

School News

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents/Carers,

Even with the cold and wet weather, there has been an excited learning atmosphere around the school this week, as children engage with their lessons and have enjoyed their learning.

Rail Safety

As part of our PSHE curriculum, the children across the school have been learning about the importance of being safe on the railways. This is particularly significant given our proximity to East Tilbury Station. The children learnt about how they can be safe by:

Following warning signs

Not crossing barriers when they are down

Staying back from the tracks behind the safety line

Staying close to their adults

Not playing near the tracks



BETT Show 2026

Yesterday our STEM Club had the exciting opportunity to attend the 2026 BETT show in the Excel centre – London. The exhibition was all about technological innovation in education and to inspire young people in the world of Engineering, Science and Maths. We look forward to hearing from the children about their day and the exciting technology we may be able to utilise in the future. It was inspiring to see so many young people from across the country engaged in computer technology and learning about how it can benefit their lives moving forward.



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**

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

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

Diary Dates

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



READERS OF THE WEEK

2RS
&
5SG

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!

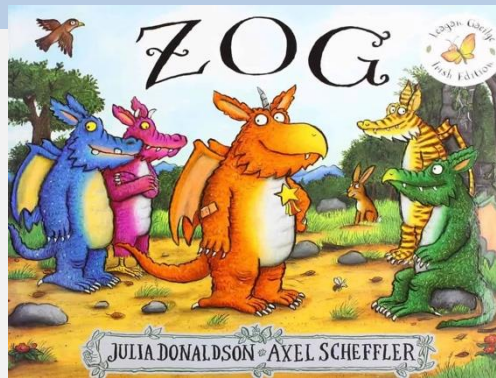
Class News

Reception

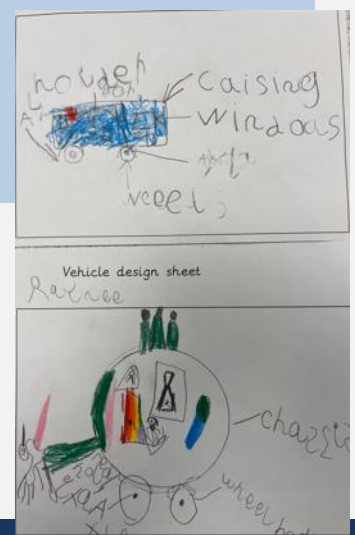
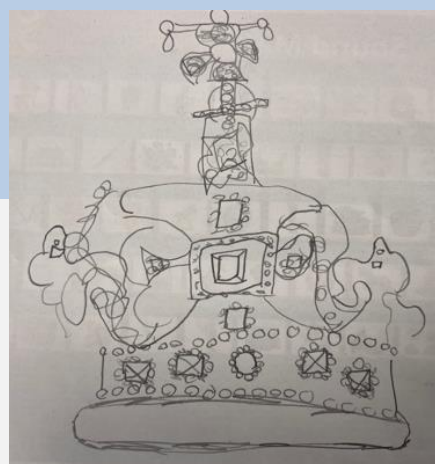
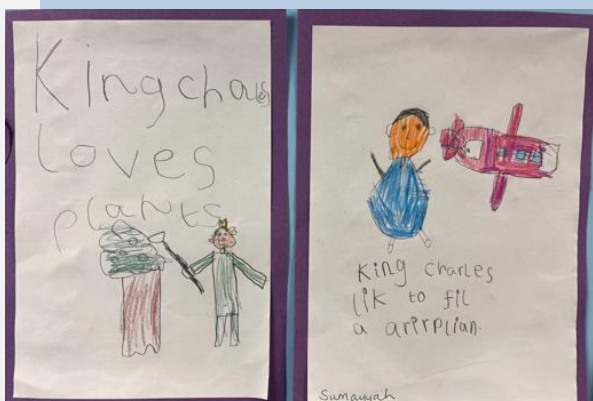
This week in Reception we have been reading the story 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson.

We have been looking at the characters in the story, talking about what they are like and comparing them to other characters. We have learnt three new phase 3 sounds in Phonics; z, zz and y and continuing to work hard on writing short phrases on our own. We have been enjoying creating tricky word watches as well as our own Zog dragons!

Here is a little bit of what we have been up to this week.



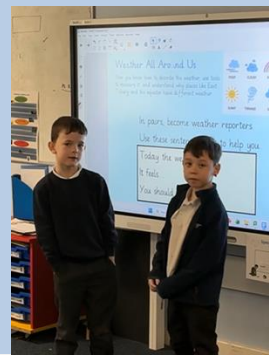
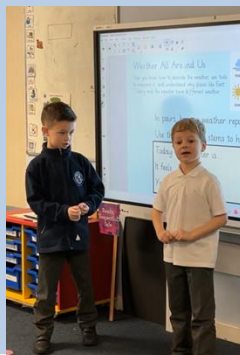
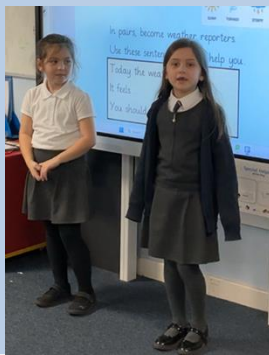
Year One This week, Year 1 have been busy learning across the curriculum! In DT, we designed and made our own carriages, thinking carefully about what they needed to look like and how they would work. In History, we learnt about King Charles III and talked about why the monarch is important and how life today compares to the past. In Science, we followed simple flow charts to help us classify animals, using their features to decide where they belong. Well done, Year 1, for your fantastic learning and teamwork!



Class News

Year Two

In Geography, we have been learning all about weather. The children put their new knowledge to great use by becoming weather reporters, describing different weather conditions and presenting forecasts with confidence and enthusiasm. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of fractions. The children have learned how to recognise and identify halves and quarters, using practical resources and real-life examples to support their learning. In Science, we explored the topic of microhabitats. We discussed where small living things can be found and why these environments are important. To bring our learning to life, we went on a minibeast hunt around the school, where the children carefully searched for and observed a variety of small creatures in their natural habitats.



Year Three

In Year 3 this week, we have been further exploring our narrative 'The Girl Who Drew In The Sand'. We have looked at understanding the structure of a story through creating story mountains and a story map. We have now started to build a vocabulary bank as a class, and the children have worked hard on using the box method to plan an alternative version of the story.

Class News

Year Four

Year 4 have had a lively and productive week packed with hands-on learning and creativity. In Maths, the children have been mastering how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa. In English, we have completed our sentence stacks for our biography unit on Nikola Tesla, ready to move into our independent writing next week. In Geography, we built different types of mountains in the sand pit, while in Science we explored how sound changes over distance by measuring how volume decreases the further we moved across the playground. In our DT project, we began designing straps and clock faces for our very own smart watches.

Reminder: Swimming lessons are on Tuesday, please make sure your child is sent in with the following as they must have them to be able to take part: Swimming costume or swimming shorts, towel and swimming cap. Please ensure your child's clothes are labelled. We have had several items of lost property that no child has been able to identify as their own and the staff do not know who every individual item of clothing belongs to.

Class News

Year Five

Science this half term is all about exploring the properties of materials. In our lesson this week, we explored our Year 5 area and part of the playground to find objects with different properties such as *brittle*, *rigid*, *translucent*, and *opaque*. We have also continued practising the songs and reading through the script for our spring production *Rock Bottom*.

Year Six

This week in Year Six, everyone has put in maximum effort during our Mock SATs, and we are incredibly proud of the effort shown by everyone. In our science lessons, we explored how blood is structured in our bodies, and we created our own blood, using different food colourings and foods to represent the different parts. In our D&T lesson, we began exploring playground structures, where we designed our own elements for our ideal playground.



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 | Bobby | For amazing independent writing during continuous provision |
| RMB | Primrose | For her hard work, perseverance and resilience with her independent writing during her morning work. |
| RES | Dorcas | For amazing independent writing. |
| 1SL | Lola | For her creativity when creating her own version of the Rapunzel story. |
| 1CD | Darcy-Mae | For working so hard to write independently |
| 1EC | Fiona | For her independence in class |
| 2BG | Jayden | For settling in well into his new class. |
| 2NB | Melua H | For her positive attitude and focus with her writing across the week. |
| 2RS | Joshua A | For working hard to work independently. |
| 3TG | Frankie- Lee M | For working hard in lessons this week. |
| 3CS | Reggie T | For having an amazing start at a new school in 3CS |
| 3MR | Mac | For communicating well in class and excellent maths work this week. |
| 4ML | James E | For his improved focus and engagement in all lessons. |
| 4CP | Eshaal M | Consistently completing her homework! |
| 4BA | Scarlett | For settling in amazingly well into her new class. |
| 4KC | Edie-May G | For trying her best in every lesson and contributing ideas. |
| 5SG | Ema V | For always challenging herself and striving to do her best. |
| 5SA | Violet R | For always trying her best and showing self-responsibility in her learning. |
| 5LC | Amerleigh-Rae G-W | For always working hard and showing self-responsibility in her learning |
| 6AB | Roxie | Showing improved commitment to her learning |
| 6NM | Gabriel O | Showing huge improvements in his reading |
| 6TH | Frankie | Showing huge improvements in her assessments this week |

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 21.01.2026



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

Keep in Touch



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

Tel: 01375 846181

Email: 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 · NSPCC 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk; 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 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 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 | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May 2026 | | | | | | | June 2026 | | | | | | | July 2026 | | | | | | | August 2026 | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | | |

 = School Days

 = School Holidays

 = Bank Holidays

 = Weekends

 = additional autumn half term

 = Trust training day