

# School News

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents and Carer,

As we come to the end of a busy term, as leaders, we wanted to say a massive thank you for your support and encouragement to the school. East Tilbury Primary School is a special place, in a special community and as such we want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We hope that in this season you can find time to share special moments with friends and family and that this can be the focus in an otherwise busy time of year!

We look forward to welcoming all the children back on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> January. We can't wait to see all the amazing learning and adventures that will take place at the school in 2025!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dawson, Mr Gowland, Mrs Jarvis and Mrs Mylam



# *Important Information*

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.

## **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.

# PFA Rabble Winners



£805

Raffle tickets sales Raised an amazing



## Winning tickets

S Meadows 01123

R Brane 01501

J Dugard 04016

M Burton 02163

Keely M 03410

Dean 00041

E Draney 03106

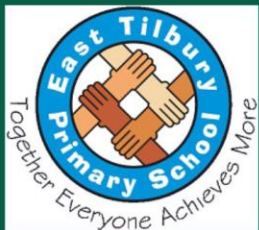
A Lobdnak 03111

M Taylor 02562

Mrs O'Neill 03111

R Lolder 02834

Thank you again for the donations an amazing 11 hampers was made.



# 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 getting colder and children are beginning to wear jumpers/cardigans to school.

We are missing a significant number of reading books. If you have any left at home (whatever condition) from last academic year, please return them.  
Thank you

Please be reminded that pupils should not be wearing jewellery to school. Children with pierced ears may wear small stud earrings but hoops are not permitted.  
Thank you for your support

Year 1 need newspaper and cereal boxes for their work on sculptures next term. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please pass them to the Year 1 teachers.  
Thank You

We are continually updating our OPAL resources and would gladly accept donations of:

- Tennis balls
- Footballs
- Bats
- Dressing up clothes
- Colouring books
- Crayons
- Big cars
- Lego



# Recommended Reads

Each week we will be recommending great books that you can share with your children.



## The Journey

**Author:** Francesca Sanna

**Publisher:** Flying Eye Books

A young family's safe world is turned upside down when war arrives, causing turmoil in their lives and forcing them to flee in search of safety. Told through the eyes of one of the children, the story follows their journey across hills and through forests, over enormous walls and stormy seas, encountering things both wondrous and scary in their search for a new home.



## The Silver Sword

**Author:** Ian Serraillier

**Publisher:** Random House

In the chaos of World War II, Ruth, Edek and Bronia are separated from their parents, and left alone to fend for themselves, hiding from the Nazis in the ruins of their city. But when they meet orphan Jan, who treasures a paperknife in the shape of a silver sword that he was given by an escaped prisoner of war, it becomes a powerful symbol of hope. The children realise that the escapee was their father, and the silver sword a message that he is alive and searching for them. Together with Jan they begin a dangerous journey across Europe to the safety of Switzerland where they hope to reunite with their parents.



# SEND in Focus

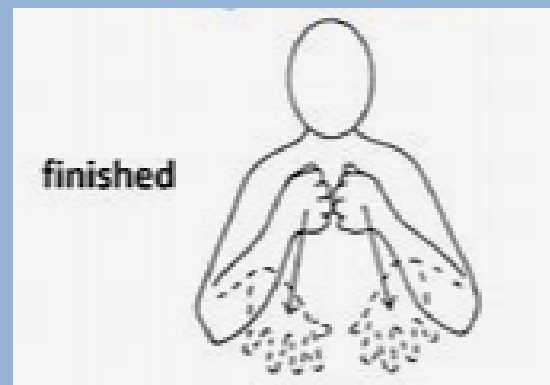


Are you aware that there is a NAS support group in Thurrock?  
If you need support for your child or family, please contact using the details in the link below.

[Thurrock](#)

## Makaton Signs of the week:

Why not speak with your child and see what signs they can remember from what they've already been taught?





# SEND in Focus

thurrock.gov.uk



Your Aspirations, Our Priority

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

## Thurrock's Local Offer

# Supporting Families

*Support, information, and advice for families of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).*

Transitions

Health & Well-being

Leisure & Activities

Social Care & Support

[www.askthurrock.org.uk](http://www.askthurrock.org.uk)



# Diary Dates

Monday 6th January 2025	Inset Day/ Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 7th January 2025	First day of Spring Term
Tuesday 7th January 2025	Year 4 swimming lessons start
Week Beginning 13th January 2025	Clubs start again
Tuesday 11th February 2025	Y6 height & weight checks
Friday 14th February 2025	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform day)
Monday 17th February 2025- Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	Pupils back to school (NO clubs this week)
Thursday 3rd April 2024	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform day)
Friday 4th April 2025	Non-Pupil Day
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 18th April 2025	Easter Holidays
Monday 21st April 2025	Pupils back to school (NO clubs this week)
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday – no school for pupils
Monday 12th May 2025- Thursday 15th May 2025	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 23rd May 2025	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform Day)
Monday 26th May 2025-Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	Pupils back to school (Clubs are ON this week)
Friday 18th July 2025	Last day of the academic year for pupils (Non-Uniform day)
Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025	INSET Days (no school for pupils)

# 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)



# Class News

## Reception

In Reception this week in literacy we have been discussing making chocolate cake, yummy!

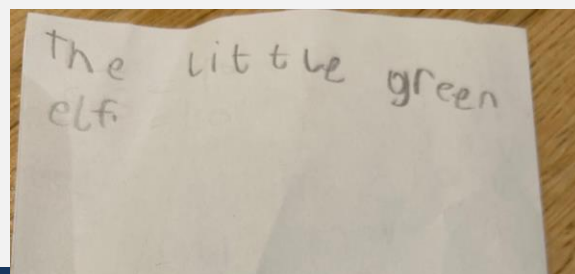
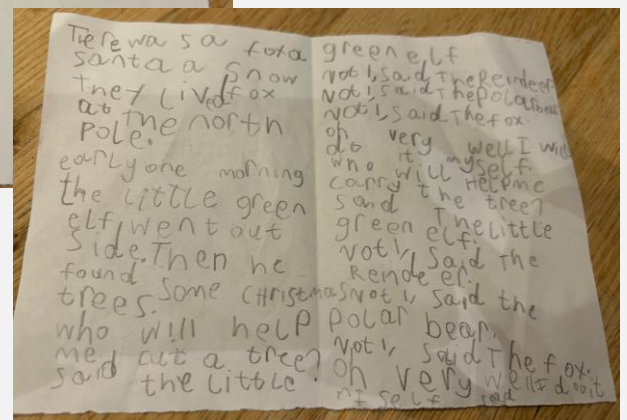
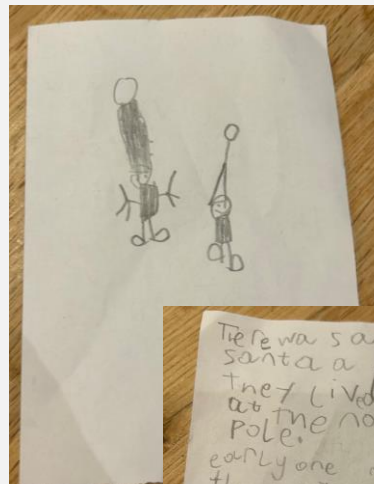
In maths we have been looking at measuring things to see which is the biggest and the smallest and if our cups were full, empty or half full.

We have also been having a lovely time in Reception doing lots of Christmas activities.



## Year One

This week the children have been busy writing their own story books. The children wrote their own version of the traditional tale 'The Little Red Hen'. Some of them even decided to try writing their own book at home too. Well done. This is a story book made at home by Bella in 1LD.



# Class News

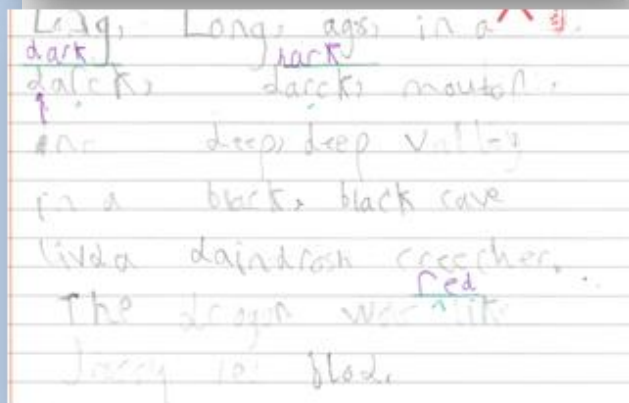
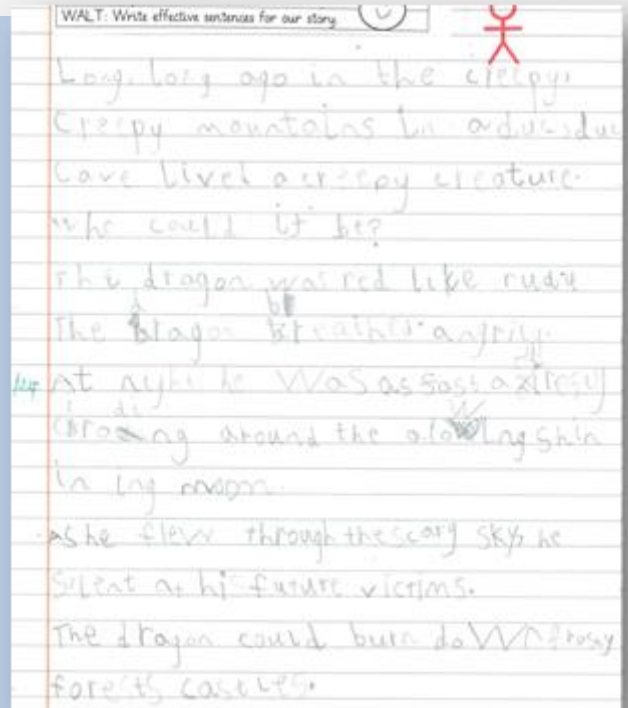
## Year Two

This week year 2 have completed their independent writing inspired by the story of George and the dragon. The children worked hard to include exciting vocabulary choices and even included similes to compare.

In maths, we have continued with our unit on multiplication and division with a focus on arrays as a method of working.

For our Foundation lessons this week, we went to the computing suite to complete a task on Google classroom. As part of our photography unit, the children merged two images together to create a hybrid image, inspired by the work of artist Stephen Mcmennamy.

In Art this week we have been creating prints of our journeys. The children worked well to press their images into their sketchbooks, using bold colours to enhance their designs.



## Year Three

We have had an exciting week this week leading up to Christmas. On Monday we had a special assembly with Rev Michelle, she came in to tell us about Christingle and the story of Christmas.

This week in PE, we have completed our final lessons in badminton and tag-rugby.

In Maths this week we have continued using column subtraction with regrouping, we have practiced using this method to help us problem solve worded questions. A few classes took chalk outside to write number facts over the playground as a starter in Maths.

We enjoyed our Christmas dinner this week, we listened to Christmas songs and enjoyed eating dinner with our teachers and friends.

For English this week, we have completed our sentence stacking lessons and independently wrote our persuasive post about a special desert of our choice.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope you all enjoy the festive season! Have a good rest and we will be ready to start term 2 with you.

See you in the new year!

# Class News

## *Year Four*

In art this term we have looked at the life and work of Henry Moore to support shading and contrast in sketches. We then moved on to create abstract collages from lots of different pictures. This week we finished off our unit by creating power prints in different ways; we scored into polystyrene tiles and rolled paint over the top, which focused on the negative space; we made 3D stamps from cardboard and we also used laminating pouches for single use, background prints.



## *Year Five*

In year five this week, we explored how religions help people during times of needs, something which is especially important at this time of year! We rounded off our work on gymnastics with vaulting, which really put our bodies to the test. We also finished and tested our motorised products with varying results, followed by our product evaluation.

It has been an incredibly successful term for the year group, and we would all like to wish you a merry (and restful) Christmas!

# Class News

## Year Six

This week we completed our creative waistcoats from last week, with one from each of our wonderful classes represented below. We also wrote our letters to Grinch to encourage him to join the Whos in their Christmas festivities. In mathematics, we looked at the order of operations, meaning our Year Sixes are ready to tackle any of those tricky problems that cause controversy on social media, for example:

$$4 + 3 \times 2 - 1 =$$

For this, we know to use BIDMAS rather than reading from left to right. This week also saw our rendition of Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree uploaded to the school's social media pages – be sure to check out our awesome dance moves!

We wish you a very, merry Christmas and can't wait to see you in 2025.





# 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!

RBG	Ruby	For using her phonic skills to write cvc words independently.
RES	Hunter	For being an amazing addition to our class and a lovely friend.
RFK	Darcy-Mae	For her effort and participation in phonics this week.
1BA	Felix	For his great effort in his writing this week.
1EC	Teddie	For always working hard in every lesson.
1LD	Dolcie-Rose	For working so hard with her phonics and being a kind friend.
2RM	Kajus	For his effort with his independent writing this week.
2CH	Isla	For having an amazing start to Year 2. Good luck in your new school!
2MF	Emily B	For always making right choices, being supportive and helpful.
2BG	Oliver	For his outstanding effort in his writing this week.
3ML	Archie	For his focus and effort in class.
3RS	Ella	For her great effort in all lessons.
3SG	Emmanuel	For his improved effort and focus in lessons this week.
3VP	Hitha	For being an amazing member of 3VP.
4CP	Beau-Lillie S	For always making positive choices.
4KC	Frankie	For his hard work in all lessons.
4MR	Jude J	For creating an excellent power print in art.
5NM	Gabriel O	For showing commitment and self-help when completing his independent write.
5SA	Evie T	For supporting the class in Computing and always modelling good expectations.
5TH	Frank	For showing self-responsibility all week.
6AB	Debra O	For being an all-round star pupil.
6LC	Jacob H	For good writing in our letter to The Grinch.
6NB	Kimberlyn	For her outstanding effort in writing her letter.



# Maths Marvels



All pupils at East Tilbury Primary have logins for Times Tables Rockstars and are able to log on at home to practice their times tables.

## 16th December - 20 December 2024



5TH

2417

5NM

2405

5SA

125

## 16th December - 20 December 2024



1LD

17

1BA

16

1FK

0

1EC

0

## 16th December - 20 December 2024



2MF

31

2CH

9

2SBG

1

## 16th December - 20 December 2024



3ML

247

3RS

182

3SG

152

3VP

20

## 16th December - 20 December 2024



4CP

109

4KC

99

4MR

28

## 16th December - 20 December 2024



6LC

2060

6NB

1388

6AB

1213

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

### 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common it is for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

### 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

### 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

### 4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

### 5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

### 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

### 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

### 8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

### 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

### 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

## Meet Our Expert

John Inasley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

# BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

*this winter*



Now that the clocks have gone back and it's getting darker earlier on, it's more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you're out and about near roads.

There are loads of ways to be seen and stay safer  
- so check over the page for some top tips!

# 5 top tips on how to **BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at [www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad](http://www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad)

**Be Bright,  
Be Seen**

**THINK**

## 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

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
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	School Holiday
	Additional autumn half term (some Thurrock schools only)
	Inset days, schools closed to students
	Trust conference, schools closed to students
	Bank Holidays