

Dear Parents/Carers

As the Autumn Term draws to an end, I wanted to write to you to provide an update about the life of the school. It has been a busy and exciting term, with a curriculum full of exciting opportunities.



Most students have now had the opportunity to experience school trips again – their first since the initial lockdown. We have visited the Theatre Royal in Plymouth, Battlefield Live in Brixham, Equafinity in Exeter and various trips to beaches and parks. Students have also enjoyed playing a part in developing the school Forest School areas.

Students have continued to make progress with their academic studies. We have developed the Maths, English, Reading and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) curriculums. Our older students have continued to make excellent progress sitting Functional Skills assessments.

We have had a positive visit from Ofsted. Thank you for all the wonderful feedback we received from you. At the time of writing this, the report is not published but we will be sure to send it to you as soon as it is released.

We are once again entering a difficult time with regard to COVID infection rates in the local area. We have seen more cases in the school but will continue to make parents aware of hotspots and steps that can be taken to limit transmission.

I hope you take time to read through this newsletter and look at the fantastic photos of the students working and having fun. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing the students again on Wednesday 5th January 2021.

Kind regards

**Pete Jenkins, Executive Principal**

**“Since joining the school our child has grown in confidence, has progressed their academic ability and has formed wonderful relationships with their class teacher and other adults. They are always keen to go to school and shares their positive experiences with us with pride.”**

- OFSTED Survey Reponse

## NEW STARTERS

This term we welcome new staff to the school.



Sam Ottway  
LSA



Connor Redwood  
LSA



Luke Snell  
LSA



Haley Peckham  
Resident Philosopher of  
Neuroscience



## REMINDER!

Please remember that the school day ends at 3:10pm.

**Thank you!**



**Please note: School mobile phone number 07806 768 241**  
**PLEASE TEXT** to notify the school of any absence/sickness of students, collection information etc. Availability to access it is in term time only.



### A MESSAGE FROM LEWIS HARBEN



Before reflecting on this half-term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support. There have been lots of exciting opportunities this term, but the dark mornings and dark evenings can be a challenge for

our students. We are extremely proud of our the way in which all of our students have supported each other, demonstrating compassion and empathy; it has been lovely to witness their developing friendships.

I'd like to share some of my highlights from this term across all six classes at College House. The students in Exe Class have continued to make the most of the opportunities on offer at Combe Pafford, whilst further developing positive relationships within their peer group. Deer Class have enjoyed spending more time off-site in the local community, visiting the beach and local parks such as Decoy and Stover. Taw class have been so focused, studying for their Functional Skills qualifications, but they have managed to have some fun too. Axe class went for an equine therapy taster session at Equafinity which they all loved. Tamar have really made the most of their catering sessions in the kitchen with Marc, our Catering Coordinator. Plym have made use of their extended classroom, engaging in even more therapeutic, sensory activities than ever before!

Merry Christmas to you all from the staff at College House, we hope you enjoy the festive period.



### TAMAR CLASS

Tamar have been focusing on George's Marvellous Medicine this term and have produced some amazing pieces of work around this! We have written character descriptions, instructions for our own medicines and alternative endings to the story. We are building our relationships and friendships within the classroom and have started to work collaboratively during Lego therapy sessions. We have also been using Zones of Regulation to explore our emotions through a range of art, music and stories. Have a fantastic Christmas Tamar!

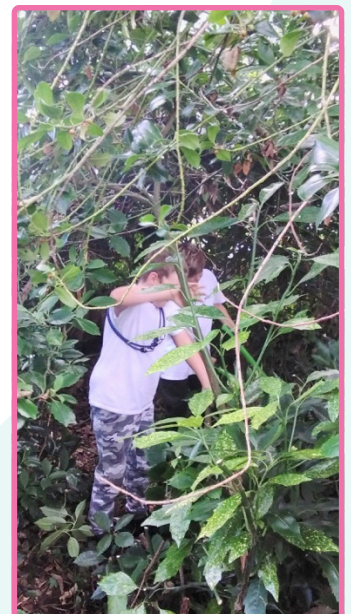
### DEER CLASS

This half-term has been a brilliant one in Deer Class!

**We have** been continuing our letter writing unit in English, as well as carrying on expanding our love of reading. The class have been participating in 5 minute reading challenges, where they have been seeing how many pages they can read out loud in 5 minutes.

We have started completing our Wild Tribe Bronze Award, where we have been completing tasks, including nature walks, making healthy smoothies and making bug shelters. The class have loved taking part in this and being out in nature.

Thank you for all your support this half-term and I hope you all enjoy a well earned Christmas break.





## TAW CLASS

This half term Taw class have been focusing on their Functional Skills and what careers they would be interested in. We have also spent a lot of time looking at healthy lifestyles with a particular focus on healthy nutrition and how our bodies respond to 'junk' food.

For Life Skills we have been looking at our local community and what there is to offer. As music is a passion for both students we have visited local vinyl shops and looked at the different guitars for sale in the area. We have been budgeting and planning trips to local attractions and the students have been looking at public transport and timetables, with the best way to access these areas. On our little adventures we sometimes get joined by a local friendly cat!

Looking at giving back to our local community we have made handmade soaps and raised £42 pounds for Animals In Distress Charity.

Taw class wish you all a very Happy Christmas!



## AXE CLASS

Axe have had a great half-term which included trips to the newly revamped Decoy Park, they have loved tucking into an ice cream and feeding the ducks there. We have been working hard in class, especially paying attention to some tricky subtraction and place value problems in our maths lessons. Our class also received an order of lots of new sensory equipment including a great den construction set and loads of kinetic sand which has been used a lot already! We carved pumpkins for Halloween which was great fun and tested their dexterity and artistic talents. As we approach the festive season, we have planned some fun games and activities to increase their social skills as well as their interaction with both students and adults. Our new reading corner was named both 'the cave of magical lights' and 'the cave of lightning strike', the children have loved utilising it for both reading sensibly and quiet time due to the new blankets and cushions within! We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new term.



## PLYM CLASS

Plym Class have been focussing a lot on personal health and hygiene this term. She has also really enjoyed visiting some of our new places on the risk assessment. Such as Trago, Decoy and Ansteys Cove.





## EXE CLASS

Exe have continued to work hard this term, with our timetable being filled with fun-packed activities.

This term we have moved on from construction to catering at Combe Pafford. Attendance has been very high, and we have been improving our culinary skills. Whether we have been making gingerbread men, bread, mince pies or some seriously good toasties; Exe have really embraced catering this term.

We have also continued to do our weekly forest school and catering sessions within the school too, continuing to develop our students' vocational skills set.

As our students are now starting to settle more, we hope to push for more academic achievement in Maths, English and PSHE next term

Onwards and upwards!



## FOREST SCHOOL

Forest school at College House has been great this half term. We've made delicious food including fajitas and chocolate orange cakes and enjoyed plenty of s'mores. We've also played loads of games of 'eagle-eye' and enjoyed some forest crafts such as crazy nature faces and a remembrance day poppy. We've carried on developing our whittling skills making marshmallow sticks and we're all getting fantastic at fire-lighting.



### A MESSAGE FROM LUCY GRENN



We have had a lovely few weeks here since October Half Term.

Two new students have joined classes here this term and we have accepted another two who will start after Christmas. We have also had some new Learning Support Assistants join

us – Luke and Connor, who have settled in really well and have been supporting our students every day.

With the COVID situation it has been a challenging term for children, parents/carers and staff. It has been great to see how well we have supported each other.

Our classrooms have been completely revamped with new displays and reading corners; the children have loved being part of this process and are proud of their improved environments.

Our Key Stage 4 children have all taken their exams this term and continue to work hard on achieving the best possible qualifications over the next 2 years, including a student who is currently studying for the Combined Science GCSE at South Dartmoor Community College and attending 5 lessons a week on their site.

We are looking forward to our last week together, enjoying our Christmas lunch and fun activities to finish the term. From everyone at Place House, School for Inspiring Talents, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

### DART CLASS

Dart have had an amazing term and we have formed some fantastic friendships, as well as amazing achievements. Lots of students in Dart Class have achieved qualifications this term which shows hard work and determination.

We have been looking at heroes and villains in English, and used drama to help us. We also went on a trip to Trago Mills which we all loved.

We look forward to next term with even more friendships being built, and we are excited for the students to gain even more qualifications.

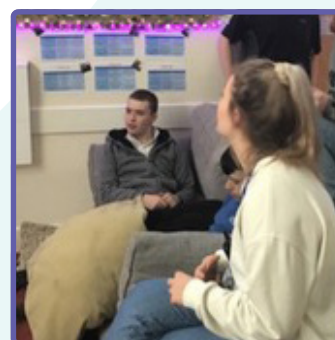
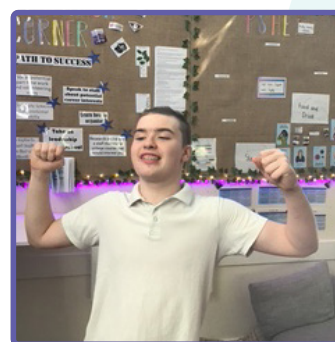
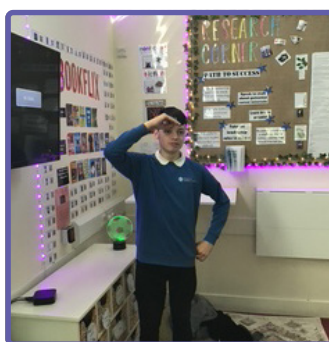


### TEIGN CLASS

This term Teign have been focusing on Amiri and the Night Brothers in English and have come up with their own imaginary monsters. In Maths we have been focusing on addition and subtraction and Maths Mystery games. As Christmas is around the corner, we went on a school trip to Trago Mills to pick out our own Christmas decorations for our class tree and all enjoyed a hot chocolate in the café! In Art we have been creating our own decorations to personalise our classroom.

Teign and Tavy teamed up together to walk around the school and surrounding area picking up litter. They were all so fantastic, making us very proud of their efforts! Well done!

Teign class would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!







## ERME CLASS

We have had a very busy term in Erme!

We enjoyed a rare trip to the theatre to see a play called 'The man who wanted to be a Penguin.' It related to our British Values topic with a trip to the theatre being a very 'British' activity. The trip also helped the students understand more about trust, fairness, safety and responsibilities. They behaved really well and were a credit to the school. Linking with trust, we created a trust jar which we add blue pebbles to, to show our trust at various times during the term. When it is full we are planning a party!

Food Technology has also featured 'Britishness' with the students making Pasties, a Cream Tea, Full English Breakfast and Jam Roly Poly. It has been a very eventful term back!

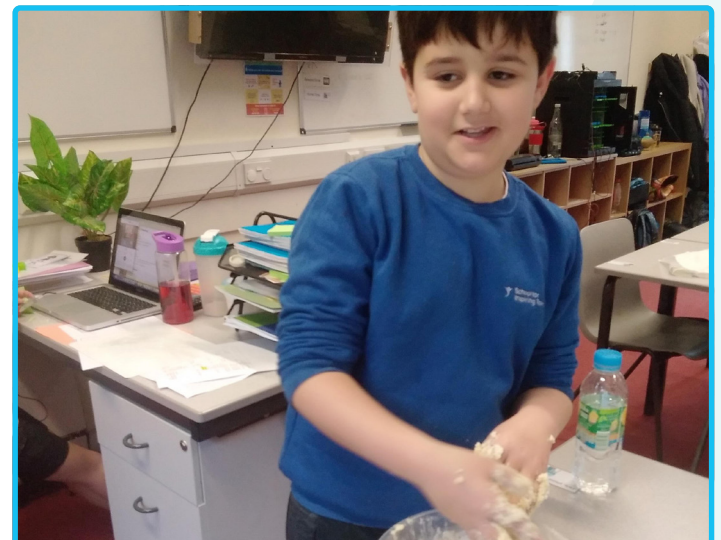
We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



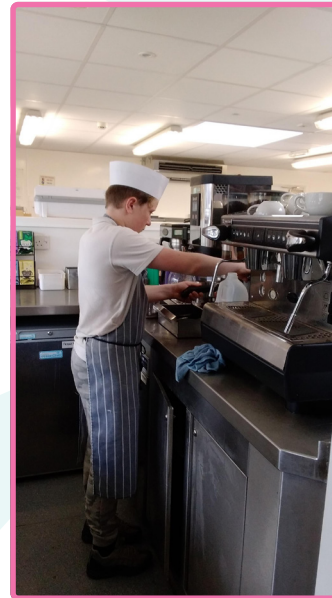
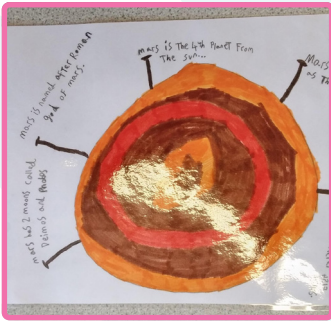
## TAVY CLASS

Tavy have been learning all about British Values. The students have got involved with looking at what is typically British, including the type of feeds we eat. One of their suggestions was scones and the traditional Cream Tea so they got involved in making scones from scratch and tasting them at the end of the day.

**Have a very Merry Christmas!**







## PARRETT CLASS

### Hey everyone, and welcome to Parrett class!

Here's a little bit about everything that we've been up to since the first week of term, and how much we have all achieved individually and as a class. Friendships are blossoming, our extraordinary efforts that are being put into our learning each day is just outstanding. I am so super proud of each and every one of you and I can't wait to show off how fabulous we are!

It's... SPACE we have learnt so much as a class during our latest topic theme. From learning each of the planet names, to learning the sizes by creating papier-mâché planets, and from creating fruit and sausage roll rockets, to crater cookies and star shaped biscuits during food tech. We have also made plenty of posters and fact files on our favourite chosen planet. Each student had a different planet to choose from and it was interesting to watch everybody learn something new. We have done Kahoot quizzes to test our knowledge, and all found this super fun.

It's... FOREST SCHOOL, we have been learning so much within a class, thanks to our lovely Forest School teachers, Pete and Paul. We have had the best time so far.. getting messy, and having smiles all over! From learning how to make fires, to keep them going, to creating pizzas and all bean chillis, and cooking them on the outside cooker. We have spent some afternoons at Stover Country Park, which have included, scavenger hunts, team building games and nature fun! Who can spot the ducks? We can't wait to see what's in store for Forest School after Christmas...Brrrrr!

One on one time during our 1:1 therapeutic sessions, we have all had a really special time with our key adults. From football sessions outside, to baking delicious brownies. We've taken lots of therapeutic walks outside of the school grounds and have participated in 1:1 board game sessions too. Each student has their own preference of what they would like to do during their 1:1 time, and it is really special to see that we are all unique and enjoy a wide variety of activities. As staff members, we are all doing that we can to meet each students needs during that happy hour together with their key adult.

Yes Chef! Combe Pafford time! During the last 6 weeks, Parrett class have been attending catering and hospitality sessions at Combe Pafford school. Our students have been trained by a fabulous chef on site. From learning how to hold a knife and chop fruit and vegetables in the correct way, to baking, to waitressing to clearing and laying out tables ready for new customers and assisting all of the kitchen team with anything they may need help with! For the students that did attend Combe Pafford, they have put 110% effort into everything and utterly enjoyed themselves! Look out Gordon Ramsay, we have potential chefs on our hands!





Blu has had a fantastic half term helping students in school. He has really enjoyed all the crunchy leaves at Place House, dashing through them when he gets the zoomies. Blu has also been helping out at College House by getting the students out and about around school on walks and accompanying Axe class on a taster session of horse therapy at Equafinity in Exeter. Blu has also made brilliant progress on his accreditation towards becoming a qualified assistance dog and has been with students to a cafe, demonstrating his obedience skills and getting out and about to practice his road safety. Blu is also looking forward to the Christmas break and wishes everyone a Happy Christmas!

## OFSTED SURVEY

We would like to thank all our parents who responded to the Ofsted Parental Survey and for the continuous support towards their children and the school. Below are some examples.

**"I consider that all staff know and understand my child's needs and are kind and considerate to us. Emotional wellbeing is important at Sft which helps to support my child's development."**

**"Excellent therapeutic staff who help my child feel safe at school. Great understanding of the needs of children with developmental trauma, promoting a high nurture environment. We are extremely happy with the school."**

**"Since joining the school our child has grown in confidence, has progressed their academic ability and has formed wonderful relationships with their class teacher and other adults. They are always keen to go to school and shares their positive experiences with us with pride."**

**"My child now loves going to school feels included and not weird or different."**

**"The school makes him feel included and normal unlike his previous main stream school."**

**"The teachers really care about the pupils as individuals and understand their needs and do all they can to make learning fun and interesting."**

**"I would happily recommend this amazing school to anybody and I thank them for their non wavering care of vulnerable and traumatised children"**

**"My child enjoys every minute being at this school and gets along with all staff. I'm happy on where my child's needs are and are being met."**

**"The staff do a fantastic job under very difficult circumstances."**



It's been a busy half term for students and staff alike at School for Inspiring Talents and we have been looking at ways to keep ourselves emotionally and physically well in the run up to Christmas. Our family workers have continued to actively support parents and carers wherever needed and have created a very useful list of activities to keep everyone occupied over the Christmas break, see overleaf.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas from MDT and look forward to seeing you again next year!

**This term's highlight comes from Megan Hornsby, our Mental Health Practitioner**

The students and I have been looking at ways to take a break and one of the ways we have done this is to walk together in the local area. We know that being in nature can help us to feel regulated and when you combine that with using our five senses to notice what is around us, it can help us to stay in the moment and reflect on where we are right now. Another way we have looked at taking a break is den building which can help us to feel safe and secure

It's been a great half term spent getting to know our new students better and building positive working relationships with them. One of the ways in which we have done this is to make mindfulness bracelets together which are not only helpful to remember to hold each other in mind but can also be used as something to fidget with or focus on counting if things get a little tricky.







### HEALTHY APPETITE AND ACTIVITIES

**Provider:** Healthy Appetite and Activities

**Activities provided:** Football, tag rugby, multi sports, boxercise, cookery class, art class, plus “Dan Magness” the famous football freestyler, visit to local attraction.

**Age:** 5-16

**When:** 10am-3pm on the following days...

- Tiverton – 20, 21, 22 and 23 December
- Cullompton – 28, 29, 30 and 31 December
- Uffculme – 20, 21, 22 and 23 December

**Contact details:**

- 07971527146
- Matt.zadel@mail.com
- Healthy Appetite and Activities website

**Locations:** Tiverton, Cullompton, Uffculme

### LIFEWORKS HO-HO-HOLIDAY PROJECT

**Provider:** Lifeworks

**Activities provided:** A nutritious hot meal will be provided. Music-making, hula-hooping, drama, cooking, Christmas crafts, karaoke dance, circuit training, bellringing. Plus, safe-space online – Zoom sessions.

**Age:** 5-16

**When:** 20, 21, 29 and 30 December

**Contact details:**

01803 861 060

Sarah-janelowson@lifeworks-uk.org

**Locations:** Dartington, Dartmouth and online

### South and West Devon

#### BE BUCKFASTLEIGH – HELLO XMAS

**Provider:** Be Buckfastleigh

**Activities provided:** Activity Packs, face-to-face workshops with hot lunches and food hampers, swimming in the heated pool, sessions at the climbing centre, soft play and hot lunches, some transport can be provided.

**Age:** 5-16

**When:** 16, 17 20, 21, 22 December

**Contact details:**

Be Buckfastleigh website

Be Buckfastleigh Facebook page

**Locations:** Bridgetown, Bovey Tracey and Buckfastleigh

#### SHEAR SOCCER

**Provider:** Shear Soccer

**Activities provided:** Football, tag rugby, hockey, basketball, multi-sports, boxercise, chef demonstrations, cookery class, football freestyler, visit to pantomime or steam train. Nature visits to a local nature reserve, a visit to a steam train journey during the week, family challenges such as a cook along.

**Age:** 5-14

**When:** Sessions will run 10am-3pm on the following dates...

- Totnes – 20, 21, 22 and 23 December
- Newton Abbot – 20, 21, 22, 23, 29, 30 and December

**Contact details:**

- 07967124844
- info@shearsoccer.co.uk

**Locations:** Totnes, Newton Abbot



### ACHIEVE 4 ALL

**Provider:** Achieve 4 All

**Activities provided:** Street surfing, Nerf games, archery, first aid, forest school, Christmas party, Christmas creative activities and Christmas hamper.

**Age:** 5-11

**When:** 9.30am-1.30pm on 20, 21, 22 and 23 December

**Contact details:**

- Nick Glanfield
- 03337 722844
- info@achieve4all.co.uk

**Locations:**

- St Michael's C of E Primary, Kingsteignton
- St Catherine's C of E Primary, Heathfield

### HIGH 5 SPORTS CAMPS

**Provider:** High 5 Sports Camps

**Activities provided:** Coached sports, Christmas themed art activities and extra activities including zorbing, x-mas disco, use of a range of inflatables, nerf wars and laser tag.

**Age:** 5-15

**When:** 20, 21, 22, 23 December (all day) – dates are the same for both locations

**Contact details:**

- High 5 Sports Camps website

**Locations:**

- Stover School
- Mount Kelly School

### EOLAS

**Activities provided:** sports, arts and crafts, specialist dance/Acrobatics. Local companies to produce a hot balanced meal for the camps.

**Age:** 5-12

**When:**

- Salcombe – 21, 22 and 23 December
- Teignmouth – 20, 21 and 22 December

**Contact details:**

- Eolas+ website

**Locations:** Salcombe, Teignmouth

### KINGSBRIDGE FOODBANK

**Provider:** Kingsbridge Foodbank

**Activities provided:** Food parcels and a family game will be given to every child so they have a present to open and play on Christmas day.

**Age:** Not applicable

**When:** December

**Contact details:**

- Kingsbridge Food Bank website
- Please note that there isn't a booking system

**Locations:** Kingsbridge, South Hams

### SOUNDART RADIO

**Provider:** Soundart Radio

**Activities provided:** This is a holistic project with a theme of ancient wintertime mystery running through all activities. There are six workshops: costume making, singing, circus, dance, radio and animation skills, or children could choose to join the cooking team instead if they prefer. Chefs on site in every workshop, who will prepare lunch and snacks together with the children. Celebration day and feast for the whole family.

**Age:** 6-16

**When:**

- Monday 20th December, 11am-3pm, Buckland Centre, Newton Abbot.
- Tuesday 21st December, 11am-3pm, Civic Hall, Totnes.
- Wednesday 22nd December, 11am-3pm, Bridgetown Community Hall.
- Tuesday 28th December, 11am-3pm, Old School Centre, South Brent.
- Wednesday 29th December, 11am-3pm, Buckland Centre, Newton Abbot.
- Thursday 30th December, 11am-3pm, Bridgetown Community Hall.
- Family activities – 22nd December 7.30pm, Dartington Hall.
- Family activities – 2nd January 3pm-6pm, Dartington Hall.

**Contact details:**

- Book via the Soundart Radio website
- 01803 847185
- childcare@soundartradio.org.uk

**Locations:** South Brent, Newton Abbot, Totnes, Dartington Hall





School for  
Inspiring Talents

# School Term Dates 2021 / 2022

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

September 2021

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

October 2021

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

November 2021

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

December 2021

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

January 2022

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

February 2022

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

March 2022

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

April 2022

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

May 2022

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

June 2022

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

July 2022

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

August 2022

## Term Lengths

- Autumn Half Term
- 7 Sep - 15 Oct
- Half Term to Christmas
- 1 Nov - 17 Dec
- Winter Half Term
- 5 Jan - 18 Feb

- Half Term to Easter
- 28 Feb - 8 Apr
- Spring Half Term
- 25 Apr - 27 May
- Summer Half Term
- 6 Jun - 22 Jul

## Key

- Holiday
- Bank Holiday