



Newsletter

December 2024

Update from Headteacher

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly positive start to the academic year. Our school has been alive with activity, from the inspiring achievements in the arts and on the sports field, to the undeniable highlight of the term – our fantastic Christmas Production. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making these events so special.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, we are thrilled to begin a new partnership with Tianshan School in Shanghai. This collaboration promises to further enhance our pupils' excellence in Maths and broaden their global perspective. In addition, our ongoing connection with our sister school in Ghana will continue to enrich our Geography Curriculum, fostering meaningful cultural exchange and understanding.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you, our parents and carers, for your unwavering support. Your involvement and commitment as role models play a vital part in nurturing the attributes that define our future citizens.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

With warm regards,

Miss Whittington

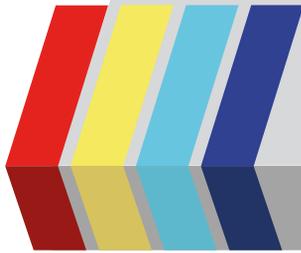
Headteacher's Awards

1AH Hammad Khan
1BS Fatimah Alagago
1HH Daria Karova
2DM Tazmeena Orni
2FT Jack Klaus
2NH Chethaz Boyapati
3KY Kourosch Zohrabi
3PJ Anjolaoluwa Agoro
3WA Nazeem Okunade
Music Zachary McCool

4JH Julia Olszewska
4NN Christabel Okeke
4SU Zidane Bhatti
5AW Esther Ladipo
5CR Lucas Marozas
5SS Abigail Akindede
6DC Ali Akintunde
6KW Arham Zulfiqar
6OO Aisha Mogaji
Sport Tiana Opara

RKT Rayan Chaudhary
RLS Victoria Ivanova
RON Alexa Basheva
NAD Christabel Akindede
NAM Nailah Rahman
NPM Cydnea -Mae Cusworth
Apollo Ayyan Hussain
Atlantis Zarif Rishan
AQ Eliza Basit
Art Saisha Wadhwa





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Updates from class-

Year 6 – Recently Year 6 enjoyed their Forensic Day where they solved a case using a range of scientific methods such as fingerprint testing. In the afternoon, the children carried out a mock court case in which they played the roles of the various suspects, lawyers, judge and jury. This learning has aided the children's understanding for their history topic of how crime and punishment has changed over time.

Pupils have also been able to use their knowledge to write a newspaper report regarding the recent release of a wrongfully convicted man - the dramatic ending to their study of *The Faraway Truth* in literacy. Elsewhere, the children have started learning about evolution in science, the role of Fairtrade in geography and looking at the different religious views regarding life after death.

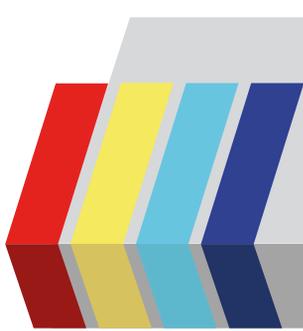


Year 5 – Year 5 have had an exciting and eventful Autumn term. During Parliament Week, children had the opportunity to spend a day learning about how laws are made in our country. They visited the House of Lords where they were taught about the process of creating bills and how these turn into laws. When they visited the first chamber- the House of Commons, children had the opportunity to watch a live debate on energy and sustainability. They reflected on how government was guaranteed in the British value of democracy.

In whole class reading, children began reading *Once* by Morris Gleitzman. They enjoyed connecting their prior knowledge from history to the text and demonstrating what they've learned. They will continue reading this book as they move on to *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* in Spring 1.

Early in Autumn 2, Year 5 participated in an online careers and science fair, where they explored civil engineering roles. They had the chance to ask questions and learn about various careers in the field.





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Updates from class -

Year 4 – This term, Year 4 had an exciting and meaningful experience as we visited Dagenham Village for Remembrance Day, where our children represented our school and showed respect on this memorable day. This visit was part of our history learning, where we have been looking at the history of Dagenham.

In geography, we've been exploring migration and the impacts of climate change on people's movement around the world. Children have been locating different countries on the map and understanding what is a source and host country.

We participated in Anti-Bullying Week, with children and staff wearing odd socks to show our support. Year 4 demonstrated a high level of consideration and learned about different forms of bullying and who they can turn to if they experience it.

Have a restful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2025!

Year 3 – The Year 3 students continued to develop their addition and subtraction skills using the column method and exchanging of place values. They have also learned about money, a very important life skill.

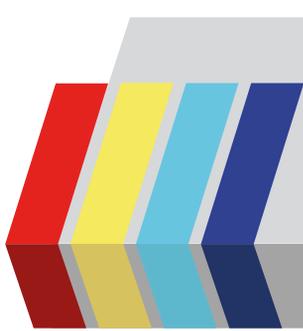
In science, we began our unit on rocks and started to compare and contrast the different types and properties of rocks, as well as learn how rocks are created, formed and eroded over time. The children also carried out a number of scientific investigations.

In RE, we learned about how light is important in different religions, exploring how it is used by people. In history, we continued to explore how the Romans affected life in Britain and the legacy that still remains. PSHE has continued the theme of families and relationships, with the children developing their understanding of how to resolve problems, respect differences and build trust.

During a field trip in geography, children used their knowledge and skills of rivers to identify key features as well as measure the velocity of the local Beam River.

Finally, in literacy, children explored a series of books on dragons. They created their own dragons using these as a stimulus for descriptive writing; wrote a set of instructions advising how to collect dragons and they also wrote their own narrative based on one of the texts.





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Updates from class-

Year 2 – The last half term has been both enriching and engaging for Year 2 students, who have participated in a myriad of activities designed to enhance their academic knowledge and personal development.

A highlight of the term was the highly educational trip to the Tower of London, which greatly complemented their extensive studies on the Great Fire of London.

Additionally, an exciting visit to the local gurdwara allowed pupils to learn first-hand about the Sikh religion, its culture, and its practices, further broadening their cultural awareness and respect for diversity. The visit was interactive, featuring discussions led by knowledgeable guides, and included opportunities for the children to ask questions, fostering a deeper understanding of Sikh beliefs.

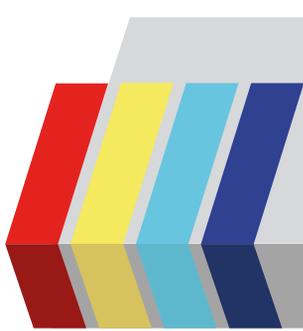
Pupils have successfully integrated their mathematical skills by practising the addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers in real-world contexts, providing a practical framework to their learning.

In literacy, students flourished as they crafted imaginative retellings of the beloved story "Zog." Their writing included expanded noun phrases, lively dialogue, carefully chosen adverbs, and varied sentence openers, showcasing their growing writing proficiency while allowing them to express their creativity. The importance of a healthy, balanced diet was emphasised during PSHE lessons, where students participated in discussions and activities that promoted good nutritional habits. They learned about the different food groups, the significance of vitamins and minerals, and practical skills for making healthy choices in their diets. These lessons encouraged the children to think critically about their food consumption and engage in healthy eating behaviours.

In a dynamic Science Boffins workshop, students discovered how materials can be combined to create new substances, interlinking their learning with real-life applications. Through hands-on experiments, they explored different types of materials, their properties, and the fundamental principles of combining them, igniting their curiosity in scientific exploration and encouraging a hands-on approach to learning. Moreover, the children learned about different settlements, exploring the unique features of villages, towns, and cities. They engaged in mapping exercises and discussions that helped them identify characteristics of each type of settlement, enhancing their geographical awareness and understanding of their local community.

Focused discussions on online safety equipped pupils with essential knowledge about acceptable online sharing practices and the significance of using strong passwords. These lessons highlighted the importance of protecting their personal information and understanding the potential dangers of the digital world, empowering them to navigate online spaces responsibly.





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Updates from class-

Year 1 – As the Autumn term draws to a close, we are delighted to share some highlights of what a wonderful and exciting term for Year 1 has been.

In literacy, the children explored traditional tales, focusing on Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. They enjoyed retelling these stories and even had the chance to publish their own retells—showcasing their creativity and storytelling skills!

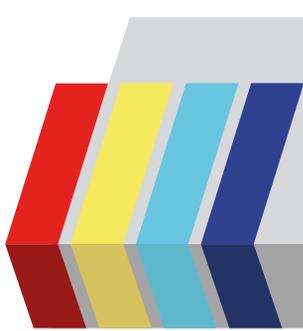
In maths, the focus was on addition and subtraction. The children explored various methods using concrete manipulatives such as ten frames and part-whole models. These hands-on activities not only made learning fun but also helped them develop a strong understanding of these foundational concepts.

During the afternoons, Year 1 delved into science, where they investigated everyday materials and their properties. In RE, they learned about Christianity, and in history, they explored significant historical figures, fostering curiosity about the past and its impact on the present.

One of the term's highlights was the Christmas performance, where Year 1 charmed everyone with their performance of Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree. Their enthusiasm and festive spirit brought smiles to all who attended!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing the children return in the Spring term, ready for more learning adventures!





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Updates from class-

Reception – This half term we have been learning about different celebrations. We have learnt about the customs of Diwali, Chanukah, Christmas and birthdays. We enjoyed wearing beautiful clothing for our Diwali day where we tasted Indian sweets, designed mendhi and rangoli patterns and experienced a theatre drama workshop to perform the story of Rama and Sita.

We read the book Kipper's Birthday and made cupcakes following the recipe in the story. We have been learning to use our phonics to help us write a list. We made bunting by practising our scissor skills to cut on a straight line.

We have enjoyed reading the book, Eight Nights, Eight Lights that taught us about the celebration of Chanukah. We tasted latkes and have learnt how to play the game dreidels where you win chocolate coins!

We have been learning about the customs of Christmas, making cards and sweet treats. During maths we have been developing and securing our knowledge of numbers to 5 - knowing how to subitise, count and the composition of each number.

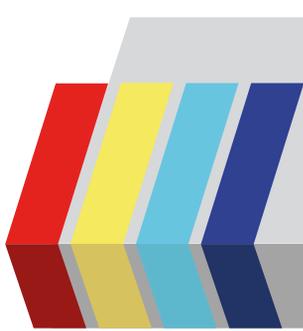
In science we have been learning about what happens when it gets dark at night. We explored the dark den and how reflective materials and lights are needed to stay safe. We also explored which animals come out at night.

In computing we have been learning to name parts of a computer, log onto a computer and develop our mouse and keyboard skills. We used the Paint program to make colourful pictures.

The children have worked incredibly hard this term to develop their phonic knowledge and actively participate in their reading groups. Please continue to hear your child read their book at least 3 times per week and make a note in their planner each time your child reads to enter them in the draw to choose a book from the reading vending machine.

All staff in Reception would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





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Updates from class-

Nursery – What an exciting and busy term we've had here at Beam! Our students have been engaged in a variety of activities that have enriched their learning and sparked their creativity. We kicked off the term by learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. The children had a wonderful time making firework art, colouring intricate Rangoli patterns, and exploring the beautiful traditions of this celebration. They also learned the story of Rama and Sita, which they retold through shadow puppetry, adding a fun, hands-on approach to storytelling.

In science, our young learners explored the natural world. They discovered different materials from nature and how hedgehogs use these materials to hibernate during winter. This led to some thoughtful discussions about animals and the changing seasons.

Our study of homes and houses allowed the children to compare the houses they live in to those from the past. By looking at houses in our local area and examining photographs of historical homes, they gained a better understanding of how living spaces have evolved over time.

In art we learned that creating decorations is an important part of celebrations, so the children used clay, puffy paint, and various tools to craft their own unique creations. The results were stunning and the children had so much fun exploring different textures and techniques.

In literacy, our young learners have been busy with nursery rhymes, learning new ones and making rhyming word chains. They also practiced identifying the sounds *s*, *a*, *t*, *p*, *i*, *n*, and *m*, making great strides in their phonics skills.

Mathematics has been just as exciting, with students focusing on recognising and counting numbers 1, 2, and 3. They've also enjoyed making patterns and exploring shapes, developing their number sense and spatial awareness in fun, interactive ways.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 6th January 2025 – 1st Day of Term

Thursday 9th January 2025 – Pupil Progress Virtual Meetings - Via School Cloud – 3:30 – 6:00pm

Thursday 16th January 2025 – Parents Latin Evening

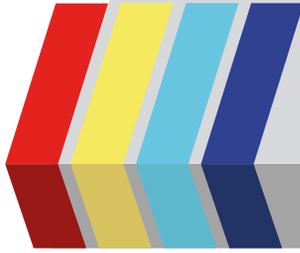
Tuesday 21st January 2025 – Reception Aquarium Trip

Thursday 24th January 2025 – Borough Sportshall Final

Wednesday 29th January 2025 – Lifeline Parent Coffee Morning

Friday 14th February 2025 – Last Day of Term





Other Events

Christmas Productions

Congratulation to all of our students who took part in some incredible festive productions this term. Nursery and Reception each performed their very own Christmas concert. While KS1 and KS2 students all took part in the Festive Film Fest. We are so very proud of each students effort and commitment to making the show the best they could.

We hope you were able to enjoy the productions as much as the children had performing them for you.

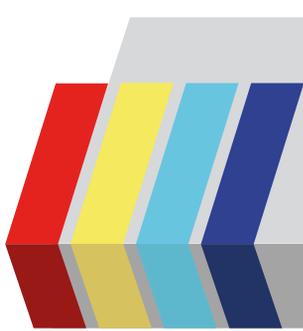


Christmas Carolling and Tree Lighting Ceremony

This term, our talented Year 5 and 6 pupils brought warmth and festive cheer to Beam Park Development with their beautiful singing, in conjunction with L&Q Housing, at their first Christmas carol event and tree lighting ceremony.

The highlight of the evening was the grand tree lighting, during which our pupils' voices added a magical touch to the moment, as they represented our school with pride and enthusiasm. A huge well done to our young singers for their dedication and hard work in preparing for this event. Events like these truly show the spirit of togetherness that makes our school community so special!





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Other Events

Sports Update

Sports Update

Beam Primary the joint most engaged Primary School in Barking & Dagenham! Wonderful news that we are getting so many of our pupils engaged and attending the School sports events. We attended all 12 events this term with approximately 200 pupils taking part. This is part of our wider commitment to increase opportunities for all pupils in a range of activities. A huge thanks to Ms Ijelu, Mr Hoyte Mrs McGrath, Ms Nursimloo and all the staff in Apollo and Atlantis class for supporting our attendance and participation.

The Beam County Year 5&6 Sportshall Athletics won their heat at Sidney Russell Secondary School on 3rd December and will go on to the final which will be on Thursday 23rd January the winner will go on and represent Barking and Dagenham

On Monday 11th November AQ class took part in the inaugural SEN bowling competition in Romford. The children were great representatives of Beam and received medals and certificates for all their hard work. A special mention must go to Hussein who overcame any reservations about attending and even beat Mrs McGrath in a game!

Beam Year 5/6 football team have had great success during the 7-a-side season. Despite a premature exit in the Essex Cup recently, the boys managed to win the Borough Evans Moore Cup - the first time Beam has won the competition in 11 years. Success ensured that Beam were the Barking & Dagenham representatives in the County round where the boys won 2 out of 3 matches in the group stage, only losing to the eventual champions. Well done to Yusuf, Jesse, Rares, Yeziah, Jayden, Mohammad, Michael O, Michael H and Kwame. We look forward to the 9-a-side competition beginning after Christmas.





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Safeguarding

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – of any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company, Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)

OK, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay triple rent on Mayfair, but going back to basics with a card or board game can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that even the youngest members of your family can enjoy and have a fun tech-free time.

2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some productive time offline. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured mementos, too.

3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK

Not much beats wrapping up warm on a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, a walk is a fantastic way to clear your head and relish the break from hectic normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a flask of hot chocolate to take with you?

4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS

Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore that's timed with military precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.

5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER

Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space, light some candles, make some hot drinks and reach for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.

6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reacting every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.

7. FEED THE BIRDS

Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks in your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or birdseed).

8. SET DAILY LIMITS

Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you firmly in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas memories because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.

9. GET ON YOUR BIKE

Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride is an excellent way to burn off some of those Yuletide calories while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins which can improve your sense of wellbeing.

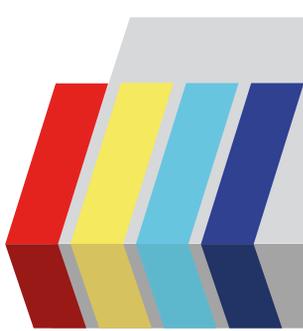
10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday





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PSA – Parent Support Advisor – Diana Huskie

Housing

I hope 2025 will bring you peace and as a Community we can all work together to support one another in these difficult times. A smile, a kind deed can change a person's day from a miserable one to a happy one 😊

This term has unfortunately seen many families being evicted from their homes and moved into Hostels and Hotels which has caused a great deal of upheaval and stress for many families. The housing situation in LBBD is in crisis and many families are having to wait to be rehoused.

The Housing Team have advised Schools that if any families have been evicted to be very proactive in looking for alternative private rented accommodation and not sit and wait for the Council to find you a property I would suggest keeping a log of the dates and times of every phone call and every visit to Estate Agents as evidence of your search.

I will do my best to support you in whatever way I can.
My working hours are Monday to Wednesday 8.30 - 4.00 p.m.

The Sway

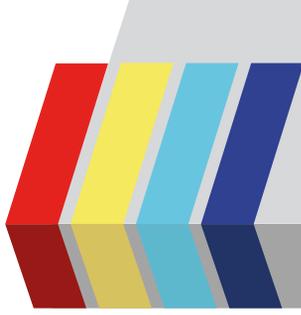
Please follow the link below to see information regarding what is taking place during the holiday season in the local area:

[Community Hubs & Family Hubs Newsletter - December 2024](#)

Friends Of Beam

We would like to thank the Friends of Beam for organising this year Christmas Raffle. We would also like to show our appreciation to everybody who bought a ticket this year. Congratulations to all the lucky winners of this years prizes. Including this years big prize winners





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Little Recyclers

HELP us raise funds for our school and at the same time protect the environment by donating unwanted clothes and other items such as paired shoes/jewellery/bags/belts etc.

Little Recyclers Clothing Bank is on site here at Beam County Primary School, situated to **the left of the school office, opposite our breakfast club\after school entrance.**

Should you have any pre-loved **school uniform** that you wish to donate, please continue to send in to our school office. Where are pre-loved items are available for 50p



Ready, Respectful, Safe

At Beam, we expect and encourage good behaviour and self-discipline from all pupils to cultivate an environment that promotes emotional development, effective learning and high standards. Through visible consistency, we are restorative in our approach, using a range of methods and strategies to maintain positive relationships. Our three simplified core rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe, ensure that we are consistent in our approach.

You will find our updated Behaviour Policy here: <https://beamcountyprimaryschool.org/policies>

We aim to provide an inclusive, calm, quiet atmosphere in the school and encourage children to move around responsibly. Our expectations of the children can only be realised through the co-operation and support between home and school. Should any difficulties be encountered, we invite parents to work with us to resolve them. Positive behaviour is a collective responsibility within the school. This extends beyond the individual classroom to cover every child and every area of the school and playground.

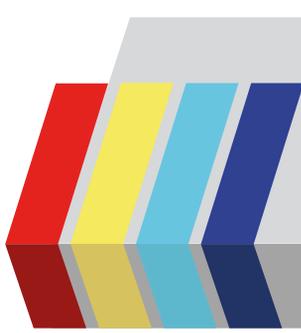
School Catering

REMINDER: Parents are now required to pre-select meals in advance using our online system, **ParentPay**. (Please note: NO payment is needed to order school dinners). If you are unable to access ParentPay please contact the front office in order to obtain the login details The link below explains how to select a meal for your child using ParentPay.

<https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/6265244826257--VIDEO-How-to-book-a-meal>

The 3 week Menu's are now available for you on the schools website. Please note at the bottom of each menu is the week commencing dates





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Attendance

Medical appointments

Parents will be expected to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where this is not possible, a copy of the appointment letter or text must be shown to the school office. Parents will be expected to obtain approval for their child's absence to attend such appointments as far in advance as is practicable. Parents will be responsible for ensuring their child misses only the amount of time necessary to attend the appointment.

Punctuality

School starts at 8:30 and gates shut at 8:40 prompt. Arriving late disrupts the class and children's learning.

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 learning days lost each year

Contact Information

IMPORTANT – If you or any of your emergency contacts have recently changed phone number, email or home address please make sure you contact the front office either by email or in person

Term Dates

Next term dates: Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 14th February 2025

