



Dear Parents and Carers,



We often talk about having high expectations in everything we do, sprinkled with joy. This means striving to improve ourselves, aiming high in both learning and teaching, and showing respect and kindness to everyone in our school community.

Trying to be the best can be exhausting, so it is always important to enjoy what we do along the way. This term has truly exemplified our focus on “high expectations in all things, sprinkled with joy in what we do.”



The children have been working incredibly hard, and we are seeing great improvements in both their work and the calm, respectful way they conduct themselves around the school. This is due in no small part to the relentless hard work and dedication of our staff, who continually strive to ensure their teaching and support are as strong as they can be.

With everyone working so hard to support our focus on helping children become the best they can be, it was wonderful to finish the term with the **Colour Run**. What an amazing afternoon of pure joy, laughter, and happiness across our whole school community — and thoroughly deserved by everyone after all they have achieved.



As a school, we head into the half-term break in our strongest position since I arrived, and I feel incredibly proud to lead a community that embraces high expectations in all we do, while still enjoying plenty of joy and fun along the way.



Have a wonderful break.

Andrew Denham

We're excited to share some updates to the North Stars timetable:

- **Pickleball** will replace Little Kickers Football on Thursdays for children in Reception to Year 6, offering a fun and inclusive alternative for all ages. *Pickleball is a fast-paced and fun paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis, making it easy for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy.*
- From 9th June, we're introducing **Athletics** for Years 3–6 on Tuesdays, alongside the three other clubs already running that day.
- There will be two Friday options for all year groups: **Chill Zone** and the brand-new **Wheelie Fun Club**, which will replace Fun Games & Film Fridays.

**The Wheelie Fun Club** launches as part of the new Northbourne Bike Library, promoting healthy, active lifestyles and making cycling more accessible for everyone. Sessions will include obstacle courses, ramps, and off-roading on the school field for older children, alongside simpler playground courses for younger riders. Protective gear can be provided, although we encourage children to bring their own bikes on Fridays. A small number of bikes will also be available to borrow.



The session will run from 15:15 until 18:00, with tea included, for just £10.

If you previously registered your child for a club that will no longer be running after half term, any remaining balance on your account can be transferred and put towards a different club. Please email the North Stars Team at [northstars@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:northstars@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) to arrange this.

### **Bike Library**

We are excited to introduce a new initiative at school: our Bike Library. A Bike Library is a collection of donated and refurbished balance and pedal bikes available for long-term borrowing. Children can keep the bike for as long as they need it, until they grow out of it.

We are initially offering this opportunity to children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, and would like to invite families to register their interest in borrowing a bike for this period. We plan to extend this into Key Stage 2 next academic year.

If you would like your child to have a bike for the first time or maybe they are about to grow out of their existing bike and you can't buy a new one, please complete this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/v4Rkz3ZjxmwikiF1Z7>

We will then try to allocate bikes based on availability and the information provided.



Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Morning</b> 7.30am to 8.35am	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games, Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games, Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games, Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games, Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>	<b>Breakfast Club</b> <i>Craft, Games, Activities &amp; Breakfast</i>
<b>Afternoon Session 1</b> 3.15am to 4.30pm	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>	<b>Drink &amp; Snack for All</b>
	<b>Dodgeball (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>Dodge, duck, dip &amp; dive</i>	<b>Gymnastics (R-Y6)</b> <i>Balance, roll, shapes</i>	<b>Dance (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>Learn a routine for the summer BBQ!</i>	<b>Pickleball (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>A racket sport like tennis – fast and fun!</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>
	<b>Archery (Y3-Y6)</b> <i>Precision, focus, steadiness</i>	<b>Get Crafty (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>Cut, colour, create</i>	<b>Go for it! (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>With Mr Denham</i>	<b>Choir (Y1-Y6)</b> <i>Be apart of the Northbourne Choir for free.</i>	
	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Athletics Club (Y3-Y6)</b> <i>Run, jump &amp; throw</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Wheelie Fun Club (R-Y6)</b> <i>Have a go at completing challenging bike obstacle courses or simply build confidence and enjoy life on two wheels!</i>
	<b>Chill Zone (R-Y6)</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>				
<b>Afternoon Session 2</b> 4.30pm to 6.00pm	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	<b>Tea and Drink</b>	
	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	<b>Free Play</b> <i>Relax, play, create</i>	
<b>Nursery Provision</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>	<b>8.00-8.35</b>
	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>	<b>3.15-5.00</b>

**Registration:** Families need a My Child at School (MCAS) account to be able to register their children for activities

**Sign Up:** By 9am on Friday of the week before you would like them to attend. Sign-up via MCAS. Sign up will close after 9am Friday & reopen again at 9am on Monday morning for the following week.

**Activity Choice:** Families must choose an activity to do in Session 1 e.g. dodgeball, rounders or chill zone.

**Cost:** Flat rate (regardless of what time the child arrives or leaves) of £6 per child for Breakfast Club; £7 for Afternoon Session 1; and £8 for Afternoon Session 2

**Nursery:** Flat rate (regardless of what time the child arrives or leaves) £4 for the morning session; £12 for Afternoon Session, including the snack and tea.

**Reductions:** Children on Free School Meals may be entitled to a subsidy. Please contact the email below for more information.

**Last Minute Bookings:** Parents can book their children into the provision 'on the day' by phoning the School Office. This will cost £10 per child, per session.

**Expectations:** Northbourne North Stars is not school but the expectations for good behaviour are just as high so that all children feel happy and safe.

**Question?** Please contact [northstars@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:northstars@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) not the School Office



## Northbourne Social Media Posts Update



On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, the governors and school leaders discussed the use of social media at Northbourne. It was recognised how social media can play a valuable role in celebrating and promoting the life of the school community. Sharing photographs, videos and examples of children's learning helps parents and carers feel connected to school life, celebrates children's achievements, promotes school values and successes, and gives prospective families a positive insight into the opportunities available at the school. Used carefully, social media can strengthen communication, build community pride and showcase the rich experiences provided for pupils.

However, we must balance these benefits with the responsibility to safeguard children's privacy, wellbeing and digital safety. Primary-aged children may not fully understand the long-term impact of images shared online, and some families may have safeguarding, cultural or personal reasons for not wanting their child photographed or filmed. It is therefore essential that all use of photography, video and social media is managed sensitively, respectfully and in line with parental permissions, safeguarding procedures and data protection expectations.

We have reflected on the guidance by the UK Online Harms Early Warning Working Group, which shares best practice and considerations for education settings and organisations working with children and young people on the use of photos and videos of children and young people across their online platforms, to address the risk of AI image manipulation. This has helped inform the processes we will follow to ensure that where parents have not given permission for their child to publicly share the images of their child, their wishes are adhered to.

### **1. Collect permissions clearly**

At the start of each year or when a new pupil arrives in school, parents/carers complete a photo and video permission on My Child at School (MCAS), our management information systems. Consent can be withdrawn or given at any time.

### **2. Create a central permission list**

Office staff keep an up-to-date master list showing each child's permissions. This should be shared securely with staff, not publicly displayed.

### **3. Provide named reference photos for staff**

Office staff provide each class teacher with a secure class list and named pupil photos so staff can identify children who must not appear in published images. These will be stored securely and only accessed by staff who need it.

### **4. Teachers check before taking photos**

Before any event, lesson, trip, performance or filming, the teacher checks the class permission list.

### **5. Do not exclude children from the activity**

Children will still take part in the lesson, performance, trip or celebration. They will not be made to feel excluded because adults have not given permission.

## **6. During photos and filming**

Before taking photos or video, the adult checks the children present against the permission list. For children without permission, the following safeguards may be used: place them out of shot naturally; use angles that avoid their face; photograph hands, backs, work, displays or group activity without identifying them; blur their faces during the editing/publishing process. For video, staff will do a quick “permission scan” before recording starts.

## **7. Upload and label safely**

Photos and videos should be uploaded to a secure staff area. File names or folders should show the class/event/date. Any photos including children without permission should be marked clearly: Do not publish.

## **8. Editing check**

When editing photos or videos, the editor checks against: the permission list; named class photos; any safeguarding notes

Children without permission will either be: removed from the edit; cropped out; blurred so they are non-identifiable; excluded from thumbnails, cover images and background shots. Videos need extra care because a child may appear briefly in the background.

## **9. Pre-publication check**

Before posting, a two-person check will take place:

Checker 1: the member of staff creating the post

Checker 2: class teacher, office lead, DSL, or another trained member of staff

### **They check:**

- every visible child has the correct permission
- no child with safeguarding restrictions is identifiable
- names are not used alongside images unless specifically approved
- uniforms, location and captions do not create unnecessary risk
- the post matches the permission given

## **10. Final posting rule**

No post goes live until the checker confirms: “I have checked the image/video against the current permission list and confirm that all identifiable children have permission for this use.”

A simple log will be kept, recording: date posted; platform; staff member posting; second checker; image/video checked; any action taken

## **11. If a mistake happens**

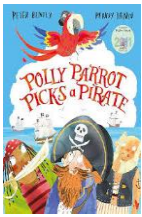
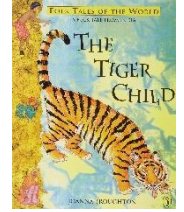
If a child is posted without permission, the post will be removed immediately; the Headteacher/DSL/DPO is informed; contact the parent/carer sensitively; record the incident; review how the error happened; update staff training if needed

**Golden rule: if there is any doubt, do not post**

## The Nursery Team

### Mrs Pearson (Penguins) writes:

We have had a very busy term. We have been looking at places around the world. We have talked about where we live and things we enjoy doing. We have also explored India, as that was where *The Tiger Child* went in our story. Most recently, we have read *Mama Panya's Pancakes*, which is a tale from Kenya, so we have looked at Kenya and the animals we might find there.



We loved reading *Polly Parrot Picks a Pirate* as we became pirates for the day with the pirate hats and eye patches that we made. We even made a pirate ship to play in and had lots of fun playing with gold coins as our treasure.

In maths, we have been learning about patterns, understanding that patterns can be found on many things such as clothes, toys, animals, and in nature outdoors.



We have been making our own patterns in our artwork and with the new snap cubes we have in our classroom. We have also been ordering numbers to 5 and matching numbers to groups of objects.

In PE, we have been enjoying playing on the field with hoops and balls, playing football, and setting up obstacle courses.

In PSHE, we have talked about being a good friend and what makes someone a good friend to others. We have played games where we take turns and work together as a team.



We have created lots of amazing artwork linked to the focus texts we have read this term. We have hand-painted tigers, collaged whales, and painted and decorated snails, jellyfish, and octopuses using a variety of materials.

We lent our much-loved magnetic tiles to another class and had Lego instead. We have loved making houses, boats, and helicopters with it, and we have helped each other whenever someone became stuck

Courage

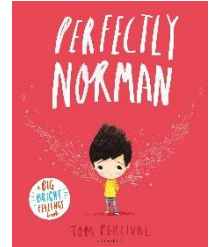
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## The Reception Team

**Mrs Stanley (Swans) and Mrs List (Puffins) write:** We have had a wonderful and busy term in Reception, and the children have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities across all areas of the curriculum.

In Literacy, our daily Book Look activities have centred around several inspiring texts. We explored different cultures and learned about tigers through *The Tiger Child* by Joanna Troughton. *Perfectly Norman* by Tom Percival encouraged thoughtful discussions about celebrating our differences and being proud of who we are.



The children also enjoyed learning about maps, exploring our local area and the wider world before creating their own imaginative treasure maps. Another favourite was an information text following a tigress and her cubs.

During Understanding the World, the children explored the Creation story and discussed why it is important to care for animals and the world around us. We also looked at transport from the past and compared it with transport today.



In Music, the children explored transport sounds and music, learning about tempo and dynamics. Through PSHE sessions, they thought carefully about friendships, resolving differences, and ways to stay safe and calm. In Maths, we investigated 2D shapes and their properties.

Forest School has continued to be a highlight of the term. Inspired by *Mama Panya's Pancakes*, the children enjoyed making pancakes outdoors while also taking part in climbing, den building, and minibeast hunts. Mr Weaving has also been helping the children to develop their cricket skills and teamwork



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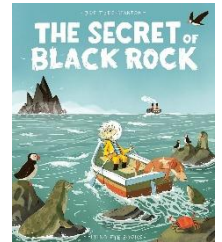
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## Year 1 & Year 2 Team

**Mrs Jones (Wrens), Miss Pollard (Robins) and Miss Richardson (Nightingales) write:** We have had a brilliant term in KS1, and it has been lovely to see so many children eager to earn tokens by following instructions straight away and taking pride in the presentation of their work. Their positive attitudes towards learning have been wonderful to see.

We began the term with the beautiful text *The Secret of Black Rock*. The children were fascinated by the mysterious story and produced some excellent writing inspired by the book. They created warning posters before moving on to writing detailed retells, using expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, and powerful adjectives to describe how Erin was feeling when she discovered that Black Rock was actually a creature!



In Maths, Year 1 children have been securing their understanding of place value to 50, including counting forwards and backwards in 1s, 5s, and 10s. They have also explored weight, measure, position, and direction, developing important real-life maths skills and vocabulary. In Year 2, the



children have enjoyed practical lessons involving weighing scales and measuring jugs whilst learning about weight and capacity. They have also consolidated their understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions.

In History, we have been learning about communication and how technology has changed over time. The children were amazed to discover how communication has developed through inventions such as smartphones and the internet. They especially enjoyed learning about the very first telephone, created by Alexander Graham Bell, and how slow dial-up internet used to be!



### FIVE SENSES



In Science, the children loved exploring their five senses through practical investigations, learning how our senses help us understand the world around us. In RE, we explored Jesus' Good News, while in Art the children created sea creatures inspired by the work of Yayoi Kusama.

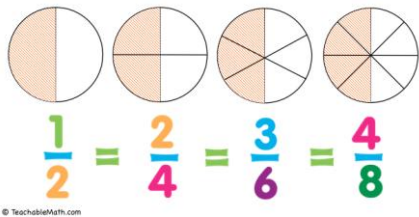
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## Year 3 & Year 4 Team

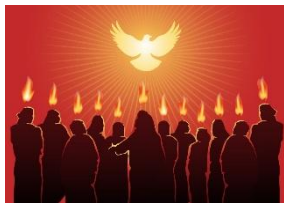
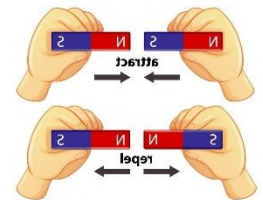
**Mr Guy (Owls), Mrs Smith (Falcons) and Miss Hagger (Hawkes) write:** This term has been full of exciting learning opportunities across all subjects. In English, we began by exploring the book Kai and the Monkey King, where the children rewrote the tale of how the Monkey King became trapped. We then created persuasive holiday brochures, which certainly convinced Miss Hagger, Mrs Smith and Mr Guy to book a sunny summer getaway! To finish the term, the children enjoyed writing their own creative Haiku poems.



In Maths, we developed our understanding of fractions by exploring a wide range of skills, including comparing, ordering and calculating with fractions. The Year 4 children have also worked incredibly hard preparing for their Multiplication Times Tables Check and have

shown great determination and progress with their times tables practice.

In Science, our topic was Forces and Magnets. We carried out investigations to discover which materials created the most friction, as well as exploring magnets and identifying which materials are magnetic.



In RE, we learnt about Pentecost and the impact it had on the Christian community. In History, we explored how Didcot has changed over the years using photographic evidence, and we also discovered how Northbourne School has changed over time.

DT was great fun this term as we designed and created paper-mâché animal masks — although it was very messy at times! In PE, the children developed their throwing, catching and batting skills through cricket activities. Finally, in Computing, we explored Scratch, where the children created sequences of connected commands and added sounds to their projects.



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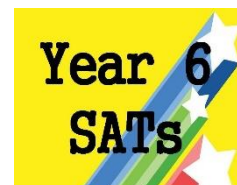
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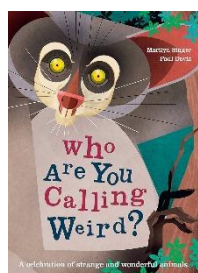
## Year 5 & Year 6 Team

**Mrs. Kandola (Kites), Miss Hill (Eagles) and Mr. Mallam (Kestrels) write:** This term has been an incredibly busy and rewarding one across Upper Key Stage 2, and we are immensely proud of all of the children for their hard work, resilience and positive attitudes.

A huge well done must go to our Year 6 pupils for the dedication and maturity they have shown in the lead up to SATs week. They have approached their revision and preparation with determination, perseverance and positivity, and we could not be prouder of the effort they have put in. Their attitude towards learning has been fantastic and they have supported one another brilliantly throughout the process.



We would also like to recognise our wonderful Year 5 children, who have been exceptionally supportive and encouraging during this important time. They have shown great kindness and maturity, helping to create a calm and positive atmosphere across the phase.



Alongside SATs preparation, the children have enjoyed a rich and engaging curriculum this term. In English, pupils explored report writing inspired by *Who Are You Calling Weird?* and developed descriptive dialogue through work linked to *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. Reading lessons have focused on developing key comprehension skills through texts exploring disability, discrimination, poetry and classic literature.

In Maths, children have tackled ratio, proportion, statistics and algebra, while in science they investigated forces including gravity, friction and air resistance. Geography learning centred around refugees and displacement, encouraging thoughtful discussions about global issues.



In Art, pupils studied architecture and observational drawing inspired by famous architects such as Friedensreich Hundertwasser and Zaha Hadid.

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## Summer Term 6 Key Dates

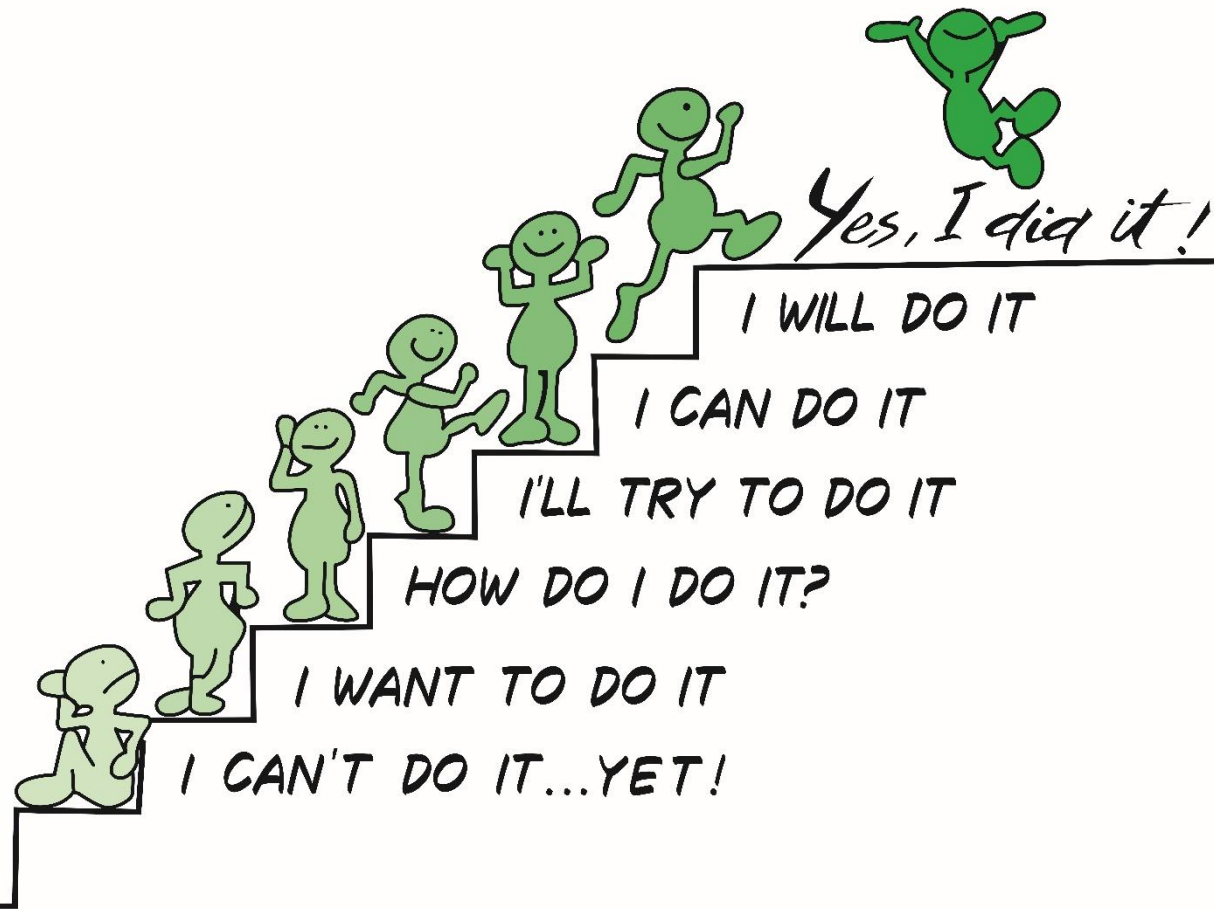
Details and timings for these events will be given in the Start of Term Letters

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June:	All: Start of Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June:	Year 4 Youlbury Trip
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 6 Bikeability
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June:	Year 6 Injury Minimisation Programme
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June:	Reception Children Vision Screening
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 1 Phonics Screening Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 6 Step Forward Activity at the Baptist Church
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 6 Injury Minimisation Programme
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm:	Meeting for <b>new parents</b> of children starting in <b>Reception</b> in September 2026
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June:	Choir attending Dorchester Festival of Voices
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 6 Injury Minimisation Programme
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm:	Meeting for <b>nursery parents</b> of children starting in <b>Reception</b> in September 2026
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 1&2 Visit to Oxford Story Museum
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June:	Year 6 Transition Day SEND pupils going to Aureus
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June:	All Break the Rules Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July, 3.30-5.30pm:	Year 5&6 Boys Football Tournament
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July:	Sports Day: EYFS (am) Key Stage1&2 (pm)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July:	Transition Day Year 6 going to Secondary School Transition Morning Nursery to Year 5 Children
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July:	Transition Day for Year 6 going to Secondary School Transition Morning Nursery to Year 5 Children
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July:	Sports Day: EYFS (am) KS1&2 (pm) (BACK UP Day)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July, 6.00pm:	Year 6 Leavers Play and Evening Event
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July, 10.00am: 11.00am:	Year 6 Leavers Service Year 6 Pool Party at The Wave
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, from 5.50pm: Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July:	Whole School Awards & Presentation Evening Whole School Last Day. Finish at 1.15pm

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WHICH STEP HAVE YOU REACHED TODAY?