

Ashbourne CNS Newsletter

December 2025



Principal's Address

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that just a few months ago we were welcoming our new Junior Infants and opening two lovely classrooms in *An Gairdín* at the end of August. Time really does fly when you're having fun!

Term 1 at Ashbourne CNS has been full of energy, learning, and excitement. Our school continues to grow and strengthen its connections with the local community, and we are so proud of everything we've achieved together.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone in our school community for your support over the past few months. A special shout-out to our Parents' Association for all the amazing work happening behind the scenes and the fantastic events they have planned. And of course, to our wonderful staff - your dedication and care shine through in the happy smiles that greet us each morning from our pupils.

As we head into the festive season, I wish you and your families a joyful, relaxing, and restful winter break.

Bain taitneamh as an
séasúr féilteúil!

Eoin



Celebrating Artistic Excellence at ACNS

We would like to congratulate Mihaela in 6th class on her fantastic artwork that won the Ashbourne Lions Art Competition for 2025.

This art competition took place in the Ashbourne area and had many different schools taking part.

Mihaela created a wonderful piece of art that represented the theme of 'Peace'.



This piece of art will now go onto represent Ireland at international level.

Well done Mihaela on this amazing achievement; we are all very proud of you!

Extra-Curricular Activities at Ashbourne CNS

Tag Rugby

On a cold November Monday, 28 excited 6th class pupils ventured to Ashbourne Rugby Club with open minds and enthusiasm in their hearts. Ready for action, they took to the pitch for some scintillating, fast-paced tag rugby. Guided by the TY pupils, the Ashbourne rugby coach, and Múinteoirí Grace and Cian, the pupils learned the intricate rules, tactics, and clever tricks that bring tag rugby to life.



It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase everything they had been practicing during their weekly sessions in the hall. With plenty of space on the pitch, their confidence grew, their teamwork shone, and they truly flourished. The energy was high, the tackles were swift, and the smiles were wide.

Looking ahead, the group is eager to continue refining their skills. With more practice and determination, they hope to take on other schools in future blitzes and keep developing their tag rugby talents.

Olympic Handball

This year, for the very first time in Ashbourne CNS, we put together an Olympic Handball Team!

Since this is a very new sport to our school, a lot of work was put into learning the rules of the game and training hard, both during PE lessons and during lunch-times. The children were coached by Múinteoir Aaliah, Múinteoir Áine and Múinteoir Sadhbh and both a boys' and a girls' team were put together.



The teams even travelled in the MDL in Navan to participate in a Blitz and they were the very first teams to represent the school in our brand new school jerseys.



We were up against some very experienced teams so unfortunately, we did not qualify for the next stage. However, we are so proud of how well these teams represented the school and everything that they achieved thus far. We are already looking forward to building on this year's progress and hope to see even more pupils giving Olympic Handball a try next year!

Class News

Junior Infants – Múinteoir Sadhbh

In Junior Infants, we had an exciting start to our primary school journey in Ashbourne CNS. We have been busy making new friends and learning all about one another through play, circle time and activities. In class, we worked very hard to develop our phonological awareness skills and recently, we began phonics and handwriting. The boys and girls are off to a great start with both!

In Maths, we have been doing lots of hands-on activities, exploring matching, sorting, numbers and shapes through playful learning experiences. We also have been busy exploring the themes of Myself, My Family, Autumn, Homes and Winter throughout the first few months.

We have also had great fun celebrating special occasions together. The children loved dressing up for Hallowe'en, learning about Diwali, and this month engaging in lots of festive activities. It's been a very happy and busy first term!



Junior Infants – Múinteoir Ellen

What a wonderful first term we've had in Junior Infants! We have explored the themes of Myself, Autumn, Homes and Houses, and Winter. The children made new friends, developed their phonological awareness and enjoyed sorting activities by colour. We loved exploring our themes through picture books, play and arts and crafts. We particularly enjoyed making our clay hedgehogs who were ready to hibernate.



In Maths, we took part in the Mata Hata Parade wearing our maths hats, learned all about numbers 1–5, explored construction and investigated different shapes to see which ones could roll or stack. We also celebrated the festivals of Diwali and Halloween and dressed up in our wonderful costumes. We have now begun learning our letter sounds and are very excited as we start preparing for our Winter Show!



We dressed up as a variety of interesting characters for Halloween in October but right now, we're working hard and practicing for our winter show, and we can't wait to share our talents with everyone. It's shaping up to be a fantastic year filled with creativity, friendship, and plenty of smiles

Senior Infants – Múinteoir Síle

Senior infants have settled into their new class very quickly. We love our playtime in class and the children even independently set up a barbers and hairdressers. Now you know where to go if you are in need of a haircut!



We explored the theme of space in November. The children really enjoyed it. They made the moon and planet earth which you can see from space. They made and designed their own rocket. They even made a rocket which could launch into space using a straw, sellotape, glue and lots of imagination!



Senior Infants – Múinteoir Cian M

Our senior infants have had a wonderfully bubbly start to the school year! The classroom is filled with excitement each day as we dive into fun art projects, hands-on science experiments, and active PE lessons that keep everyone moving and smiling. We've been developing our mathematical skills through playful challenges and games, and we're always finding ways to make each other laugh—especially as we learn new Gaeilge words every day!



Earlier in the year, we kicked things off with an epic dance party, and since then we've all settled beautifully into senior infant life. Our classroom is a joyful place where curiosity leads the way and everyone feels excited to learn.

First Class – Múinteoir Amy

First class have had an amazing start to the year. Every Wednesday, we enjoy "Wellbeing Wednesday". This is a special time for children to slow down, focus on themselves and learn simple skills to help them "just be".



A major highlight for our class was working as a team with 4th/5th class. Together we used 2D shapes to build our very own paper community, practicing cooperation and creativity. Our finished masterpiece is now proudly displayed in the school for everyone to enjoy!

To support our work with procedural writing we wrote the instructions to make the perfect sandwich, then we got to make (and eat) our very own sandwich. The children also began Gaelic lessons which brought great excitement and skills.

It has been a wonderful beginning to our year and we're looking forward to many more enriching experiences ahead.

First Class - Múinteoir Rebecca

It is hard to believe that we are already coming to the end of Term 1! We have been working so hard that it seems like time has flown by! We have been hard at work revising on our sounds and decoding difficult words in our reading. We love working hard in Maths and we especially love to start our lessons with a Maths song that revises our new learning.



We use our creativity to solve STEM challenges; so far, we have built a bridge for the Three Billy Goats Gruff to cross safely to the other side, we designed a trap to stop the Creepy Carrots from rolling away, as well as a tower for Rapunzel! We enjoyed some special treats for earning a Yard Reward, including having a Teddy Bear picnic and a Pyjama Party.

We hope we get to have as much fun in Term 2 so stay tuned for more!

Second Class - Múinteoir Geraldine

We have had a very busy first term in Second Class. The children have been working really hard and have shown respect, kindness and participated well in class activities. They have been very welcoming to the new students who joined our class this year and we are growing together as a community.

We have been very proud to win the 1st & 2nd Class yard award three times already this term! As rewards we have won a class homework pass, a movie afternoon and a pyjama day. It's an extra-special day at our school as we combined two of our favourite things: celebrating great behaviour and wearing comfy pyjamas!

Initiatives like this these help remind us how important kindness, cooperation, and responsibility are in our school community. When we work together and try our best, great things happen!

Throughout November and December, we discovered we have many talented singers in our midst, and we worked really hard on learning songs for our assembly performances and the Winter Show. The children all felt very brave singing in front of the whole school and were especially proud singing for their families.



Third Class – Múinteoir Cian F

We have had a fantastic beginning to the school year in 3rd Class, filled with learning, creativity, and fun. Pupils were delighted to welcome a G.A.A coach who visited the school to deliver coaching sessions. Everyone enjoyed practising new skills, working together as a team, and experiencing the excitement of Gaelic games.

In the classroom, history came alive as we explored the fascinating world of the Vikings. Pupils learned about how the Vikings lived and travelled; and then they designed and created their very own Viking shields. The effort and imagination that went into these projects were outstanding, and the shields looked wonderful on display.

Mathematics also brought new challenges, as pupils had their first experience with multiplication and division. It was inspiring to see them sharing strategies, solving problems, and beginning to master these important skills.

It has been a busy, rewarding start, and we look forward to more adventures ahead!

Third Class – Múinteoir Ciara

We've had a wonderful start to the school year in 3rd Class, with a busy and exciting first term. The children have settled in brilliantly and have already embraced so many new learning experiences. Our art lessons have been a real highlight, especially our beautiful snow globe creations, which turned out wonderfully.



We also enjoyed six weeks of GAA coaching. The children loved developing their skills, working as a team, and getting plenty of fresh air and fun exercise. In Numeracy, we explored 2D and 3D shapes using lots of concrete materials, helping to bring the concepts to life. We also began our multiplication journey, and the class is making fantastic progress.



One of our favourite projects this term was our work on the Vikings. Using Chromebooks for research was a big hit, and the children put huge effort into their projects before proudly presenting them to the class. It has been a fantastic first term, and we're excited for what's ahead!



Fourth Class – Múinteoir Lana

Our pupils have had a wonderfully busy and exciting term, diving into hands-on learning across every subject! They crunched numbers using Smarties for data handling, explored how germs spread with a fascinating bread experiment, and created brilliant Arctic animal lapbooks. Their Egypt projects were packed with creativity, and they worked on their own family trees as part of their history learning. A highlight was the school-wide mystery in which they had to track down Stitch, the missing class pet, applying their inferencing skills expertly as every clue pointed, to their great surprise, to Múinteoir Aaliah. Outdoors, they built their own rain gauges, while indoors they engineered bridges from classroom materials for Maths Week. They also produced an illustrative spread on Katherine Johnson, celebrating her inspiring achievements. A moment to remember was their assembly performance, where they wowed everyone with a rendition of Pompeii by Bastille as they prepare for their winter show.



Fourth & Fifth Class – Múinteoir Aaliah

4th and 5th Class have had an action packed few months filled with fun, curiosity, and endless learning. We explored the power of community and teamwork through our 2D shape art collaboration with 1st Class and our exciting Meta Art Project with the Transition Year students from Coláiste DeLacy. Our S.T.E.M. adventures kept us busy too, from Maths Week challenges to designing and testing our own parachutes in science.



4th Class jumped into GAA this term, while some of our 5th Class students proudly represented us in a thrilling handball tournament. Meanwhile, Room 11 turned into a detective headquarters as we investigated the mysterious disappearance of our class pet, Octo the Octopus!

It's been a whirlwind of creativity, sports, problem-solving, and discovery. We've had an incredible term and we can't wait to see what exciting adventures the next one brings!



Fifth Class – Múinteoir Áine

We have had an amazing start to 5th class this term! From settling into our new classroom to launching an Olympic handball team, taking part in an exciting music project with De Lacy, and fitting in plenty of learning along the way, it has certainly been a busy few months.

One of our favourite new routines has been our Morning Meetings. Each day, we greet one another, discuss different topics, play circle-time games and share news or important messages. This simple routine has helped us connect as a class and has given every day a calm, positive beginning.

Another highlight has been our music project with Coláiste De Lacy. Over several weeks, Transition Year students supported us as we learned songs and prepared for a large community performance planned for next year.

Overall, it has been an incredible first term, and we are excited for all the great experiences still ahead.



Sixth Class – Múinteoir Caoimhe

In 6th class, the pupils have been working very hard this term on many different projects. These included our history project on Greek gods, our geography project on climate, and we even created our own narrative stories using the Chromebooks. We loved trying out paper maché to create our own hot air balloons, and they are looking amazing- it was a tricky process and took a growth mindset, but we got there in the end and are very proud of our art!



Over the past few weeks, we have been enjoying volleyball for PE. A huge thank you to Múinteoir Rebecca for organising the purchase of two new nets with the money raised from last year's bake sale. We began by practising basic skills, and for the last two weeks we had two mini tournaments in teams. It was very impressive to observe everyone's skills improve as the weeks progressed!



6th class would also like to thank Príomhoide Eoin for organising the Garda Band to come play for our school. We are very lucky to have enjoyed the wonderful music during assembly. Also, in music we have been learning the tin whistle. We have been learning how to read music notation and have been practicing very hard for the Winter Show!

Sixth Class – Múinteoir Grace

We have had a wonderful start to the year in 6th Class, settling in quickly and making great friendships. The class has shown fantastic teamwork, and positivity!



One of the highlights of the term was trying out a brand-new sport together, which everyone embraced. We were also very lucky to take part in a rugby blitz, where the children represented the school brilliantly and showed excellent sportsmanship.

In 6th class we really enjoyed SESE this term, the students worked incredibly hard on two major projects. In Science, they explored the respiratory system, learning how the lungs

work. 6th class also completed projects on different climate types, working in teams to research different climates around the world.

The teamwork, creativity, and effort shown in these projects were fantastic.

We really enjoyed art and created some fantastic pieces including our favourites, the Tim Burton inspired self-portraits.



Overall, our first term was a busy and enjoyable start to 6th Class. We look forward to the next term with even more exciting things ahead!

An Gairdín- Múinteoir Caitlin

Our class had a wonderful first term as the children settled into their new school and classroom.

We start each day with circle time, which has become a fun way to start our day with lots of singing and dancing.

Painting is one of the children's favourite activities and they have enjoyed making lots of colourful creations!

We also made rice-crispy cakes. We all took turns mixing the ingredients in the bowl and scooping them into their cases. They were delicious!

Throughout the term, the children have also done lots of sensory exploration with a range of materials such as sand, rice, water and 'snow'. We are really proud of all of the children for their hard work this term!



An Gairdín- Múinteoir Kirsty

We had a great first term in our classroom!

Getting to know each other and settling into our daily routine has been our main focus so far.

Art time and group work activities have been a favourite in our classroom.

Some themes that we have explored; are Myself, Autumn, Weather and Winter.



We really enjoy visiting our school library and PE hall once a week!

An Gairdín- Múinteoir Christina

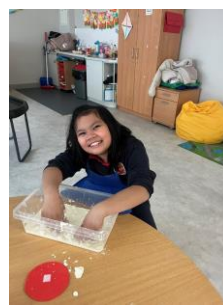
We had a very exciting start to the school year. We did so many fun things during our first term.

We loved painting pumpkins for Halloween, we also got messy with science when we made slime and ooblek, it was a great sensory experience! We danced, sang songs and did lots of painting and artwork during the first term.



We enjoyed exploring all the different areas within An Gairdín and found lots of new places to play and learn. We also spent time getting to know all the new children who joined us this year, and it's been wonderful making new friends!

We have worked very hard this term, always trying our best with our schoolwork. We have also worked hard at sharing and taking turns when playing games in the classroom and on yard.



An Gairdín- Múinteoir Moya

What a fantastic start to the year it has been in Múinteoir Moya's senior class. Our classroom has quickly become a warm, busy, and fun-filled place. We have been extremely busy working on our fine motor skills, exploring our sensory needs, and even developing our social skills.



We were extremely lucky this term as we got the opportunity to visit Insomnia Coffee shop! We also made Rice Krispie Buns and S'mores. At Halloween, we even experimented with a pumpkin, baking soda, vinegar and food colouring to make a 'Puking Pumpkin'! We had great fun over the last couple of months, and we cannot wait to see what Term 2 brings!

School Wide Celebrations at Ashbourne CNS

Maths Week 2025

Our school celebrated Maths Week 2025 in October. This was a jam-packed week full of interactive and entertaining activities which encouraged the pupils to use their 'Maths Eyes' to solve maths problems and 'maths talk' to describe the strategies they used to work out an answer.

The photos below depict a small selection of the activities pupils undertook during Maths Week:

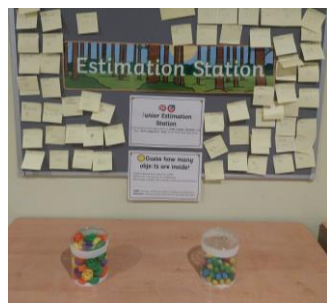
Pupils from Senior classes visited Junior classes to play Maths games.



Pupils worked together to solve STEM challenges. The pupils used their 'Maths Eyes' while completing Maths trails across the school grounds.



Each class tried to solve the challenges at the Junior and Senior Estimation Stations. Finally, the pupils' creativity was on-show as they designed a Hata Mata for the school parade.



Thank you to the parents & guardians who helped our pupils with their Maths hats – the style and ingenuity was second to none! And a huge thank you to the Maths Committee for their hard work in preparing fun activities for the pupils to enjoy!

Anti-Bullying Week 2025

In November 2025, classes across the school participated in various activities in celebration of Anti-Bullying week 2025. We listened to stories, we designed posters and we even used tubes of toothpaste to demonstrate the power of our words.

Each pupil was invited to decorate a paper brick with their name on it and decorate it with words or pictures that represent themselves. Each brick was then assembled into a Whole School mural titled 'Everyone Belongs Here'. This is an important message we believe in here at Ashbourne CNS. Every pupil comes together in this school to make it the great place of learning that it is.

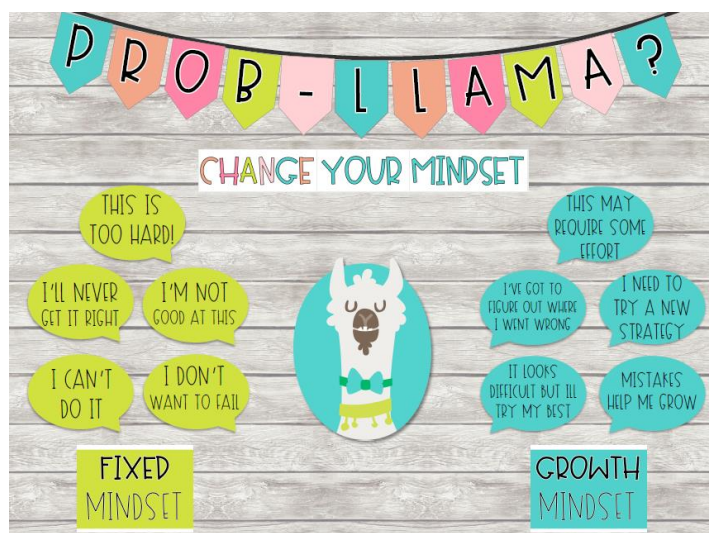
Our key message at ACNS is to always 'Be Kind'. Be sure to check out our amazing work when you visit our school!



School Wide Celebrations at Ashbourne CNS

Promoting a Growth Mindset

Our Growth Mindset Awards continue to inspire and encourage our pupils to foster a Growth Mindset. We use our 'Prob-llama' display to remind the children about the differences between having a Fixed Mindset and having a Growth Mindset and to promote positive language around developing a Growth Mindset.



We believe that the language we use when we talk to others and ourselves can shift how we think, feel and learn. We make subtle, yet conscious choices around the language we not only use but also teach our pupils helpful ways to talk to themselves. We remind them to believe in the Power of Yet.

Growth Mindset Award Winners

Marvellous, Ben, Parker, Olivia, Afnan, Zoe, Nikesh, Lordina, Freya, Valentino, William, Rohigh, Sofia, Soloman, Alessia, Emily, Eleanor, Gursheen, Yehor, Bogdan, Anotidaishe, Chloe, Horiya, Hana, Alma, Matteo, AbdulBasit, Carter, Anjolaoluwa, Tomas, Iosif, Dan, Eunice, Haiqa, Dev, Haram, Sarah, Alexandrina, Zain, Liza, Aashvi, Aeliya, Jawad, Mateusz, Mia, Isaac, Sara, Nicolas, Mitchel, Julia, Ellie, Kai, Manal, Jamie, Kevin, Evan, Raul, Ghina, Matilda, Habib, Nichita, Damir, Jessica, Hans, Reman, Kelsey, Logan, Isabel, Emilia, Ariana, Harshavarthini, Dmitrii, Mihaela, Lailah, Ruslan, Salma, Vanesa, Olivia, Amelia, Delviana, Umer, Ahmad, Chloe, Hareem, Siddhanth, Lena, Elqueen, Patricia, Vlad, Damian, Hanna, Ethan, Krish, Joseph, Raul, Sophie, Zofia, Fatima, Sebastian, Danny, Sophia, Luke, Ilinca, Will, Mostafa, Sahithya, Dylan, Abdulmajeed, Roxan, Ihtisham, Kate, Leon, Tim, Evan, Arley, Nurali, Stacy, Darcy, Iasmina, Sameer, Eva, Mark, Ruo, Kai, Harvey, Bano, Armaan, Tisya, Donald, Florin, Flynn, Emmanuella, Gershwin, Norah, Syeda, Willow, Yahia, Freya, Amos, Veronika, Khadija, Ruxandra, Amman, Isabelle, Emanuela, Manal, Reid, Murtado, Camreigh, Mariia, Stephanie, Sophia, Jiya, Sila, Ana, Evan, Kayla, Ruth, Corey, Alonzo, Harry, Ryan, Sophia, Aria, Rene, David, Rose, Oakley, Umar, Natalia, Mollie, Riya, Hunter-Lee, Dana, Hanna, Anastasija, Zaina, Beatrice, Rebecca, Amelia, Hannah, Alex, Umer, Olivia, Aimee, Quddus, Jaser, Ayo, Eman, Harry, Zaina, Lola, Mohamed, Vlada, Chloe, Maria, Oliver, Zeena, Viaan, Maria, Isabel, Anenyasha, Eva, Tegh, Vlad, Pola, Ianis, Ellis



School Wide Celebrations at Ashbourne CNS

The Winter Show

There was lots of festive cheer in the air this week as our pupils took to the stage for our annual Winter Show and what a treat it was! The hall was beautifully transformed with pupil art and magnificent staging, adding to the magic of the show.



The show was split into two performances. The Junior Show was full of happy faces and plenty of excitement. Each class performed their own song and did a fantastic job entertaining the audience.



The Senior Show was just as enjoyable, showcasing lots of great performances and brilliant collaboration. It was wonderful to see how much the pupils across our school enjoyed being on stage in front of their friends and families.

Both shows entertained everyone with whole-school renditions of *Winter Wonderland* and *Jingle Bells*, a real highlight that had the audience smiling and singing along.

Events like this do not come together without the collaboration of so many people in our school community. With that in mind, we would like to thank the following people: We thank the Winter Show committee of Múinteoirí Anna, Niamh, Ger and Caoimhe, who worked tirelessly to manage and organise the entire event. Our Caretaker Victor put a huge amount of work into creating our stage area for the show.

Siddhanth from 5th class amazed the audiences with his beautiful piano playing before each show. We would like to extend a special thank you to Philip Magee who offered his time and expertise to organise a sound system for the day – we never sounded so good! Múinteoir Angela MC'd for both events, ensuring that both shows ran smoothly.



Lisa, our ever-patient secretary, was a huge help in helping us to prepare for the day. Our Parents' Committee organised a fantastic bake sale to supply the audience with treats throughout the day which added to the excitement. We thank the teachers and SNAs for the time and effort spent in preparing for the day. And finally, to the stars of the show, the children; we thank you for your effort and enthusiasm in making one of our best Winter Shows ever!



Student Council News

Our school recently held its Student Council Elections, marking an exciting moment of leadership, participation and school spirit.

Pupils from across the school put themselves forward as candidates, preparing thoughtful manifestos that they presented to their class groups.



Manifestos On Display



Some candidates present their manifestos to 1st class

Pupils from all class levels took part in the voting process, helping choose the representatives who will guide pupil activities and initiatives for the coming year.



Pupils queue up to vote



Casting a ballot



Student Council 2025-26

Our school is excited to welcome Ryan, Khadija, Emma, Smolarek, Raul, Zeena, Philip, Corey, Charlie, Nikesh, Timothy, Ilinca, Darcy, Raul, Marius and Pareedhi to the new Student Council for this year. We would also like to thank each and every pupil who put themselves forward as candidates. Your enthusiasm and care for our school makes it a fantastic place to be!

Finally, we also want to warmly thank the outgoing Student Council for their fantastic work. They helped organize events, they shared great ideas and represented their classmates with pride. Their dedication has made a real difference in our school community. We look forward to seeing the new council continue this wonderful work in the year ahead.



A Note from Parents' Association

The Parents Association plays a vital role in supporting our school community, with a special focus on fundraising for much-needed sports and music equipment. Thanks to the incredible generosity of parents and guardians who freely give their time, the PA is going from strength to strength.

There are lots of exciting initiatives planned for the coming months, and we're grateful for the positivity and commitment that continue to drive this great work forward.

We would like to sincerely thank all parents for their wonderful support throughout the year. The Parents' Association is open to everyone, and all parents and guardians are warmly encouraged to get involved. Wishing all our families a safe, restful, and peaceful winter break.



And finally,

Ashbourne CNS are delighted to announce that we now have a social media account on Instagram.

Please scan the QR code to follow us for more news from us throughout the year.

Happy holidays to all!



Important Dates for your Diary

Winter Holidays

School will be closed from Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Tuesday 27th – Thursday 29th January 2026.

Bank Holiday

School will be closed on Monday 2nd February 2026.

Mid-term Break

School will be closed from Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026.

