

Welcome to the latest edition of PBA Press!

Welcome to this term's PBA Press. As is always the case in schools we are often trying to balance the "mundane" but necessary activities necessary to keep the school moving forward with the more exciting experiences that make schools vibrant places to learn. In terms of the more important jobs, this half term has also provided us with the opportunity to recruit a range of teachers who will be joining us in the new academic year. We have been able to recruit a Head of Science and two further Science teachers; an additional Maths teacher; two English teachers; a teacher of MFL and an Art teacher and a further Primary teacher. We have also appointed some additional support staff and we have some more to go. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mr Betts our Site Agent who is moving on to bigger things. Mr Betts has been an absolute stalwart of the school and will be greatly missed. We have started the recruitment process and will be hoping to make another strong appointment. If you would like to know more about this job, please click on the link below:

<https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/147081/EDV-2022-PBA-40725>

Looking back over this half term, it has been super busy and has included a full range of learning opportunities for our pupils. Early on in the term we undertook a full range of SATs mocks. The year 6 pupils performed extremely well and this information and learning has formed the bedrock of our teaching of English and Maths. Interventions lessons are happening, some of the pupils are even unlucky enough to be taught by me! We also have a programme of Easter school revision lessons for Year 6 during the first and second week of the Easter Break. Staff have offered their time to come in and work with our pupils and I know this will be a valuable learning experience.

Pupils have also benefitted from World Book Day; Red Nose Day; Science Week (which was the most marvellous event and for which I am immensely grateful to our parents and community); the Year 5 trip to the Space Centre; the Year 6 GeoBus fossil experience in addition to too many sporting events to count.

If these activities are combined with the school Safeguarding audit (which went extremely well); Year 5 parents evening, two Year 6 parents' evenings; a review of reading; science and Maths at the school and a learning walk undertaken by governors you can see why many staff are feeling ready for the Easter break. (Obviously the normal diet of lessons continued regardless of other activities.) All this has happened while the impact of COVID is still being felt at the school.

As you will be aware the level of infection is currently greater than at any time during the pandemic and we continue to have staff and pupil absence to contend with. The fact that we have managed to maintain our broad offer of curricular and extra-curricular experiences is testament to the work of staff and pupils at the school.

Next term will be the same. The work to prepare our pupils for the next step in their education, in addition to the preparation for September and our new cohort of pupils will ramp up. That is the nature of education and keeps us all on our toes.

Have a fantastic break. Your children have been superb and deserve to be spoilt this Easter. See you on Tuesday 19th April.



Mr Steve Adams
Principal



Half Term Summary

YEAR 5

Wow! I cannot believe we are about to enter our final term of the school year. For us in Year 5 it has been fantastic, we have had a jam-packed Spring term with multiple activities such as various sporting fixtures, a trip and science week to name a few. I would like to start by saying how proud we are of our amazing year group, during Science week, students attended multiple different talks with people from lots of different industries and constantly we were being told how polite and how well our students got involved which is brilliant to hear!

Year 5 started their last week of term being transported into space on our trip to the National Space Centre, we were able to take the 144 stairs (or lift!) up to the top of the rocket tower whilst learning about the space race and all things cosmic! Again, students represented our brilliant school impeccably.



As Head of Year, it has been my privilege to watch these amazing students develop into top class Pix Brook students and myself and the Year 5 team can only look forward for what is to come as the weather gets warmer and the skies get brighter! We look forward to welcoming the students back after a safe and restful break.

Mr Cook

YEAR 6

Well, Spring is officially here and so are the Easter Holidays. During this half term the Year 6 pupils have had so many positive things to look back on such as, World Book Day and all the fun book based activities that the whole teaching Staff team prepared for and a special mention to Miss Broadbent, who was the driving force for this very enjoyable day. There was also lots of hard work during our Mock SATs week and I can say, that as part of the Year 6 team, we are incredibly proud of all of our pupils, who put the effort during this week in preparation for the SATs in May.



STEM week was also another highlight of our event's calendar which was so well coordinated and organised by Mrs Murphy and with the well-oiled machinery that is our PBA staff and the facilitators/ visitors (experts in their Scientific fields); The whole student community enjoyed and took part in all the various activities on offer, I personally found all the speakers very interesting and engaging.

The pupils made us proud with their demonstration of excellent values and good behaviour towards our visitors.

I have enjoyed seeing the pupils playing Basketball in the MUGA and I even played with them a few times when they allowed me to join them! It was great fun even though I am not a natural Basketball player.

We will have our Award Assembly on Friday and congratulations to those pupils that have been selected for an award or added to the nominee list. I hope that this will be an incentive for all to continue to work hard and better themselves each day a bit more to achieve the best that you can and maybe next time an award will come your way...

A special mentioned to the following pupils for having the highest achievement points in their Year group: Edie H 100, Ella W 98, Sophie C 95, Lauren B 94 and Mia P 91.

Myself and the whole Year 6 team will like to wish you all a very enjoyable half-term and Easter Holidays. I hope that you will all have a well-deserved rest and have fun in the sun or whatever the weather brings for us all.

Looking forward to see you all on Tuesday 19th April.

Mrs Horwood

YEAR 7

It doesn't seem two minutes since I last wrote an end of term round-up – this half term has flown by. This half-term has been a success for all students across Year 7. I have received lots of positive comments from Key Stage 3 teachers about student progress, and on a personal note the students I teach Art and DT have had a fantastic half term and produced some amazing work. Well done to all.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how well the new students in Year 7 have settled into school life at PBA – it has been a pleasure to get to know you all more as the term has progressed.

There has been lots going on since February half-term, most notably the highly anticipated Science week where Year 7's completed a team housing project and STEM related workshops. On a personal note it was great to attend some of the amazing workshops on offer, with my favourite being the making concrete workshop. A big thank you to Mrs Murphy for organising the week.

I would like to also congratulate the Year 7 girls football team after their first matches – although losing both games (only by the odd goal or two) it was great to see the hard work and dedication on the pitch versus both Etonbury and Henlow. I really look forward to watching more games in the future.

On Wednesday we held the end of term award celebration assembly and I would like to say congratulations to all the winners. An amazing 72% of all students in Year 7 were nominated for an award. There is one more award assembly to go at the end of the academic year, therefore I challenge all Year 7's who have been unfortunate not to win an award to work hard and give 100% in all subject areas to see if you can win an award in July.



I look forward in anticipation to the start of the summer term – I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter holidays and try not to eat too much Chocolate.

Mr Fleckney

Teaching & Learning News

SAT's REVISION WEEK

From Pilates to puzzles, from food to films, this week has been a fantastic experience for our Year 6 pupils in preparation for their mock SAT's next week.

The pupils have focused on revision techniques as well as ensuring a healthy mind and well-being. During today's puzzle session, all 4 Pix Brook P's were shown:

Positive - willingness to try new challenges

Polite – respectfulness to visitors

Prepared – using all of the equipment to complete the challenges

Persevere – Even though they didn't succeed first time, they kept trying

We are all very proud of the attitudes and efforts of the pupils this week. Well done Year 6!



MOCK SATs

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 pupils for their Mock SAT's this week in preparation for their tests in May.

Everything went well and the pupils worked incredibly hard making us all proud. It was wonderful to see them enjoying a morning breakfast and a celebratory biscuit after each test.

Over the next few weeks, we shall be continuing the hard work to ensure they are ready for their tests.



YEAR 6 HISTORY

In History, Blackman class transported the children back in time to immerse themselves in the Anglo-Saxon hot seat!

Charlotte, Mia and Charlie all re-enacted roles from this era. Charlie was a young child who regularly had to chase wolves away from his settlement. Mia was a blacksmith, who worked tirelessly to provide good quality steel and Charlotte was a hard working mother of 9! This allowed the children to reinforce their learning and understand the emotions of the characters before they begin their Big Write next lesson.



THE NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

What an amazing day the Year 5's had at The National Space Centre. We are very proud of the way they've represented the school.



YEAR 5 SCIENCE

In Year 5 Science, we have been learning lots about Earth and Space and in today's lesson we have used toilet paper to understand the distance from each planet to the Sun. It was great to see the children's faces once they could see how far away Neptune was!






YEAR 6 SCIENCE

In Science, Year 6 have been exploring evolution by investigating different 'beaks'. They posed their own scientific question and then conducted their experiment to understand how the Galapagos finches evolved over time! Using sweets to represent feed and different tongs to represent the beak, the pupils had great fun trying to work out which one would be best suited for the job. Brilliant work, Year 6!



Year 6
Science

WORLD BOOK DAY

We LOVED [World Book Day \(UK & Ireland\)](#) at Pix Brook Academy. Although we delayed our celebrations, we pulled out all the stops for an amazing day!   



STEM WEEK 🚀🏠🧪🍷

Pix Brook held its first ever STEM week last week and it was a phenomenal success!

The children were treated to an entire week of STEM activities. The week began with an interesting insight into the world of housing development by Fairview New Homes. This allowed them to really focus on the marketing, environmental and design ideas needed to commence their own homebuilding project. Whenever the children were not in workshops they worked on these projects in groups and created mood boards, floor plans and even some brochures.

Over the course of the week the children were able to experience workshops and interactive sessions based on STEM and the huge variety of career choices that are available.



The children had sessions from a firefighter, a university lecturer, a film restoration expert, a photographer, two airline pilots, a crime scene investigator, a data analyst from Sainsburys and the head of engineering at Ocado. They were also introduced to technology and how it can be used to design truly amazing devices such as Sky Glass and used in online shopping experiences with augmented reality. The week was finished with details about a company that create incredible face filter animation apps.

The children were also lucky enough to have a workshop with hands on practical forces investigations from an external company. The children in year 7 took part in a forensic science workshop and had to work out who had stolen the class teddy! They also had an engineer talk them through the skills needed for creating communications devices on submarines and the problem solving processes they have to go through. Pfizer talked to year 5 via Zoom about the processes they go through when creating vaccines and we also were able to try an Oculus headset in a session with Winvic construction.



J Murphy and sons building contractors spent time with year 6 and 7; exploring the skills needed to develop land. They were able to construct a bridge with spaghetti and marshmallows, look at the PH levels in contaminated water and even create their own cement block.

RAF engineers visited and allowed year 6 to create their own gliders and year 7 were able to land a simulated airplane! There were so many activities we may not have listed them all – but we are very grateful to all the companies and parents that gave up their time to share their skills and experiences with us.

It was an incredibly busy week and the children were fantastic. They produced some excellent housing projects and were excellent ambassadors for our school. They all showed the 4Pix Brook Ps in each task they attempted.

The Year 7 STEM winners received a solar powered robot. These children were selected by their teachers due to their excellent participation in the activities and sessions that took place last week. They also asked valuable questions and behaved excellently. Well done!



END OF TERM AWARDS



GEOBUS

Year 6 had a virtual workshop with GeoBus. Amy from UCL talked them through the four types of fossils and how fossilisation occurs. They saw some amazing 3d images including a Megalodon's tooth! This will really enforce their learning of fossils in their current evolution topic.



🗡️🛡️ ANGLO-SAXON WORKSHOP 🗡️🛡️

Year 6 have had huge amounts of fun taking part in an Anglo-Saxon workshop held by Peter Sawyer of 'Experience Education'. We were able to look in detail at the sorts of clothing and everyday possessions a Saxon would have. In groups we were each given a job role typical of a Saxon village. We then had to decide what equipment and resources we would need to carry out our job, what we produced and which other jobs we needed to help us. It was a great way to see how all of the trades and jobs in a village were interlinked and how ever member of the community was important. The best was saved for last – Anglo Saxon Warriors! A lucky few were able to try on the chainmail and hold the weaponry a Saxon warrior would have used... it was very heavy! Lastly we all joined forces to make a shield wall to protect our village. A great day and lots to learn too.



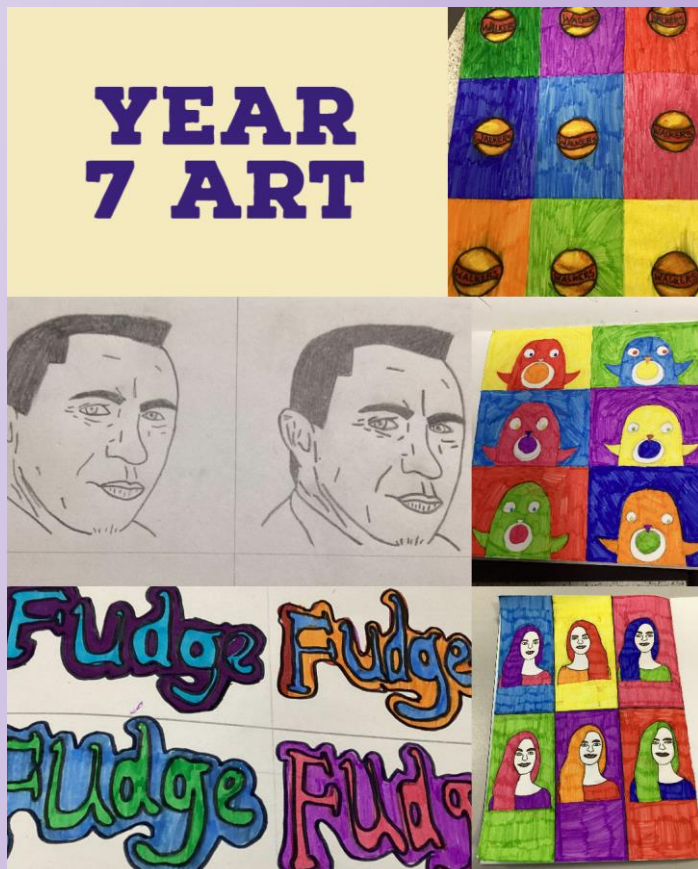
🧪 YEAR 7 SCIENCE 🧪

The Year 7's have had fun exploring their new topic of Acids and Alkalis. They were using Sodium Hydroxide to neutralise Hydrochloric Acid to get a green neutral colour on the Ph scale.



🍌 YEAR 7 ART 🍌

In Art, Year 7 have been focusing on Pop Art and the work of Andy Warhol. They have tried to replicate his famous faces of Marilyn Monroe and also Campbells soup cans. All of the pupils have worked incredibly and produced some amazing pieces. Well done!



YEAR 7 CITIZENSHIP

This terms topic for Year 7 citizenship is careers, with a focus on skills and qualities they will need for a future career.

To make it engaging for the children the lessons have been planned in the style of the T.V show 'The Apprentice'. Each lesson the class will be set tasks to complete with a different manager for each group.

This week's task was based around team work, they had to use their communication skills alongside their team working skills to construct the tallest freestanding structure.

The children really enjoyed the task alongside building their team working, organisation and communication skills.



HOMEWORK TIMETABLE The Year 7 homework timetable can be found [HERE](#)

Sport

YEAR 5 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM FINISH JOINT 2ND!



Our Year 5 Boys football team season ended before half term, however we have since found out that we finished in joint second place, which is a remarkable achievement considering the high level of the opposition across the district. The team played 8 games, winning 4, drawing 2 and narrowly losing 2 matches. What was even more impressive was that we ran SEVEN teams this year in friendly matches which meant that all 50 students who attended training were given the opportunity to represent the school. We concluded the season with a celebration evening this week, where we organised an open training for parents and carers to watch all of the pupils in action, with the PBA 'Yellows' being victorious in the tournament! Furthermore, we hosted a presentation at lunch for the league team where the following students received the awards below:

Manager's Player of the Year: Blake C

Player's Player of the Year: Harry W

Top Scorer: Ethan E-P

Most Improved: Ralf P

Best Sportsmanship: Luke F

Best Work Rate: Eli W



Well done to all pupils who attended training and represented the school this year, and a huge thank you to all parents and carers for the support at both home and away matches!



PE STAR OF THE MONTH: MARCH

Year 5

Amelie L- For fantastic leadership skills in OAA

Arthur L - For showing great teamwork in the Rugby team

Year 6

Amelia F- For playing up an age group in the school football team

Jacob C - For excellent effort in Hockey lessons

Year 7

Evie F - For all around excellence in sport

Alim A - For trying a new sport and making great progress in Rugby

Team of the Term

Year 5 Boys Football team- For coming 2nd in the league

🏉 RUGBY ROUND UP 🏉

It has been a year of firsts so far at Pix Brook Academy and our rugby season has been yet another example of this. Mr Szwajbak has talked to all year groups about the value of team sports and the want for all students to continually try out different sports during lunchtime clubs and afterschool, which has proved valuable for the rugby season. We have seen a keen interest from a spectrum of pupils wanting to try out rugby for the first time, and especially those wanting to learn the contact side of the game. This enthusiasm has been the catalyst towards some high quality progression in our rugby teams, with many pupils making significant progress in their tackle and rucking technique.



The year 5 and 6 teams started their seasons training in the bitter cold of winter and ended in the warm sunshine of spring, with each year group competing in the scheduled rugby festivals. The year 6 team travelled to Alameda middle school and performed exceptionally well given the level of ability on show from some already established rugby schools. Whilst the year 5's enjoyed hosting their own rugby festival at Pix Brook Academy, putting on a real performance in front of the home crowd, narrowly missing out on 3rd place. Ultimately, both year groups have a lot to be proud of and we are very much looking forward to starting again in the winter term of 2022-2023.



Year 7 played out their league fixtures with a tough away trip to Holywell, putting up an impressive fight to frustrate the hosts. Like both the year 5 and 6's, the year 7 team has gone strength to strength building some core fundamentals that will help towards an even more successful season in 2022-2023. The highlight has to be the first and only win of the season vs RBA in the triangular fixture hosted by Pix Brook this half term; a real confidence boost and a reward for the efforts all players have put in this year.

We have tried to distil a sense of comradery, work ethic and discipline about our rugby, and as ex-New Zealand captain Richie McCaw said so eloquently "I don't believe in magic, I believe in hard work," we will look to continue these values into the new season ahead. All that is left to say is a massive thank you to all students, staff and parents for supporting the rugby teams, we cannot wait for the next.



PBA PE DEPARTMENT HAS A SPRING IN THEIR STEP!

This spring term we have continued to experience incredible attendances across each of the clubs on offer, whether it was rugby or boxercise, trampolining or badminton, football or basketball, and we have been so proud of the progress and achievement by the students within all year groups. As we move into the summer term there will be even more activities on offer, with athletics, rounders and cricket fixtures taking place, along with the BEST Performing Arts festival, so we look forward to welcoming all pupils to join us and finish the year on a high!



PBA Physical Education
Extra – Curricular Provision
Summer Term 2022



	Lunch: 13.10 – 13.40	After School: 15.05 – 16.00
Monday	Year 5 Running Club (MD) Year 6 Dodgeball (AJ, PS) Year 7 Running Club (JS)	Year 5 Athletics (MD, FC) Year 6 Athletics (AJ, MC) Year 7 Athletics (JS)
Tuesday	Year 5 Handball (AJ, MD) Year 6 Running Club (JS, PS)	Year 5/6/7 Athletics Fixtures (JS, AJ, MD, IW, MC, FC)
Wednesday	All Years Dance Company (E/PS/EN) Year 6 Cricket (JS, MD) Year 7 Handball (AJ)	Year 5/6 Rounders (AJ, MD) Year 7 Cricket (JS) Year 7 Rounders Fixtures (IW)
Thursday	Year 5 Dodgeball (MD, PS) Year 7 Rounders (AJ, JS)	Year 5/6 Rounders Fixtures (AJ, MD) Year 7 Cricket Fixtures (JS)
Friday	Year 5 Cricket (MD, JS) Year 6 Handball (AJ, PS)	

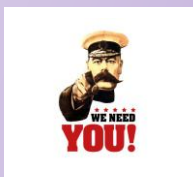
Fixtures:

Year 5/6 Athletics Fixtures: 7th – 28th June
Year 7 Athletics Fixtures: 26th April – 24th May
Year 7 Cricket Fixtures: 12th May – 16th June
Year 5/6 Rounders Fixtures: 12th May – 16th June
Year 7 Rounders Fixtures: 11th May – 15th June
Year 5/6 Cricket Festival: 17th June

BOXERCISE



PBA DANCE COMPANY NEEDS YOU!



After Easter we are organising our first ever PBA Dance Company to perform in the BEST Performing Arts Festival in June, where we will be holding auditions on Wednesday 20th April at lunch in the dance studio. Any interested students should come to the auditions or speak with Miss Izzard. Get your dancing shoes ready!

★CONGRATULATIONS POPPY!★

We are super proud of Poppy in Year 6 who competed in the Trampoline and DMT Regional Qualifier in Colchester this weekend where she earned a bronze medal in her trampolining and qualified in first place for DMT, ready for the Regional Championships in June.

Well done Poppy!



✿CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK ARCHIE!✿

Congratulations to Archie in Year 7 who has been selected for MTK's Global Rising Star's training camp in Dubai from the 19th-28th April. We are super proud of Archie's achievements in the boxing ring.

Good luck for your fight on Friday 8th April in Harlow.



Charity

RED NOSE DAY

It's great to see so many red noses, headbands and t-shirts being worn for Comic Relief/Red Nose Day today!

<https://donation.comicrelief.com/cart/1YsYOwm2pHZgBUhWr8ZL13>



THANK YOU

We are overwhelmed by your generosity for the [#helpukraine](#) appeal. We feel incredibly privileged to have helped [The Need Project](#) with this and we would like to thank each and every one of you who donated. 💙💛



MISS POWER'S TRAINING UPDATE

Miss Power will be taking part in the 'Jurassic Coast Ultra Challenge' in May, where she will trek 100km continuously over a 24-hour period to raise money for the charity 'Mind'.



If you would like to donate to this fantastic charity, please find the link to her JustGiving page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tarapower4>

Thank you in advance.

Safeguarding



Pix Brook Academy SAFEGUARDING TEAM We are here to keep you safe

Who can you speak to if you feel worried?

You can speak to **any adult** that works in our school about **anything** that is worrying you or making you feel upset at any time.

There are also 3 adults who have the really special job of keeping you safe. They are known as the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** and **Deputy Safeguarding Leads**. Their special job is to listen, support and help you at any time of the school day.



Mr King-Mand
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Smyth
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Pearce
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead

Tell us if you feel worried or upset about anything. For example, you should speak to us:

- If you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- If someone has hurt you physically, emotionally or mentally
- If you are being threatened or forced to do things
- If someone has done something to you without your permission
- If you feel unsafe in school, at home or when you are out and about
- If you feel uncomfortable in any way
- If you know of another pupil who is worried, upset or being hurt (even if they have told you to keep it secret)
- If you are scared or worried about going home

There are special organisations you can contact if you need to speak to someone when you are not at school. Their job is to also listen, support and help you.



Wellbeing

IVEL VALLEY PARENTS BULLETIN

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCBCC/bulletins/310e78a>

Other Info

SCHOOL LUNCHES Lunch menus for the next half term are now available to book and pay for on ParentMail under the 'Accounts' section. Selections close 8 days before the booking is due to take place so if you would like your child to have a school dinner on the 1st day back, please order this by **MONDAY 11TH APRIL**. Please can you make selections even if you are entitled to free school meals.

Please note we are unable to make any amendments once the booking has closed.

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call 0300 300 8306.

NUT FREE SCHOOL Please be reminded that we are a nut free school therefore please refrain from packing any nut products into your child/children's break time snack or packed lunch. This includes Nutella.

EQUIPMENT Please can you make sure that your child has all the necessary school equipment school on a daily basis. Please can you also make sure they have a water bottle with them too.

Equipment List

The following needs to be brought to school every day



LABELLING UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT Please can we ask parents/carers to label ALL uniform and equipment as the lost property area is expanding daily! We have teamed up with 'Stikins' who will give the school commission on every order placed. Please visit their website www.stikins.co.uk and quote our unique school code **6948**

SMART WATCHES



Please could we ask that smart/apple watches are left at home where possible. There is no need for students to bring them into school and we want to try and avoid them getting damaged.

Along with mobile phones, any devices that can access mobile data, take photos, make calls/messages etc. need to be handed in to the form tutor at the start of the day. Thank you for your support with this

Diary & Term Dates

April

Monday 4th – Monday 18th

Tuesday 19th

Wednesday 20th

Easter Holidays

Start of Term

Dance Auditions

May

Monday 2nd

Monday 9th – Friday 13th

Wednesday 11th

Mon 30th – Friday 3rd June

Bank Holiday

Year 6 SAT's

Non-Uniform Day (donations to 'Mind')

Half Term

June

Monday 6th

Monday 6th

Thursday 23rd

Friday 24th

Start of Term

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

BEST Performing Arts Festival

Sports Afternoon

July

Friday 1st

Tuesday 19th

Thursday 21st

Step-Up Day

Year 6 Trip

Last Day of Term (**NO** after school clubs/PBA Extra)