

Summer news



Dear Parent/Carers,

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter it reflects the huge amount that has been achieved by the students this year across all three sites.

From a school of 50 on two sites we are now a school of 75 across three. We have had students sit GCSEs in English, Maths, Science and History as well as numerous other accreditations including Functional skills and AQA's.

The opportunities outside of the classroom continue to grow with a residential, overnight camping and 10 Students receiving their bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards.

We have big plans to increase our learning outside the classroom provision next year with more opportunities for students to be out in the community.

We wish you all a warm and restful summer.

Ben Coombes

Wessex Lodge School Headteacher



Newmead News

The summer term has been another one filled with significant progress and productivity from our pupils. It's been a joy to witness the enthusiasm and dedication displayed by everyone in our school community this term. We are especially pleased to welcome eight new pupils, which has positively contributed to the vibrant atmosphere we cherish here.

In and out of the classroom, our pupils have been busier than ever. A big thank you goes out to our farm team for their continuing efforts in caring for the animals, fostering not just responsibility but also a deep appreciation for nature among our pupils.

In outdoor education, ten pupils participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, demonstrating their skills while out walking and camping. It's always rewarding to see our students rise to challenges and thrive in the great outdoors. Additionally, the residential trip to Barton Hall was a fantastic success, with numerous pupils fully embracing the opportunities to learn and grow outside of their usual environment.

Halfway through the term, we had a slight diversion when Ofsted arrived for their inspection. I must commend our farm pupils and staff for truly doing the school proud during this time. We received some wonderful feedback and were pleased with the outcomes.

Despite the challenges posed by the hot weather, our students managed to stay cool with plenty of water play where appropriate.

To close out the term, we held a triple event bonanza! Our pupils enjoyed a trip to the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford, participated in an exciting sports day, and finished off with a delightful fair on the final day. It's been a remarkable term, and year on the farm we can't wait to see what the next year brings!

finally, a thank you from me to all the staff, pupils, parents and carers who have supported what we do here at the farm.

Thank you,

Stuart Hamilton – Deputy Headteacher

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Ark

As the academic year draws to a close, we take this

opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments and enriching experiences our students have engaged in over the past term.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all students who have successfully completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Your perseverance, leadership, and commitment to personal development are commendable, and we are immensely proud of your achievements.

GCSE Completion

To our GCSE students, we offer sincere congratulations. Your dedication and hard work throughout this challenging period have been exemplary. We wish you every success as you await your results and prepare for the next stage of your educational journey.

Residential Trip to Barton Hall

The residential trip to Barton Hall provided students with valuable opportunities for personal growth, teamwork, and adventure. We thank all staff and participants for making this experience both memorable and meaningful.

Cultural Enrichment: Classical Music Concert

Students had the privilege of attending a classical music concert at the local church, an event that offered a moment of cultural enrichment and artistic appreciation. We are grateful to the performers and organisers for facilitating this inspiring experience.

Community Confidence-Building Excursions

This term also featured several excursions designed to foster confidence and community engagement, including visits to the beach and to the city of Bristol. These outings encouraged students to explore new environments and build interpersonal skills in real-world settings.

Inter-Site Football Match

In a spirited inter-site football match, The Ark faced The Farm in a closely contested game. The Farm emerged victorious with a 1–0 win. We commend both teams for their sportsmanship and enthusiasm.

Farewell to Our Leavers

Finally, we bid a fond farewell to those students departing The Ark as they embark on their next steps. Whether continuing in education, entering apprenticeships, or pursuing other pathways, we wish you every success and happiness in the future. You leave with our admiration and best wishes.



What's been happening at the Hive...

- As we come to the end of this summer term, it's hard to put into words just how far we've all come since September. It has been quite the journey, not just for our students, but for our staff team and the site itself. Together, we've grown, adapted and made The Hive an even more exciting and nurturing place to learn.
- Throughout the year, we've worked hard to adapt our practice to meet the individual needs of every student. A key part of this has been embedding our Learning Through Play curriculum, which has allowed our young people to build their academic, social and emotional skills in fun, engaging and

meaningful ways.

The progress across both academic and SEMH areas has been outstanding. While the details of academic achievements can be found in the end-of-term reports, it's been just as rewarding to see every student grow in confidence, resilience, and emotional regulation. The effort, determination, and positivity shown by all our students has been inspiring.

Looking ahead to September, we're excited to be offering even more opportunities for hands-on, meaningful learning experiences. We're welcoming a new Forest School Lead to The Hive, which means students will have greater access to outdoor learning, nature-based activities and Forest School sessions, supporting wellbeing, teamwork and life skills.

Our ever-popular home cooking sessions with Paola will continue, giving students more chances to build their independence and practical cooking skills. Plus, we're planning even more time at the farm, offering fantastic opportunities for students to connect with animals and the environment, supporting both their learning and emotional development.

The Hive itself continues to grow, not only will there be some exciting structural changes on site ready for September, but we'll also be welcoming some new peers to our wonderful community. These additions will bring fresh energy and new friendships as we continue to thrive together.

Every day, I'm amazed by our students; their curiosity, their care for others, their humour and their commitment to being part of this special learning environment.

Wishing all of our students and families a happy, relaxing and adventure-filled summer holiday. We can't wait to hear all about it when we see you in September!

Ant West

Assistant Headteacher & The Hive Site Lead

Phoenix Class



Well done for an amazing term, Phoenix class!

The four boys have had a fantastic time this term, showing great enthusiasm and enjoyment in their learning. They engaged well in all their lessons, expressed their creativity through Art and Arts & Crafts and prepared some delicious recipes with Paola during cooking sessions. In PSHE, they worked together in group activities, developing important social and communication skills.



Each child has consistently shown kindness towards one another, creating a warm and supportive classroom environment. It has been a real pleasure to see them smiling, happy and thriving every day. We are very proud of the progress they have made; well done, Phoenix!



Gnomes Class

This term in Gnomes, we've had a fantastic time exploring a wide range of exciting topics!

In English, we focused on non-fiction writing and created imaginative newspaper reports based on Little Red Riding Hood — with a fun twist!

In Maths, we explored time and money through engaging, hands-on activities that the children really enjoyed.

Our topic work took us around the UK, where we discovered how fascinating our coastlines are, the connections we share with other countries, and the influence they have on our daily lives.

In Art, we linked our topic learning by creating artwork inspired by famous UK landmarks, and we even made our own clay animals — which was a definite highlight!

Thank you, Gnomes, for all of your hard work and enthusiasm this year — you've been amazing!



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Goblins Class

We've had a wonderfully busy and exciting time in Goblins class, packed full of hands-on learning, creative adventures, and some fantastic new discoveries!

Maths Mayhem!

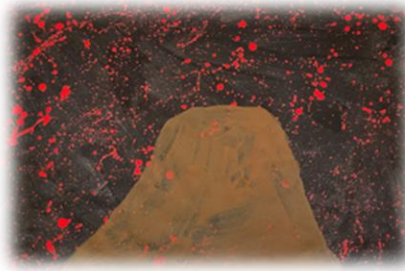
This term, we've been exploring fractions — learning all about halves, quarters and thirds. To make things fun (and tasty!), we chopped up real fruit to help us visualise these fractions and drew diagrams on the tables to really bring the learning to life. It's been a fantastic way to mix practical learning with mathematical thinking.

English Explorers

In English, we've been diving into the world of newspapers – learning about headlines, reports, and how to share information clearly. We also dipped our toes into poetry, where we played rhyming games to build our vocabulary and creativity. The children have enjoyed finding words that sound the same. Our reading has been incredible this term – we have been growing in confidence and reading aloud to each other.

Creative Currents – Volcanoes & Titanic

Our topic work has been truly explosive! We started by learning all about volcanoes, including the fascinating story of Pompeii. The children created brilliant artwork inspired by erupting volcanoes and learnt some key facts through fun, hands-on activities.

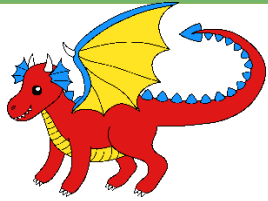


We then set sail on a brand-new topic: the Titanic! Using a mix of internet research and an exciting information hunt around the classroom, the children have already discovered so much about this famous ship. They've been curious, engaged, and eager to learn more.

Fun in the Sun

With the lovely weather recently, we've been making the most of the great outdoors! The children have enjoyed accessing the garden for PE lessons, letting their imaginations run wild during outdoor play, and even cooking up a storm with some delicious cold summer treats in home cooking skills. It's been wonderful to see everyone so active, creative, and full of summer spirit!

As always, we're incredibly proud of how enthusiastic and hardworking the Goblins have been. They're showing great teamwork, curiosity, and creativity in all they do.



Dragon Class

This term we have been busy in Dragon class. We started the summer term by looking at “Eat what we grow”, grow what we eat. During this learning we created wooden fruit slices in Art. In English we did a slow reveal of Jack and the Baked Beanstalk, we all enjoyed this story.



This half term our learning topic is EleMental. We have created different element pictures in Art. In our English we looked at imperative verbs to learn about these we made jam sandwiches, our first attempt wasn't very successful as you can see from the picture. Luckily our second attempt was delicious. We focused on poems for the rest of the term. During Geography we have been looking at physical and human features around our local area.



Dragonflies - Summer Term

During the summer term we have been focusing on the 3 b's be kind, be safe and be respectful. Each week throughout the term Dragonflies have had a class focus to build class values but also on their emotional wellbeing.

We have had lots of different opportunities this term from the careers day, Dragonflies experienced the creatures of longleat coming in as well as the makers of the mars chocolate bars. In which they even got to eat plenty of chocolate. However, the main event of the whole day had to be throwing a egg in a parachute.

Further into the summer term, we then have been looking at our emotional wellbeing through art. Dragonflies have looked at an artist called Anna Atkins where we have been sketching nature, using a variety of sketching techniques. The student's enjoyed doing this during some afternoons on the farm as well as learning how to do leaf printing using blue paint. Alongside our art we have read books such as colours of the rainbow, we are together and wish.



During the afternoons, Harry has built a range of lego models of the basis of building a fair ground. Harry imagination took him away and he was able to build a lama out of lego, as well as a range of flowers.

Proud news:

Jayden this term has completed his college course which he has worked so hard towards. Well done Jayden!

Lilly has started work experience each week and is enjoying learning new skills in the community. Lilly also had an amazing experience in taking part on Duke of Edinbrugh

Courtney and Harry have completed more AGA's in homecooking skills.

Dragonflies, have had an exceptional year and they have worked so incredibly hard as a group!



Ark Gardening Club

The Gardening Club opened its creaky shed doors earlier this year and has been a great source of fun, friendship and flora for all our students. Over the winter months we all planted seeds and watched them germinate on our indoor living wall which offered great learning opportunities for our young people. We then learnt the hard way about the impact of late seasonal frosts on seedlings!



During more recent months the weather has been kinder for our young Gardeners, and much work has gone into the daily tasks of digging, weeding and watering, meaning we now have our first adolescent crop of potatoes, carrots, broccoli, chives, strawberries and beautifully tall sunflowers. Some of our students have worked exceptionally hard to create and maintain our new kitchen garden, special thanks go to them - they know who they are!

We were delighted to receive recognition in the recent Ofsted report which cited the Gardening Club as an excellent opportunity for wider learning, working together and promoting healthy lifestyles. We have collaborated with PSHE and Home Cooking Skills to consider global topics like Seasonality, Sustainability and Environmentalism and so it

is with great excitement that we are now installing a water butt and composter to help the Ark become more mindful of our precious natural resources.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this project, keeeeeep gardening!!



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🌟 Careers Day Inspires Future Pathways at School! 🌟

13th May was no ordinary Tuesday—our school was buzzing with excitement as secondary students explored a world of possibilities during our annual **Careers Day!**

We were thrilled to welcome a fantastic range of visitors who brought their professions to life in the most hands-on and memorable ways:

🦎 **Longleat** amazed students with a mini-zoo experience, featuring a **snake**, a **tarantula**, and even **giant cockroaches!** They also showcased fascinating props from each department, giving students a glimpse into the diverse roles at the famous safari park.



🍫 **Mars** challenged students to step into the shoes of a **quality control expert**, sampling and evaluating products—yes, that meant chocolate! It was a delicious way to learn about careers in food science and manufacturing.

🐾 **Frome Equine Vets** gave a live demonstration of **horse dentistry**, sparking interest in veterinary science and animal care. Students were captivated by the tools and techniques used

to keep horses healthy.

🎓 **Bath College** offered valuable insights into **courses and apprenticeships**, helping students understand what to expect from college life and how to take the next steps in their education journey.

🤖 And finally, our very own **Careers Advisor, Oli Masters**, ran a thrilling **egg drop challenge**, encouraging teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving—all essential skills for the future workplace.

Careers Day was a brilliant success, opening eyes to new opportunities and sparking curiosity about the many paths students can take. A huge thank you to all our visitors and staff who made the day so inspiring!





TOO COO
FOR SCHOOL



Pigeon class

I cannot believe we are at the end of Summer 2 and heading into the summer break.

This term Pigeon class have made me proud with how well they have coped with this long term. In class we have been learning about coordinates in maths which I think most of the students have really enjoyed. In English we have been learning about theme parks and the students have been working together to design their own. We have also been planning some trips we would like to go on with some good suggestions along the way so far on our list we have Cotswold water park, Longleat , and Thorpe Park. With the hot weather we have had the past few weeks Pigeons have enjoyed lots of water play to keep cool they have really enjoyed getting me soaked with water balloons which I think was their favourite part of the water play. Pigeon class I want to let you know I am so very proud of you all and all that you have achieved this academic year and want to thank you for making my first year as being your teacher an absolute pleasure. I hope you all have a great summer break as you all deserve it. I look forward to welcoming you back in September and hearing about what you have all been doing.

See you all Soon

Kelly



MAPLE

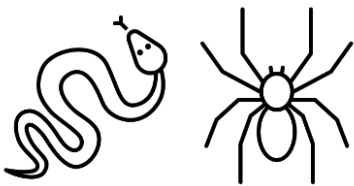


This term Maple class students have been busy! 😊

We have been spending time at Valis during Forest school which has been lots of fun!
In PE we have been practicing our athletic skills, in long jump, sprinting and relay races.
We have been to Charmouth beach a couple of times and really enjoyed fossil hunting with Willow class.



On careers day Josh and Alfie were very brave holding the animals from Longleat.



And Jack has been great helping to build a Wallow for Bubbles.



Well done on another fantastic term!

Katy

Maple Class teacher



Willow Class have really begun to find their feet at the Farm.

Willow Class has had to face a number of challenges throughout the term, from adapting to curriculum changes, 'new' returning members of staff, as well as continuing to forge relationships with

new and established peers across the school site. As a class, we have consistently sought to seize every opportunity to learn, both in and outside the classroom. From our DT and Home Cooking lessons, to Forest School, PE and Outdoor Education, to slightly more 'left of field' activities such as metal detecting, drone flying and launching water rockets – Willow Class has given it a go. Despite a few 'bumps in the road', we have approached each new day with enthusiasm and resolve, ensuring we make the very most out of these opportunities.

As the weather warmed up, we enjoyed several class trips, along with Maple Class, to Charmouth on the beautiful Jurassic coast. We joined in with many other fossil hunters and were fortunate to find some ammonite and belemnite fossils. We also enjoyed a paddle in the sea and an ice cream. Earlier in the term, we took a trip to the Tank Museum at Bovington, where Eli was in his element. He was the perfect guide, using his extensive knowledge of tanks to keep us all informed.

Also, this term, we had the pleasure of hosting an Ofsted Inspection Team who were very grateful for Tristian's offer of a cold, refreshing glass of lemon water during a hot day on their inspection. Tristian has relished his time this term working in Home Catering and the Horticulture area of the Farm, as well as taking a keen interest in the site's Health & Safety.

Our best trip was saved until the last week of our summer term, when we travelled with children from across the three sites to the Royal International Air Tattoo held at RAF Fairford. It was a fantastic day out, not only enjoying 5 hours of flying displays but also an opportunity to view all the static displays and the huge marquee dedicated to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths), where we took part in lots of exciting activities. Freddie put his enquiring brain to the test by reassembling a model jet engine at the Rolls-Royce stand – he did really well without any help or instruction. Hebden had a 'hair-raising' experience on a stand showcasing the effects of static electricity, and we heard from an expert about the impact of static electricity on aircraft.

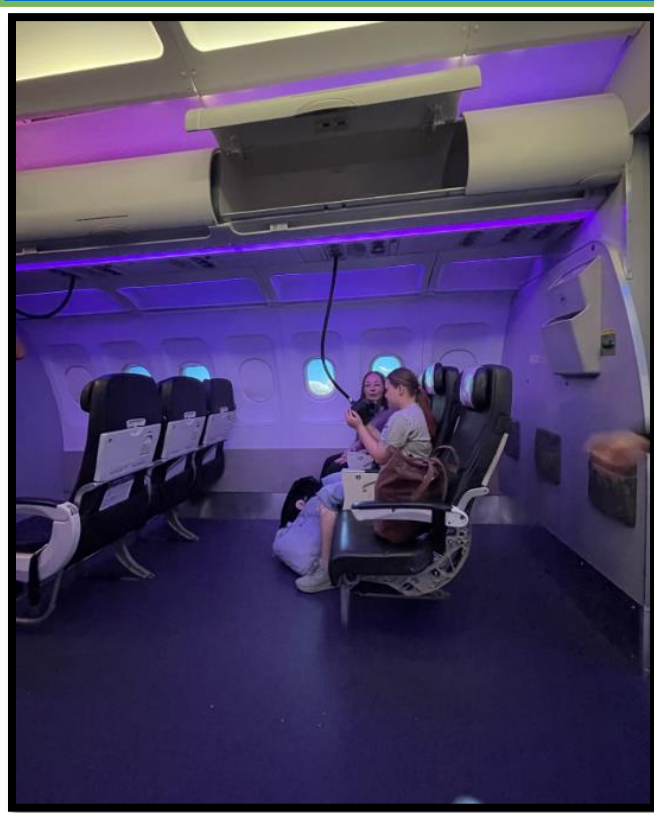
Steve Priday

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Oak class had a really great day out at Wake The Tiger in Bristol, a completely immersive experience, with lots of exploring and activities to take part in. This trip was a great way to end their first term as a class and showed how well the group have settled into WLS.

Marie Moss

Humanities Department:

A Term of Milestones and Memorable Trips!

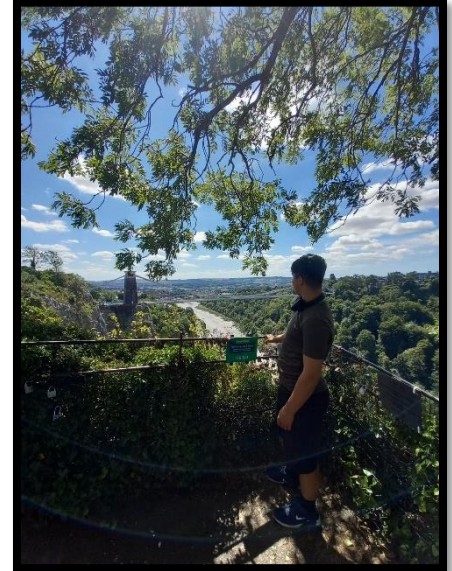
What an incredible term it's been for the Humanities department at Wessex! We're immensely proud of our students and staff for their hard work and dedication.

This term marked a significant milestone for us as our students sat their **very first GCSE exams**. This was a massive undertaking for everyone involved, and the effort put in by both students and teachers was truly impressive. We commend their resilience and commitment throughout this challenging but rewarding period.

Beyond the exam hall, we've continued to enrich our students' learning through engaging experiences. Our budding historians and geographers enjoyed several fantastic trips to the iconic **Clifton Suspension Bridge**. These visits provided a brilliant opportunity to bring classroom learning to life, allowing students to explore engineering marvels, delve into historical significance, and appreciate the local landscape firsthand.

We're excited to continue building on this success and look forward to more enriching experiences in the terms to come!

Will O'Rourke



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ART

This term students have been looking at the formal elements, these are the vital parts of any piece of

artwork. Students have developed their drawing skills and their ability to use art terminology to talk about their own work and others. We have specifically looked at, Line and Shape, Tone and Form, Texture and Pattern, Perspective and Space, colour and contrast. We have also looked at a variety of artists through this and created work based on their styles. We have looked at Wassily Kandinsky, Cath Riley, MC Escher, Jasper Johns and William Morris.

In the second half of the term students have been completing their summer projects, this is where students lead on what they want to create, and the work is then displayed around the school. This year most students have chosen to complete photography tasks, therefore have been learning how to use cameras, settings, compositional strategies as well as editing images.

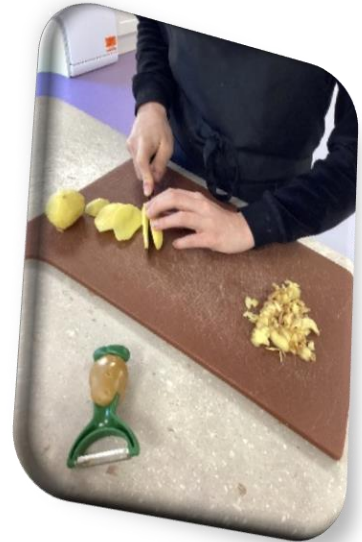


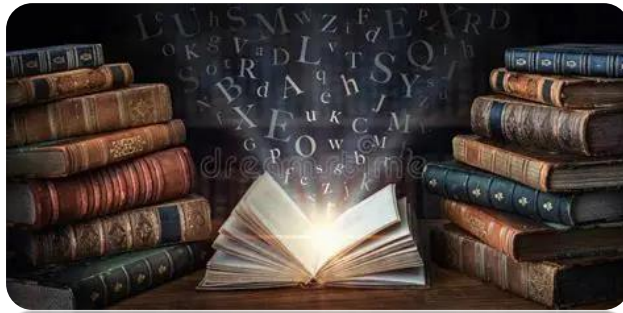
HOME COOKING SKILLS

This academic year at Wessex Lodge School, students have immersed themselves in home cooking skill, learning and mastering a variety of new techniques and dishes.

The summer term has been particularly successful with the introduction of a BTEC Award in Home Cooking Skills. Many students have completed this award successfully, showcasing their talents by preparing for practical assessments and crafting amazing dishes.

It's been a fantastic journey of culinary exploration and achievement for everyone involved!





English

This year, we have delivered a rich and engaging English curriculum designed to help every learner grow in confidence, creativity, and communication. Students have explored a wide range of texts and developed their reading and writing skills through varied and exciting themes across the year.

In the Autumn term, students explored a variety of fiction extracts, including short stories and poems, followed by a focus on biographies, where they engaged with real-life stories and personal experiences. During the Spring term, each key stage studied a novel suited to their level and then took on the creative challenge of writing and performing their own plays. Finally, in the Summer term, students analysed a range of non-fiction texts and concluded the year by applying their reading and writing skills in exciting project-based learning.

Across the key stages, students have risen to the challenge. In Key Stage 1 and 2, they've built strong phonics and comprehension skills alongside creative projects such as planning zoos and theme parks. Key Stage 3 students have tackled more complex texts and ideas—like *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Stone Cold*—while experimenting with their own writing styles.

Our Key Stage 4 learners have followed personalised pathways, whether working toward Entry Level qualifications, Functional Skills, or preparing for GCSE English Language. They've practised key exam skills, including comprehension, analysis, and extended writing, with increasing independence and maturity.

As we head into the summer holidays, we would love for all students to pick up something to read, whether it's a novel, a joke book, a comic, or a magazine—anything that keeps their love of reading alive.

Next year, there will be a whole-school focus on reading, with even more opportunities to celebrate books, develop reading habits, and inspire a lifelong love of literature.

Phoebe Brazier – English Teacher

Wessex Lodge School

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Practical Tips to Help Engage Children in Summer Activities

As the school year draws to a close, we know many of you are looking forward to the summer holidays – and perhaps a little daunted by the prospect of keeping your family entertained! Finding activities that are both enjoyable and won't break the bank, while also nurturing those precious family relationships, can certainly feel like a challenge.

Key Principles of Trauma-Informed Practice – The Wessex Lodge Approach

- **Connect:** Spend quality time with your child, helping them feel safe and supported
- **Co-Regulate:** Engage in activities together to help understand and manage emotions and behaviour.
- **Co-Reflect:** Reflect on the activities and experiences to support self-awareness and growth.

Leisure Time

Planned leisure time offers so much more than just a break from routine; it's a fantastic opportunity for children to discover new interests, build skills, and truly develop a sense of who they are. This is especially vital for children who've faced difficult experiences, as it helps them feel secure and supported. By encouraging purposeful and meaningful activities, we can not only ward off boredom but also foster positive interactions and deeper engagement. Think about activities that spark creativity, encourage physical activity, and get them truly involved! Examples include:

- **Games:** Board games, construction games, card games, problem-solving games.
- **Nature:** Forest school activities, gardening, nature walks.
- **Arts & Crafts:** Sewing, making bracelets, mosaic, photography, painting, scrapbooking, colouring, creating mood boards.
- **Exercise:** Yoga, gym, bike riding, dancing, football, basketball, swimming, tennis.
- **Group Games:** Capture the flag, scavenger hunts, charades.
- **Problem Solving:** Sudoku, word searches, puzzles.
- **Baking & Cooking:** Trying new recipes, baking, cake decorating.
- **Personal Care:** Braiding hair, painting nails, pamper sessions

Encouraging Participation & Consistency

To help make the most of your child's summer, consider these three key approaches to leisure time:

- **Structure:** Create a sense of predictability by regularly scheduling activities. A routine helps children, especially those who thrive on consistency, feel secure and know what to expect.
- **Encouragement:** Be your child's biggest cheerleader! Support their involvement in chosen activities and celebrate their efforts and achievements, no matter how small.
- **Choice:** Empower your child by allowing them to make decisions about their activities and take responsibility for their choices. This builds confidence and independence.

Prioritising Your Well-being This Summer

We know the summer holidays, while wonderful, can sometimes feel a bit overwhelming. At school, your child has a whole team supporting them daily, and suddenly, much of that support falls to you. It's completely normal to feel the pressure!

Remember the old saying: "You can't pour from an empty cup." Looking after yourself isn't a luxury; it's essential. When you're feeling good, you're better equipped to support your child and enjoy the precious time together.

Here are some ways to prioritise your self-care over the coming weeks:

- **Schedule 'Me' Time:** Make time for yourself non-negotiable. Even short breaks, like when your child is engrossed in a film or a game, can recharge your batteries.
- **Practice Relaxation:** Explore simple relaxation techniques. There are many free guided meditations, yoga, or deep breathing exercises available on YouTube that can help you de-stress.
- **Stay Connected:** Don't lose touch with your support network. Reach out to friends and family; sharing experiences can make a big difference, and a chat can provide valuable support.
- **Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle:** Do your best to eat well, get regular exercise (even short walks count!), and ensure you're getting enough sleep. These basics are fundamental to your well-being.
- **Don't Hesitate to Seek Support:** If things feel too much, please reach out. Professionals or support groups are there to help, and asking for help is a sign of strength.

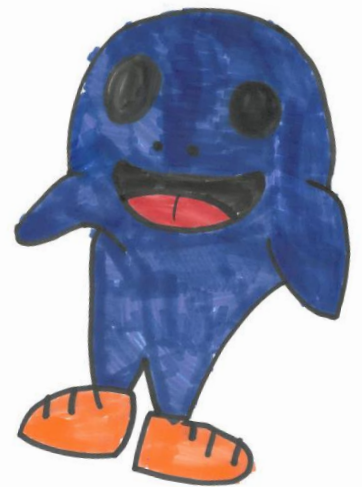
By making your own well-being a priority and incorporating these principles and varied activities, you can truly create a supportive and enriching environment for both you and your child this summer. This approach isn't just about keeping children engaged; it's about building strong, positive relationships and supporting their overall development in meaningful ways.

Wessex Lodge Clinical Team

With thanks to Dr. Leanne Johnson for the creation of the guidance and resource.



ADARA'S ART



Adara.B



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Back in the Ark Days...

It took a while but when we saw you, we had just arrived in England when we visited you on Friday June 13. We came back on June 20 after visiting Wells, Shepton Mallot, Marlborough, Bath, Bristol and Hastings.

I managed to find some photographs taken in the autumn of 1963. Unfortunately, I could not find the one where my

grandpa is mowing the grass with me following him.

The picture where the five people are standing in front of the door in the garden are: from left to right: Auntie Hermien (visiting), her husband, my uncle Dick took the photograph, my mother Jeanne Widdcombe, now 93, who also lived there until she was about 20 and then went working in Bristol as a secretary before the immigrated to Holland in 1960. Next to her, her mother Jackie (died in 1964) and her father William Comptom Widdicombe (owner of the house) who lived there until approximately 1987 and then moved to the Netherlands, Den Bosch my hometown, where



he passed away at 93 years old. Next to my grandpa, my father Peter Kuiters, who passed away in 1992.

The other pictures speak for themselves. But still one with me, Charles, and my grandmother Jackie after I was just born in the hospital nearby the house where the COOP now is.

Thanks again Ben for the friendly way you and your staff received us and the possibility for us of being shown around the house after almost 50 years. It is nice to know that you and your

staff are doing such great work for the pupils who spend time there and are being educated in all kinds of ways so they can manage on their own. Keep up the good work!

Cheerio like my grandfather always used to say.

Best regards,

Charles Kuiters

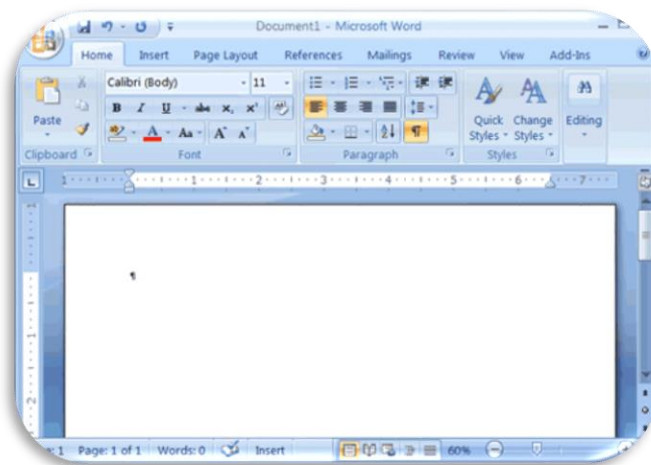
We have just completed a fantastic Family Therapy course. It has been great getting to know our parents and share our experiences.

Lizzie & Kat



Digital Functional Skills

This term in our Digital Functional Skills lessons we have focused on learning how to use Microsoft Word. This has included learning the basic functions including how to **bold**, underline and italicise text. We have also explored how to manipulate graphics in Word as well as how these two techniques can be combined to create a useful document.



Wessex Waves Radio Station

Also, this term we have decided to embark on a very exciting project for the school! We have decided that it would be holistically beneficial for the school if we were to set up a school radio station. Our learners will have a direct input into this and will be given intellectual ownership of the content created for the radio station. This may include news, weather reports, sports reports on their favorite teams and film reviews. These are just a few ideas, but the list is almost limitless. We will be recording shows during break times, lunch times and during some lessons and these will be uploaded to the radio player so that anyone within the Outcomes First Group will be able to listen in. This will not only provide insight into how radio works but will also enrich our learners with some excellent skillsets including research, use of technology, entrepreneurial skills and public speaking. The learners have already begun designing logos for the radio station as well as carrying out some testing on the equipment we already have here at the school.



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Class of 2025

Wessex Lodge Leavers



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Outdoor Education

This term in outdoor education we have had a big focus on Watersports and mountain biking. With our recent purchase of a full fleet of paddleboards we have been able to let our students try their hands at a new skill and with one of our team attending external training we can now provide our young people with mountain biking qualifications as well.

All of the work we have put in this year has culminated with a Wessex lodge first, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. We have had the privilege of working with 10 young people in 2 teams all striving for their bronze award and this has finally happened here at our school. They spent 2 days navigating the Marlborough downs and spent the night sleeping in a tent, a first for some of them. Needless to say, we are all very proud of their achievements, as should they, and we can't wait to support them on their silver next year"

Forest School

Where to start with Forest School. We've had a different term than previous as the focus this term has been keeping our social skills and friendship before we go into the summer holidays.

We've explored different woodlands, played different games worked with other groups to achieve this. The smiles and laughter during the lessons have been infectious with the strength of the friendships created fully on show.

We have some exciting plans lined up in Forest School next school year so watch this space.

P.E

Our focus this term has been preparing for the first ever whole school sports day. We've had students push themselves so far out of their comfort zones to be the best they can be during the day. For lots of the students, taking part in front of the entire school is a huge challenge and is one that I'm confident they will overcome.

As well as preparing for sports day, we held the first interschool football match between the Farm and Ark. The game really highlighted how far the students have come this year, being able to put differences aside and work together as a team with the same goal and even being on the same pitch as other students who they had challenges with. The game was a testament to the students and ended in a game for the purist, with the farm winning 1-0.

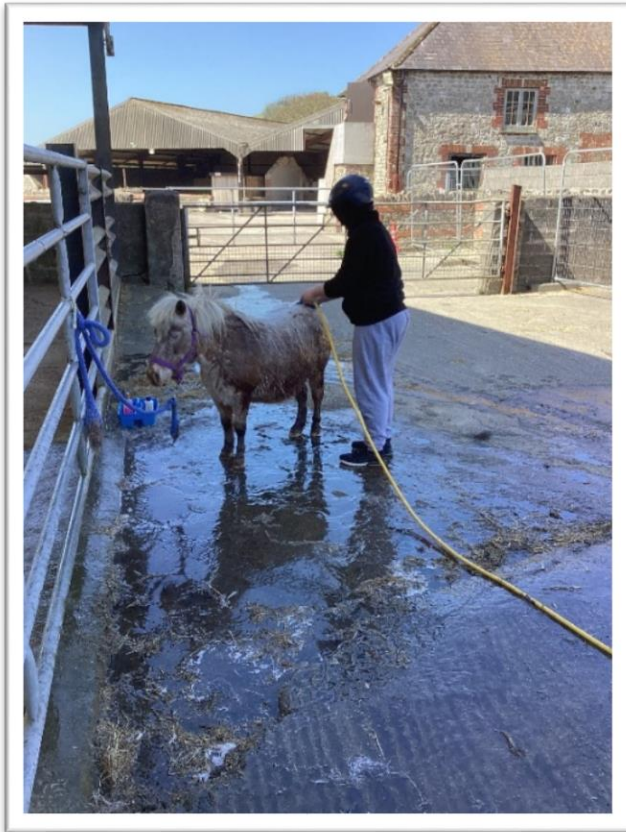
As we move into the summer, I couldn't be prouder of each and every student I've worked with in PE this year. They've all shown incredible respect to me and whoever else has stepped in. Roll on September when the PE department gets the ball rolling again with a new year of fun and exciting things in the pipeline.

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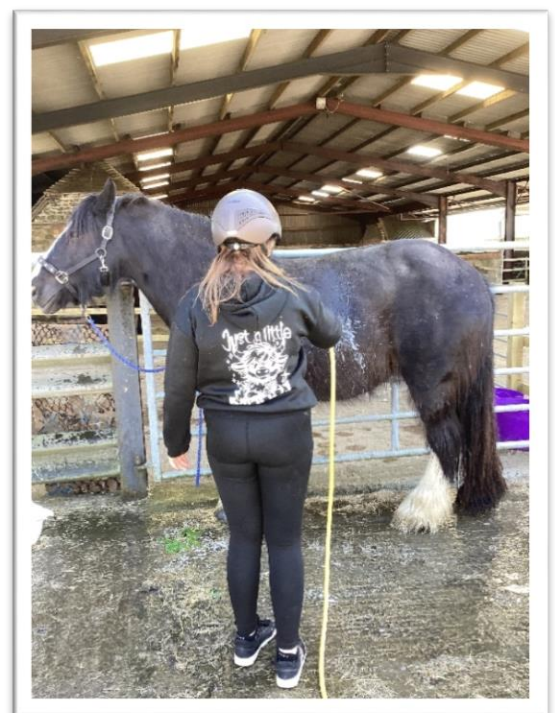
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Across the summer term we have seen some HOT days! Our students have been busy ensuring that our horses remain healthy in the sun; this has included helping the horses to stay cool on the hot days. Some of the activities to help keep the horses cool have included giving the horses nice cold baths and making 'ice lollies' for the horses.

Many of our students have been working hard on completing their final AQA unit awards for this year; this involves demonstrating their practical skills as well as completing written theory work in their books. Well done to everyone who has achieved AQA's this school year and a special well done to Ella who has completed the most AQA unit awards in Equine this school year.



Barton Hall Residential Trip: A Week of Adventure, Laughter & Lifelong Memories!

Our much-anticipated residential trip to **Barton Hall PGL** was everything we hoped for—and more! From adrenaline-fueled activities to peaceful moments in nature, each day brought new challenges, lots of laughs, and unforgettable experiences. Here's a day-by-day look at our incredible adventure.

Day One: Arrival & Archery Tag Mayhem

After a coach journey filled with snacks, songs, and excited chatter, we arrived at Barton Hall just in time for a hearty supper. Spirits were high and energy levels even higher as we geared up for our first evening activity: **Archery Tag!**

Think dodgeball meets The Hunger Games—but with foam-tipped arrows! With foggy visors, wild shots, and hilarious misfires, the game was a chaotic and comical icebreaker. Whether hiding behind inflatable bunkers or bravely charging forward, everyone threw themselves into the action. It was a perfect start to the week, full of teamwork, energy, and laughs.



Day Two: Heights, Hits & Hilarity

Fuelled by breakfast, Day Two began with a full line-up of exciting activities:

- **Trapeze** tested our courage, as we climbed high and leapt into the air. Nerves were real, but so was the feeling of achievement!
- **Rifle Shooting** brought out our competitive sides—tiny targets, big determination, and some very serious aiming.
- **Axe Throwing** was a surprise hit (pun intended). With impressive throws and dramatic grunts, it was thrilling and oddly relaxing.

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- **Swimming** offered a refreshing escape from the heat—splashy fun and poolside relaxation all round.



- **Disc Golf**... Well, let's just say the discs had a mind of their own! Trees, bushes, and instructors ducking made this activity an unexpected comedy highlight.

Day Three: Survival Skills & Soaked Socks

Day Three brought a mix of calm and chaos:

- **Survivor** allowed us to slow down, build shelters, and practice fire-lighting—ideal for connecting with nature and each other.



- **Giant Stand-Up Paddleboarding** turned the calm lake into a splash zone! Whether paddling in sync or toppling into the water, it was non-stop laughter.
- **Zip Wire** offered a rush of adrenaline and a stunning view—fast, fun, and fantastic!

Archery (the classic kind!) gave us a chance to aim with precision. Some true Robin Hoods emerged as arrows found their mark in style.



Day Four: Final Feats & Fond Farewells

The final day brought big challenges and even bigger victories:



- **Jacob's Ladder** pushed us to work in pairs and conquer a climbing structure that tested strength and trust. One pair even made it to the top with no help—what a moment!
- **Abseiling** was our last big test. From nervous beginnings to triumphant descents, everyone faced their fears head-on—especially one brave climber who tackled it twice!



After a final lunch, it was time to say goodbye to our amazing PGL instructors. The coach ride home was a mix of tired smiles, loud playlists, and shared memories.

What We'll Never Forget

This trip wasn't just about adventure—it was about growth, friendship, courage, and a lot of laughs! From high ropes to water games, from nervous giggles to bold leaps, every moment shaped an unforgettable experience.

Thank you, Barton Hall, and a big well done to every student for making this trip so memorable. Here's to the next adventure! Thankyou also to the support of the staff, Will, Zoe and Stuart.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.

2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.

3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.

4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.

5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.

6 SUPERVISION IS KEY

For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR

When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED

For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

9 FLOAT AND CALL 999

If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

10 TEACH WATER SAFETY

Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, "Water Smart Schools", which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

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Stay safe online

Remember the 5 SMART rules when using the internet and mobile phones.

- S SAFE:** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.
- M MEET:** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.
- A ACCEPTING:** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R RELIABLE:** Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.
- T TELL:** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Find out more at Childnet's website ...
www.kidsmart.org.uk

Childnet KidSMART

Activity Calendar

Community Inclusion
and Activity Team
Summer Holidays
Monday 21 July - 31 August 2025

Somerset Council

Follow the link
Below for Fun
Family Activities
this Summer!

[Activity Calendar Summer Holidays 2025.pdf](#)

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cosmic monkey

Follow the link to order additional uniform:

[Cosmic Monkey | Schoolwear](#)



PARENT/CARER CONTACT DETAILS

It is vital that we hold up to date contact information for all our pupils.

If any details need updating, we encourage you to make changes directly with our Admin office. These contact details are used for all communications, especially email correspondence, so keeping them up to date ensures you continue to receive important information about your child.

MEDICATION POLICY REMINDER

If your child requires prescribed medication to be administered in school, please send written consent and the dosage and timings along with a sealed box.

If there are any changes to medications please let School office know in writing.

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Academic calendar 2025/26 UK

Calendar^{co.uk}
Your source for calendars

September 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

October 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

August 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31						1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
36	31						

Bank holidays 2025/26 UK

25 December '25	Christmas Day	1 January '26	New Year's Day	4 May '26	Early May Bank Holiday
26 December '25	Boxing Day	3 April '26	Good Friday	25 May '26	Spring Bank Holiday
		6 April '26	Easter Monday	31 August '26	August Bank Holiday

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Bank Holidays INSET days School Holidays