

9TH JANUARY 2026

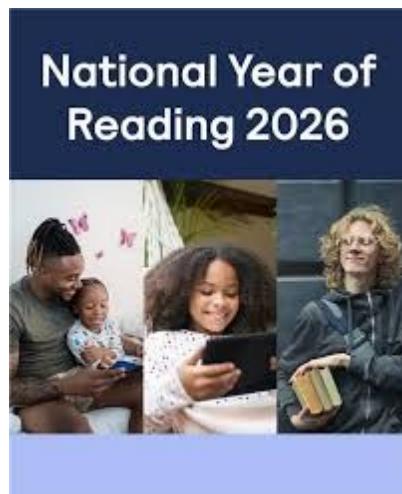
It has been a particularly cold start back to school this week but the children have started back with a bang and are already working hard—I was pleased to hear lots of really focused New Year's Resolutions in assembly on Monday and I have challenged those who have not made one yet to have a go at reading more in 2026—it is the National Year of Reading in the UK so we discussed setting small targets: reading a set number of pages a night or chapters a week; trying out a new author or genre of books to their normal preference; reading to learn something new or perhaps trying to complete a '*Recommended books to be read by the time you are 8/9/10/11*' list by using the library!

Thank you for your understanding today regarding the school closure. Despite the efforts of our Premises Team on Thursday evening in spreading a good amount of grit—no amount was going to be enough to prevent the ground from being slippery beneath the top layer of snow. When I arrived on site this morning, it was clear that your journeys to school today would not be safe. Decisions like these are not taken without a great deal of thought and not without collaboration with Mrs Dale at Ridgeway too, and, of course, we have to factor in whether or not we can provide hot meals as well as a safe site for the day for children and staff. It is rare to get days like today in the UK—I have only had to shut the school once before due to snow in 7 years of headship—but it is always worth checking your notifications are set to ON for your Parent App settings to be sure that you see the message in plenty of time. We also popped news of the closure onto our Facebook page and we inform the Local Authority who, in turn, I believe reported it to the Telegraph but this did not make their online report until 9am, so Parent App is the quickest and most reliable form of communicating with you.

We have lots more exciting curriculum activities and learning planned for the children this term. Please look out for letters coming home with some more information about what has been planned for each year group—further details can be found on our [Curriculum](#) pages on the school website.

Please remember that I am still *unable* to authorise any term-time leave of absence requests this year and, in the majority of cases, these will incur fines. These requests should be made in advance and not retrospectively please.

Kind regards,
Mrs J Hill



2025/26 DATES

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Wednesday 21st January | All Day | Year 4 Space Centre Trip—Details to follow |
| Wednesday 28th January | 7:30am—7:00pm | Year 6 Harry Potter Studio Tour Trip—see letter |
| Thursday 12th February | 3:30pm | Break up for Half Term Holiday |
| Wednesday 11th February | 9:00-11:00 | Coffee Morning—new date! |
| Friday 13th February | All Day | INSET 4 |
| Monday 23rd February | 8:55am | Spring Term 2 Begins |
| Friday 27th March | 3:30pm | Break up for Easter Holiday |
| EASTER HOLIDAY | | |
| Monday 13th April | 8:55am | Summer Term 1 Begins |
| Monday 4th May | All Day | May Day—Bank Holiday |
| Monday 11th—Friday 15th May | All Day | Year 6 SATs Week— No Authorised Absences |
| Friday 15th—Sunday 17th May | TBC | Year 6 PGL Residential |
| Friday 22nd May | 3:30pm | Break up for Half Term Holiday |
| Monday 1st June | All Day | INSET 5 |
| Tuesday 2nd June | 8:55am | Summer Term 2 Begins |
| Thursday 23rd July | 3:30pm | Break up for Summer Holiday |

School Dinners

Next week, we will be on our **Week 2** menu. Please remember that school dinners cost £2.80 and **MUST** be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE**—we cannot allow accounts to build up debt as this impacts our school budget. [Week 2 Menu](#)



Mellors, our catering company, are putting on a special menu on **Tuesday 13th January** to encourage children who don't normally try a school dinner to give one a try! Instead of the usual menu, the offer for Tuesday will be **burgers or hot dogs (meat and veggie options of both), served with coleslaw, sweetcorn and fries, with pancakes and syrup, fruit, yoghurt or a cookie for dessert**. Children can also still opt for a sandwich or jacked potato as normal, if they wish. Meals can be selected on the day in class as usual and can be paid for using your School Money account.

Outdoor Clothing

We are keen to get the children outside as often as we can at break times as they benefit from the fresh air and a change of scenery during the day! If your child is coming to school in wellies or snow boots for wearing outside, please bring a change of shoes for the classroom in a plastic bag for them to change into in lessons so that they are more comfortable. It is also the time of year when we see gloves lining the radiators, so please make sure gloves and hats are named so we make sure they get back to their owners!

