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Our Lady and All Saints
Catholic Multi Academy Company

Strong in Faith

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

Fordbridge Road,

Kingshurst,

Birmingham

B37 6LW

Friday 10th May 2024

This half term, we are growing to be eloquent and truthful in what we say of ourselves, the relations between people, and the world.



Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't going away.

Elvis Presley (musician)

Your PTA

The next PTA meeting was held today to discuss the upcoming **Summer Fayre** taking place after school on **Friday 12th July 2024**.

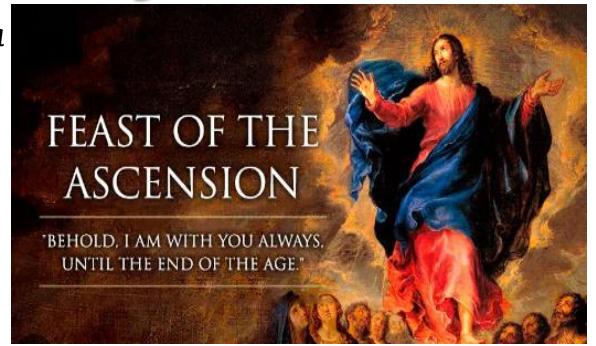
The PTA are keen to work with as many parents / carers as possible and would love it if you could join them at their next meeting on **Friday 24th May**.

If you are unable to attend the daytime meetings but feel that you are able to support the PTA in other ways please contact the PTA at s84pta@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk. In particular, if you have any useful contacts who may be able to donate prizes for the raffle or provide activities on the day, please do get in touch.



Ascension Feast Day

Yesterday we celebrated the feast of the Ascension with a whole school mass. We were delighted that Father John returned to say mass for us and it was a joyful morning. The children were impeccable, and as usual, Father John ensured that we left church with a smile on everyone's face that lasted the whole day.



Year 6 SATs

Next week Year 6 will be doing their SATs tests. They have been wonderfully prepared by Miss Cartwright and the Year 6 team. Their fantastic attitude and positivity has been so evident since Easter. We hope they have a restful and healthy weekend and come in with a positive attitude on Monday: remembering that SATs are an opportunity to show how you have improved.



Wear green for Mental Health day and Father Hudson's 'Pledge a pound'

On this coming Friday (17th May), we are asking children to wear something green to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week. Also, all the schools in diocese have been supporting Father Hudson's care by having a 'Pledge £1' day. So far Catholic schools have raised £72,000 for Father Hudson's and we are asking for each family to send £1 into school next Friday so that we can contribute.



Road Safety

In the last two weeks we have received a number of reports of children running into the road outside school or riding straight out on bikes or scooters. This is very worrying - the roads around school are busy with poor visibility. We will speak about road safety in all classes but please ensure that you speak to your child as well and that you supervise them closely on the roads around school. We regularly speak to the local police about parking and dangerous driving but if a child runs from behind a parked car, even the most careful of drivers may not be able to stop.



Tiny Ants

This week we have been looking at shape, pattern, sorting and matching. The children are really starting to master these skills and enjoy helping each other with this activity.



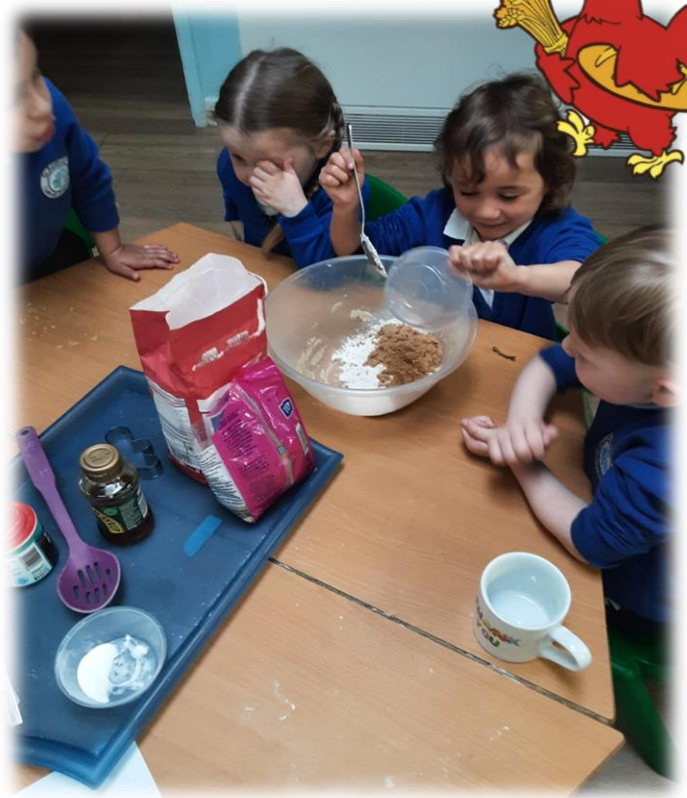
May is the month in which we think about Holy Mary. We have been saying 'Hail Mary' during our prayer time each day and took the children to visit church to look at the beautiful art work all around us.



Nursery

In Nursery this week we have been focusing on The Little Red Hen. Even though in the story the animals didn't help the Red Hen, we made sure we helped each other mix, stir and pour the ingredients before we did our baking.

We then got to taste the delicious bread and it made us all smile



Reception



We've had a lovely week in Reception this week! We've been learning lots about the natural world and created our own artwork with different materials, such as: paint sticks, oil pastels, felt tips and crayons. In Maths, we have still been exploring 2D shapes and numbers up to 20. Reception have also been exploring dinosaur fossils this week. We are wonderful explorers!



Year 1



In Year 1 the children started to think about Pentecost. They spent time exploring the promise Jesus made to his disciples and discussed what happened when they received the Holy Spirit. The children then had the opportunity to use role play to act out the story and performed in small groups to the rest of the class.



The children were amazing and so confident! Well done Year 1!



Year 2

Year 2 have had a lovely week working collaboratively with our Kagan partners. We have been researching woodland animals inspired by 'The Gruffalo', written by our class author Julia Donaldson. In Global Learning, we have been using QR codes to research all about Queen Victoria and why she was so important in our country's history. To end the week, the children had fun learning to play the glockenspiel and recognising the different notes. Have a well-deserved weekend in the sun Year 2!



Year 3



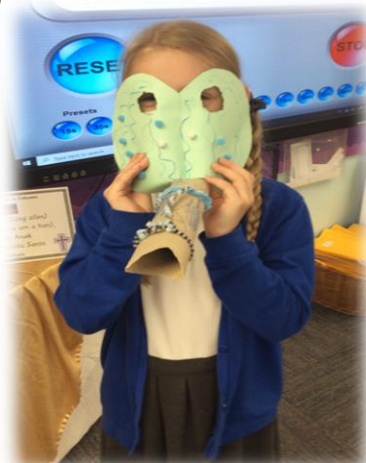
Year 3 have been busy! We have been dealing with some tricky fractions, reading 'The Twits' and acting out some of the conversations. We got the laptops out and made invitations and magazine covers and of course we also had our amazing ukulele lesson! We have been working really hard on performing 'You've Got A Friend In Me' from Toy Story!



Year 4



In English this week, we started our new book called 'Raven Boy' by Pippa Goodhart. The children put on their detective hats and made some brilliant predictions and incredible inferences about the book. Raven Boy transports you back to 1666 and the remarkable tale of one young boy's effort to escape the difficulties of daily life. The book touches upon the Great Fire of London as well as the plague. The children learnt about the plague doctors, wrote some brilliant descriptions and created some of their own plague masks! They were delighted when the author – Pippa Goodhart – replied to their 'X' (Twitter) post!

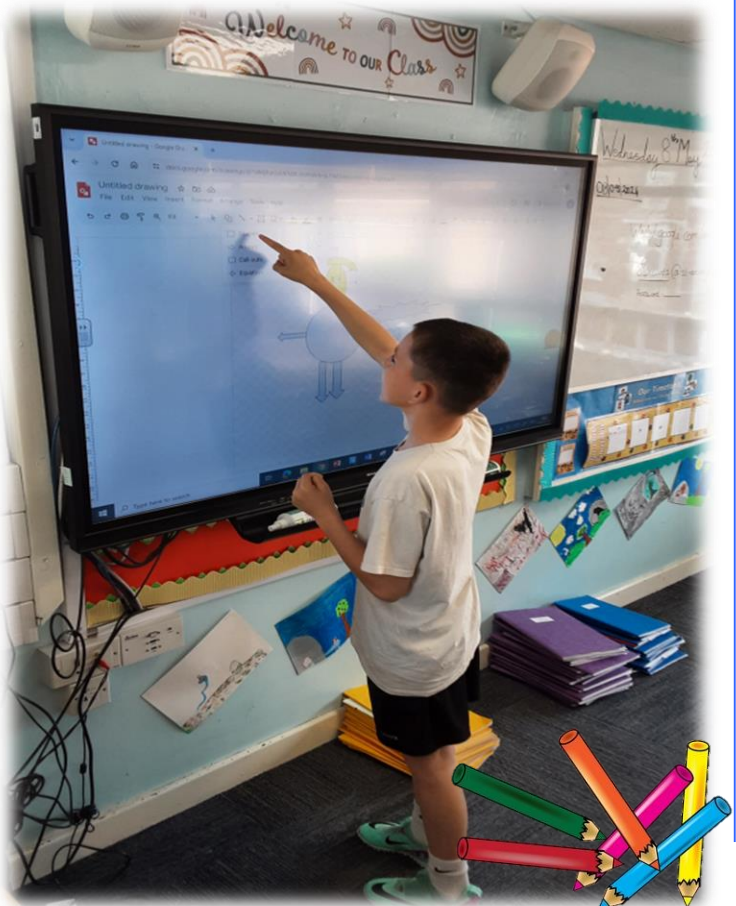


Year 5

This week Year 5 have loved taking part in some "wake up and shake up" in the morning to get our day off to a fantastic start!



In Computing, we have been using 'Google Drawings' to create vector drawings. The children really used their imagination to create a variety of images using shapes.



Your local churches need you!

Be part of shaping the future of our local Church.

Did you know that within the next five years almost half of Roman Catholic priests will have reached retirement age...yet there are currently only three trainee priests in the whole of England and Wales?

Everyone in our St. Anthony's community invited and urged to come together with parishioners from St. John the Baptist, Guardian Angels, Sacred Heart and St. Teresa and St. Anne's in order to discuss how we can begin to work together as churches in our local area, in order to serve our communities and share God's love - securing the future of our local churches.

*The meeting will take place at **Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School, Hurst Lane, Shard End, B34 7NH** on **Thursday 23rd May** at **7pm**.*

Please come along and share your ideas.



BE PART OF SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH

Mission Planning Meeting

23

May
2024

7.00pm

WE ARE ALL INVITED TO A MEETING AT GUARDIAN ANGELS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST LANE, SHARD END, B34 7NH.

WE WILL LOOK AT WHAT WE ARE DOING WELL IN OUR FIVE CATHOLIC PARISH CLUSTER, TO THE EAST OF BIRMINGHAM AND HOW WE COULD WORK TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE, TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE.

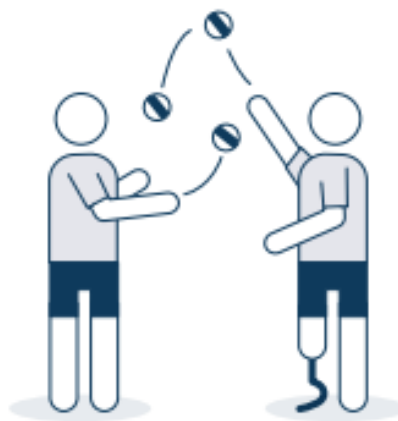
PLEASE COME ALONG AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS.

Path to Paris... This week's activity:

PATH TO PARIS



Circus school



École de cirque

Did you know?

In the 1800s, Paris was famous for its circuses. Today, the city is home to some of the world's top circus schools.

Path to Paris... This week's activity:

Prépare-toi!

Get ready!

- Rope (washing line, skipping rope, tape, chalk line).
- Small balls (bean bags, rolled-up socks).



Joue!

Play!

1. Be an acrobat - make different balance poses with a partner.
2. Be a tightrope walker - travel on or between the lines.
3. Be a juggler - keep up as many balls as you can.
4. Link your skills to make a performance!



Change le jeu!

Change the game

- Balance against a wall or apparatus.
- Make the tightrope thinner or thicker.
- Pat balloons instead of juggling balls.

Build your skills for this activity by exploring **Get Set** for... **Balance and Control**

#PathToParis

For more activities: getset.co.uk/path-to-paris



Reminder...

In regards to friendship groups and issues, please report to your child's class teacher in the first instance, rather than Miss Watkins.

The staff in class spend the most time with your child so are the best people for this initial intervention.



Our next school mass will be on **Monday 20th May** and it will be led by pupils from **Year 2** and **Year 5**. All members of our school community are very welcome to attend.

Throughout the month of May the children will be praying the 'Hail Mary' each day. It would be lovely if you could pray this prayer as a family too.



**Solihull College
& University Centre**



Free family learning course!

Available to parents / grandparents and carers of children in Year R – Year 2.
Aimed at supporting you to help your child with their English and Maths work.

The course will run from **Friday 3rd May – Friday 28th June 2024** from 9:15 – 11:15am each Friday in our outdoor classroom here at St. Anthony's.
This course is now running in school and its not to late to come long and join us !

This week's online safety support...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 18+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, *Helldivers 2* had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *Helldivers 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In *Helldivers 2*, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to *Helldivers 2*'s appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as *Helldivers 2*.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, *Helldivers 2* costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether *Helldivers 2* is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where *Helldivers 2* isn't available – consider something like *Halo: The Master Chief Collection* as an alternative. One of its game modes – *Firefight* – replicates *Helldivers 2*'s mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted *Deep Rock Galactic*, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many titles offer in-game purchases, but *Helldivers 2*'s are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to *Helldivers 2* as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Year 4 were this week's winners, with Year 3 coming in 2nd, Year 2 in 3rd place, Year 5 in 4th place and Year 6 in 5th. Well done to the most valuable players in each year group. The next battles are boys in Y2,4 and 6 v girls in Y2,4 and 6; and boys in Y3 and Y5 v girls in Y3 and Y5. Good luck everyone!

	Most Valuable player	2 nd MVP	3 rd MVP
Year 2	Ngoc-Anh	Ivy	Ezra
Year 3	Harlow	Indie	Harvey
Year 4	Everleigh	Joaquin	Karson
Year 5	Gracie	Esther	Sathvika
Year 6	Freddie	Daisy	Ana



Congratulations to **Noah** in Year 1 who completed the next stage of his story maps this week. A big well done to **Albie, Lainey-Beau and Kade** who were awarded certificates this morning for 'highest improvement in accuracy' in the last 7 days.



Below you can see the percentage of children in each year group that **HAVE** completed their online Maths homework in the past 7 days:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
33%	43%	48%	97%	71%	55%

A huge 'thank you' to those parents who are supporting their children with this – particularly in **Year 4**. It is essential that all children are developing their number skills using TTRS and Numbots.

Exciting opportunities in the Summer term...



SUMMER TERM 2024
Open to all Solihull parents and carers



EMPOWERING PARENTS
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

BEING A PARENT GROUPS

Led by trained parent volunteers, the groups provide you with the tools to help manage challenging behaviour, improve communication, and build a positive relationship with your child.

The Being a Parent groups will be delivered both face-to-face and virtually, starting with a welcome session & then running weekly for a further 8 sessions:

TUESDAY	Virtual via Microsoft Teams	6pm – 7.30pm	30/4/24 – 2/7/24
WEDNESDAY	Dickens Heath School (B90 1NA)	9.30am – 11.30am	1/5/24 – 3/7/24
WEDNESDAY	Marston Green Infants (B37 7AA)	9.30am – 11.30am	1/5/24 – 3/7/24
FRIDAY	Kingshurst Primary School (B37 6BN)	9am – 11am	3/5/24 – 5/7/24

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD

Led by Solihull professionals, the group aims to help you to manage challenging behaviour and improve communication, as well as building and understanding your relationship with your child. The group target age is 4-11 years, delivered face-to-face for 10 sessions:



TUESDAY	Renewal Family Centre (B91 2JY)	9.30am – 11.30am	30/4/24 – 9/7/24
THURSDAY	Evergreen Family Hub (B37 6DX)	9.30am – 11.30am	2/5/24 – 11/7/24

FIVE TO THRIVE

For parents with children aged up to 2 years, the FIVE TO THRIVE building blocks explore practical things you can do to enhance your child's brain development, increase confidence in parenting and meet local parents.



<p>TUESDAY The Bridge, Shirley (B90 3AG)</p> <p>10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm</p> <p>16/4/24 – 21/5/24 4/6/24 – 9/7/24</p>	<p>THURSDAY Saxon Court, Chelmsley Wood (B37 7RF)</p> <p>12.30pm – 2.30pm</p> <p>18/4/24 – 23/5/24 6/6/24 – 11/7/24</p>
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Book your place now, or find out more by contacting Solihull Parenting Team at: bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net or book via the Eventbrite QR code below:



This week's menu ...



Menu Three

Spring Summer Menu 3 Running w/c - 22/04, 13/05, 10/06, 01/07, 02/09, 23/09, 14/10

Monday

Meatballs in Tomato
Sauce with Pasta

Veggie Sausages
Mash & Peas

Chocolate Whip

Fresh Fruit Platter

Yogurts

Tuesday

Chicken Tikka
Masala with Rice
Peas

Cheese Panini Main
Mixed Salad

Fruit Jelly

Fresh Fruit platter

Yogurts

Wednesday

Roast Beef Yorkshire
Roast Potatoes
Spring Cabbage Carrots

Macaroni Cheese Peas

Dinky Donuts with
Chocolate Dipping
Sauce

Fresh Fruit Platter

Yogurts

Thursday

HM Sausage Roll
Sweetcorn

Potato Cake

Vegan Sausage Roll
Sweetcorn

Potato cake

Cherry Shortbread &
Custard

Fresh Fruit
Yogurts

Friday

Jumbo Fish Finger
Chips
Baked Beans

Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Chips
Baked Beans

Strawberry Iced
Smoothie

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Available Daily:

Home Baked
Bread,

Seasonal Salads:

Alternate Offer
Baked Potato
Bar
or
Packed Lunch

For more information on Menus please
visit: www.solihullcateringservices.co.uk

*Seafood with this mark comes
from a MSC certified sustainable
fishery. www.msc.org

MSC-C-54995



Head Teacher's Awards



Congratulations!

Reception – **Hugo** for always being a positive member of Reception and shining like Jesus everyday.

Year 1 – **Marley** for always trying your best and for shining like Jesus.

Year 2 – **Ava-Mae** for being positive and always trying your best when things are tricky.

Year 3 – **Willow** for always being a lovely, supportive and compassionate friend!

Year 4 – **Dylan** for being a joyful, charismatic friend to everyone.

Year 5 – **Jaliah** for always offering support to others and being such a beautiful friend to her peers.

Year 6 – **Jake** for great focus, effort and determination this week – keep it up!





Diary Dates



These dates will be updated each week and newly added events / any changes will be highlighted in yellow.

Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Fri 17 th May	Whole school	'Wear it Green Day' for Mental Health – pupils to wear something green to school. £1 donations in aid of Fr. Hudson's.
Mon 20 th May	R – Y6	Whole school Mass – Year 2 and Year 5 leading
Tues 21 st May	Y6 parents	Alton Castle parent meeting 3:15pm
Fri 24 th May	Whole school	Break up for half term PTA meeting

Half Term

Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May

Mon 3 rd June	Whole school	Return to school
Weds 5 th – Fri 7 th June	Year 6	Alton Castle residential retreat
Sat 8 th June	Year 3	First Holy Communion Mass 11am
Tues 11 th June	Year 6	London trip
Mon 17 th June	Year 6	Visit to Oscott College
Weds 19 th June	R – Y6	Whole school Mass – Year 1 and Faith Ambassadors leading
Thurs 20 th June am	Year 6	Visit NEC for Big Bang show



Diary Dates



These dates will updated each week and newly added events / any changes will be highlighted in yellow.

Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Fri 5 th July	Tiny Ants, Nursery and Reception parents	EYFS Summer Picnic 1:30pm
Tues 9 th July	Reception – Year 6	Sports Day 9am
Friday 12 th July	Whole School	PTA Summer Fayre after school
Thurs 18 th July	Reception – Year 6	Year 6 Leaver's Mass
Fri 19 th July	Whole school	End of school year for pupils
Mon 22 nd July	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	

Please read carefully as the PE days can change from week to week.

Week beginning Monday 13th May:

Reception – **Thursday**

Y1 – **Monday and Tuesday**

Y2 – **Tuesday and Wednesday**

Y3 – **Monday and Tuesday**

Y4 – **Tuesday (Swimming) and Thursday**

Y5 – **Wednesday and Thursday**

Y6 – **Wednesday and Thursday**

PE days



Please remember that pupils need to come into school in their PE kits on these days, and they should be plain white t shirts (or those with the school badge on) and **PLAIN** black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School