



March 2026 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around Faith & humility.

Dear Parents and Carers,



The spring term continues to be a hive of activity at St Catherine's, and it has been wonderful to see our pupils engaging in rich learning opportunities that support both their academic progress and personal development.

Developing Knowledge and Understanding

We were delighted to welcome Severn Trent into school to work with our pupils on the environmental importance of keeping water clean. Year 4 took part in engaging workshops that supported their science and geography learning, helping children understand sustainability and their role as responsible global citizens. Experiences such as these strengthen curriculum knowledge through real-world application and deepen pupils' understanding beyond the classroom.

Financial education has also been a key focus this term. Our HSBC Education Partner delivered workshops across all year groups, introducing younger pupils to saving and budgeting, while Key Stage 2 pupils explored financial safety, fraud awareness and responsible decision-making. We were very proud to receive our 3rd HSBC award in recognition of our ongoing participation and commitment to preparing pupils for life beyond primary school.

Physical Development and Wellbeing

Sport continues to play an important role in promoting healthy lifestyles and positive wellbeing. Kidderminster Harriers have been working alongside Year 6 pupils as part of their PE curriculum, developing teamwork, resilience and confidence while improving physical skills. These experiences support pupils' physical development while encouraging perseverance and collaboration.



Working in Partnership with Families

We were pleased to welcome Year 4 parents into school for our multiplication meetings. These sessions supported parents in understanding the methods used in school and strengthened our shared approach to supporting pupils' learning at home. Strong partnerships between home and school remain central to securing the best outcomes for children.

Personal Development and Pupil Leadership

Pupil voice and leadership continue to grow across the school. Our Year 4 Young Leaders are planning a whole-school project in collaboration with Year 5 pupils, who are preparing to begin their Anti-Bullying Ambassador training in the summer term. These opportunities help pupils develop responsibility, empathy and leadership skills while contributing positively to our school culture.



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

Our recent “Do Something Silly for Charity” day provided a wonderful example of community spirit and social responsibility. Staff generously volunteered to take part in a range of challenges, with the highlight being Mr Crump throwing a custard pie at Mr Grazier during morning break — much to the children’s delight! Together, we raised funds for Cancer Research UK. Thank you for your generosity and support in helping pupils understand the importance of compassion and charitable giving.

Enrichment and Wider Opportunities

On Wednesday 25th February, our Reception children celebrated their **100th Day in School**. They had a fabulous day reflecting on their own personal journeys since starting at St Catherine’s and recognising how much they have grown in confidence and independence. During the afternoon, they worked alongside Year 5 pupils on a range of games and activities that the older children had thoughtfully designed for them. It was wonderful to see collaboration across year groups and to celebrate this important milestone in our youngest pupils’ learning journey.



Our school choir recently represented St Catherine’s at this year’s Young Voices event in Birmingham. The children were outstanding ambassadors for our school and performed with enthusiasm and confidence, truly singing their hearts out. Participation in large-scale musical events helps to build confidence, teamwork and cultural appreciation, enriching pupils’ experiences. We are grateful to families for their continued encouragement and support.



Community Support

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising the recent school disco, which raised just over £1,000. These funds will directly support improvements to our outdoor play spaces, enhancing pupils' play and social opportunities during the school day.



We would also like to extend huge congratulations to Mrs Standing, our wonderful office administrator, who has completed an incredible challenge by walking 100 miles during February through rain and chilly temperatures as part of the British Heart Foundation Walk for Hearts Month. Her dedication and determination are truly inspiring, and we are very proud to celebrate this achievement in support of such an important cause.

As we continue through the spring term, we remain proud of the way our pupils demonstrate our Christian vision through kindness, perseverance and respect for others. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping St Catherine's remain a nurturing and ambitious place for every child to learn and grow.

Kind regards,
Amanda Cope
Headteacher

School Organisation and Reminders

- The school gates open: **8.30am**
- Start of school: **8.40am**
- Reception, Y1 & Y2 finish: **3.10pm**
- Y3–Y6 finish: **3.15pm**
- Attendance and Punctuality: Attendance is closely monitored, and holidays in term time will not be authorised. Persistent unauthorised absence or lateness may result in a fixed penalty notice.
- Uniform, Milk, and Childcare: Details remain available via the school office and our local uniform suppliers.
- Safeguarding and Safety: Children should walk with adults, refrain from running or riding scooters, and families should observe our no-smoking, no-vaping, and no-filming policies on site.

Key Dates for the Spring & Summer Term 2026

- Family stay and play – Wednesday 4th March (3.30pm – 4.30pm)
- World Book Day 'Dress as a word' – Thursday 5th March
- Scholastic book fair – 10th March – 16th March
- Y6 Trip to Worcester Cathedral – Wednesday 11th March
- Y4 KPSA Reading competition at Cookley Primary School – Thursday 12th March
- Fireman visiting Year 2 – Thursday 12th March
- I sing pop whole school workshops for Lent – Friday 13th March
- Non-uniform day for Easter Egg donations – Friday 13th March
- Wear red for comic relief – Friday 20th March
- Rock Steady concert for parents/carers – Tuesday 24th March
- Easter services for children at St Barnabas Church – Thursday 26th March
- Residential Trips: Year 4 Blackwell (6th–8th May), Year 6 Llanrug (3rd–5th June)
- National Assessments: KS2 SATs (11th–14th May), Phonics Screening (w/b 8th June), Multiplication Tables Check (1st–12th June)

Parents' Evenings:

Teacher/s:	Dates:
Year 1 – Miss Watson Year 1 – Miss Bromell Year 2 – Miss Nicholson Year 3 – Mrs Barnes & Mr Crump Year 4 – Mrs Stevens Year 4 – Mrs Warton Year 5 – Mr Mottershaed Year 5 – Mr Tipper Year 6 – Miss Arnold Year 6 – Mr Medcalf	Monday 23 rd March (3.30pm – 6.30pm) Wednesday 25 th March (3.30pm – 6.30pm)
Reception – Mrs Brogan & Mrs Ross Year 2 – Mrs Rankin & Mrs Stephens	Wednesday 25 th March (3.30pm – 6.30pm) Thursday 26 th March (3.30pm – 6.30pm)
Reception – Miss Hill Year 3 – Miss Nolan & Mrs Jones	Monday 23 rd March (3.30pm – 6.30pm) Thursday 26 th March (3.30pm – 6.30pm)

Bookings for Parents' evening should be made through Arbor, this will go live on Wednesday 4th March at 7.00pm.

PTA Events 2026

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

Contacting Staff

- Your child's **class teacher** is always the first point of contact for both academic and pastoral matters.
 - Brief conversations can take place at the start or end of the day. For longer discussions, please book an appointment via the school office: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk
 - For unresolved or serious issues, please contact the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher.
 - We value your feedback and welcome suggestions – please share concerns early so we can work together to resolve them.
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Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

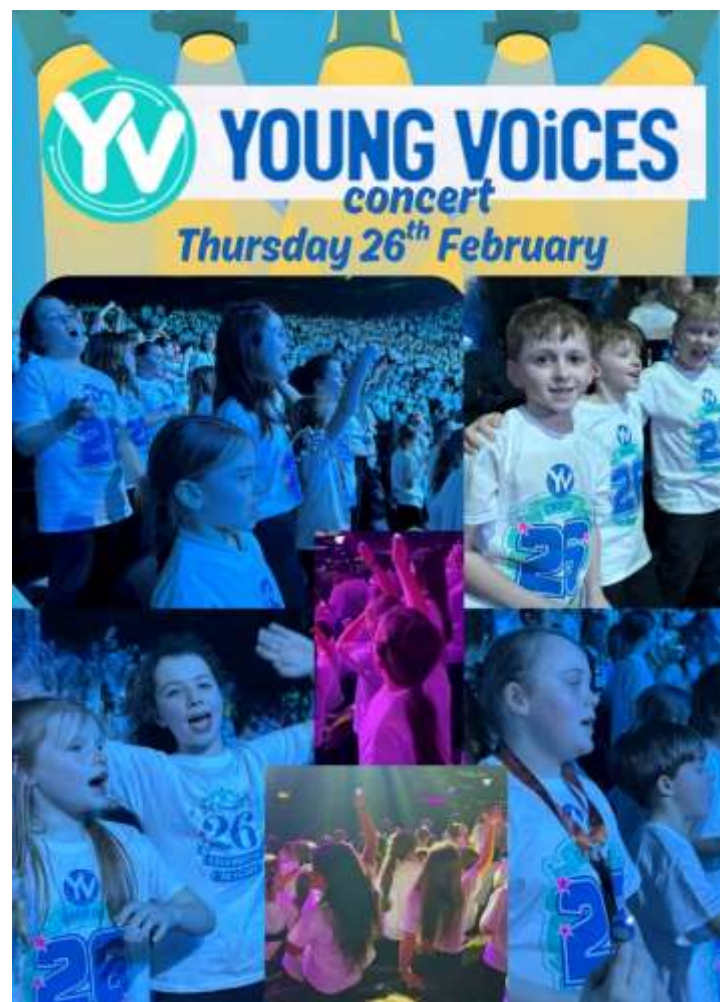
- DSL: Mrs Amanda Cope (Headteacher)
- Deputy DSLs: Mrs Brogan, Miss Nolan, Mr Medcalf, Mrs Barnes & Mrs Edwards
- If you are concerned about a child's welfare, please call the school office on: 01562 823614 to speak to a member of the safeguarding team (8am – 4pm daily in term time).

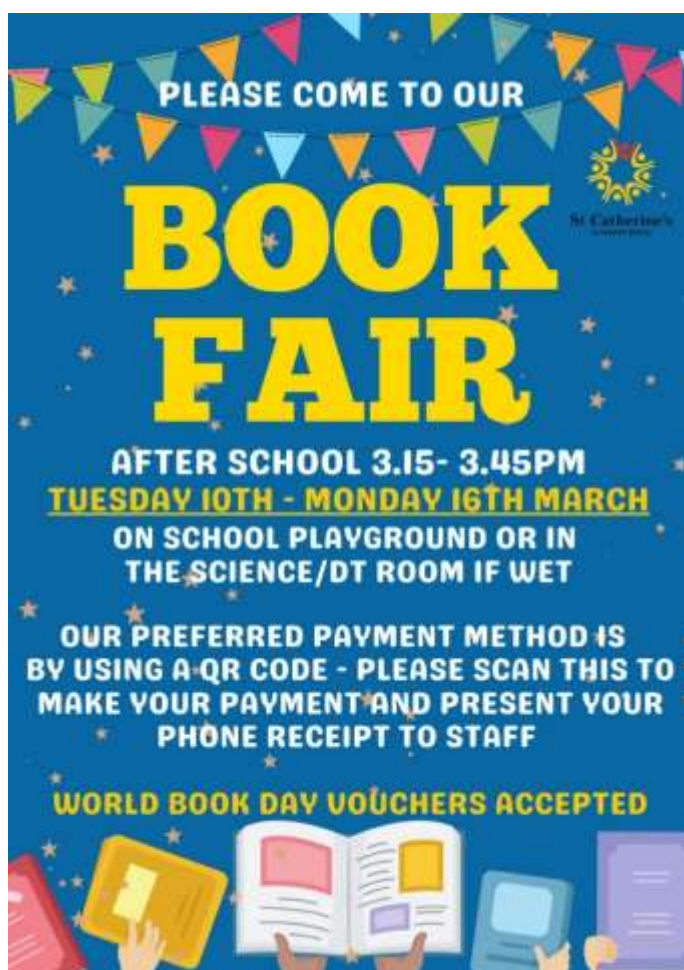
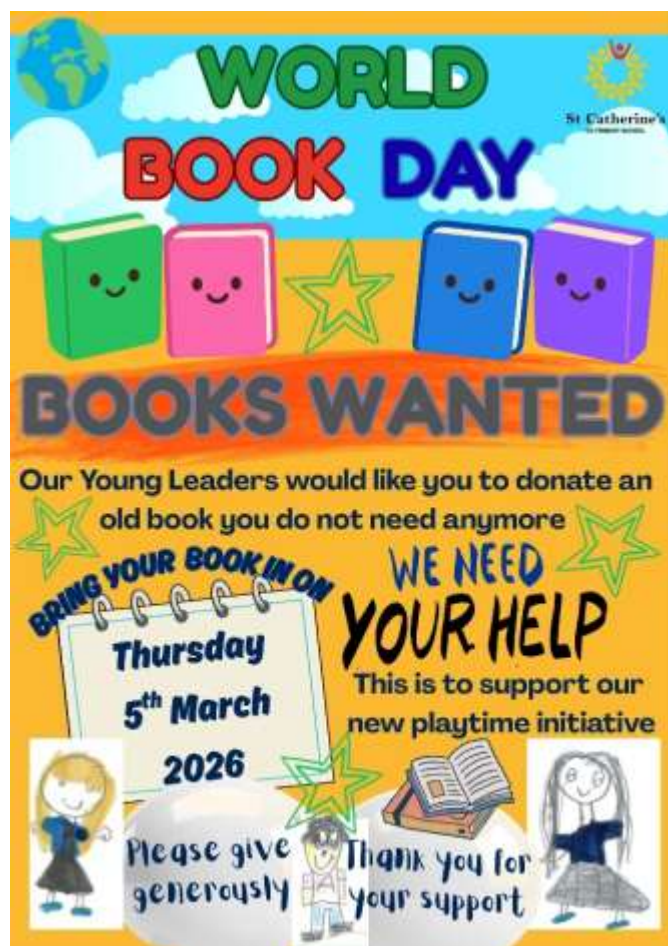
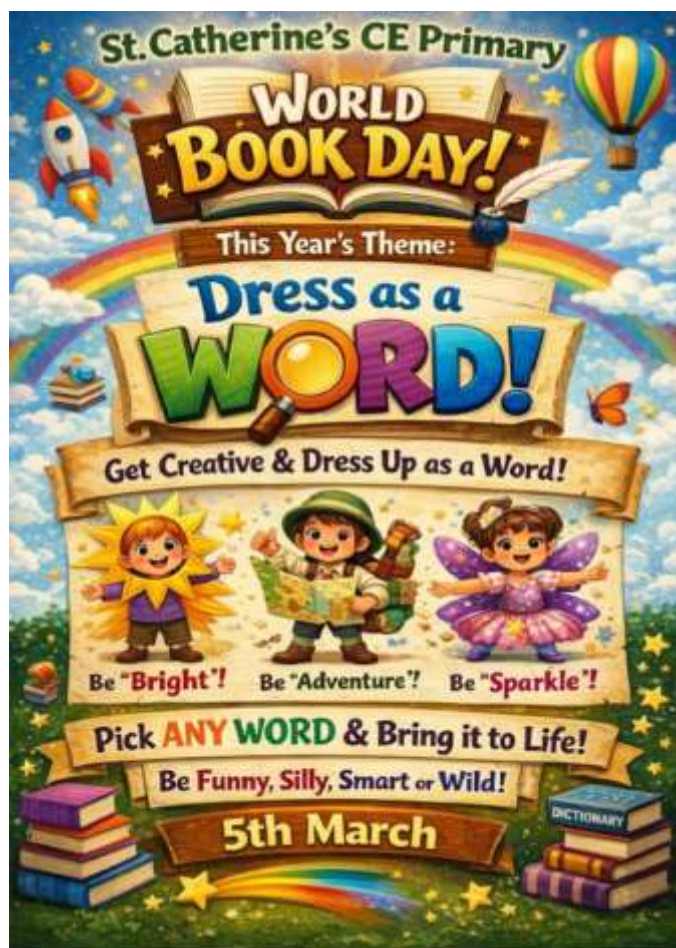
Safeguarding out of school hours:

- Worcestershire Family Front Door – **01905 822666** (Mon–Thu 9am–5pm; Fri 9am–4.30pm)
- Emergency Duty Team – **01905 768020** (24hrs 7 days a week)
- Copies of our **Safeguarding Policy** are available on the school website.

Inclusion & SEND

- Mrs Brogan is the Inclusion Leader at our school. Her role involves working with children, staff, parents, and outside agencies to support pupils.
- Mrs Barnes is our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). She works alongside external agencies, teachers and support staff to help meet the needs of pupils in school.
- To contact Mrs Brogan & Mrs Barnes email: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk or phone: 01562 823614





Easter Egg Competition 2026



Entries due on
Monday 16th of
March 2026

This year's theme is
Teamwork

EASTER



Thank you to Freddie Y4 for designing this year's poster. There will be house points awarded for all entries and an Easter Egg prize for the winner from each class.

NHS
Children and Adolescent
Mental Health Services
Herefordshire and Worcestershire

WELLBEING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEAMS

Parents online Workshop

**Building resilience
in your child.**

Run by the NHS's
Wellbeing and
Emotional
Support in schools
team. (WEST)

**On the 2nd of June,
Online, on Teams:**

**From:
1pm to 2pm**

Who is it for:

Parent who want to
learn more about

**How stress affects
children and young
people**

**How you can support
your child to build
resilience and
improve their
wellbeing.**

www.camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/west

Join on Teams
Meeting ID:
391 708 672 432 8
Passcode: T7wQ9lp7

Provided by Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Health and Care NHS Trust

A Parent's Guide to Digital Safety & Wellbeing

**The Big Question:
To Social or Not to Social?**

Delay is the New Advice

Experts now recommend delaying smartphones and social media until at least Year Nine or Ten.

Connection (High Benefit)

What it is: Direct messaging or calling with known, real-life friends.

Risks: Low.

Conclusion: Children need communication with friends, not public broadcasting accounts.

Broadcasting/Consumption (High Risk)

What it is: Public posting and scrolling algorithmic feeds.

Risks: Exposure to harmful algorithms, cyberbullying, predators, and addictive content.

Parental Controls for Personal Smartphones

For iPhone: Use Apple Screen Time

Go to Settings > Screen Time. Set a passcode that your child does not know.

Downtime:
Schedule device-free time.

App Limits:
Set daily time limits for apps.

Content & Privacy Restrictions: Block adult websites and prevent new app installations without approval.

Disable Account Changes: Prevents your child from bypassing the controls.

For Android: Use Google Family Link

Download the Google Family Link app on both your phone and your child's phone.

Daily Limits:
Set a total daily screen time allowance.

App Approvals:
Approve or deny any new app your child tries to download.

Night-time Lock:
The phone locks automatically at a set time.

Content Filtering:
Block explicit content on YouTube, Chrome, and the Play Store.

Essential Family Rules & Conversations

**Rule 1:
The Device-Free Bedroom**

All phones and iPads must charge downstairs overnight. This reduces sleep deprivation and late-night risks.

**Rule 2:
The "Digital Tattoo" Check**

Before posting, ask: "If this was on a banner outside school, would you be happy?"

**Rule 3:
Talk to an Adult If You Make a Mistake**

Reassure your child that the earlier you know about a problem, the more you can do to help.

**Rule 4:
Challenge Online "Facts"**

Teach critical thinking by asking them to verify information from social media on a reputable news site.

© NotebookLM

Holiday club

RB holiday camps run a holiday club provision through all school holidays. 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 <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/childcare/different-types-childcare/childminders>. Or by email at earlyhelphub@worcestershire.gov.uk. The service can also be contacted by telephone on 01905 822666.

No Smoking and No Vaping

We wish to remind parents that all schools are no smoking environments. Additionally, we respectfully ask you not to use vaporisers and electronic cigarettes on the school site. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

School Hall lettings

The school hall is now available for hire on Saturdays and Sundays (£50 per hour). To enquire about booking the hall please contact Mrs Edwards, school business manager, via email: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk

School uniform –2025-26

Autumn & Spring Term (October to March)

- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (with or without logo)
- Black trousers (no leggings, no lycra)
- Black **knee length** skirt or pinafore (no lycra)
- White or black socks
- Black plain tights
- Flat black school shoes or plain black ankle boots (no knee high boots or coloured boots/trainers)

Summer & Autumn Term (April to September)

- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Light blue check summer dress (with or without logo)
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (with or without logo)
- Black trousers or shorts (no leggings, no lycra)
- Black **knee length** skirt or pinafore (no lycra)
- White or black socks
- Royal blue summer cap (with or without logo) optional item
- Flat black school shoes or black closed toe low-heeled sandals (no coloured trainers or open toe sandals)

PE Kit (children to come to school in their PE kit on their PE day)

- Plain t-shirt in house colours (with or without school logo)
- Black shorts
- Black jogging bottoms (no leggings, no lycra)
- Black sweatshirt/hoodie (minimal logo showing)
- Royal blue fleece (with or without school logo) optional
- Black pumps or trainers (trainers need to be suitable for sports)
- White or black socks

Non branded uniform can be purchased from any high street store.

For non-compulsory branded uniform: 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

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



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

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



Milk

If you would like to arrange for your child to have milk this term, please go to 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 5th birthday please visit the coolmilk website.



Online Safety at home (from this month's digital download)

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

13 is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.

X (formerly Twitter) Facebook Instagram Pinterest Messenger

TikTok Discord Snapchat Twitch Yubo

Reddit YouTube BeReal WhatsApp

Apps and games often have age restrictions because they are designed with certain content, features, or levels of interaction that may not be suitable for younger children. These ratings help protect children from things they may not yet be ready to see, such as mature themes, in-app spending, or contact with people they don't know. They are an important part of keeping children safe online and give families a helpful starting point when deciding what is appropriate.

As every child grows and develops at their own pace, age ratings should be used alongside your knowledge of your own child. By staying involved, talking openly about the apps and games they want to use, and offering guidance and support, you can help them build the skills and confidence they need to enjoy the online world safely.

Requests for Leave of Absence - Parents must request permission in advance from the school for any leave of absence. Leave of absence forms can be obtained from the school office. For weddings, please include a copy of the invitation. **Where possible all requests for leave should be submitted at least four weeks before the date of the requested absence.** Holidays in term time should not be booked. The local authority will be notified, and this may result in a fixed penalty fine.

Term dates 2026

	Holidays - School closes on	School re-opens on
Easter	Friday 27 th March 2026	Monday 13 th April 2026 - Pupils back
Summer mid-term	Thursday 21 st May 2026	Monday 1 st June 2026 – Pupils back
End of summer term	Thursday 16 th July 2026	

Upcoming bank holidays in England and Wales 2026

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
3 April 2026	Friday	Good Friday
6 April 2026	Monday	Easter Monday
4 May 2026	Monday	Early May bank holiday
25 May 2026	Monday	Spring bank holiday
31 August 2026	Monday	Summer bank holiday

Term dates 2026 - 2027

	Holidays - School closes on	School re-opens on
Autumn term		- Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Pupils back Y1-Y6 (Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th Sept - Reception transition days) - Monday 7th September 2026 – Reception pupils full time
Autumn half-term	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026 – Pupils back
	Thursday 17 th December 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027 – Pupils back
Spring mid-term	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027 – Pupils back
Easter	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027 - Pupils back
Summer mid-term	Thursday 27 th May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027 – Pupils back
End of summer term	Tuesday 20 th July 2027	



WORCESTERSHIRE
FAMILY HUBS



**BEST START FAMILY HUB KIDDERMINSTER
AT BIRCHEN COPPICE**

You are invited to our
Family Hub Launch
and Healthy Homes Event
on

Wednesday 1st April 2026

1.00 - 3.00 pm

at Birchen Coppice Primary School

Fun Activities

Refreshments

Easter Suprise



Best Start Family Hub, Birchen Coppice Primary Academy, Woodbury Rd,
Kidderminster, DY11 7JJ

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhubs

BARNARD'S

 **worcestershire**
county council

Try Alpha

Curious about faith?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you'll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith - then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

Stay Curious Try Alpha

When & Where

Every Wednesday Evening - 7p.m to 9:30 p.m
for 11 weeks from 15th April 2026
at Kidderminster Baptist Church
(Evening meal provided)

Please do get in touch with questions or if you would like to come along.

Address - Franche Road, Kidderminster, DY11 5QB

Web - www.kidderminsterbaptist.com/alpha

Email - Alpha@kidderminsterbaptist.com

Phone - 01562 824657



Reg Charity No: 1196300

Easter Hunt Trail 2026

Saturday Morning 4th April

Eggciting
Rewards

ST GEORGE'S PARK

Face
Painting

Crazy
Golf

10.30 am - 12 Noon

For Children 11 Years & Under
MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Balloon
Modelling

Free Event
No Booking Required

+++
In the case of bad weather the Trail will move to
St George's Church
on Radford Ave, Kidderminster, DY10 2ES

Organised by

Churches Together
in Kidderminster

www.ctik.info



NO PARKING ONSITE
Please walk if possible
PARK IN TOWN
Limited spaces at
St Georges Social Club

Supported by:-

Friends of
St George's Park
St George's Social Club
Kidderminster
Town Council