

## November 2025 Newsletter

This month's values will be based around **Joy and Community**.

Dear Parents/Carers,



We have had a fantastic start to the Autumn term, filled with a wide range of activities and events that have truly brought our school community together. The first half term has flown by, and I look forward to seeing what the second part of the Autumn term brings.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our **Harvest Festival** and class harvest events. We are so grateful for your generosity in donating to the local food bank — your kindness makes a real difference to families in need and reflects our school value of *love*.

### Highlights from the First Half Term:

- **New Reception Class** – Our youngest children have settled beautifully into school life. It has been a joy to see their confidence and independence grow each week.
- **School Council Elections** – Congratulations to our newly elected **School Councillors** from Year 1 to Year 6. They are already sharing thoughtful ideas about how we can continue to improve our school community.
- **Jeans for Genes Day** – Thank you for supporting this important charity. Together we raised awareness and funds to help children and families affected by genetic conditions.
- **Year 3 Swimming** – Our Year 3 children have started their swimming lessons and are showing great enthusiasm and determination — well done, everyone!
- **Church Schools Award Ceremony** – We were very proud to have welcomed the Bishop of Dudley into school to celebrate the close working relationship between St Catherine's and St Barnabas Church.
- **Open Evening** – We were delighted to welcome so many prospective families to our **Open Evening**. The Year 6 children who helped to tour visitors around the school were fantastic ambassadors.
- **Family Support Coffee Morning** – Thank you to everyone who joined us for this event. It was lovely to see parents and carers connecting and sharing experiences.
- **Year 5/6 Football Competition** – Our older pupils represented the school brilliantly in a local football tournament, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship.
- **Parents' Evenings** – It was wonderful to see so many of you visiting school to discuss your child's progress and achievements. Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting learning.
- **Remembrance Poppies** – Our children have been learning about remembrance and respect. We were very proud to deliver handmade poppies to **Kidderminster Police Station** as part of our community remembrance activities.

### Looking Ahead

This half term will be filled with more exciting learning and events, including **Remembrance Day**, **Anti-Bullying Week**, **Children in Need** and preparations for our **Christmas performances**. Further details will be shared soon — please keep an eye on your email, the weekly newsletter and school website for updates.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to me or a member of the leadership team on the school path at the start or end of the day. Alternatively, you can email any queries to [office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk).



Thank you once again for your continued support and for all that you do to make St Catherine's such a warm, caring, and vibrant community.

Warm regards,

Kindest regards,

Amanda Cope  
Headteacher

### Upcoming events in November 2025

**Shoe box appeal** - This year we are continuing to support the teams4u charity which organises the shipping of Christmas shoe boxes to vulnerable children in Eastern Europe. Thank you for your support with this initiative. Filled shoe boxes and donations should be brought into school by Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November.



### Remembrance Day 2025



Poppies and remembrance day merchandise will be available from **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** in your child's class. If you would like your child to purchase an item, please see the costs of the available merchandise below. Please send the appropriate money with your child next week, as we can only accept cash payments for the merchandise.

- Poppies – 50p
- Key rings & wrist bands - £1
- Snap bands - £2



**Poppy Project** – Once again to show our support for Remembrance Day **we are inviting children to make their own poppy at home.** It's time to get creative. We would love you to use a range of different materials to create your own poppy design.

Any poppies made will then be used to create a display in our library and **5 house points will be awarded for every entry!** Please send your poppies in to school by **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**



St Catherine's  
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# EVENT

2025-  
2026



## SCHEDULE

Oct

Mon. 13th

Rainbow Non-Uniform Day 

Fri. 17th

Rainbow Raffle Tickets on Sale

Nov

Thurs. 6th

Rainbow Raffle Prize Draw

Thurs. 20th

Movie Night 

Dec

Fri. 12th

Elfridges 

Thurs. 18th

Father Christmas 

Feb

Tues. 10th

Disco 

Mar

Fri. 6th

Golden Ticket WonderBars 

Fri. 13th

Easter Egg Non-uniform Day



Mon. 17th

Easter Raffle Tickets on Sale

Thurs. 26th

Easter Raffle Prize Draw

May

Thurs. 21st

Charity Colourful Run 

Jun

Fri. 12th

Chocolate Non Uniform Day 

Fri. 19th

Bottle Non Uniform Day 

Fri. 19th

Bingo Night (Fish n Chip Supper)

25th & 26th

Sports Days 

Jul

Fri. 3rd

Summer Fair

Contact: [pta@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk)

## Parents & Carers – Safeguarding Information



**Safeguarding, means keeping children and young people safe from any form of abuse or neglect.** Every child and young person has the right to be safe and we all have a duty to safeguard children.

**If you have concerns about a child and need advice please contact the Family Front Door directly on 01905 822666.**

The Family Front Door, Initial Contact and Referral Team is the central point for all referrals for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years and living in Worcestershire where there is safeguarding or child protection concerns for them. This team receives referrals from professionals, members of the community, family members, children and young people directly. **If you have a child protection concern outside of normal office hours please contact the out of hours emergency duty team (EDT) telephone 01905 768020.**

The Local Authority also provide information for members of the public about local services and support. This information can be located on Worcestershire County Council web site on the [Advice, Care, Health & Support](#) pages.

### Attendance

We are very pleased to share that our **overall school attendance is currently 96.1%** — a fantastic achievement! We are getting ever closer to our school target of **97%**, and this reflects the commitment of our families to ensuring children make the most of their learning opportunities.

Many of our pupils are maintaining **100% attendance**, and we are so proud of them. High attendance is vital for children to make consistent progress, build friendships, and feel confident and secure in their learning.

### Is My Child Too Ill for School?

We understand it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether or not to keep your child off school when they are feeling unwell.

The **NHS** provides clear guidance for parents on this question:

🔗 [Is my child too ill for school? \(NHS\)](#)

These guidelines outline when children should stay home and when it's fine for them to attend school.

**If your child is unwell and needs to stay home, please report this to the school on the first day of absence to let us know and share the reason.** We would ask that you give detailed information on the nature of the illness for our monitoring purposes.

Thank you for working with us to keep our school community healthy and our attendance rates strong!

### To report an absence:

In the event that your child is not well enough to attend school, it is essential that you inform the School Office on the first day of their absence. Please call us on **01562 823614** before 8.30am. Alternatively, you can send a message using the Arbor app. This requirement is in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all our pupils.



If we do not receive notification from you regarding your child's absence, the School Office will contact you by phone to request a reason. For safeguarding purposes, senior leaders may also conduct home visits if necessary. To help us ensure that our records are accurate and avoid unnecessary follow-ups, we would be grateful if all parents/carers could contact the school promptly on the first day of absence. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### **Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good**

ABA are official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, with the theme: Power for Good. The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



**The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as:** The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

**What bullying isn't:** 'falling out' It's common for children to have arguments and friendship fall outs (often referred to as 'relational conflict') and they will need our guidance to resolve conflict, make amends, and move on.

As adults, we all have a role to play in creating communities where children feel safe and valued: where we always choose respect, stand up to prejudice and are united against bullying.

### **What to do if your child is being bullied?**

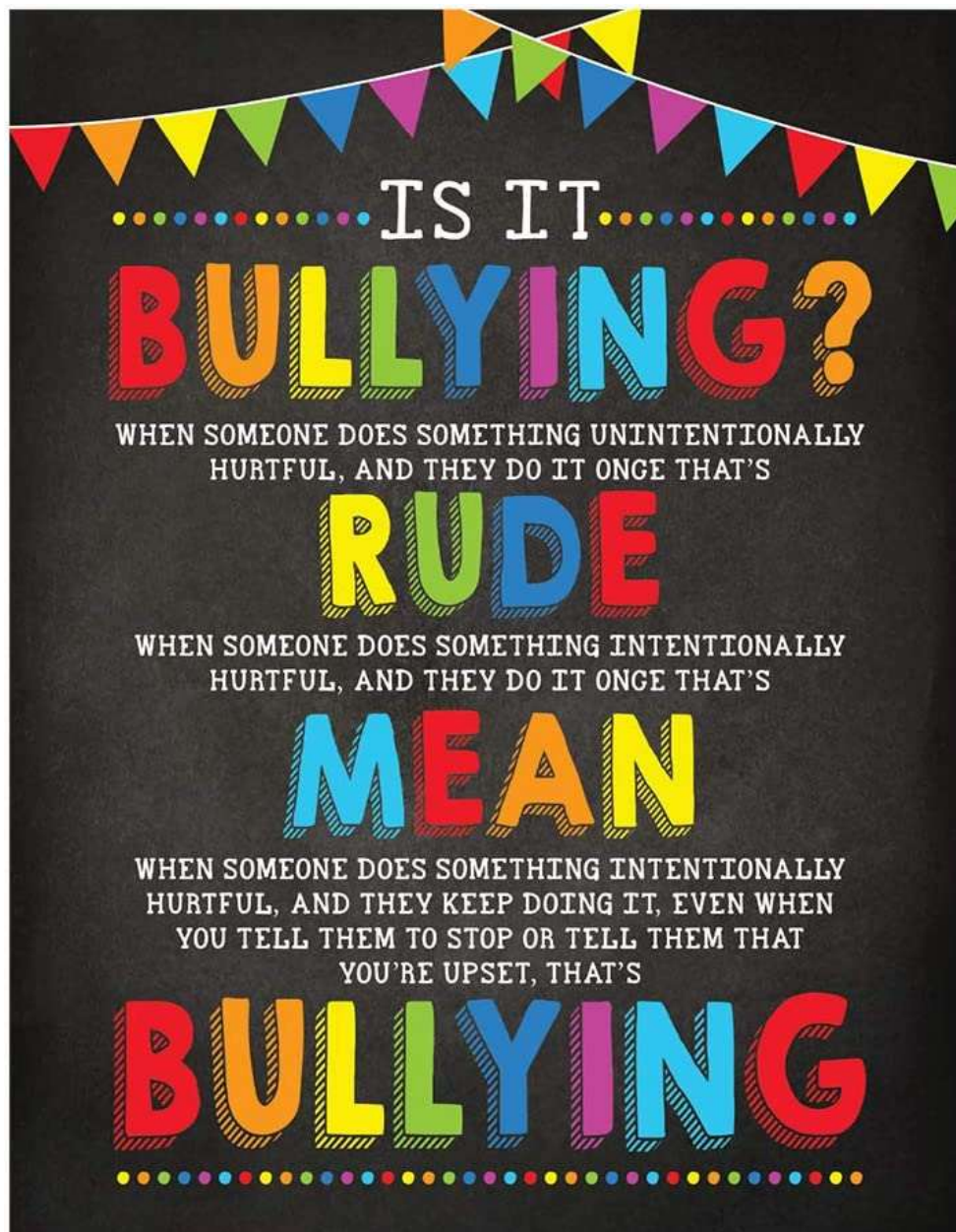
- Listen and reassure your child. Try and establish the facts. It can be helpful to take notes of what your child says, particularly names, dates, what happened and where it happened. Keep any evidence such as pictures of injuries or screenshots of online messages to share with the school.
- Assure them that the bullying is not their fault and that they have family that will support them.
- **Request a meeting to discuss the situation with your child's class teacher.**



- Remember, every child has a right to a safe environment in which to learn and play.
- Encourage your child to get involved in activities that build their confidence and esteem, and help them to form friendships both inside and outside of school.

#### **What to do if your child has been using bullying behaviour?**

- Remember we are all capable of bullying behaviour: try not to see it as a permanent reflection of their character, but make clear the behaviour you would like to change.
- Talk about the impact this has had on others and encourage empathy.
- Make sure they are not bullying others in retaliation for bullying they have suffered. Help your child to realise that no one has the right to pressure them into something they don't want to do - this includes bullying others.
- Discuss whether there is anything that has upset or hurt them that might have led to that behaviour.
- Talk about what needs to change about their behaviour, and the actions they can take to show they are sorry.



**Children in Need - BE SPOTACULAR!**



The BBC Children in Need 2025 Appeal Show will be on November 14, 2025. The fundraising campaign's theme is to "Challenge Yourself to 25," encouraging people to complete a challenge involving the number 25, such as a 25-kilometer bike ride or baking 25 cupcakes!

Get your spots out on **for Children in Need on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November.**

Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform, **wearing spots or Pudsey merchandise.** Donations for Children in Need can be made on Arbor, the item will be available closer to the event. A recommended amount of **£1.00 per child** is a suggested donation.





**Flu Vaccine** - All primary school children, will be offered the flu vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first). The flu nasal spray will be used this year, which is usually given at school. Most young children will not have encountered flu yet. This means they will not have built up any natural immunity to this virus, so it is particularly important for them to take up the flu vaccine this year. The allocated date this will be offered in school is **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025**. You will have received an email with information regarding this. Use this link to access the consent form: <https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/worcestershire>

### **Christmas Show Dates 2025**

We are really pleased to be able to share the Christmas show dates with you:

| Year Group                    | Performance date and time                                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reception - Nativity          | Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.00am – 9.45am        |
| Year 1 – Christmas show       | Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.00am – 9.45am     |
| Year 2 – Christmas concert    | Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.00am – 9.45am      |
| Year 3 – Christmas sing-along | Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.00am – 10.00am        |
| Year 4 – Christmas sing-along | Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm - 3.00pm         |
| Year 5 – Christmas show       | Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – 6pm – 7pm (Wolverley) |
| Year 6 Carol Concert          | Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 6pm – 7pm             |

**Please note that there will be x3 tickets per family available for these performances.**

The tickets will be sent home in the next few weeks.

For the Year 5 show at Wolverley there will be a charge of £3.00 per ticket. These will be available on Arbor shortly.

### **Upcoming events in December 2025**



- **Christmas services for all pupils** (in school) – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (pupils & staff only)
- **Christmas lunch** – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas jumpers/accessories optional)
- **Class visits from Father Christmas** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)
- **Class Christmas parties** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)

### **2026 National test dates:**

**Please note that pupils should not take leave of absence during test periods**

Year 6 - The key stage 2 tests are timetabled: The Year 6 Primary National Curriculum Tests (SATs) will take place from Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May,
- English reading on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May,
- Mathematics on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Year 1 - Phonics screening week in Year 1 will commence on the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Year 4 - Multiplication Tests for Year 4 will be over a 2-week period from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

### **Year 6 Llanrug Dates and Year 4 Residential Dates**

We are excited to be planning the residential trips for this academic year. The following dates have been booked:

Year 4 - Blackwell – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Year 6 – Llanrug – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**Tours for parents/carers of Reception pupils due to start school in September 2026**

It is now time to make applications for September 2026, for starting in reception at St. Catherine's. Our school tours, for the parents of new pupils who are looking to start in September 2025 are continuing. If you have a preschool child who is due to start school next year, please ask at the office for a time to visit us. Visits are not compulsory, if you already know that your younger children will be coming to join us at St. Catherine's. Please note that with a lower number of school age children in the locality we are taking children who are out of catchment. If you have neighbours or friends, who have children due to start school in September 2026, please advise them to make an appointment to visit us - thank you. [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)



**Milk**

If you would like to arrange for your child to have milk this term, please go to [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com). Pupils under the age of five are entitled to receive free milk in school; if your child is in reception and would like to continue receiving milk after his/her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday please visit the coolmilk website.





St Catherine's  
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Wellbeing & Emotional Support Teams (WEST)



Children and Adolescent  
Mental Health Services  
Herefordshire and Worcestershire

## Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs)

Sometimes we can feel worried  
or sad.



It can make it hard to sleep, eat  
or concentrate at school.



If you feel like this a lot of the  
time, then an EMHP at school  
might be able to help.



EMHPs work in your school with  
other children, teachers and  
parents and can help you to feel  
less worried or sad.



Tell your teacher or parent/  
carer if you think it could  
help you to speak to the  
EMHP at your school.



Use the QR code below for  
more information.



### **Holiday club**

RB holiday camps run a holiday club provision through all school holidays except for the Christmas break. Further information will be sent home during the school year. <https://www.rbholidaycamps.co.uk/>

### **St Catherine's Childcare**

If you require 'wrap-around' care, before and after school (from 7.30am – 6.00pm), please contact Karen Baylie in the nursery on 01562 753555.

### **Childminder information from Worcestershire County Council**

For information about other childcare providers in the area contact Worcestershire County via the website [www.earlyhelphub.co.uk](http://www.earlyhelphub.co.uk). Or by email at [earlyhelphub@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelphub@worcestershire.gov.uk). The service can also be contacted by telephone on 01905 822666.

### **School Hall lettings**

The school hall is now available for hire on Saturdays and Sundays. To enquire about booking the hall please contact Mrs Edwards, school business manager, via email: [office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk)





## St Barnabas Church, Franche - Newsletter for St Catherine's CE Primary School

Firstly, we wanted to say a big **thank you** for the beautiful **harvest decorations** that the children made for the church. They are proudly displayed for everyone to see, and we've received so many lovely compliments about how wonderful they look! The church is open every **Sunday from 9am to 11am**, so please do pop in to see them for yourselves.



Earlier this term, there was a **special presentation** attended by **Bishop Martin and Archdeacon Mark Badger** to present the **Silver Church and School Partnership Award**. This award recognises the strong and supportive relationship between the school and the church — a very proud moment for our whole community.

Our next **POP-up Church session** will take place at **St John's Church (opposite the hospital)** on **Sunday 16th November from 3–4pm**. Everyone is warmly invited to come along for worship, activities, and fellowship.

Our **coffee mornings** continue every **Wednesday from 10am to 12pm** at St Barnabas — everyone is welcome! It's a lovely opportunity to enjoy a chat, a cuppa, and some community connection.

Although we are still without a **permanent Vicar**, we are very fortunate to be supported by **Laura, Alex**, and other members of the clergy team, ensuring that the church continues to thrive and serve our community.

If you would like to attend a **Sunday service at St Barnabas**, these are held every **Sunday at 9:30am** and last for around **45 minutes to an hour** (depending on the service). Details can be found on the noticeboard by the church gates or by contacting **Revd Laura Betson (Team Vicar)** at [teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com](mailto:teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com) | ☎ 07427 766054

Please also follow us on **Facebook (St Barnabas Church)** to stay up to date with services, news, and events.

### Christmas Services at St Barnabas

While Christmas is still a little while away, here are the details of our festive services — please do pop the dates in your diary!

- **Carol Service** – *Sunday 21st December, 4pm*
- **Crib Service** – *Christmas Eve, 4pm*
- **Eucharist / Holy Communion** – *Christmas Day, 10am*

If you would like to book a **wedding or christening**, please contact **Revd Laura Betson** at the details above.

The **Church Hall** is also available for hire at a very reasonable rate of **£15 per hour**. To make a booking, please contact **Barrie Lewis** at [Barrie@lewis2k.co.uk](mailto:Barrie@lewis2k.co.uk).

### Fun Fact:

*The Bible is the best-selling book of all time — written over a span of more than 1,500 years!*



## **Bonfires and Firework Safety**

### **The Firework Code**

<https://www.hwfire.org.uk/advice/bonfires-fireworks/>

Watching fireworks is popular and fun. But fireworks are explosives and potentially dangerous, so they need careful handling and storage.

- Only buy fireworks that are CE marked.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm.

### **Bonfire Safety Tips**

We don't recommend having a bonfire in your garden. They can easily get out of hand and spread quickly to hedges, overhanging trees and garages, even to the house.

If you do decide to have one please follow our advice here:

- If you are having a bonfire discuss it with your neighbours beforehand.
- Don't build a bonfire too far in advance of the day as it can encourage anti-social behaviour.
- Build the bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees.
- Check there are no cables (for example telephone wires) above the bonfire.
- Ensure there is a suitable barrier around the bonfire to keep spectators at least five metres away.
- Always check that no children or animals are hiding in the bonfire before lighting.
- Don't burn aerosols, batteries, tyres, canisters or anything containing foam or paint – many produce toxic fumes and some containers may explode, causing injury.
- Don't use petrol, paraffin, diesel, white spirit or methylated spirit to light the bonfire.
- Keep some buckets of water nearby in case of an emergency and to damp down after the event.



## School Uniform:

Local Uniform Suppliers

We have an arrangement with the following two local services.

### 1. Empire Embroidery

Please use the link below for online uniform orders. Your orders can be collected from the address below or posted to your address.

<https://empireembroidery.co.uk/product-category/web-stores/>

The company's address is - Empire Embroidery Ltd, Unit 47, Meadow Mill Industrial Estate, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 1HH

Telephone: 01562 751270 Email: [sales@empireembroidery.co.uk](mailto:sales@empireembroidery.co.uk)

Their office hours are - Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm, closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays



### 2. TM Embroidery (Midlands) Ltd

This company are able to embroider our school logo onto plain uniform that you purchase and drop off to them & then collect.

The company's address is – 26 Coppice Trading Estate, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY11 7QY.

Telephone: 01562 861064 Email: [info@tmemboidery.co.uk](mailto:info@tmemboidery.co.uk)

Their office hours are - Monday – Thursday 8am – 5pm, closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays



Online orders can still be made through School Trends using the link below:

[https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/St\\_Catherines\\_Primary\\_School\\_DY11\\_5HP](https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/St_Catherines_Primary_School_DY11_5HP)



## Term dates 2025 – 2026

|                           | Holidays - School closes on             | School re-opens on                                  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Autumn mid term</b>    |                                         | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 – Pupils back  |
| <b>Christmas</b>          | Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Pupils back   |
| <b>Spring mid-term</b>    | Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026   | Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Pupils back |
| <b>Easter</b>             | Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026      | Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 - Pupils back    |
| <b>Summer mid-term</b>    | Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2026      | Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026 – Pupils back      |
| <b>End of summer term</b> | Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2026     |                                                     |



**Upcoming bank holidays in England and Wales 2025 - 26**

| Date        | Day of the week | Bank holiday           |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 25 December | Thursday        | Christmas Day          |
| 26 December | Friday          | Boxing Day             |
| 1 January   | Thursday        | New Year's Day         |
| 3 April     | Friday          | Good Friday            |
| 6 April     | Monday          | Easter Monday          |
| 4 May       | Monday          | Early May bank holiday |
| 25 May      | Monday          | Spring bank holiday    |
| 31 August   | Monday          | Summer bank holiday    |