Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, myself and Mrs Gray have been out of school updating our Trauma Informed Schools training. At Kells Lane, we want every child to feel happy, safe, valued and understood. We know that every child is different and that their experiences outside and inside school can sometimes affect how they feel, behave and learn. Our whole staff team have completed trauma training previously to help us understand this better and to make sure we can offer the right support when children need it. It helps us to look beyond a child's behaviour, understand what might be going on for them and respond with kindness, patience and understanding.

You should have received your child's progress update this week, ahead of parents evening. If you have not received this, please contact the school office who will be able to help.

We have said goodbye to Miss Smith this week as she begins her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing soon about the birth of her baby girl.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Swinbank



Thank you to our Head Boy and Head Girl for representing our school this week at the Remembrance Service on Durham Road, laying a wreath to show our respect and remember all the people who have died or been injured while serving in wars and conflicts to help protect others and keep us safe.

https://kellslaneschool.co.uk

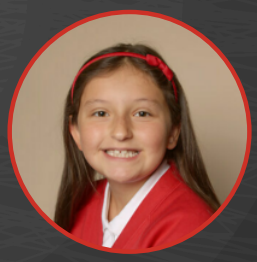
Character Development

Brave Curious Resilient Empowered Ambitious Find your Remarkable

Emerald	Sapphire	Ruby	Amber
4400	3400	2600	3400

Well done Emerald Team for winning the most team points. We hope everyone had a peaceful Remembrance Day and were excited for Children in Need pyjama day where we did a really fun run. We also hope everyone has kindly donated some money to Children in Need. Happy Diwali to everyone who celebrates and we hope everyone has a good rest this weekend.





Head Boy & Girl

Focus Value

Resilient

See more from the past week here -

Click Here

Children in Need

Thank you for supporting our Pudsey Run for Children in Need! Together we raised £750.91!





This year, Kells Lane will be supporting The Salvation Army ‘Christmas Present Appeal’.

If you’re starting your Christmas shopping, please add an additional present to your list. The gifts will be collated in our KS2 hall from the **16th November,** collected on the **11th December** for wrapping by The Salvation Army and then distributed to those in need in the local area.

Every child deserves a new gift at Christmas so they are unable to accept used or second hand items. Unfortunately they cannot accept homemade or knitted items either. All gifts should be donated unwrapped to help with ease of distribution.



Nursery







It has been an action-packed week in Nursery as we welcomed a visit from the Fire and Ambulance Services. The children had the opportunity to explore the fire engine and ambulance and learn all about the role of a firefighter and paramedic.

We also had a visit from one of our lovely parents who taught us all about her job role as a radiographer.

We have continued with our core book ‘Peace at Last’, and many of our children are starting to read this off by heart!

During our maths sessions, we have been using number names in order during songs and rhymes and using these skills to count ‘how many friends’ during transitions.

The children took part in the Nursery Rhyme Challenge this week and are looking forward to performing the rhymes to grown-ups next week.

In our provision, the children have been using our new conker clamps and palm drills to make conker spiders, jewellery and lollipops!

Curriculum



Reception







This week in Reception, we have had a very exciting time learning about the important people who help us in our community! We were delighted to welcome an occupational therapist, two nurses, an ambulance and a fire engine into school.

We loved finding out more about their important jobs and even had the fantastic opportunity to look inside an ambulance and sit inside a fire engine! We have been exploring the different roles of people who help keep us safe and healthy, including doctors, nurses, paramedics and dentists.

In **Maths**, we have been been looking at tens frames and thinking about the amount shown.

This week in **English**, we have been getting creative with our class story, Room on the Broom. We have been imagining and drawing ingredients for our very own potions and practising our writing skills by adding labels to our pictures.

Curriculum



Y1

In **Maths** this week, we have been investigating and learning all about 2d and 3d shapes.

In **Science**, we have been describing and comparing the body parts of different animals, from wings and fins to long legs.

In **Geography**, we have been spotting human features in Low Fell, such as shops, houses and roads.

In **Computing**, we have been giving instructions to program Bee-Bots.

In **History**, we have been learning about local inventor Joseph Swan and his light bulb.

In **English** we have been using interesting adjectives to describe the setting of our class story, Beegu.







Curriculum



Y2

In **Maths** this week, we have been subtracting 2 digit numbers.

In **Geography**, we have been learning about human features of the coast, such as piers, lighthouses and promenades, and the difference between a port and a harbour.

In **RE**, we have been learning how Jewish families build a sukkah to celebrate Sukkot and give thanks for the natural world.

In **Science**, we have been learning how animals grow and change from babies into adults.

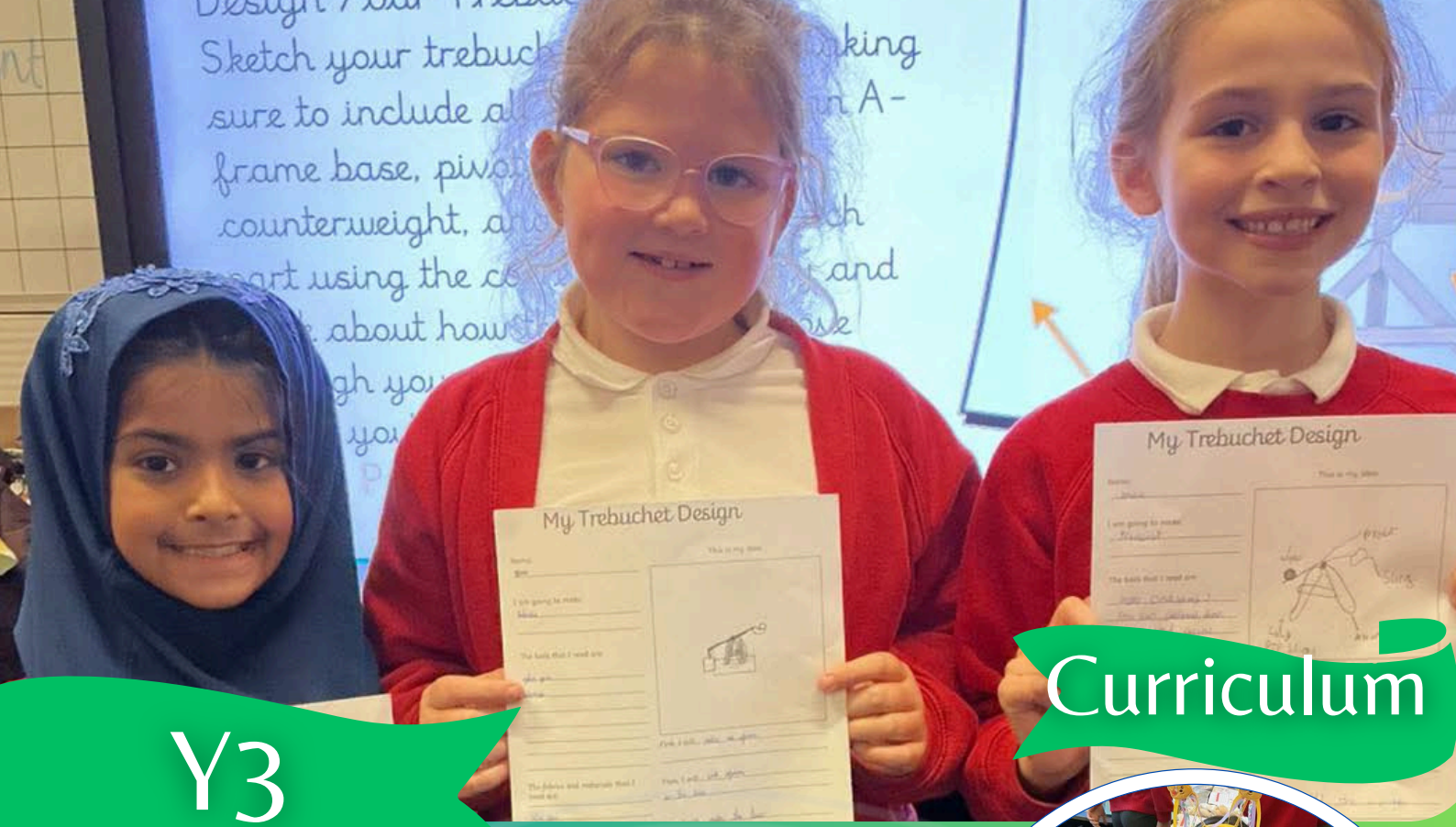
In **DT**, we have been exploring beach huts and why some are built on stilts.

In **English** we have been planning letters from Tom, the main character in our class story The Night Pirates, by Peter Harris.









Curriculum

Y3



In **Maths** this week, we have been subtracting two digit numbers from a three digit number using a standard method.



In **History**, we have been learning about the Persian Wars and how the Greeks won the battles of Marathon and Salamis.

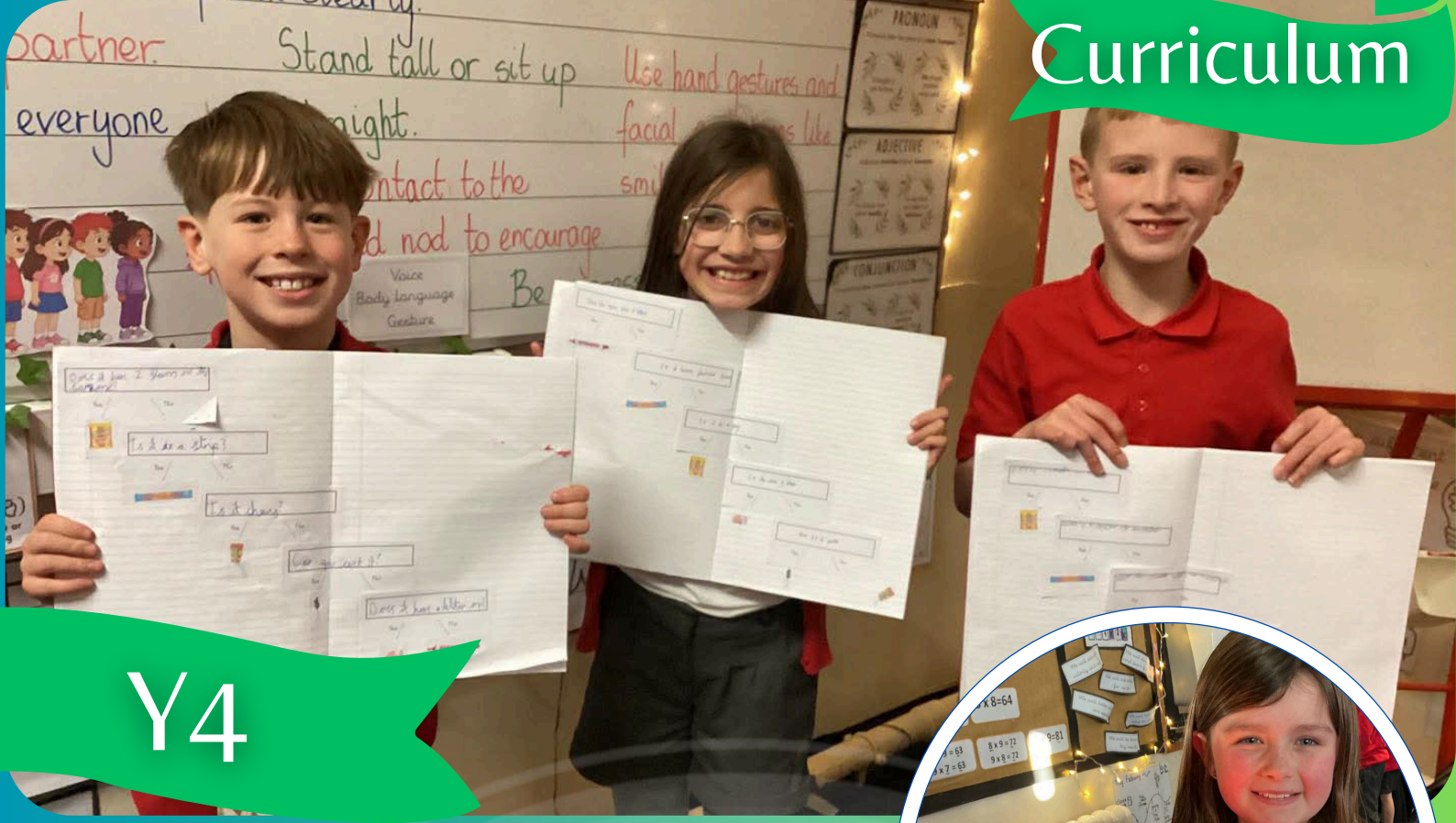
In **RE**, we have been learning how Diwali is celebrated in India and the UK.

In **Science**, we have been finding out which teeth we use for different foods.



In **English** we have been planning and writing character descriptions about the main character Leo, from our class text, Leo and the Gorgon's Curse.

Curriculum



Y4



In **Maths** this week, we have been learning about multiples of three and six, looking for patterns and how to divide with them.



In **RE**, we have been exploring the story of Yudhishthira and the dog, and how Hindus show dharma through kindness to all living things.

In **Music**, we have been telling stories through song.

In **Science**, we have been using classification keys to identify living things.



In **English** we have been constructing counter arguments, thinking about how our presentation skills can convince people of our point of view.

In **DT,** we have been designing and making night lights.

Curriculum



Y5

In **Maths** this week, we have been multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000 and then we have also looked at comparing fractions.

In **Science**, we have been finding out which kitchen solids dissolve in water and which are insoluble.



In **History**, we have been learning how the Romans built an empire across much of Europe.

In **DT**, we have been designing the frame for our Roman catapults, planning where the pulley will sit.



In **Computing**, we have been using Tinkercad to translate, rotate and scale 3D shapes to build a Roman villa.

In **English** we have been exploring strong vocabulary to support our setting description writing, linked to our class text, Theseus and the Minotaur.



Y6







In **Maths** this week, we have been finding equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions.

In **History**, we have been learning about life on the Home Front in World War Two, including evacuation, rationing and Dig for Victory.

In **PSHE**, we have been learning why media has age restrictions.

In **Science**, we have been classifying plants as flowering or non-flowering.

In **Art**, we have been exploring how chair design has changed over time.

In **English** we have been focusing on comprehension skills, finding out more about the main character Henry, in our class story, Henry's Freedom Box.

Design the Mayor's 2026 Christmas Card!

North East Mayor Kim McGuinness is calling on creative children from across our region to design her official 2026 Christmas card! The Mayor is looking for festive designs that showcase the **"best bits of the North East"** (such as our famous landmarks, beautiful coastlines, or regional icons).

The Details:

- Who can enter: All school children aged 16 and under.
- The Prize: A chance to win a voucher for our school!
- Where to create it: This can be completed entirely at home.

How to Submit:

Parents must email a clear photo or scan of the artwork directly to **mayorsoffice@northeast-ca.gov.uk**

To make sure your entry is valid, you must include the following details in the email:

1. Child's Name
2. Child's Age
3. Home Address
4. School Name
5. Parent or Guardian's Contact Email

Deadline for entries: **4 December at 5:00 PM**. Good luck to all our young artists!





INCLUSION & SEND

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES 23

SEND LEGO® CLUB

Tuesday November 17th

4:00-5:00pm

Chowdene Family Hub

Children under 12 with additional needs - come along and join a Lego building session!
Parents, carers, and siblings welcome.

Contact: familyhubs@gateshead.gov.uk
Phone: 0191 433 5052



Gateshead FAMILY HUBS

Gateshead Council

SAFEGUARDING

Anti-Bullying Week:
16th – 20th November

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, and this year's theme is '**Break the Silence**'. In assemblies and in class, children will be talking about what bullying is, how it is different from a one-off falling out, and why it is so important to tell a trusted adult.

You can help at home by:

- asking your child who they would talk to if something was worrying them
- looking out for changes such as not wanting to come to school, losing belongings or being unusually quiet
- reminding them that telling an adult is always the right thing to do

If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the school office.

Odd Socks Day – Monday 16th November

To launch Anti-Bullying Week, children are invited to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes each of us unique.



Should I Upload Photos of Children Into AI?

Considerations for parents, carers and professionals about uploading photographs of children into AI tools

AI image tools are becoming increasingly popular, allowing people to change backgrounds, enhance photographs or create entirely new images. But what happens when we upload photographs of our children into these tools?

SWGfL has published some useful advice encouraging parents and carers to think about what happens to an image once it has been uploaded. Some questions worth considering include:

Where will the photograph be stored?

Could it be used to train an AI system?

Can the image be permanently deleted?

Does it contain identifying information, such as a school uniform or location?

Could the image be copied, altered or misused?

This doesn't mean that every AI image tool is unsafe, but it is worth understanding how a service uses photographs before uploading them, particularly when those photographs are of children.

The SWGfL guidance provides some practical advice to help parents make more informed decisions.

Link: **https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/should-i-upload-photos-of-children-into-ai/**

DIARY DATES

Any changes/updates will be highlighted in green

Autumn Term	
Monday 2nd November	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 3rd November	First day of term
Tuesday 3rd November	**Y5** visit to Segedunum
Monday 16th November	**Odd Socks Day** – all children invited to wear odd socks to mark anti-bullying week
Friday 13th November - change of date	**Children in Need**- children are invited to wear pyjamas to school to raise money for the charity
17th, 18th & 19th November	Parents Evenings
Wednesday 25th November	**Choir** Christmas Tree Light Switch On
Friday 27th November	Non-Uniform day - *Chocolate or bottle donation for Christmas trail tombola*
Sunday 29th November (change of date)	KLSF Christmas trail
Wednesday 2nd December	**Reception (Cedar)** Nativity performance for Cedar parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm
Thursday 3rd December	**Reception (Holly)** Nativity performance for Holly parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm
Monday 7th December	**Y1 Poplar** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Monday 7th December	**Flu Immunisations**
Tuesday 8th December	**Y1 Juniper** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Y3 & Y5** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**Y2 Beech** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Year 1 & Year 2** watching Christmas performance of Tinsel Tally in school
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas jumper day
Thursday 10th December	**Y2 Rowan** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Thursday 10th/Friday 11th December	Elfridges Christmas Sale for children (information will follow)
Thursday 10th December	**Reception** watching Christmas performance of The Littlest Elf in school
Monday 14th December	**Reception & Y4** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Tuesday 15th December	**Y1 & Y5** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	**Y4 & Y6** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 16th December	**Nursery & Y3** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*

Find your Remarkable

Wednesday 16th December	Nursery & Y3 Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner day
Thursday 17th December	Y2 & Y6 Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Friday 18th December	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Spring Term	
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Tuesday 12th January	Y1 Phonics screening information session for parents 5pm
Wednesday 13th January	Y6 – SATS meeting for parents (no children to attend) 5pm
Wednesday 20th January	Reception Cedar Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session 2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play
Thursday 21st January	Reception Holly Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session 2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play
Friday 15th January	Reception Application Closing Date
Friday 12th February	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Half Term (Monday 15th – Friday 19th February)	
Monday 22nd February	First day of term
Friday 5th March	World Book Day – *children to dress as their favourite book character*
Wednesday 10th March	Y3 & Y4 Easter Disco
Thursday 11th March	Y5 & Y6 Easter Disco
16th, 17th,18th March	Parents Evenings
Sunday 21st March	KLSF Easter trail
Monday 22nd March	Reception & Apple Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Tuesday 23rd March	Y1 Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Wednesday 24th March	Blossom Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Wednesday 24th March	Y2 Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Thursday 25th March	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Summer Term	
Monday 12th April	First day of term
Monday 19th April	Y5 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Tuesday 20th April	Y4 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm

	2 parents per child
Wednesday 21st April	Y3 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Thursday 22nd April	Y1 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
W/c Monday 10th May	Y6 SATS week
Tuesday 18th May	Y4 Robinwood Residential meeting for parents 5pm
Wednesday 19th May	Y6 London Residential meeting for parents 5pm
Friday 28th May	Last day of term – non uniform day *(chocolate or bottle donation for summer fair tombola)*
Half Term (Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June)	
Monday 7th June	First day of term
W/c Monday 7th June	Y4 Multiplication Check week
Wednesday 9th June	New Nursery Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm
W/c Monday 14th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Check week
Monday 7th June SPORTS WEEK *Children should come to school in PE kit all week (please wear team colours)*	Sports Day – Confirmed 9:30-10:40 - Year 3 and 4 11:00-12:10 - Year 5 and 6 12:30-13:40 - Year 1 and 2 14:00- 15:10- Reception
Wednesday 16th June	New Reception Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm
Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th June	Y4 Residential to Robinwood
Monday 14th – Thursday 17th June	Y6 Residential to London
W/c Monday 28th June	Whole school transition week
Wednesday 30th June	Y2 & Y3 Summer Disco
Thursday 1st July	Y4 & Y5 Summer Disco
Friday 2nd July	Parents to meet new class teachers @2.45pm (1 parent per child)
W/c Monday 5th July	End of Year Reports to be sent home
Wednesday 7th July	Y2 (Rowan) End of Year Production performance for Rowan parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Thursday 8th July	Y2 (Beech) End of Year Production performance for Beech parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Friday 9th July	Summer Fair
Date to be confirmed	Y6 End of Year Production @ 5.15pm
Wednesday 14th July	Reception graduation @ 2.45pm
Thursday 15th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly @ 5pm
Friday 16th July	Last day of term – children to wear school uniform. *Children may bring a toy (not electronic)*