

20th December 2023

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

I feel so incredibly proud of the children of Gordonbrock—and more so than ever! Their performances over the last three weeks have filled us with the all the joys of Christmas. I've been blown away by their singing, actions and narration, and, of course, their team work to put together and pull off hugely impressive performances. What a fantastic end to the term!

A big thank you to you, our parent community, for all your support over the term. It was lovely to see so many of you in attendance at our performances.

FOG, we can't thank you enough for your on-going commitment to raising funds to enrich the children's education at Gordonbrock. We've had some brilliant events, including the Autumn Disco, Winter Art Project and Winter Fair, and they've been so well attended. The Winter Project and Winter Fair helped to raise an outstanding £5500! I am lost for words at our community's generosity. Thank you all.

We can't wait to be back in January for the start of a new term, but in the meantime, wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 8th January.

Mrs Wright



Christmas in Lewisham
Useful Services
Free Meals
Free Food

CLICK HERE

BBC
500 WORDS
2023

We were delighted to learn that **Alannah** in Year 4 is through to the next round of BBC's 500 Words competition. We wish her luck in the next round! Read Alannah's entry on page 12 of the Weekly.

Congratulations A BIG well done to all the raffle winners! Winners have now notified by the school office .

Nursery

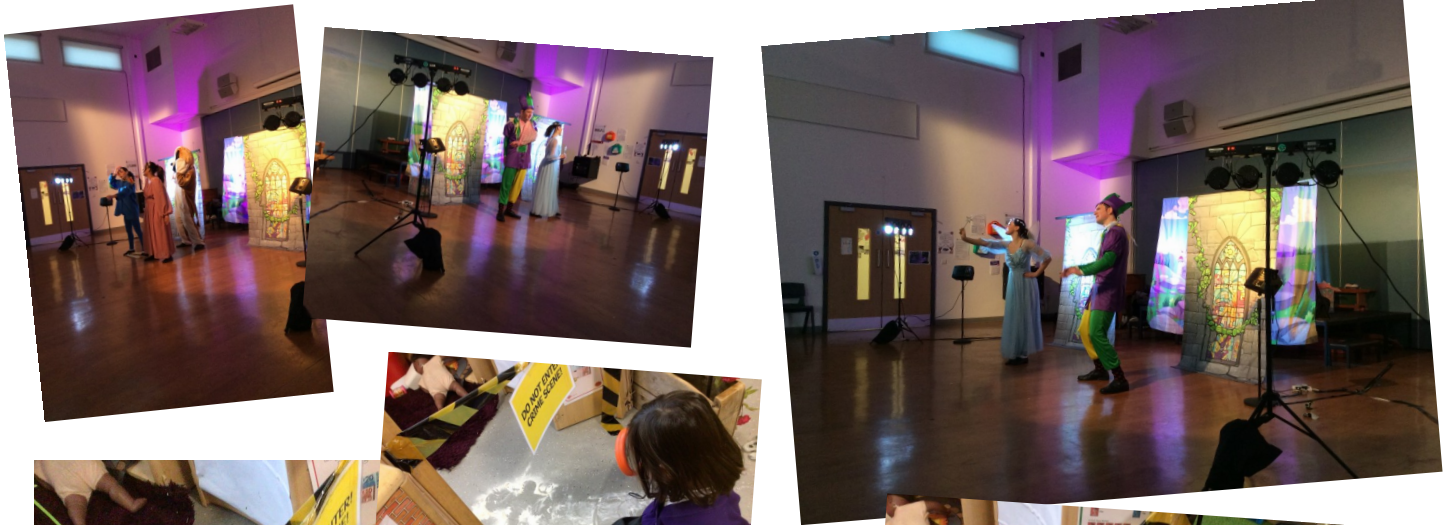
It's been a busy couple of weeks in Nursery, with a whole range of winter-themed activities—including making stickmen figures using sticks that we collected and salt-dough Christmas tree decorations at the parent/carer craft workshop. It was so lovely to have you in to support with your child's learning. We have also made marks in cornflour using sticks, helped decorate the Christmas tree and crafted Christmas cards using past which we stuck onto Christmas tree shapes. "SnoPlay" (pretend snow) has proved very popular and the children have explored different textures and watched what happened when we added water to the crystals.



Reception

Reception have had so much fun and excitement in the last couple of weeks of this half-term! We had a visit from a panto and watched *The Sleeping Beauty*. We had cheeky Gingerbread Men running through our school and leaving a mess in our classrooms - we turned into detectives and looked for evidence they had left behind. We wrote the evidence down and even created Wanted posters to put around the school, so everyone can help us look for them!

We have also started doing lots of Christmassy stuff- we had our Christmas jumper day, our Christmas dinner, Christmas disco with lots of dancing! We also created our Christmas stockings and cut out and glued the presents we would like to receive. Ho, ho, ho, it's Christmas!



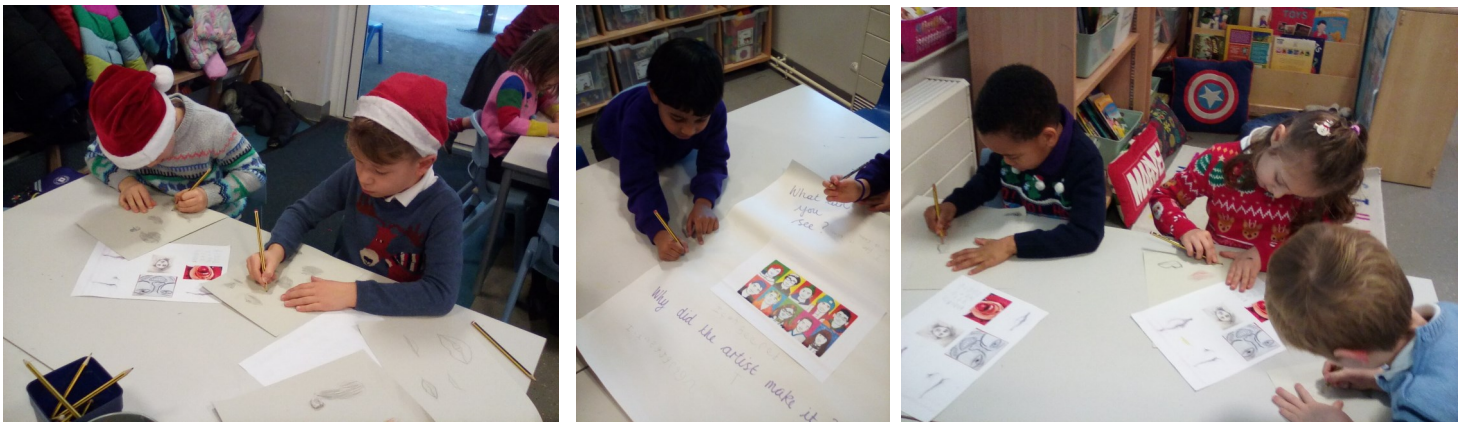
Cross hatching

Line variations

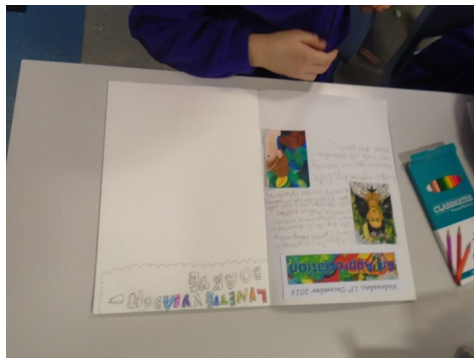
Continuous line drawing

Year 1

Year 1 have been busy practising and getting ready for their Christmas performance. We hope you enjoyed it! We also started our art project for this term by looking at the work of the artist Julian Opie. We thought about what we could see in his paintings, what we liked and what we didn't and how it made us feel. We have now started our own self-portraits and have been working on our observation skills by focussing on one part of the face - the mouth. We used different pencil techniques and shading to show what we could see.



Year 2



This week, in Year 2, we have been focusing on our Art unit: portraits. We looked at a range of different portraits and then focused on the artist Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. We then practised drawing a portrait with the correct proportions - remembering our eyes are not in our forehead. We enjoyed sketching and then painting our final piece. Our adults are very proud of the progress we have made.



Work was inspired by British artist and writer,
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

The figures in Yiadom-Boakye's paintings are not real people – she creates them from found images and her own imagination. Both familiar and mysterious, they invite viewers to project their own interpretations, and raise important questions of identity and representation.

Yiadom-Boakye was awarded the prestigious Carnegie Prize in 2018 and was the 2012 recipient of the Pinchuk Foundation Future Generation Prize. She was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 2013.

Year 3

We have had a lovely week in Year 3 last week! We have been working very hard on our DT project for this term which is to design a biscuit for an evacuee to take on their long journey to the countryside. It needed to be tasty and long-lasting. We started by thinking about the key information we would need to know, such as what ingredients were available during the war and which ingredients were rationed. We then conducted some research to find out the answers to these questions. After that, we created mood boards with ideas of what we wanted our biscuits to look and taste like before we finally made them! It was a lot of fun and we all worked really well in our groups, showing great cooperation and collaboration.



We were also very lucky to have Joni's dad visit us on Monday to talk about a camera which his grandad took from a German soldier at the end of the Second World War. He told us about what his grandad did during the war and then showed us how the camera worked. Some of the adults even had their photos taken! Thank you so much for coming in!



Finally, we have been continuing with our Art project on portraits. We have been using acrylic paints and applying our knowledge of colour mixing to create our own portraits. They are turning out really well and show a lot of concentration and attention to detail.



Cross hatching



Continuous line drawing

Year 5

On Monday last week, Year 5 travelled up to Central London to visit the British Museum. We were there to find out a bit more about the Anglo Saxons and Vikings, our topic for this term. The children had the opportunity to find, read about, sketch and discuss various artefacts from this fascinating era of British history. The children had the chance to see tools, weaponry, coins, jewellery and even parts of Anglo Saxon board games! This gave them an opportunity to see primary sources and gain a better understanding of the people they have been learning about all term. As you can see from the photos, the children had a great day!



Year 6

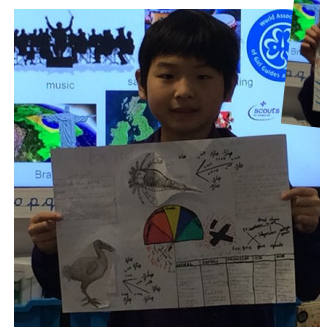
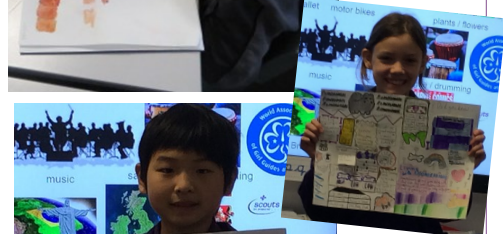
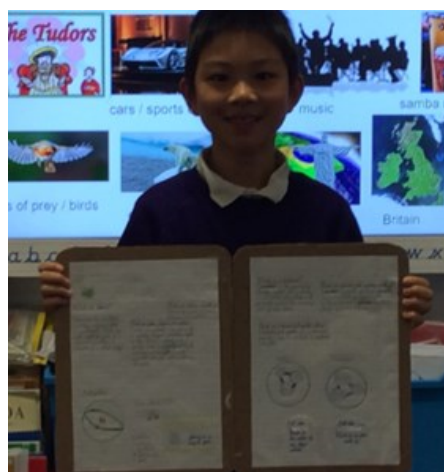
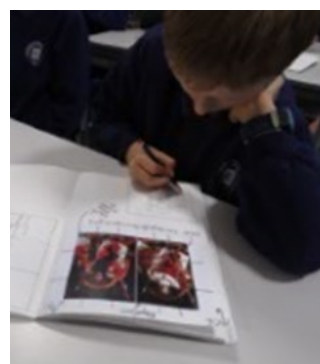
Wow! What a busy couple of weeks we have had in Year 6! We have been rehearsing for our Christmas performance by learning words and songs in class, and practising our pitch control, tempo and harmonies with Mr Prescott.

We have been celebrating some fantastic home learning in class, with the children giving confident presentations about their projects.

We have also been studying portraits by several famous artists, creating concepts for our own self-portraits, and practising colour mixing flesh tones with watercolours.

In Samba, we have started the process of deciding who our class performance leaders should be, talking about the qualities required to be both a good leader and good team member.

The festive season has been in full swing this week, with Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and Christmas parties, which involved party games, dancing and even glow sticks!





Audrey, A5

In Aqua 5, we have been honing our writing skills by focusing in on having audience and the purpose of our writing at the centre of everything we do. We were inspired by extracts from Hemingway's 'Old Man and the Sea' and have created our own short narratives with a focus on the theme of pathos. Our teacher challenged us to write something that would make her cry - and even more challenging, we had to bring a tear to the eye of Mr. Harris!

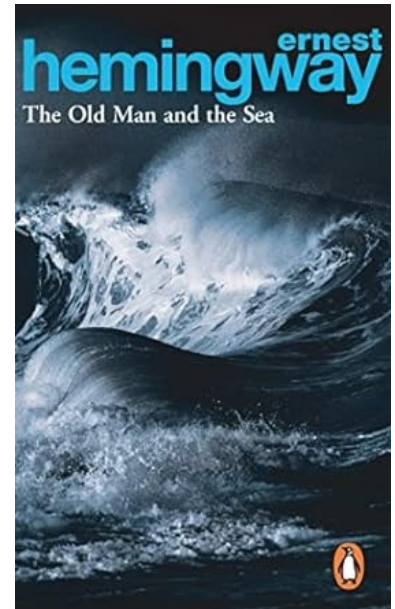


The noise was deafening, the danger un-
bearable and the death's unavoidable.

For years Yara had been living peacefully with her parents and little brother. At least until the first bombs fell and the sound of the first gunshot began to ring in their ears. Yara's city had once been teeming with life, a thriving metropolis of colour and song. But now, the once lush, verdant, emerald-green trees that had lined the smooth road, were now burnt-out skeletons leaning over a road littered with potholes. The streets were grey and empty and a smog blanketed the city. Buses no longer longer played in it on the streets and the exotic fumes of street food no longer filled the air.

Naru Yara sits there in her doorway, between the grocer and the antique store. Her eyes are bloodshot from years of crying herself to sleep; her cinnamon-brown hair is unkempt and greasy; her sad, grey eyes are deeply set into her weathered face. The few meagre possessions she has carried with her lie nearby on the ground within easy reach. Her backpack which has travelled with her, over across many borders and over the perilous sea, the length of cord strung with seashells that her father given to her the night they boarded the boat for F. In England and that her holds all her hopes, dreams and nightmares. Hopes that will never be fulfilled, dreams that will never come true, nightmares that will haunt her forever.

Yara watched the rickety sailing ship across the almost deserted road, she watched as the store



Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway was an American novelist and short-story writer who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

attendant, a happy young man, placed an orange rubber thingy in pride of place behind the shiny glass.

Then Yara was back in the boat, almost identical to the one some commanding attention from passers-by. Her boat was meant only for six, but there were at least twice that amount desperately packed into it, children and adults alike. Only five made it across. That was the day all of Yara's family was won along with everyone she ever loved. Never to return. Never to wrap their arms around her again.

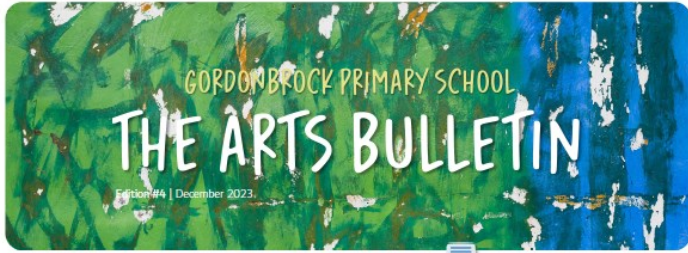
Clutching her sleeping bag tightly around herself, snapping all of her pain, loneliness and hopelessness against her being, Yara laid down, closed her eyes and waited as the

sadness slowly draped her, taking with it the will to live.

Cross hatching

Line variations

Continuous line drawing



THE ARTS BULLETIN

While the end of term is fast approaching, we must not miss the opportunity to reflect on what has been a brilliantly busy one in terms of arts provision at Gordonbrock.

Included in this edition of The Arts Bulletin: A Celebration of Black Music, Gordonbrock X BCLP Art Project, Music Making in Year 5 and much more. Don't miss our guide to progression in the teaching of colour theory at Gordonbrock, too. Next term, we look forward to our annual ArtsFest and a 'Progression in Portraiture' display in school. We can't wait to share them with you.

Mr. Rofler-Meyer
Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum and Assessment



@THEARTSATGB

Follow us on Twitter (@TheArtsatGB) for regular updates on arts and cultural provision at Gordonbrock. Please help us spread the word by commenting, liking or retweeting us.

YOUR FEEDBACK

This is the fourth edition of The Arts Bulletin, and we'd love to hear your feedback. Why not send us an email at info@ to tell us what you think?



A CELEBRATION OF BLACK MUSIC



In October, we enjoyed a powerful celebration of Black History Month through an unforgettable live music assembly from Mr. Prescott (trumpet) and his professional musician friends, Georgia (vocals), Alex (drums), Iain (bass) and Jonny (saxophone and piano).

Both KS1 and KS2 learned about prominent Black musicians including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, James Brown and Destiny's Child, and enjoyed performances marking some of their iconic music.

“It was really cool to see someone singing live in school. I really like singing—it is one of my favourite subjects. It was inspiring!”
Robin, Year 2

“It was amazing and it inspired me to keep on singing. I liked it when the band played the music. It was loud and made me move my body!”
Zahra, Year 2



As part of our Artsmark journey, we are excited to launch Gordonbrock Society of Arts (GSOA). We are keen to hear from parents or people with links to our school community who have a shared curiosity for the arts and are willing to support us on our Artsmark journey. When we talk about the arts, this includes architecture, calligraphy, dance, drawing, literature, motion picture, music, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and theatre. Please [complete this form](#) or pass it on to someone you know to register an interest in supporting us. Thank you to those who have already registered an interest. We will be in touch with you soon!

Youn Frank, freeston.com

Don't forget to read **The Arts Bulletin** from this half-term—emailed to you last Friday. It celebrates all the amazing arts provision at Gordonbrock this half-term!

Starting Applying to Start Primary School in September 2024

Children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 are due to start Reception September 2024. A reminder that the deadline for primary school applications is 15 January 2024. More information is available at: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school/how-to-apply-for-a-primary-school-place>



Lateness

Arriving late into school can affect your child's attendance.

Lateness = lost learning (Figures below are calculated over a school year)	
5 mins late each day	3 days lost!
10 mins late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 mins late each day	10 days lost!
20 mins late each day	13 days lost!
30 mins late each day	19 days lost!

Don't let your child miss out!

Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day. If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- It may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and bag ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

Article of the Week

UN Convention on the Right of the Child

We are very proud to be a Unicef Rights Respecting School, having achieved the **Unicef UK Silver - Rights Aware Award**.

To help children carry on the discussion at home, we will be focussing different articles of the convention in each newsletter so that our families can explore the rights and meanings together.

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.



FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION

PUPIL PREMIUM (Free School Meals)

If any of the following applies to you, you can apply for free school meals for your child.

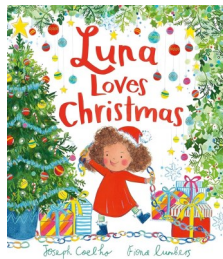
- ◆ Universal credit with an earnings threshold that does not exceed £7400
- ◆ Income support
- ◆ Income based job seekers allowance
- ◆ Income related employment and support allowance
- ◆ Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC that does not exceed £16,190

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

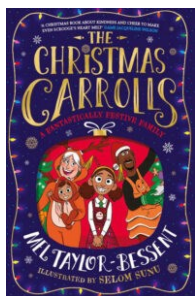


Mrs Wright's Recommend Reads

Luna loves Christmas. Sometimes at Mum's, sometimes at Dad's, she gets two trees, two dinners, two advent calendars to open . . . but this Christmas, Luna's family are doing something different. They're volunteering, and Luna can't wait for them to all be together at the community Christmas dinner!



Age 3-6



Age 8-10

The Christmas Carrolls is a heart-warming, hilarious and inclusive tale about the power of spreading cheer, the magic of friendship and what really matters at this most wonderful time of the year. Wish it could be Christmas every day? Well, for nine-year-old Holly Carroll and her family, it is! Living her merriest life in a house with year-round fairy lights and Christmas trees, a carol-singing toilet and a diva donkey who thinks he's a reindeer, home-schooled Holly tries to spread cheer wherever she goes.

Lexia Superstars: Well done to all of the children who have been on the Lexia programme over the past week. Special congratulations to the following children who completed a level during the past two weeks!



We were delighted to learn that **Alannah** in Year 4 is through to the next round of BBC's 500 Words competition. We wish her luck in the next round!

Once upon a time, there was a creature. People called it the Ultimate life form. It was a being of immense power. It had huge cannons perched on top of its enormous head, sharp claws and enormous wings. It also had pointed teeth and shot lasers. It made a portal between its world and many, many others, including a science lab in Australia. The Ultimate life form went on a rampage through the worlds destroying everything in its path. The Government decided that this must be stopped, so they sent their bravest soldiers to fight it. It didn't go very well. As many died and the rest came back gravely injured. However, not all hope was lost because the strongest soldier came back with an atom of it. He snuck up behind the Ultimate life form and shot at it then, he felt a tiny thing barely in existence only just holding on, fall into the palm of his hand. They gave it to the scientists to research. The scientists tested it and made it into two darts one would be used to defeat the Ultimate life form, and the other was a poison dart. The poison dart was an ugly shade of green and the other was a luminescent blue. The blue one was made from the atoms blood and the poison one was made from the scientists forcing it to attack a mosquito with a bright pink laser. The soldiers shot the blue dart at the Ultimate life form but it only lost 1000 atoms. They quickly gathered more to give to the scientists to make into more darts. They made more and shot them at the Ultimate life form. It exploded into a million tiny atoms. A few years later, a scientist was fiddling with a poison dart and dropped it. It shattered on the floor of the lab and poison spread through the lab causing it to explode. Everyone died except one who made a whole new generation of poison proof people.



Pupils and parents can access over 1000 levelled e-books at home with the Big Cat e-book library. perfect for children to practise reading books at the right level at home. To login in to the Collins Big Cat library use the link below and enter your child's username and password: <https://ops.collinsopenpage.com/ssq/login?service=https%3A//ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/wr/index.html&eulogin=true>

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables!



The children should go to <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/3584> and login using their login details.

Little and Often: In order to get the best out of Times Tables Rock Stars children should regularly play for short bursts so we would ask you to allow your child to play for 5-10 minutes at a time.

If your child cannot remember their login details please contact the school office who will be able to send a reminder home.

We endeavour to be a **NUT AND SESAME-FREE SCHOOL**

Please help us to achieve this aim by not sending any nuts or nut containing products into school. This extends to sesame seeds, too. Thank you for your support in this matter.



**IMPORTANT DATES**

21/12/23—05/01/24	Christmas Holidays
08/01/24	First Day of Spring Term 1
16/01/24	Year 5 Architecture Workshop
wb. 22/01/24	Buddy Week
22/01/24	School Journey Information Meeting for Y5 Parents (5.30pm, Main Hall)
26/01/24	Year 5 Trip to Horniman
26/01/24	Year 6 Talk Consent Workshops—Info to follow
wb 29/01/24	Year 5 Bikeability
February	LGBT+ History Month
wb. 05/02/24	Children's Mental Health Week
07/02/24	Open Morning
08/02/24	Parents' Evening
09/02/24	Cake and Fruit Day
12/02/24 - 16/02/24	Half-Term
19/02/24	First Day of Spring Term 2
wb. 26/02/24	Year 5 School Journey (Residential Trip)
05/03/24	Year 4 Assembly
07/03/24	World Book Day
29/03/24 - 12/04/24	Easter Holidays
15/04/24	First Day of Summer Term 1
06/05/24	Bank Holiday (school closed to pupils)
27/05/2024 - 31/05/24	Half - Term
03/06/24	First Day of Summer Term 2—INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
25/07/24	Last Day of Term - INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

