went on to explain that research says the most important time we spend with our children might just be nine minutes a day.

So, which nine minutes?

☞ The 3 minutes after your child wakes up 🏠

☞ The 3 minutes when the two of you reunite after school 🚶

☞ The 3 minutes before they go to sleep zzz



The Woodside Way

Volume 12 – 16th December 2021

It was acknowledged that this would look different for individual families, but they highlighted that these times are check ins, small but important moments of connection. Children need regular, positive emotional experiences to feel secure and promote healthy emotional development'

At Woodside, we asked ourselves which are our most important moments with the children here in school, with parents and carers and with each other.

Wishing you many minutes and treasured moments of connection, peace and joy with your loved ones and families over the festive period and New Year.

Kathryn Freame
Head Teacher

Staff News:

We say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Siksny who having served here at Woodside for 15 years, has decided to embark on a new adventure.

Miss Langridge is returning following maternity leave in the Spring term.

Now that the school is almost full, we have been busy recruiting and welcome the following new staff to the team in January: Miss Merrett is joining the EYFS team as the Snowdrop class teacher. Ms Farina, Ms Lovell, Ms Britt & Ms Deehy are new interactive play leaders and new support staff are Ms Freeman and Ms Nye.

Santa arrives at Woodside



Frostie the magical Elf and Santa Claus visited us at Woodside today to share some Christmas joy. Santa Claus visited our EYFS and KS1/KS2 classes whilst Frostie entertained KS3/4/5 with a Christmas magic show.



14-19 Visit from Member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology

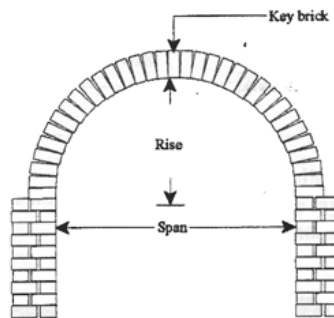


On Monday 15th November, Ian Jeeves from Aviso Young and MIET, (Member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology) came to visit the Post 16 students as the school's dedicated Enterprise Advisor.

The purpose of the presentation was to explain to the Post 16 students Ian's route in to his current job role and the path that Ian had to follow to get there. Ian explained that he chose the apprenticeship route and the students were engaged by the stories Ian told of why he chose this and how his career progressed as he learned his trade.

All of the post 16 students were engaged by the presentation and asked appropriate questions at the end of the session. Ian is hoping to visit the school again in the near future to speak to the construction class as this is the industry that Ian is now working in.

Construction Students Rise to the Challenge



BTEC Construction students, Ben and Tegan, successfully completed their assessment by completing a half brick return wall with detail.

To test their skills beyond what is required of them at this stage, they enthusiastically took on the challenge of building a rough-ringed semi-circular brickwork arch.

The supporting piers had to be built level and plumb to support the arch. Ben and Tegan set out the arch by measuring and setting up dividers to space the bricks out to radiate from a central key brick. They communicated well as a team to solve any problems and also adhered rigidly to all the stipulated health and safety requirements.

They both found the task challenging, but enjoyable at the same time. It was really pleasing to see them apply their learnt skills to producing an end product of a notable standard.

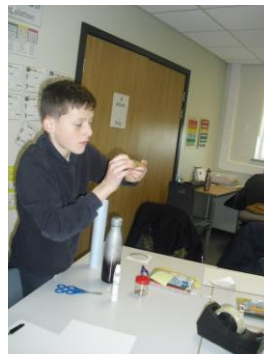
Key Stage 3

Key Stage Three have had an exceptional half term focussing on our holistic topic, Christmas, and with work also focussing on the school values of working and achieving together. This was highlighted in the wonderful end of year Christmas show, which was caught on camera. Pupils showed they could work together, achieve together and show respect for each other as an audience. They also showed off some excellent musical skills on a range of instruments. Well done Key Stage Three.

Reading has again been key within English lessons and a range of high quality texts and picture books have been used to consider key times of the year, such as Remembrance Day, Diwali or Christmas. It has been a pleasure to see the impact of reading to build understanding and meaning to important events.

In maths this half term, pupils have been learning some important life skills, such as using money, telling the time, addition and subtraction. The pupils have been solving questions using concrete resources, pictorial support or by using formal written and mental methods. Science this half term has been out of this world. The pupils have been learning about the planets, the sun, the moon and the solar system. They have also been looking at different seasons and why they occur, as well as different weather. Classes have been making rain gauges and mind socks to measure the weather.

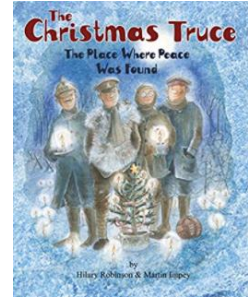
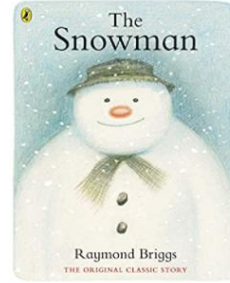
Within the holistic curriculum, pupils have been learning about friendship and positive relationships in PSHE and RSE, as well as e-safety. In computing, the pupils have been designing Christmas cards and posters to promote our Christmas show. Cycling and scootering have been the focus in outdoor PE, whilst learning new team games such as volleyball, and using the parachute, have been used indoors. Throughout the creative curriculum and RE, the pupils have been learning about the origins of the Christmas story, how Christmas is celebrated in different countries and alternative celebrations in different cultures. The pupils have loved crafting cards, decorations and gifts through art and DT, and making delicious treats like mince pies in food technology. Key Stage Three have worked hard and have really deserved their two week Christmas break.



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Key Stage 3 continued

Some of our favourite books that we have been enjoying reading in class and learning about have included:



Key Stage 2

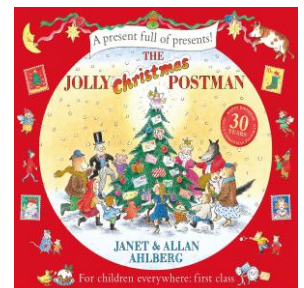
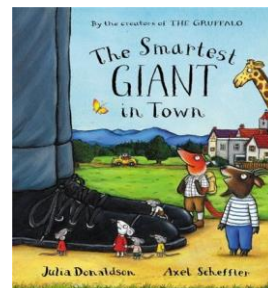
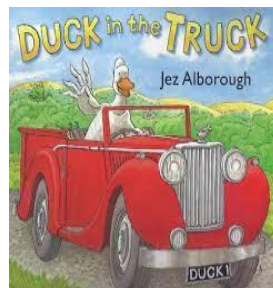
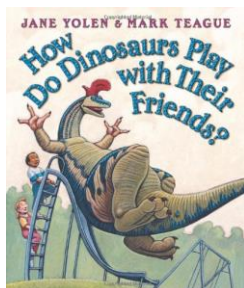
During this term, KS2 have been learning about helping others. There have been many opportunities for our pupils to explore the value 'positivity' within this topic. Some of our favourite books have been 'The Smartest giant in town' and 'How do Dinosaurs Play with their Friends.' We have used these stories to develop our vocabulary by learning new words to describe characters in the stories. We have further been exploring poetry and simple words that rhyme, some of us have been performing our own poems in class.

In science, we have been learning about the different seasons, we investigated signs for change by visiting our nature area. We have identified how the seasons change over the year and changes that have been happening recently. In art, we used natural materials from the nature area to make artwork such as printing or making pictures with leaves.

Each class has had the opportunity to visit our new KS2 library. We have also been enjoying reading books with other pupils from different phases in the school. During the last part of this term, we have been learning our class Christmas songs. Make sure you watch the video to see us singing and dancing on Google Classroom.



Some of our favourite books have been:



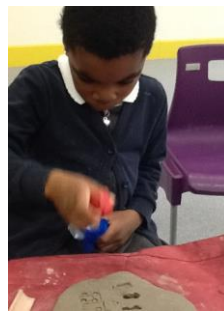
Recently we have been reading some Christmas themed books

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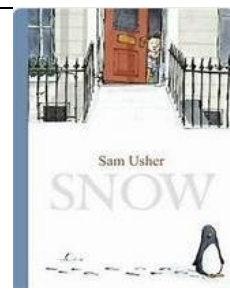
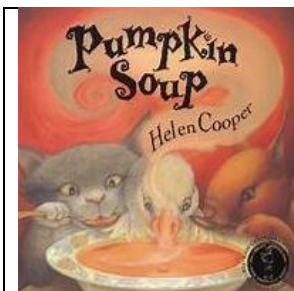
EYFS and KS1



In Buttercup class we have been exploring the seasons of Autumn and Winter. We have been learning about the changes we can see in Autumn and in Winter. We have been re-telling the stories we have been learning and making up new versions. We created a new version of 'the Gingerbread Man' called 'the Pom Bear Man!'. We have been working hard on practising our sounds; and listening to and identifying different sounds. All of EYFS and KS1 have been very excited to spend time developing our play and communication skills in our fabulous new spaces – an amazing new soft play room and a wonderful new sensory circuit space.



Some of our favourite books have been:



Reading

Everyone at Woodside is getting excited about reading.

Each child has daily reading opportunities - listening to an adult or older child read to them, reading themselves or sharing a book in a guided reading group session. Classes from different phases are getting together to enjoy books and reading activities together.

Books are being brought to life with tempting resources, props, visuals and games. In younger classes, learning activities are linked to weekly texts to make the experiences immersive. We are making up our own stories for books without words and finding our information from non-fiction books. New words are being collected and celebrated.

EYFS and KS1 have a brand new library and children are visiting every day. KS2 are converting the Jungle Room into their very own library space. We are busy upgrading our main library to make it exciting for everyone. We are all turning into bookworms!

Photos of adults and children enjoying a book are on display around the school and in the reading corners found in each classroom. You can also see who is reading what- for classes, children and adults alike. Some of them show extreme reading- where is the most unusual place you have read a book? Reading can look very different for each of us – following instructions, noticing words in the shop or from the window of a bus, making up a story to fit a picture. Please do send in photos of your child enjoying reading, letting us know if you are happy for them to be on display in school.

Class teachers are always keen to support families and carers. In the New Year, phases will be sending home further information and ideas, but do always ask if you would like specific guidance for reading with your child.



Whole school Pottery Project in with ClayDayz Pottery

All pupils and staff in the school were given the opportunity to create a clay piece under the guidance of Richard Gibson from Claydayz during November. It was lovely to see some of the pupils' responses to touching and using clay for the first time. Now all of the pieces have been created by individuals across the school, Richard has taken them away to prepare them before he returns to add to the pottery that is already at the front of the school. He has shared that the installation will be in the New Year and that he has already cut out all of the pieces in preparation for their first firing as soon as they are dry. The drying process can take two or three weeks. Following this initial firing, known as the biscuit firing, which goes to a temperature of 1000 degrees C, the work is all hand glazed with appropriate colours (twice) before it is put into its final glaze firing up to 1100 degrees C to bring out the rich glossy surface that can be seen on the work already installed. Once a scale plan has been created for each concrete tub arrangement, the installation can take place.



Year 7 Arts Train Project

Following the Year 7 Transition Summer School, the pupils in Year 7 took part in a second day with Damian and Barbara from Arts Train. During their time together the pupils learnt a song with actions, recorded lyrics and had a chance to try out some instruments. The end result of the work was played outside school when the children were collected and many commented on how lovely it was to hear the track for themselves. We are hoping to be able to make this available on the school website as soon as we can and also that we will be able to undertake some more work with Arts Train at some point this year.





Supporting children in and around school



Ms Corcoran



Miss Avery



Mr Foy



Miss Bunting



Mrs Knight



Mr Bramble

The Pastoral Support Team at Woodside work tirelessly alongside the class teams to ensure the best possible care and support for all individuals. The services offered vary immensely and include: a listening ear, in class support, leading small group interventions, working 1:1 with children, supporting with the Dog Mentor in and out of class, liaising with external agencies and providing mentor support.

As you can see, there are a variety of ways that a child can receive additional support from different adults across the school. Whenever a pupil or groups of pupils is working with the Support Team, they are always kept at the heart of the work and any targeted work will take place at a pace that they can manage. The type and length of support offered will depend on the need but could range from a regular check in for a number of weeks, to a weekly small group session for a term. Where appropriate, the Support Team will liaise with the class team and the parents/carers to let them know of progress and of any information that would need to be passed on. This aligns with our school motto, all together better.

Individuals are offered this support as a need arises, or in response to outcomes set on Personalised Learning Plans, which are reviewed regularly. In addition to this, a child may be offered support in response to concerns raised by a parent or information provided about life events that may have an effect on a child; this could be things such as, birth of a sibling, bereavement, illness or parental separation. It is always helpful if you can let your child's class teacher know if there is anything going on outside of school so that the staff are aware, should there be any change in behaviour. It also means that we can be ready to provide any necessary support should it be required.

Ms Corcoran, DHT Pastoral and DSL

Friends of Woodside – AGM

At the AGM held on Tuesday 30th November the new PTA for Woodside Academy was formed and 'Friends of Woodside' created.

Over the next few weeks, we will be officially forming this organisation, registering as a charity and taking the first steps to creating something which we hope will become an integral part of the Woodside Academy community. Our aim is not only to raise additional funds for the school, but also to give our children the opportunity to attend exciting events throughout the year and fundraise together.

In the New Year we look forward to officially introducing the committee members and answering any questions you may have, by hosting a 'meet and greet'. More information will be sent out in due course and we hope many parents and carers will want to support us.

Jessica Lilley
Chair of FOW



Local Authority Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme

This programme aims to deliver healthy food and enriching activities during the winter school holidays to children who receive benefits-related free school meals. Funded through the Department for Education it offers valuable support to families on lower incomes, giving them the opportunity to access rewarding and active activities alongside healthy meals and food education over the winter holidays. Between Monday 20th and Friday 31st December, the London Borough of Bexley is funding 9 providers to offer over 1,500 places across the borough. These schemes offer a full range of enrichment activities including sport, food making activities, dance, arts and crafts and martial arts; at least one healthy meal a day and nutritional and food education for both participants and their families.

Full details of this programme, the individual schemes and how families can book places can be found at www.bexley.gov.uk/holiday-activities-food-programme in particular the club being run by Sendtivate at Sporting Club Thamesmead, Bayliss Avenue, Thamesmead, London, SE28 8NJ which runs Monday to Thursday, 20 to 23 December, 10am to 2pm and is a range of SEND activities tailored to disabled children's needs including making fruit kebabs, stencilling, sports and games. Support will be provided on a 1:1 or 1:2 basis depending on the level of need.

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The Poppy Appeal 2021



THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

THANK YOU

WOODSIDE SCHOOL

YOUR **POPPY** SUPPORTS THE ARMED FORCES
COMMUNITY PAST AND PRESENT

Thank you for supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised:

£ 198.00

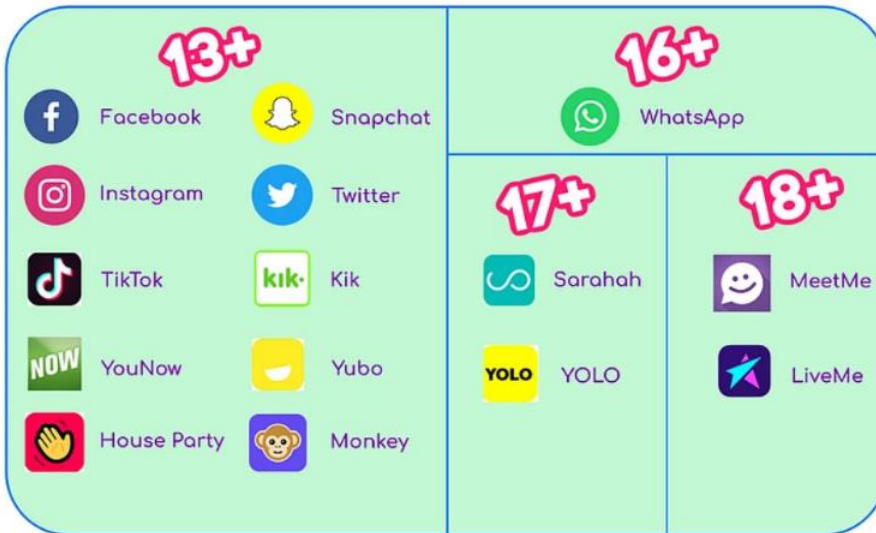
To find out more about how your donation helps,
visit rbl.org.uk

Registered charity number: 219279

13/04/21

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Online Safety tips for parents



Social media apps have age restrictions, it is a parent's responsibility to make sure they only have access to apps that are age appropriate.

Keeping your child safe online:

- It a parent's **responsibility** to keep your child safe online at home.

*As they get older 8 out of 10 teens spend most of their time online chatting to friends on social media or in games**

*Source: [In their own words: The digital lives of schoolchildren - Cybersurvey 2019](#)

- Make sure you and your child know how to **block abusive comments and report content** that worries them (see below).
- Teach them to **respect others online and think about comments before they post them** and discuss how easily comments made online can be misinterpreted.
- If your child, or someone else sends **threatening, abusive or offensive messages or images** via Whatsapp, Snapchat or any other social networking site, they could be **committing an offence**, and these need to be reported to the police either online (<https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime>) or telephone **101**.
- Don't allow them to meet people in real life that they've only talked to online and **remind them that some people may not be who they say they are**.
- Set up **strong parental controls** on your internet connection and **any devices** that your child uses. For help on how to set these up visit: www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls

Sending threatening, abusive, offensive messages or images is a criminal offence.

Met Police 2021



Online resources for parents and carers

Parental controls advice:

- A set of guides highlighting safety features on popular social media services and messaging apps. www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools
- Support and information on what to do if you think your child is at risk online. www.childnet.com/parents-help

How to report harmful, offensive and abusive messages, images or content

- Advice for adults and young people on the reporting tools for popular games, apps and social media platforms. www.childnet.com/how-to-make-a-report
- **CEOP**. A police agency tackling child sexual abuse and online grooming, including an online reporting tool and advice and activities for parents and children. To make a report: www.ceop.police.uk
- Internet Watch Foundation. The IWF work to remove online images and videos of child sexual abuse. Their online reporting tool can be used to anonymously report criminal content of this kind. www.iwf.org.uk
- Advice on how to respond to harmful content online, this tool also allows you to query inadequate reporting responses from other services. www.reportharmfulcontent.com
- Hate crime and incidents and advice on how to report it in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. www.report-it.org.uk
- How to remove a nude image shared online: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online
- Make a report to the police:
www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime or call 101



Woodside Academy Term Dates for 2021 to 2022

Term Three

EYFS/Primary return to school – Wednesday 5th January 2022 to Friday 11th February 2022
Secondary return to school – Thursday 6th January 2022

(Half term holiday – Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2022)

Term Four

Pupils return to school – Tuesday 22nd February 2022 to Friday 1st April 2022
(Easter holiday – Monday 4th April to Monday 18th April 2022)

Term Five

Pupils return to school – Tuesday 19th April 2022 to Friday 27th May 2022
(Half term holiday – Monday 30th May to Monday 6th June 2022)

Term Six

Pupils return to school – Tuesday 7th June to Thursday 21st July 2022



Woodside Academy 2021/2022

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June 22						
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July 22						
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 Holidays (School closed)

 Bank Holiday (School closed)

 Primary start of term
 Secondary start of term

 Teacher Training Day
 (School closed to pupils)

 Progress Review Day
 (Pupils+parent/cares in by appointment only)



Woodside Academy 2022/23



September 2022						
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October 2022						
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May 2023						
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June 2023						
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July 2023						
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August 2023						
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- Holidays (School closed)
- Teacher Training Day (School closed to pupils)

- Bank Holiday (School closed)
- Progress Review Day (Pupils+parent/cares in by appointment only)

- Half day at school



Keeping Children Safe

If you're worried that anyone under the age of 18 might need help, or is being neglected or hurt, you must tell someone.

Call Children's Services at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 3045 5440 and speak to a social worker. If you're worried you'll be put in a difficult position, you can speak to them anonymously. The opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

if it's out of hours, call 020 8303 7777 or 020 8303 7171

drop in and see us at Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath DA6 7AT

If you are a parent and you have concerns about your child's mental health,

Bexley CAMHS: 0203 260 5200 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

During weekends, evenings and bank holidays emergency support is available from the following services

The urgent advice/crisis line CAMHS : 0800 330 8590

Child Line: 0800 11111

Samaritans: 08457 909090

*We welcome communication from parents and carers, please see guidance sheet attached - **Communication between home and school (v2) May 2021***

Information and Helpline Numbers

[Bexley Coronavirus Helpline](#) London Borough of Bexley has setup a helpline for vulnerable residents who may need help, advice, and support linked to the coronavirus. Tel - 0203 045 5398

NSPCC Internet Safety - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

You can also visit our School website for more information - <http://www.woodside.bexley.sch.uk//>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>



Covid Testing/Guidance over Xmas break

Secondary pupils should:

- Continue to test twice weekly over the Christmas break.
- The start of term for secondary pupils has been delayed by one day until Thursday 6th January. This is to allow secondary pupils to attend on-site testing at Woodside Academy on Wednesday 5th January 2021. To support the school, please bring your child to be tested on site at Woodside on Wednesday 5th January (KS3 pupils between 9.30-11.30) (KS4/P16 pupils between 12.30-2.30).

All pupils and family members:

- Should you obtain a positive LFD result, or have Covid symptoms you should self-isolate and immediately book a PCR test for clarification of result.
- Should you be identified as a close contact of a positive case follow the latest government guidance.
- Please inform the school office in January if your child has had a confirmed case of Covid over the Christmas break.

Testing is voluntary for secondary pupils and staff. Please do follow the above guidance to ensure that we comply with the Government guidance and keep all members of our community as healthy and safe as possible. Thank you for your continued support.

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Inset Day (staff only in school)
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	EYFS/Primary pupils first day of term
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	COVID testing on site for Secondary pupils
Thursday 6 th January 2022	Secondary pupils first day of term
Monday 14 – Friday 18 th February 2022	Half Term break
Monday 21 st February 2022	Inset Day (staff only in school)
Tuesday 1 st March 2022	Class photographs
w/c Monday 28 th March 2022	Parents evenings (over 3 days)
Monday 4 th – Monday 18 th April 2022	Easter Holiday
Monday 2 nd May 2022	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Monday 30 th May 2022 – Monday 6 th June 2022	Half Term break
Thursday 21 st July 2022	Last day of term for pupils
Friday 22 nd July 2022	Inset Day (staff only in school)