

Welcome to the first PBA Press of 2023!

Already I can see that this year is going to be no different from the previous in that we are once again managing a significant growth in pupils and staff. During the last few months, we have successfully recruited new staff to extend our upper school provision. As a school that was always designed to be a secondary school, albeit with an extension to include Year 5 and Year 6, we have been fortunate to be able to plan for the Key Stage 4 curriculum we want to deliver. Consequently, we have recruited teachers to lead Drama, Music, ICT, in addition to teachers of Maths, English, Science, DT, Humanities, MFL and additional primary teachers for our growing primary phase. It is exciting to see this growth and see our plans for the curriculum begin to consolidate. Next year will be equally exciting as we look to appoint specialist teachers of the broader curriculum such as Media, Business studies, Dance and a range of other areas that will be somewhat determined by pupil demand.

While this long-term work continues, we are also determined to develop our pupil experience. Over the last few weeks we have had immersion days in Maths, Science and History and an RAF STEM day. Young Voices have performed at the O2 and we have launched our PGL trip for this year and the ski trip for next year. Of course, our pupils continue to perform magnificently in terms of their engagement with clubs and our sports teams have competed across the county and beyond with great success. Seeing the school develop so quickly has been exciting and a little challenging at times but the commitment of staff and support from pupils and parents has been outstanding.



Beyond these events, lessons continue to be delivered in a consistent and thoughtful way. Our model of collegiate planning means that all pupils, regardless of their teacher is provided with a consistent diet of lesson experiences that is not dependent on the person delivering the lesson. We look to develop our curriculum in a way that can take its inspiration from the best available. We are not constrained by school history or resources and instead can work with colleagues excited by the prospect of developing their subject area to enthuse our pupils to achieve. School is about extending and improving life chances and by having a large body of staff who have joined the school to take advantage of the opportunity to make a difference we are in an excellent place to do just that.



As always, we look to the next half term with optimism, there is much to look forward to and much more to be done, but this is always the case in schools!

Have a great half term break.



Mr Steve Adams
Principal

Half Term Round Up

Year 5

I cannot believe that we are halfway through what is looking like a year that is somehow even better than the last. This is our shortest half term yet and it has already flown past! With mock SATs around the corner after half term, Year 6 students (and teachers!) are working harder than ever to ensure that the fantastic progress that these amazing students have made will be seen in their real SATs.



We look forward to the second half of the year being even more exhilarating than the first with much to look forward to such as finishing our SATs, celebrating as a year group, the world-renowned PBA sports day organised by Mr Szwajbak and the PE dept as well as that exciting transition to secondary and finding out new classes. I continue to have the honour to work with this fantastic year group and look forward to seeing them through their final year of primary education.

Mr Cook

Year 6

Well, the Spring is now upon us and we are now half way through our Spring term, which has been pretty busy with the start of the year Science Spectacular where the Year 5's got to do some fun experiments while learning such as observing the reaction of Bicarbonate of soda (alkali) and vinegar (acid); with some food colorant added to it for fun!

I have been lucky enough to have been able to observe lessons provided by our Year 5 team and noticing how well the children are engaging with their learning and always demonstrating the PBA values.

Year 5 have just finished their second "round" of PiXL testing and I have seen that so many pupils have improved their scores from the last. Well done Year 5!



We continue with all our lessons and Big Writes and the end of our Spring 1 topics and the pupils continue to demonstrate how much they have learned and how well they can produce an independent piece of writing based on the topic given, again I am very pleased with what I have seen and the work produced by them.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all a very happy and restful, as well as fun, half term.

Looking forward to see you back on the 20th of February.

Mrs Horwood

Year 7

Once again Year 7 have had a fantastic half term. Despite only being a short half term, they have really worked hard and it has been great to see such a huge turnout at the many extra-curricular clubs that we run. A reminder that after half term we still have Maths homework club on a Tuesday lunchtime & KS3 homework club running on a Wednesday after school.



This week Year 7 took part in an Electricity workshop, organised by Miss Parker. When I caught up with some of the students about the workshop, they said they had really enjoyed the session and particularly using playdough with different metals as conductors.

The response to the ski trip has been amazing. The Year 7 places went in 1 minute and 12 seconds and the Year 8 places went in 4 minutes and 39 seconds!

I hope you all have a restful break, see you all next half term.

Mrs Freeman

Year 8

It seems like only yesterday when I welcomed the Year 8 students back after the Christmas break, and here we are now at the start of February half-term.

I have been lucky enough to be able to drop by lessons from subjects across the curriculum in recent weeks and I have seen some fantastic lessons in science, maths, humanities and much more. The engagement by our students in these lessons has been great to see.

Even though it's been a short half term the Year 8's have been involved in an educational talk discussing slavery, sporting success, art awards for their brilliant skateboard designs and many have been accessing our extra-curricular clubs and resilience workshops.

There promises to be much more to look forward to in the next few months, I am particularly looking forward to the school's first PGL trip.



I would also like to thank the handful of students that helped recently at the Year 7 parents evening, each were great ambassadors for PBA. This term has also seen many of our Year 8 students be involved in student panel for the recent interviews.

The response to the ski trip has been amazing. The Year 7 places went in 1 minute and 12 seconds and the Year 8 places went in 4 minutes and 39 seconds!

I hope you all have a restful half term and I look forward to welcoming the Year 8 students back to PBA in just over a week's time.

Mr Fleckney

Teaching & Learning News

🥒 SCIENCE FRICTION 🥒

Year 5 have been exploring Friction and they had great fun on Friday moving jelly using chopsticks! To make it harder Mrs Webb added cooking oil and the slippery surface made it trickier to grip the cubes. A fabulous start to their next investigation.



SCIENCE: CRAZY CATAPULTS

Year 5 Gandhi class had a great lesson creating crazy catapults. This was part of their science lesson on exploring mechanisms.

To test the designs we then had a catapult "off" and some of the children scored amazingly well!



Science: Crazy Catapults - Year 5 Gandhi



🎵 YOUNG VOICES 2023 🎵

What an amazing time we had yesterday at the O2 Arena for the 'Young Voices 2023' concert!

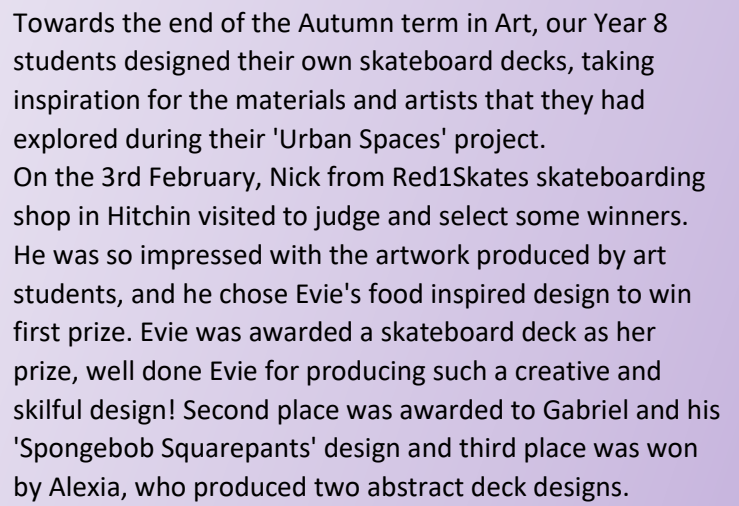
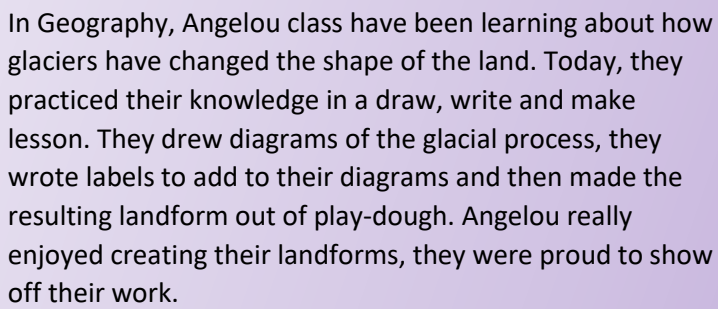
A massive thank you to Miss Priestley for organising the trip and weeks and weeks of rehearsals along with Mrs White.

We're already looking forward to doing it all again in 2024...!

✈️ STEM GLIDER WORKSHOP ✈️

Students from Year 8 have enjoyed a STEM day from The Smallpiece Trust where they undertook an aircraft challenge. Lots of engineering and design skills were used. Some budding engineers for the future perhaps!





Well done to the Year 8 students for their hard work on their designs; I was so impressed to see such a wide range of creative ideas.


ELECTRICITY WORKSHOP

Year 7 had the opportunity to see what it is like to attend university, as they took part in an Electricity Workshop ran by Dr Gareth Bates, a lecturer at the University of Bedfordshire.

We were wowed by a demonstration of static electricity moving a can along the floor, and then the students got to build their own circuits using conductive dough!

After making a circuit with glowing LEDs, the session concluded with some brilliant questions from Year 7



 **HELLO and WELCOME** to our newest members of the support staff team here at Pix Brook Academy:

Mr Petitt – Teaching Assistant

Miss Whittle - Teaching Assistant

Mrs Bailey – HR & Finance Assistant

KS2 SPELLING & MATHS SHED

Top Spelling Shed Groups

#	Group	Score
1.	Pankhurst	253,029,212
2.	Sachar	192,043,664
3.	Blackman	169,563,794
4.	Tolkien	163,296,570
5.	Nightingale	103,453,746
6.	Gandhi	71,927,338
7.	Zephaniah	71,327,145
8.	Angelou	60,553,605
9.	Shakespeare	46,096,594
10.	Austen	45,750,770

Top MathShed Groups

#	Group	Score
1.	Blackman	5,388,265
2.	Angelou	4,783,780
3.	Pankhurst	3,033,095
4.	Sachar	1,627,290
5.	Zephaniah	1,009,366
6.	Austen	358,370
7.	Shakespeare	298,170
8.	Attenborough	271,791
9.	Morpurgo	0
10.	Tolkien	0



Sport

Team PE kick start 2023 with county success!

After a fantastic Autumn term it was important that the momentum built at the end of last year continued into the start of 2023, both in and outside of lessons. This term we have introduced our TAG Team of Sports Captains who have delivered activities to other pupils in lessons and extra-curricular activities with fantastic execution and maturity, demonstrating the socially responsible students that they are.



Proudly introducing our TAG Team of Sports Captains for 2022-23!



Furthermore, the integration of 'contribution armbands' in lessons for those going above and beyond has increased engagement and rewarded student effort in lessons. Elsewhere, in extra-curricular activities our Year 7 boys and girls competed at the county finals, with the boys finishing 5th and the girls coming 2nd overall. Furthermore, we have entered several external competitions with our Year 5/6 girls football team coming 5th in the ESFA County Girls Football tournament and our Year 7 boys rugby team having a fantastic opportunity to play at Saracens StonEx Stadium. After half term we begin our boys and girls rugby campaigns, while our Year 5 netball team continue their league fixtures and our eagerly anticipated girls football season commences. Well done to all students for another superb half term in PE!



YEAR 7 RUGBY



What a night for the Year 7 rugby team at Saracens RFC!



CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 7 GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

placed 2nd best girls basketball team in Bedfordshire!



WELL DONE YEAR 5 GIRLS!

on your win against Arnold Academy





WELL DONE YEAR 5 & 6 GIRLS!

for a great game of netball
last night



CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 7 BASKETBALL TEAM!

placed 5th best basketball team
in Bedfordshire for Year 7!



Year 5 boys football finish season with win!

Our Year 5 boys football team almost went the whole season unbeaten, however a narrow loss to Holywell ended our record. Nonetheless a win over Etonbury meant we concluded our season with a victory. In the first game of the evening we played Holywell, who after a convincing win against Etonbury had been crowned champions and it was no surprise they started confidently against us. Great defending from Harry and Arthur kept Holywell at bay, while the impressive Alek started to dominate in midfield with great composure on the ball. Toby, brimming with confidence after his hat trick last week opened the scoring, following a brilliant through ball from Dylan which put him through on goal and our leading scorer slotted home from close range. Holywell bounced back in the latter stages, scoring twice in quick succession to take a 2-1 lead at half time. The second half was end to end, where the champions piled on pressure only for Ben in goal to make several incredible saves. We were unlucky not to be awarded a penalty with two tight calls with minutes to go and so the game ended 2-1 win to the worthy champions.

In the second game of the evening we encountered Etonbury, with bragging rights and a top three league finish up for grabs. We dominated play from the very beginning, James showing excellent pace on one side of the pitch and Ronnie demonstrating skill and awareness on the other. Two goals from Ronnie and Toby secured a two goal advantage, however Etonbury capitalised on some space to pull one back on the stroke of half time. The second half was all about game management, where Arran showed the grit that was needed in the match to dictate possession and break up play. We were unlucky not to restore a two goal cushion late on, although we were comfortable until the final whistle and ended the season with a 2-1 win. A brilliant season from all the boys as we secured a top three finish, possibly finishing second with some results still to come in. Player of the evening was Ben.

Wellbeing & Safeguarding



Pix Brook Academy SAFEGUARDING TEAM

We are here to keep you safe

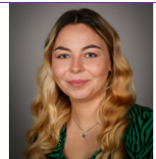
Who can you speak to if you feel worried?

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



Miss Harding
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead



Mr Fleckney
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.



IVEL VALLEY PARENTING BULLETIN

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCBCC/bulletins/3453ce0>

CHUMS WORKSHOP

For information please click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Charity

🏃 MISS POWER TAKES ON 100KM... AGAIN! 🏃

Miss Power has decided to tackle another Ultra Challenge this year. She will be trekking 100km in the Peak District, through day and night, without sleep to raise money for Mind UK. To kick start Miss Power's training for her Peak District Ultra Challenge in July, she decided to take part in the London Winter Walk, she walked 21km in 3 hours and 39 minutes through the bustling streets of London.

If you would like to donate to Miss Power's challenge and to the wonderful charity Mind UK or just read Miss Power's story, follow the link below. 😊

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tarapower1>



London Winter Walk



Distance
13.45 mi

Moving Time
3:39:05

Elevation Gain
124 ft

Calories
2,234 Cal

1st Arlesey Scout Group

SLEEP OUT FOR THE HOMELESS

The 1st Arlesey Yellow Devils and Dambuster Explorers will be giving up their beds for a night to sleep out to help raise money for Centrepoin, the UK's leading youth homelessness charity who support over 14,000 young people every year. By doing this they will experience some of the discomfort that thousands of young people go through each year. Our Sleep Out for the Homeless will be taking place from the 10th to 11th February.

TOGETHER WE CAN RAISE VITAL FUNDS TO HELP PROVIDE A WARM AND SAFE PLACE FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO CALL HOME.

For more information, please contact:
Jayden.Constable@arleseyscouts.org.uk



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/arlesey-scouts?fbclid=IwAR1rQamyZK-LRCxh1QaTURS-QHOKo21gXqt-5L4pkBZkoDII5QMtW0zcFcA>

Celebrations Outside of PBA



WELL DONE ESME!

for achieving your 1 mile
(64 lengths) swimming badge!



CONGRATULATIONS IRIS!

on passing your Solo Acting
Grade 3 LAMDA exam



WELL DONE CHARLOTTE & CATHERINE!

for achieving your 1 mile
(64 lengths) swimming badge!



CONGRATULATIONS ALICE!

on passing your Level 7
Swimming & Safety Skills course

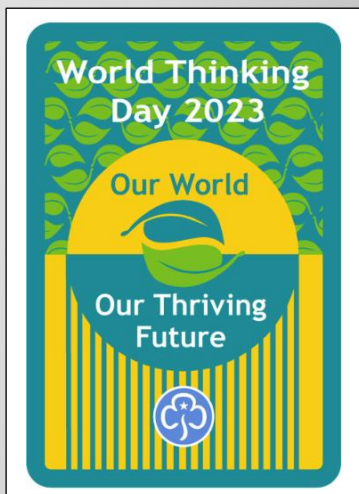


General Information

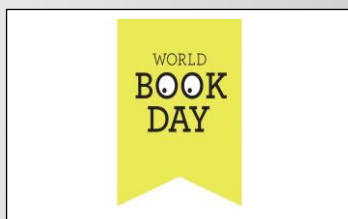
WORLD THINKING DAY / FOUNDERS DAY

Each year on 22nd February, members of the Girl Guide and Scout movement celebrate World Thinking Day. It's a day when they think of each other and give thanks and appreciation for international friendships. The date, 22nd February, was chosen as the date for Thinking Day because it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement, and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide.

One of the traditions of Thinking Day is that members of the Guiding and Scouting movements wear their uniforms to school to show others that they are part of the movement. Therefore we will be allowing pupils at Pix Brook Academy who are part of the Scouting, Brownie and Guide Units within Stotfold District to wear their Scout, Brownie or Guide uniforms to school on that day.



WORLD BOOK DAY



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3rd March. KS2 pupils are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on this day.

READATHON

We will be taking part in our first readathon from Monday 27th February – Sunday 5th March

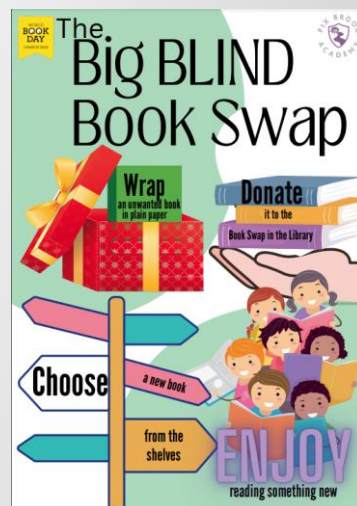
Your child will be given a sponsorship card the week before the readathon begins. The money we raise as a school will provide books and storytellers to UK hospitals. More information on the organisation and how to pay sponsorship money online can be found using the link below. <https://readforgood.org/>



THE BIG BLIND BOOK SWAP

- Do you like surprises?
- Do you have books at home that you no longer read?
- Are they in good condition?
- Would you like to try something new to read?

If the answer is YES, then you need to take part in Pix Brook's first Big Blind Book Swap as part of our World Book Day celebrations.



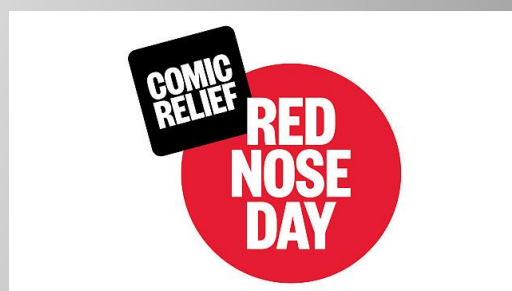
What you need to do to take part.

1. Ask your parents' permission to take part
2. Select a book from home that you no longer read that is in good condition. Make sure it is age appropriate.
3. Wrap your book up. You could use wrapping paper, newspaper, brown paper etc
4. Put a clue to the book on the front. This could be three words to describe the book, a summary of the story (but don't give away the ending!), a picture or something else.
5. Bring your book to the Library before World Book Day. We will keep a note of who has donated a book.
6. On World Book Day you will be allowed to come and choose a new book from the selection.
7. Enjoy your new book!

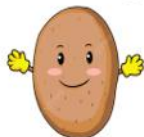
COMIC RELIEF / RED NOSE DAY (Friday 17th March)

Please note that we are asking KS2 pupils to wear full school uniform on this day but if they would like to wear a red nose they are more than welcome to. The donation page is

<https://donation.comicrelief.com/form/giftaid>



Design a Potato Book Character!



As part of World Book Day celebrations, we will be asking you to decorate a potato as a book character for our whole school competition.

You can be as creative as you like to design your character. You are free to decorate it how you like and use whatever materials you can find at home to help with your characters presentation.

You should bring your potatoes to school and give to your form tutor the week beginning 27th February, closing date is Friday 3rd March. Entries will be displayed in each form room and a winner will be selected from each form class who will each receive a prize.



END OF TERM TESTS – MATHS

Year 7 and Year 8 Maths testing will take place on Tuesday 28th February and Thursday 2nd March. The first paper will be non-calculator and 40 minutes long; the second will be the calculator paper and again will be 40 minutes long. Topics to be tested have been listed on Google Classroom as part of this week's homework task. I have included a link to the BBC Bitesize website as well as uploading a copy of all the relevant knowledge organisers. If your child is unsure as to what is being covered in the test, please ask them to contact their Maths teacher.

Final plea, please can you ensure that your child has a calculator in school on 2nd March as there is a very limited number available in school.

Thank you

PBA Maths Team

EQUIPMENT

Please can you make sure that your child is restocked for the new term

Equipment List

The following needs to be brought to school every day



pencils



rubber



ruler



sharpener



green pen



scissors



glue stick



handwriting pens

(blue)



colouring pencils



highlighters

(yellow, green & pink)



notebook



water bottle

SCHOOL LUNCHES Please find the new Spring lunch menu [HERE](#) – We will return on **Week 1**

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

To add money to your ParentMail account please follow these instructions:

<https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/payment/s/dinner-money/>

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.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS Please find the new Spring timetable [HERE](#)

Diary & Term Dates

DATE

YEAR EVENT

February

Monday 13th – Friday 17th

Half Term

Wednesday 22nd

All

World Thinking Day / Founders Day

Monday 27th – Thursday 2nd March

6

Mock SATs

w/c Monday 27th

KS3

End of cycle assessments starts

March

Wednesday 1st

National Teacher Strike

Thursday 2nd

5

Parents Evening

Friday 3rd

World Book Day

Tuesday 14th

5

National Space Centre trip

Wednesday 15th

National Teacher Strike

Thursday 16th

National Teacher Strike

Thursday 16th

6

Parents Evening

Friday 17th

Comic Relief / Red Nose Day

April

Monday 3rd – Friday 14th

Easter Holidays

Monday 17th

Inset Day

Tuesday 18th

START OF SUMMER TERM

Thursday 27th

7

Parents Evening

May

Monday 1st

Bank Holiday

Monday 8th

Bank Holiday (Kings Coronation)

Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th

6

SATs

Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th

8

PGL

Monday 29th – Friday 2nd

Half Term

June

Thursday 8th

8

Parents Evening

w/c Monday 19th

KS3

End of cycle assessments starts

Wednesday 28th

4

New Year 5 Intake Information Evening

Friday 30th

All

Step-Up Day

July

Thursday 6th

6

Parents Evening (SATs results)

Date TBC

All

Sports Day

Friday 21st

LAST DAY OF TERM (NO after school clubs/PBA Extra)

BEST Academic Calendar 2022/2023

School Holiday

Bank Holiday

Pupil Day

Training Day



September 2022							October 2022							November 2022							December 2022						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon	3	10	17	24	31		Mon	7	14	21	28			Mon	5	12	19	26		
Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue	4	11	18	25			Tue	1	8	15	22	29		Tue	6	13	20	27		
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed	5	12	19	26			Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed	7	14	21	28		
Thu		1	8	15	22	29	Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu	3	10	17	24		Thu	1	8	15	22	29		
Fri		2	9	16	23	30	Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30		
Sat	3		10	17	24		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31		
Sun	4		11	18	25		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25			

January 2023

Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

February 2023

Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		1	8	15	22	
Thu		2	9	16	23	
Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

March 2023

Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		1	8	15	22	29
Thu		2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

April 2023

Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

May 2023

Mon		1	8	15	22	29
Tue		2	9	16	23	30
Wed		3	10	17	24	31
Thu		4	11	18	25	
Fri		5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

June 2023

Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24		
Sun	4	11	18	25		

July 2023

Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

August 2023

Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue		1	8	15	22	29
Wed		2	9	16	23	30
Thu		3	10	17	24	31
Fri		4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

Term 1 – 72 days Term 2 – 59 days Term 3 – 64 days = 195 days.
Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on 5 of the 195 days. In accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service, five days will be used to enable teacher training to take place.
Training days set are as follows: 1st September 2022, 2nd September 2022, 31st October 2022, 3rd January 2023 and 17th April 2023.
14/11/22: BEST Academic Calendar 2022/23 updated to include a Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III on Monday 8th May 2023.