

# School News

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite the wet and cold weather, the children have settled well this week, working and playing hard!

### STEM Ambassador visit

This week we welcomed Elena from Deloitte into school. Elena is a STEM ambassador for her company, with a passion for using technology to help improve sustainability. Alongside Mr Chagger, Elena helped to launch a weather project in school, where the children will be looking at weather patterns over a term and how they can use digital technology to do this. We look forward to the exciting learning ahead in this area. If you have an interest in the climate and climate change, please let us know as your knowledge would be greatly received.

### Parent/Carer curriculum guides for the Spring term

Last week you received an email containing information about your child's learning for this Spring term. The document outlines the exciting areas of learning to be studied and useful resources to support your child's learning at home. This document can also be found on our school website under the Parent tab at the top of the website:



### Parent Survey January 2026 – last chance to respond

Last week we asked for your help with a parent survey. If you missed this please see the information below and respond if you are able.

To help with our ongoing efforts to improve all areas of school life, it would be great to have some feedback from our parent community. Please could you spare a few minutes to answer the questions using the link below. This will be live for a week. The survey focuses on diversity and inclusion for all.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views with us.

Parent Survey - Spring 2026 – Fill in form

We wish you and your family a relaxing weekend ahead.

The Leadership Team

# *Important Information*

## *September 2026 Reception Intake*

The closing date for Reception 2026 applications was **15 January 2026**. However, please don't let this discourage you from applying — we still have a limited number of places available.

### **A Reminder About Parking Around School**

We kindly ask parents and carers to be mindful of how they park around the school gates and on local roads. Please help us maintain positive relationships with our local community and, most importantly, keep our pupils safe. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### **Absence**

If your child is too ill to attend school, this must be reported to us by no later than **9.00am**. Please telephone the school, press one and leave a message on the voicemail box stating your child's full name, class, the reason for absence and when we can expect them to return to school (if known).

Home Visits will be carried out for any child that is absent for 3 or more school days without reason.

If your child has an injury and has been given medical advice that we need to follow as a school, please bring them to the school office for 8.15am on their first day back at school following the injury so that we can complete a risk assessment.

Thank you for your cooperation



**CHANCE TO SHINE  
STREET**



**SOFT BALL CRICKET**

**BE ACTIVE  
MAKE FRIENDS  
DEVELOP SKILLS  
PAY NOTHING!**



**WEEKLY INDOOR SESSIONS**

**FUN, FAST AND FREE**

**NO EXPERIENCE OR EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

**WEAR WHAT YOU WANT**

**QUALIFIED COACHES**

**FUN INDOOR CRICKET ACTIVITIES AND GAMES  
5.00-6.00PM EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME  
FOR AGES 8-16  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME**

**TREETOPS SCHOOL SPORTS HALL  
TREETOPS APPROACH, GRAYS  
RM16 2WU**

**RUN BY ESSEX CRICKET IN THE COMMUNITY, FUNDED BY CHANCE TO SHINE**

**TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR CONTACT  
[IAN.GRAY@ESSEXCRICKET.ORG.UK](mailto:IAN.GRAY@ESSEXCRICKET.ORG.UK)**

# We need you...



Please label all children's school uniform. This helps us return lost property to the correct child and prevents parents from having to replace missing uniform as often. This is particularly important as the weather is colder and children are wearing jumpers/cardigans to school.



Our Year 1 classes are getting creative and are in need of junk modelling materials. If you have any of the following items at home, we'd love to have them:

- Toilet roll tubes
- Cereal boxes
- Egg boxes
- Any other clean, recyclable craft materials

Please hand them in to the Year 1 teachers or drop them off at the school office.

**Thank you for your support!**

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school each day. If you are struggling with this, please contact Mrs Jarvis or Mrs Allen.

Thank You



## Mud Kitchen Donations Needed!

We're on the lookout for any **old pots, pans, baking trays, and plastic or wooden utensils** to help stock our mud kitchen! If you have any kitchen items you no longer need, we'd love to give them a second life in our outdoor play area.



# SEND in Focus

## Speech and Language Drop-in Advice Sessions



Do you have any concerns about your child's speech? If your child is not already under the care of the Speech and Language Services, you are able to gain advice and support by self-referring through: [drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk)

Once you have made contact the service, they will send a link where you can 'choose and book' an appointment at a time and place that is convenient for you and, following the drop-in session you will be emailed with the outcome of the session and a link to the advice that has been provided.

If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Mylam

# Specialist Health Visiting Team Advice Line

**Tuesdays  
and  
Thursdays**

**Between  
09:30am  
11:30am**

**0300 300  
1816**

## Who Can Call?

Parents, Carers and Professionals for Children with additional needs that require specialist health advice and support, who are currently/previously known to the Community Paediatricians.



*For more information on the Specialist Health Visiting Team, please scan the QR code.*

**NELFT**

**NHS**



# THURROCK SEND AND AP LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP SEND INSPECTION - SURVEY

Thurrock SEND and AP Local Area Partnership have been informed that His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (HMCI) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be inspected under section 20 of the Children Act 2004 from 8 December to 12 December 2025.

The inspectors want to hear from as many children and young people with SEND, their families, and practitioners as possible.

Please find QR Code link to the survey. The survey is open now and will close at 9am on 2 December 2025.



Should anyone have any access difficulties, please print, complete and send back to [Ofstedinspection@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Ofstedinspection@thurrock.gov.uk)

# Diary Dates

w/b 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 and w/b 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026	Year 1 phonics workshops for parents. Please see email sent to year 1 parents.
w/b 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Reception phonics workshops for parents. Please see email sent to Reception parents.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	IEC church visit AM
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	ICD church visit AM
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	ISL church visit AM
W/b Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Half Term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Trust Day (No school for pupils)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Young Voices @ 02
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	Y3 Roman Villa Workshops
w/b Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Parent consultation week KS2 Mon /Tues R, 1, 2 Wed/Thurs
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Easter Holidays
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Bank Holiday
w/b Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Half Term
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026	Year 6 swimming
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Open Evening
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	INSET days

# Do you need support?

## East Tilbury Primary Schools Online Pastoral Support.

We are very excited to launch our new Pastoral service to our school community. From today you can access support by completing a simple and quick online form.

We have been working hard over the last few months to set up extra support for our families which is very much needed at this challenging time. If you require support, then please do not hesitate to reach out. We are hoping this service will be a fantastic addition to the support we can provide for our school community. Please reach out if you need anything, we are always here to offer you support.

To make the process simple we have created a QR Code (at the top of the poster) which you can just scan, and this will take you directly to the form.

## WE CAN HELP WITH

- Food
- School Uniform
- Hygiene Products
- Wellbeing

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

[www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk](http://www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)



# READERS OF THE WEEK

1CD  
&  
5LC

## Congratulations

Each week, teachers keep track of how many pupils have read at home **at least five times**. The class with the highest number of regular readers is celebrated during our **Friday Celebration Assembly**. Let's keep up the great reading habits!

# Class News

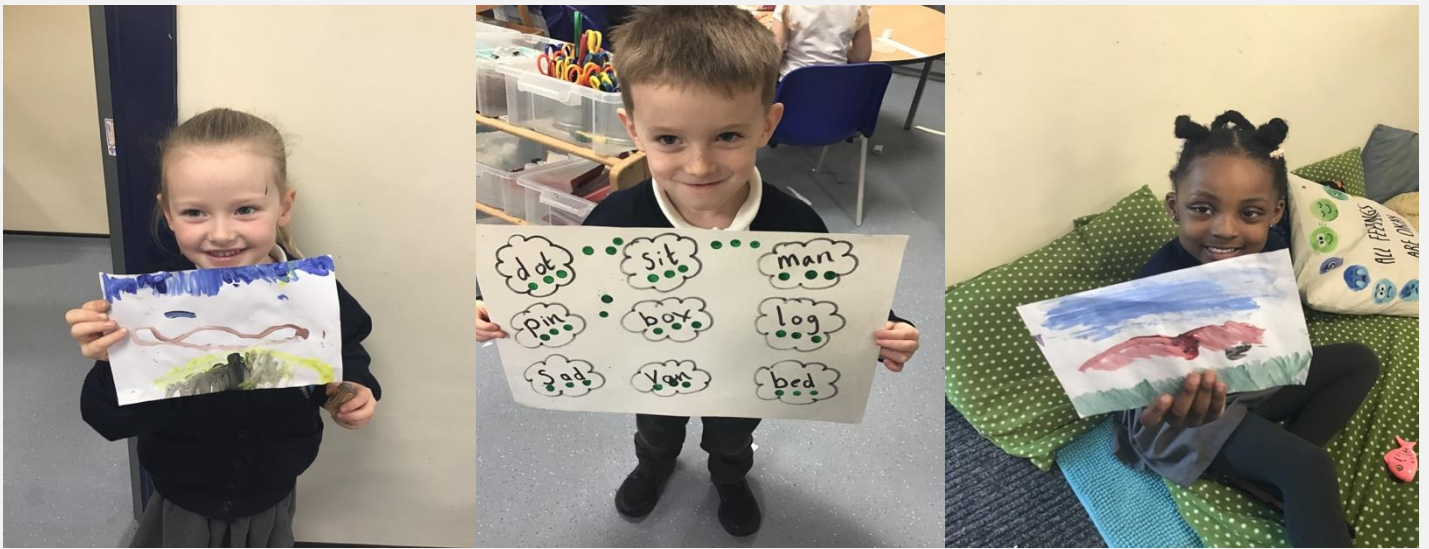
## Reception

This week in Reception we have learnt two new sounds in phonics, 'x' and 'w'. We are gaining confidence every day with our independent blending and are beginning to read longer words all on our own!

In Maths we have been looking at the numbers 7, 8 and 9 and using counters and ten frames to show our understanding as well as recognising number cards and different configurations of the same number.

Our learning this week has been all around the story 'Superworm' and we have enjoyed mixing colours to create our own gardens for Superworm!

Here is a little snapshot of what we have been up to this week!



## Year One

This week in Year 1 we have been reading the story of Rapunzel. We have enjoyed retelling the story using actions and drama.

In maths, we have begun to learn about numbers from 20 to 50, we have been counting in tens and using a place value charts to write numbers using place value.

We have started a new DT topic this week. We have started to learn about moving mechanisms, we have explored wheels and axles. WE enjoyed making wheels that could move and drawing a diagram of a car.

In computing, we have continued to use the iPads to make digital art.

This week we learned about pointillism and compared digital art to pointillism art.



# Class News

## Year Two

Following last week's newsletter publication – Friday afternoon – Year Two had an African drumming session with peers from Thameside. In the session they heard West African drums which they learned a nursey rhyme to sing a long with. Pictures and videos of this amazing experience are on our social media page.

This week, we have travelled the seven continents in class and discovered the wildlife they possess. On our travels we collated information in passports, which we then stuck in our books – pupils were thrilled with their work, so ask them all about it!

Meanwhile, in maths, we are continuing time and learning what we do at each time of the day – some have discovered that they don't wake up at 1 o'clock (or at least we hope they don't!) on a school day. As much as we have discussed this in class, we urge that you point out what time things are done at home to support their understanding.

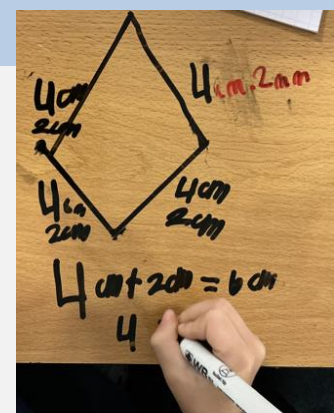
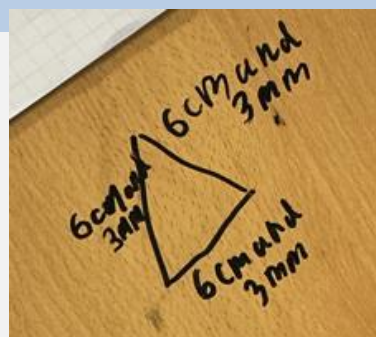
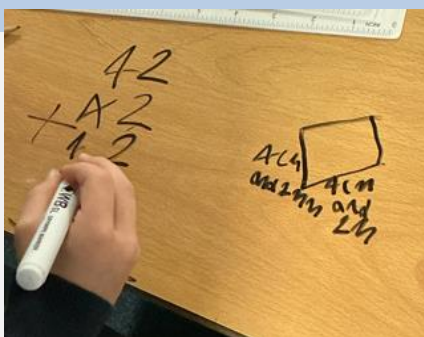


## Year Three

In Year 3 this week, we have been exploring the practical world of measurement, focusing on length, width, and perimeter.

### Learning Highlights

**Centimetres and Millimetres:** Students have been using rulers to measure small objects with precision. We have learned that there are 10 millimetres (mm) in every 1 centimetre (cm). For accuracy, we have been practicing recording measurements in combined units, such as "4 cm and 3 mm".



# Class News

## *Year Four*

We've had a wonderfully busy and productive week in class. In Maths, the children have been exploring equivalent fractions and learning how to compare fractions with both the same and different denominators. They have shown great perseverance and growing confidence as they tackled these new concepts.

In English, we have begun our sentence-stack lessons for our new unit: writing a biography about the remarkable inventor Nikola Tesla. The children are already fascinated by his life and achievements, and they are gathering ideas to use in their own writing.

Our Religious Education lessons focused on how marriages are celebrated across different religions, helping the children appreciate both similarities and differences in traditions around the world.

In PE, we started our dance unit, and the children approached it with fantastic enthusiasm.

We also spent time discussing British Values, with this week's focus on individual liberty and what it means in our everyday lives.

A highlight of the week was our first swimming lesson. The children did brilliantly and represented the school well. Please remember to send a swimming costume or shorts, a swim hat, a towel, and ensure all jewellery is removed for Tuesday.

# Class News

## Year Five

What an exciting week it has been in Year 5! We were thrilled to announce the full cast list for our Spring Production of *Rock Bottom!* The children have loved practicing the songs, and we are now moving on to learning the lines from the script, which are available on Google Classroom. There is a real buzz of enthusiasm as we begin working hard to bring this production to life and we cannot wait to see it develop! In Maths, we have continued building our understanding of fractions. This week, our focus has been on equivalent fractions, and the children have explored these through lots of practical, hands-on activities to deepen their understanding. In English, we have been writing biographies about David Attenborough. The children have been thinking carefully about how to structure their writing in chronological order and how to present facts clearly and effectively. In History, we launched our brand-new unit on the Mayans. We learned that the Mayans settled in Mexico and Central America before using our Chromebooks to research fascinating facts about Mayan cities.

## Year Six

This week in Year 6 has been both exciting and enlightening! In history, we delved into the fascinating world of ancient Greek myths and gods, exploring their incredible strengths and powers, as well as their lasting influences on our culture today. The students engaged enthusiastically, sharing their thoughts on how these stories shape our understanding of heroism and morality.

In science, we took a delicious turn by discussing nutrition and the journey of food through the human body. Our highlight was an engaging experiment with Skittles, where we observed diffusion in action as the colours spread when they absorbed water.

Finally, in computing, the class programmed micro-bits to send danger warnings linked to extreme weather conditions. This hands-on project not only developed their coding skills but also highlighted the importance of technology in keeping us safe. What a week of learning!





# Reach for the Stars



Our 'Stars of the Week' are the children that have gone over and above in their efforts. We are very proud of them for their achievements and thought they deserved an extra-special mention!

RJG	Isabel	For being a good role model during P.E
RMB	Robyn	For her great effort, perseverance and improvement in her CVC word reading.
RES	Zachariah	For his amazing effort and perseverance with his name writing
1SL	Susanna	For her brilliant retelling of the Rapunzel story.
1CD	Ava	For working so hard to improve her reading
1EC	George	For always trying his best
2BG	Alfref	For his confidence in maths with telling the time accurately.
2NB	Elena	For her amazing effort and supporting her peers in writing.
2RS	Rayan	For his amazing blending when reading.
3TG	Archie	Working hard in all lessons this week.
3CS	Sam D	For working really hard on his focus and making good choices in class this week
3MR	Arthur M	For trying his best in all lessons and giving answers during input this week.
4ML	Elijah	For his confidence when attending his first swimming lesson.
4CP	Ella R	For confidence in Maths when comparing fractions.
4BA	Harper	For consistently showing enthusiasm for learning in all subjects.
4KC	Archie C	For working hard in every lesson and increased confidence in his learning.
5SG	Reggie	For asking interesting questions that got everybody thinking in RE.
5SA	Olivia P	For trying her hardest in maths and showing self-responsibility and resilience every day.
5LC	Oakley M-S	For working really hard in maths and consistently being one of the top TTRS players
6AB	Grace	For being an outstanding role model
6NM	Lucas T	For showing focus and engagement in all lessons.
6TH	Orla	Consistently pushing herself in all areas of the curriculum

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

### ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

### CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

### REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

### EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

### PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

### MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

### PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

## Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®



Thurrock  
Teacher Training

# Get into Teaching

## St Clare's School

Lead ITT provider in partnership with Tes institute are pleased to announce that trainee places are available for the academic year 2025/2026.

*'Our trainees success rate  
Securing QTS = 100%  
Employed = 100%'*



Our partner schools for  
2025/2026 include:

## Primary

Chadwell St. Mary, Deneholm, East Tilbury, Thameside, Stifford Clays, Horndon-on-the-hill, Stanford-le-Hope, Doddinghurst, Little Thurrock, Arthur Bugler, Warren Primary, Bonnygate Primary, Woodside Academy

## Secondary

Grays Convent, Marshalls Park, Ormiston Park Academy, St. Clare's School, William Edwards The Gateway Academy, Brentwood County High, Hathaway Academy, Orsett Heath Academy

"The Tes Institute course was brilliant, and I would recommend it to others who are thinking of entering a career in teaching"  
- 2024 Trainee

For all enquiries please contact:  
[thurrockteachertraining@osborne.coop](mailto:thurrockteachertraining@osborne.coop)

# Keep in Touch



Our school office is open to receive calls between 8:30am and 3pm.

Tel: 01375 846181

Email: [office.etp@osborne.coop](mailto:office.etp@osborne.coop)

East Tilbury Primary School

Princess Margaret Road  
East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8SB



We are also regularly updating our Facebook page and Twitter feed. Log on and have a look!



Twitter:  
[@EastTPrimary](https://twitter.com/EastTPrimary)



At East Tilbury Primary School our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are:

- Mrs Dawson

Due to the size of the school, we have the following designated staff who can deputise in the Headteacher's absence:

- Mr Gowland
- Mrs Jarvis
- Mrs Mylam
- Mrs Allen
- Mrs Sheridan

Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child? You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

**Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: 01375 652802. Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) 01375 372468. · Police Child Abuse Investigation Team 01277 266822 or call 999 if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection. · Childline 0800 11 11 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) · NSPCC 0808 800 5000 [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk); [www.facebook.com/nspcc](https://www.facebook.com/nspcc)**



**Tues 14:00-16:00:** St. Mary's Church hall, St. Mary's Church, Dock Rd, Grays, RM17 6EX.

**Tues 11:00-13:00:** St. John the Baptist Church, Tilbury, Dock Road, Tilbury, RM18 7PP

**Weds 11:00-13:00:** Gateway People's Centre, High Street, Stanford Le Hope, Essex, SS17 0EY

**Weds 13:00 -14:30:** Sockets Heath Baptist Church, Premier Avenue, Grays, RM16 2SB

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** St. Francis Centre, Somerset Rd, Linford, SS17 0QA

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Fri 10:12:00:** St. Stephen's Church of England, London Rd, Purfleet, RM19 1QD


**Sat 09:30-11:30:** Emmanuel Church of England, Sleepers Farm Rd, Chadwell St. Mary, RM16 4TP

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** Christian Gates of Praise International Christian Centre, 79-83 London Rd, RM175YF


Osborne Term Dates for 2025-26 (Approved by Trust Board 24/09/24)


September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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 = School Days

 = School Holidays

 = Bank Holidays

 = Weekends

 = additional autumn half term

 = Trust training day