

Torfield News

A newsletter for Parents and Carers of Pupils at Torfield School Edition 8 Spring 2015

Torfield Celebrates World Book Day

English is a subject that occurs every day in every class, sometimes without us even knowing; especially speaking & listening, both inside and outside the classroom, role play/drama and reading.

We are continuing a focus in phonics, using Letters and Sounds, which we know helps children with their speech, reading and writing. There is a great deal of writing going on around the school, from hand over hand tracing letters, copying letters and sentences, to extended sentences using adjectives and adverbs. All of this takes effort and concentration from the children, with great results. Many pupils are using Clicker 6, a writing program, to help them to write sentences, stories and science reports.

A huge highlight for me this term has been our English week, culminating in us taking part in World Book Day. It was amazing how something as simple as dressing up created such a buzz around the school. Both children and staff were talking about the costumes they had seen and the children produced some amazing drama out in the playground using the characters, totally child initiated. During the week there were also other fun, but educational, activities going on; one class concentrated their writing and



activities around pirates, another focussed on the Normans. The Upper KS2 classes created comic strips and produced some wonderful independent writing based on their books. Great fun was had by all and I look forward to next year's World Book Day.

Tracey Nottage

English Learning Leader



World Book Day Competition Winners pictured:

Dorothy and Toto from The Wizard of Oz, a Pterodactyl, Where's Wally? and below left Mr Bump and Dracula

There are some great reading activities to be found on **Espresso**. Just click on the link from your child's VLE page to get started. In KS1 English the section called Big Books contains lots of books that have the option to be read out loud. This helps your child with reading and comprehension. **Espresso** is a great resource that supports learning in all subjects in school. Parents and Carers can access it free at home.

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy our spring Newsletter. It is hard to believe that after a long, cold and wet winter, we are now just a few days away from the Easter Holiday. It has been a busy term at school as you can see in this issue. I hope you are as impressed as I am with some of the high quality work and activities that our pupils have participated in!

At this time of year we begin to think about looking ahead to the future: For our year 6 this is a very important time. Our staff will be doing their very best to prepare them for assessments and of course the transition to life beyond Torfield. Please support us by making sure they get plenty of sleep and a good breakfast every day. We are well known for providing excellent support and preparation to children in moving on, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any worries.

We are looking forward to welcoming some new staff in the coming months as well. You will know that Mr Davison is leaving at Easter and I hope you will join me in thanking him for his contributions to Torfield and in wishing him success in the future.

Thank you also to all of our parents and carers who have shown their support and enthusiasm for Torfield in recent Annual Reviews and parent evenings; we had a good attendance and received overwhelmingly positive feedback in our questionnaires. We are always very pleased to hear your views, so please do contact us if you have any concerns or worries about your child.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Easter holiday.

Mr Preece
Executive Headteacher



GOVERNORS UPDATE

We have had two governors committees since we became an academy trust. There is a Board of Directors, who are the accountable body for both Torfield and Saxon Mount. There is also an Academy Advisory Board who support the work of the academy trust. Together these committees fulfil all their statutory responsibilities to ensure both our schools are performing well.

Governors also visit the schools as part of their roles and recently these visits have included familiarisation visits for new governors and also attending meetings with our External Advisor to monitor the schools' self-evaluations. Governors also undertake training to support their area of responsibility. Further information about the governing body can be found on the school website.



PE is taught across all year groups and children access the swimming pool for lessons at least once a week. PE lessons are taught in units of work which change from term to term. Term 1 is Invasion games, term 2 is Gymnastics, Term 3 is Dance, term 4 is Net and Wall games, term 5 is Striking and Fielding and term 6 is Athletics.

Year groups are taught specific games and activities within each unit. This ensures that differentiation for specific needs and ages are correct and that children do not repeat the same sport year after year.

In term 3 we had a visit from a Zumba instructor called Katy Tatlock. We all enjoyed different dances and activities throughout the day and everyone had fun.

Gavin Davison PE Learning Leader



What is PSHE?

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is one of the most important areas of learning for the children at Torfield School. PSHE encompasses almost every area of the curriculum and supports almost every area of the curriculum as well. PSHE is taught at almost all times of the day at school, as well as during educational visits and includes developing and securing skills in the following areas:



When teachers plan lessons they include opportunities to practise and develop skills in all of these areas. There are also lessons which focus on friendship and social skills. In ICT we teach children how to be safe and what to do if they have a problem with something online. Some pupils might need a bit more help in these areas and this will be written into their IEP. For example some pupils, especially at Early Years, need a programme like Jump Ahead to help them to develop fine motor skills. Jim Paynter is the Learning Leader for PSHE. He also monitors all the IEPs and Curriculum Access Plans (CAPs) to ensure all pupils are receiving the support they need to be successful.

Family Learning Sessions

In term 3 we ran sessions for families keen to develop their skills in using Makaton to support their child's communication. These sessions were run by Jackie Powell who is a trained instructor. These sessions have been very popular. In term 4 we offered sessions that focussed on using ICT to support home learning. Parents and carers were shown how to access their child's home page and how to use Espresso and Mathletics. The final session of term 4 included a lunch and an opportunity to meet with the school's Parent Information Contact. Judith Taylor (PIC) is a great source of information on a wide range of topics. If you have any questions or need to know where to access support, Judith can help to point you in the right direction.

In term 5 Kay Al-Ghani will be running some workshops for families on the theme of thinking and learning skills. In these sessions she will be talking about strategies and activities you can use at home to help your child develop skills to solve problems and make sense of the world around them. These approaches are useful for all children, not just those with autism, so please come along if you are able to.

Thinking and Learning Skills with Kay Al Ghani

9.30—11.30

Wednesday 22nd April

Wednesday 29th April

Wednesday 6th May

Wednesday 13th May

The venue is Torfield Early Years Centre

Parker Road

We look forward to seeing you there.

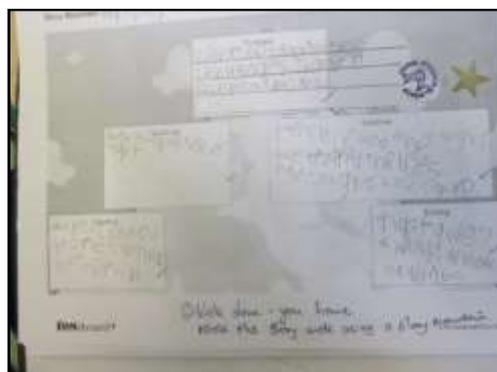
We have been very busy in Terms 3 and 4. Our visits have included a range of interesting and fun learning opportunities. In Geography we were learning about hot and cold countries so we went to Drusillas to learn more about animals from the rainforest. We listened carefully to a talk from one of the zoo keepers and were also able to touch some creatures like a snake and a cockroach.



In Science we have been learning about materials and their properties. One of the trips that we went on was to Stone Cross Windmill. Here we were able to learn about how the windmill worked and we looked carefully at what different materials the windmill was made from. We also visited the beach to look at natural and handmade materials.

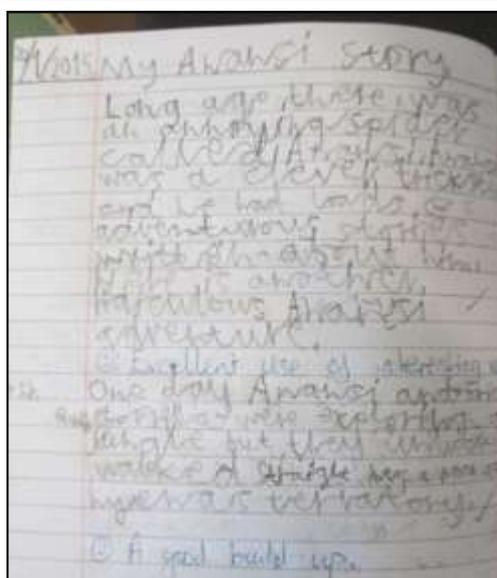


In English lessons we have been learning about stories from other cultures. We read some 'Anansi stories and then wrote some of our own. We focused on including interesting vocabulary. Here is a plan from Ben and a page from Tyler's story.



Fundraising at Torfield

As part of our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education at Torfield, we regularly organise events which raise money for charity and raise awareness about other people and ways to help those who need support. We have held two events during terms 3 and 4.



On 2nd February 2015 everyone at school joined in with the SIGN2SING event, and many children also participated in a sponsored silence at school that week. The children worked hard practicing their songs and signing enthusiastically all term. In contrast, the sponsored silence was a very calm event! Children learnt about deafness and raised £100 for The Deaf Health Charity 'SignHealth'. Well done to all the children who took part and thanks to parents and carers for your support.

Torfield School also took part in Red Nose Day on 13th March 2015. Pupils brought money in to change into non-uniform clothes, and many had faces painted as part of the 'Make your Face Funny for Money' campaign. We raised £52.50 for Comic Relief charities. We would like to thank parents and carers for your support again.

2N have had a very busy term 3, but one of the highlights was our trip to Robertsbridge to visit the Gray and Nicolls' Cricket bat factory. Once there, Ian gave us a tour round and we saw how the bats were made, starting from the English Willow as it arrived at the factory, to how the bats for the Professional Cricket players (including Alistair Cook) were finished by hand to their exact requirements. A fascinating trip and thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike which really showed us how different materials can be used to make useful objects.

2N started term 4 with a reward trip bowling at the David Lloyd Lanes. This was in recognition of all the pupils hard work and having filled their marble jar up. Great fun was had by all the children and staff.

We have also completed some serious Maths work this term, looking at adding and subtracting using the column method and investigating fractions, both of which the children have been very good at.

To complement our History topic this term (Queen Elizabeth I) and our English work on A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare; we joined in the National Celebration of Shakespeare Week by doing every lesson as they would have in Shakespeare's time. This involved: Making Elizabethan carriages and our money purses in DT, learning about the language Shakespeare used in his plays, learning about the town where Shakespeare grew up and understanding the table manners from when Shakespeare was a boy – some of which are still very relevant today!



Tuesday Clubs at Torfield

At Torfield we run a swimming club and an ICT club after school on Tuesdays. They are for pupils in year 1 to year 6 . Clubs run from 3.15 until 4.15. We request a contribution of £1 per session to support staffing costs. Pupils will need to be collected from school after the club. To support pupils who live further away we run a limited taxi service. We can only offer this to one geographical area at a time and rotate the areas to enable every child to attend a club at least once a year. There is an additional cost for transport. Please look out for the letter regarding clubs and return the slip as soon as possible if you are interested in your child attending a club.

Dear Parents and Carers

We are over half way through the school year now and although the last two terms have been short they have been very busy. The pupils have worked hard and as I go round the classrooms I see lots of lovely work being produced. In our Celebration Assembly on Fridays the children come up to get their certificates and prizes and show they are proud of their achievements. Many pupils can tell you what they can do and what they need to improve on. In KS2 teachers and pupils meet at least twice a term to talk about targets in core learning, communication and behaviour. Each target is based on a small step in progress and pupils earn smiley faces for achieving them.

Well done to all the pupils who regularly complete their homework. We have been working hard to ensure class home pages on the VLE are updated so please log on with your child and see what is happening in their class. Each child has their own page too and Mrs Barton has been helping pupils to personalise their page. There are links to Espresso and Mathletics via the VLE so please make use of these great resources at home. If you would like to know more about how to help your child to learn at home please let us know. A course of four family support sessions starts on Wednesday 22nd April aimed at supporting you to develop thinking and problem solving skills.

At the end of term 3 we were able to award 26 pupils with a certificate and gift voucher for achieving attendance of over 97%. This is a great achievement. It is important that all pupils attend school regularly but for pupils who have learning difficulties it is even more important. We know that sometimes it isn't easy to get your child into school but we are here to help and support you so if you are experiencing difficulties please contact me so we can discuss this.

As we head towards the sunnier days can I ask you to remember to send in sun hats and sun protection for playtimes and visits.

We are looking forward to a really successful two terms. We hope to see as many of you as possible at parents and carers evening in July. This year, following your feedback, we are organising appointments with your child's new class teacher. If you wish to see your child's current teacher as well that can be arranged.

With best wishes

Natalie Shuttleworth

Head of School



During Term 3 the children at the EYC were learning about 'Winter' and 'Wild Winter Animals'. We transformed our soft play room into a Wild Winter Wonderland with penguins, polar bears and a magical ice grotto.



The children explored a variety of sensory activities developing an understanding of freezing and melting and creating wild winter landscapes.



The children then set up an experiment to see what wild winter birds like to eat, observing through the classroom window – would the seagull eat lego, bread, birdseed or a pencil?



This term we have been off to the Jungle ...

can you find the spotty leopards and the stripy tigers ?

We have all enjoyed the story of 'Handa's Surprise' and the naughty animals who stole all of Handa's fruit. The children have explored, tasted and recorded a variety of fruits. Some of us were very brave !



In 2K we have been doing lots of exciting things over the last two terms. We began by looking at forces in science and explored this by testing different ramp surfaces for our cars and by visiting different play areas and discussing how we need push and pull to make all of our favourite play equipment work. We really enjoyed going on the barrel ride at Knockhatch where we experienced the pulling force in action and going bowling where we had to push the ball to make it move! We were so good at understanding pushing and pulling that we moved on to thinking about air resistance. To understand this better we made our own kites and flew them in the wind!

In maths we looked at 2D and 3D shapes in the world around us, nets of shapes and at creating patterns, symmetry and tessellation. We even began sorting shapes by looking at how many corners and sides they have. In PE we worked on dance and really enjoyed our morning of Zumba!

In Term 3 we worked on poetry in literacy. We enjoyed playing with rhyming words, reading poetry and creating our own poems. This term we have moved on to letter writing and have really enjoyed looking at 'The Jolly Postman' and 'Dear Greenpeace' to help us with our own writing. English week was great fun and we particularly enjoyed World Book Day when we got to dress up as our favourite book characters and hear stories in other classrooms.

This term we have started looking at seasonal changes in science and have enjoyed looking for signs of Spring on our trips and creating outfits for different seasons. We have also moved on to a history-based topic and are looking at the Normans and the Battle of Hastings. To support our understanding of history we visited Yesterday's World and enjoyed looking at how life used to be. We have particularly enjoyed learning about the journey towards becoming a knight in Norman Britain. We made our own shields, swords and helmets and re-enacted the Battle of Hastings on the playground. We also designed ourselves as knights and wrote about why we thought we would make good knights as well as looking at the Bayeux Tapestry and having a go at doing our own sewing. We were so proud of all of this work that we showed it to the whole school in our class assembly.



Goodbye and Good luck

This term we say goodbye to Mr Davison who is leaving to take up a new post as Assistant Head Teacher. We wish him

good luck in his new role and thank him for his contribution to Torfield School. Mr Davison has worked with all pupils at Croft Road through his role as learning leader for PE. He has run the popular after school swimming club. In particular he has worked hard to support pupils to learn important team skills such as how to cope with winning and losing.





As we missed Shrove Tuesday in school we made and ate pancakes on a different week. Mixing and cooking pancakes was good fun but the eating of them was the best. This learning included science, mathematics for the measuring of ingredients and language skills as well as developing sensory needs with the eating. The children were encouraged to communicate through speaking when making choices of filling such as jam or lemon juice and some children tried more than one filling.

2W



We have noticed how well the children are progressing in speaking and number learning. We have group and individual sessions every day in class and we often do our learning by playing games which involve turn taking and the children communicating with and encouraging each other. Well done to them all.

This term we completed our class book, 'We Are Going on a Castle Hunt'. There is much learning in many curriculum areas in the book and it includes a DVD of the children telling the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen; the book which inspired our learning. Our book was linked to curriculum outings and some of our homework on the VLE.

Our topic focus for science in term 3 was 'Forces & Magnets' and the children really enjoyed the different activities where they explored actions and resulting consequences. They worked hard to understand the effects of different movements on objects. The children were excited when exploring and observing changes to ice in our recent science experiment. In term 3 2S went to David Lloyd Bowling Alley to learn about forces and back in school they created their own bowling alley in the classroom.

Throughout term 4 we have been learning about seasonal changes and during all of our educational visits the children have enjoyed observing, discussing and identifying signs of Spring. This term 2S have been to Pevensey Castle to support work in history and to the woods near to school.

This term the children really enjoyed 'World Book Day' which involved lots of activities based around the story entitled 'The Pirates Next Door'. Everyone was encouraged to dress up as their favourite story character for the day. The children wrote messages and put them in bottles.

2S



Class 2P have been learning about important buildings and visited Hastings and Bodium Castles to look at different parts of castles. We have been learning about drawbridges and dungeons and turrets and towers. We also looked out for dragons in the moat at Bodium!

We have also been looking out for signs of spring and visited Bedgebury and Collington Woods to see if we could find buds on the trees and shoots in the ground. We especially enjoyed Bedgebury and are looking forward to another visit in the summer to see how the trees have changed.

In class we have been reading *The Hungry Caterpillar* and have done lots of counting and art work to support this.

We have started to think about problem solving in maths, and hope to have lots of exciting new resources soon to help us explore lots of new activities.



History and Geography

As with all other curriculum areas, we follow the National Curriculum and differentiate lessons to allow all pupils to work at their own level. Teachers plan interesting educational visits to support History and Geography. The school is a member of the National Trust and this means we can visit old buildings and gardens which help pupils to understand how people lived in the past. Dressing up is a great way to find out about the past and trips to places like the Anne of Cleves House and Knole Park enable the pupils to experience history.



In Geography we use our very rich local environment to look at different features and landscapes. We make the lessons as practical and hands on as possible. Both subjects provide great opportunities to practice reading, writing and communication skills as well as maths. We help the pupils to make links in their learning.



This group of year 5 and 6 pupils visited Hastings Museum to learn about the First World War.



Come and Join us at Torfield Kids Club!



Come along and take part in Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Sports, Playground Games, Trips to Parks, Knockhatch, Swimming, Bowling and More...



Holiday Play schemes and Saturday Club sessions run 10am till 4pm

at a cost of £18 per session

Morning sessions 10am - 12noon at a cost of £6 per session
look out for our flyers for dates.

Sessions run After School runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday

during term time

3:15-5:15pm at a cost of £3 per hour.

For more information please contact:

Nikita Silburn-Cooper (Club Coordinator): 07909 000564

Or Liz Cranham (Deputy Club Coordinator): 07557 480642



After School Club Transport Home £3*

Monday's – Towards Guestling, Icklesham, Winchelsea, Rye and Camber

Wednesday's – St Leonards, Battle, Fairlight

Friday's – Bexhill, Sidley, Little Common, Eastbourne

All local drop-offs welcome. If you are outside of these areas or are unsure please feel free to contact us.



*Not available for trial session.

Science

Science is a really exciting subject and it brings all core subjects together. Science lessons at Torfield give pupils the chance to practice their maths, reading and writing skills and their communication skills. It's a great subject for working in pairs and small groups so pupils also get to practice their team work and cooperative skills. At Torfield we follow the National Curriculum to make sure the pupils cover all the areas of science equally. We differentiate the activities so that all pupils can work at their level. Pupils have a science lesson every week. Once a year we hold a Science Week. We do this in the spring when everything is starting to grow back and the mini beasts are out in force. We use our whole school to investigate and we go out on visits to learn about other aspects of science. It's great fun and a great opportunity to explore and investigate. Science Week this year starts on the 18th May. We will include lots of photos in the next newsletter. Here are some from last year's Science Week.



Espresso has some great activities linked to science if you want to help your child at home.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

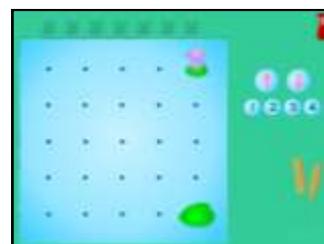
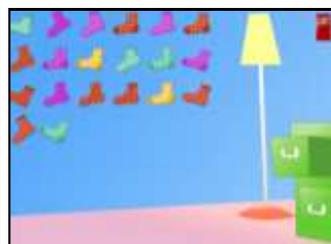
Please note that when paying by cheque for anything such as trips or tuck shop cheques should be made payable to

Torfield and Saxon Mount Academy Trust

Thank you

Mathematics

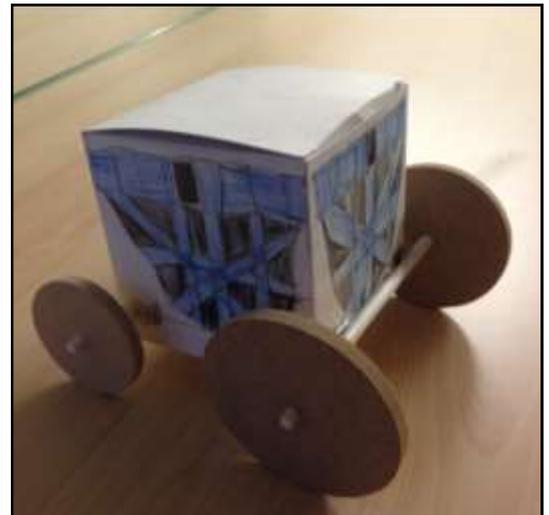
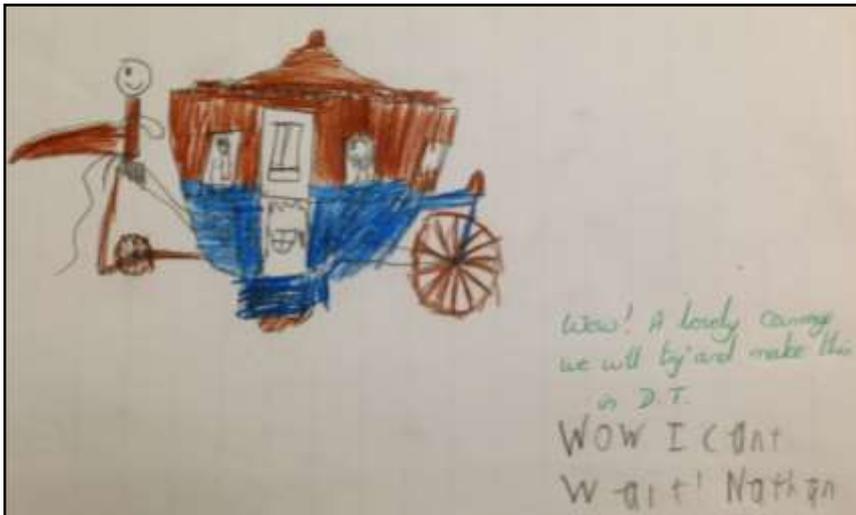
Maths is taught through daily maths lessons. Teachers plan lessons that give pupils regular opportunities to practise and develop skills. One lesson each week is focused on teaching problem solving skills. Maths is also taught in a cross curricular approach to support pupils to use and apply their skills and knowledge. On educational visits pupils may collect data about traffic or shopping and use this back at school to create graphs. ICT is used to support maths every day in the classrooms. Pupils use Mathletics which is a very thorough program that can identify gaps in pupils' knowledge and skills and help teachers to plan the next steps in learning. Pupils have their own username and password and this program can be accessed from home from your child's VLE page.



Here are two problem solving activities where pupils have to match the pairs of socks and move the frog to the lily pad using arrows and a grid.

Art and Design Technology

Art and DT are taught in all KS1 and 2 classes. We make links to topics in science, history and geography and may use educational visits as a stimuli. Classes may go out to sketch what they see at the beach or visit an art gallery. In the last full week of the year we hold an activities week where pupils have the chance to experience a wide range of art and DT based activities. We encourage pupils to work together to create models and art work. This also encourages communication and cooperation and so links well to the PSHE curriculum. The pupils really enjoy their lessons and we hope you enjoy seeing the work they bring home. In Upper KS2 the pupils have been learning about Elizabeth 1 and in DT they have designed and made a carriage. They are exceptionally proud of their work. Here are some pictures of work in progress, with some more in 2N's class article.



Dates for your Diary 2015

Monday 13th April	First day of Term 5
Wednesday 22nd April/29th April/6th May/13th May	Family Learning—Thinking and Learning Skills
Monday 23rd April at 2.30	Parent/Carer meeting for Year 6 Residential
11th—14th May	SATs tests for year 6
Week beginning 18th May	Science Week
25th—29th May	School Holidays
Monday 1st June	First day of Term 6
Thursday 18th June	INSET day—school closed for pupils
Friday 19th June	INSET day—school closed for pupils
Monday 22nd June—Friday 26th June	Year 6 Residential to Hindleap Warren
Friday 10th July	Reports home
Week beginning 13th July	Activities Week
Wednesday 15th July	Parents/Carers Evening to meet next year's teacher
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of Term 6
Thursday 23rd July—Monday 1st September	School Holiday
Wednesday 2nd September	INSET day—school closed for pupils
Thursday 3rd September	First day of term 1