



# SOLWAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## July 2016      Newsletter No. 5

### Welcome to a bumper summer edition of our newsletter!

This year has flown by; no matter how prepared I think I am for it, it is always a surprise to find ourselves approaching the end of term at breakneck speed. Such a lot has happened since Easter, and there is still plenty of excitement to come in the next couple of weeks, culminating as always in Olympic week and our Grand Day Out to Keswick.

This week we are delighted to have Year 6 students in school for a couple of days before they join us in September, and an opportunity to meet parents on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> July.

So, after my first year as Head, people are beginning to ask me – what were the best bits? It's very difficult to choose – there have been so many champagne moments. I am, of course, still learning. When I first took over last September, Headteacher colleagues offered me plenty of advice. Mrs Ingrams from Silloth Primary said, only touch every piece of paper that crosses your

desk once, and keep a notebook and pen by your bed for when you remember important things in the middle of the night. The first of these is still work in progress! But I did act on the second, and although sometimes I can hardly read my midnight scrawling it has been an invaluable tip! Johnathan Johnson, Head at West Lakes Academy, said the first years of Headship are, inevitably, a learning curve, but that experience will bring confidence gradually – although there may be wobbly days!

Well, there have been far more good days than wobbly ones. Headship I have found is such a rewarding job, and a privileged position to be in. The students in school make every day different, and there isn't a single morning that I wake up and don't want to come to school. The whole school community works together – strong, incredibly hardworking teaching staff, fantastic help from support staff, parents and governors and, most of all, the students themselves, have made this year the success it has been.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. Roll on September!

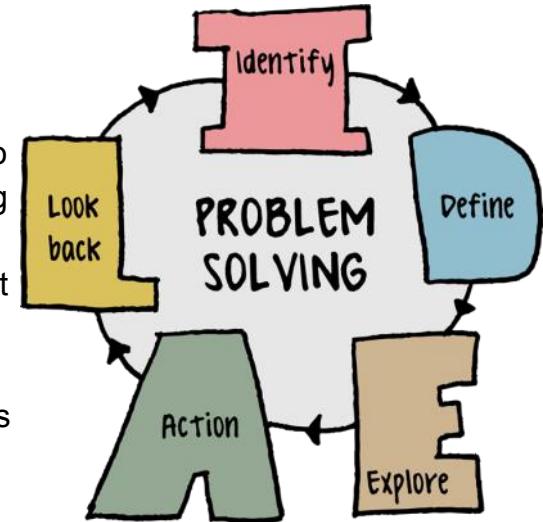
Judith Schafer  
Headteacher

## Thinking about thinking!

This year, in our independent study lessons, we have been working on getting Years 7, 8 and 9 to practise metacognition – or, more understandably, think about thinking!



The students choose their own projects from a ‘menu’ provided by teachers – then they have to work out how to complete their assignments themselves. We have taught them problem solving skills, and encouraged them to work independently; we are trying to get them to apply knowledge in different contexts so they can transfer what they know, and their skills, to different situations and work in different ways. The idea is that instead of waiting for a teacher to tell them what to do, they are able to think for themselves, which in turn leads to them developing higher order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Educational research shows that this kind of approach pays dividends in terms of students making progress and growing in confidence – the outcomes we are looking for.



This term, we have moved on to the next stage of this by encouraging peer coaching, where the students help each other to solve problems and think critically about what they are doing. So far we’ve discovered that they are quite good at this and naturally interested in what each other are doing. So don’t be surprised if they suddenly start asking questions at home like how would you justify cooking sausages for tea? Or, would it be better if you put the milk in before the coffee? Or, can you invent a better way for me to tidy my bedroom?.... You have been warned!

## Sixth Form news

This year has seen the beginnings of Solway being able to offer Sixth Form provision at school, with help from Caldew School with whom we are working.

Three students have made it to the end of AS courses – Jake, Elle and Alicia – and sat their exams in June at Caldew in English Literature, History, Philosophy and Ethics and Biology. All of them have enjoyed the year - but have also found the leap in expectations and commitment from GCSE a challenge! Mrs Woodman has worked hard to make their year a success, and her shoes will be ably filled as she goes off on maternity leave at the end of this term by Mrs Cooper. To get things off to a flying start, by the time you read this she will have accompanied the students to a careers fair with Caldew in Carlisle, and they will have started thinking about their university applications through UCAS which begins in September.

All three are coming back for a second year of A level study in September, and will be joined by four or five members of our Year 11 cohort who are joining Year 12 to study a combination of English Literature, Maths, Biology and RE. We are delighted to be able to offer sixth form education and give students the choice to stay on for further study.

AS results are out on August 18<sup>th</sup> with GCSEs following a week later on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to all our students!

## **IQ lessons**

Our new IQ lessons have been running since January and have been a big success. To give you a taste of what's been going on - in KS3 we have concentrated on skills and knowledge in Maths and English. In Maths, the vast majority of students have improved their performance in key skills, some showing spectacular progress in learning times tables and working with fractions and decimals. In English, students following the reading programme have finished in double quick time, and several of our Year 7 will become published authors shortly when their 'Spinechillers' stories are published, while Year 7 and 8 students this term are enjoying a cross curricular Science Fiction unit with English and Science teachers. Students also completed a Roll of Honour for Abbeytown and Silloth, researching the names from the war memorials in both places.

Year 9 have had a more mixed bag, with activities including community service, studying Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and this term a mixture of finding out about Greek philosopher Plato and finding their way around Silloth with the skills of orienteering!

In KS4 we have used the lessons to consolidate and revise. Year 10 have had lots of practical science and spent time learning how to use new CAD software packages in RMT. Year 11 enjoyed (sort of) booster English, Maths and RE revision!



## **Date for your diary!**

Tempest Photography will be in school on Wednesday 7th September and will be taking Yr7 and Yr10 individual photographs, as well as Yr11 forms and 6th form.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award - Silver Practice Expedition



On 7th and 8th May 2016, six pupils took part in their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Practice Expedition. The boys walked from Bowness Knott along Ennerdale Valley, then over Scarth Gap Pass to camp overnight at Gatesgarth Farm. On the second day the route took them up the west side of Buttermere, Crummock and Loweswater lakes to finish at the car park. The weather was quite hot and humid throughout but the boys were stoic explorers!



Some quotes from the group:

"I found it hard because of the heat" DC

"It was enjoyable, not really hard for me. A bit hot on the last day" JD

"I enjoyed the challenge" LR

"I found it hard because of my chest infection" DT

"I enjoyed the experience, but it was very warm" SW

"It was a good weekend but quite difficult" AW



## Year 7 Spine-Chillers

Our Year 7 students have proved themselves to be a very talented group of writers! Working with Mrs Woodman in IQ, students had the opportunity to enter a Young Writers' Competition called ***Spine-Chillers***. They had to write a spine-chilling mini saga using atmosphere, tension and suspense to grip the reader. But, there was an added challenge – they had to write their stories using no more than **100 words!** The Year 7s threw themselves into the challenge with great enthusiasm and produced some amazing stories. We were delighted and proud to discover that 18 students will have their work published in a book called ***Spine-Chillers – North West Tales***. What a fantastic achievement! A copy of the book will be sent to the British Library and other libraries across the UK as a lasting record of their achievement and we will also be sent a copy to keep in school. Once the book has been published, the top 5 writers from the area will each win a Kindle Fire HD and their schools will win some prize money.

Well done Year 7 and fingers crossed for some prize winners! *Mrs Woodman*

Here is an example of one of the many excellent stories produced by our very talented Year 7 writers:

### **Forgotten – by Sofia Fogg**

*The car hit me...*

*I was sent flying away with a sharp pain...*

*I feel hot blood dripping, I can still do this...*

*I see a blazing fire behind me, I guess the car hit something.*

*I turn my head to the other side.*

*"Molly", I say weakly.*

*Her head was next to a pool of blood.*

*I can still do this...*

*I get up on my feet with grunts since I was so weak.*

*I call an ambulance and talk with my last breath...*

*I was forgotten.*

## Robotics Day

Robotics day took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. The day was run by the national STEM centre and gave the Year 7 students an opportunity to learn some programming skills. Some Year 9s also got the chance to take part and help the Year 7s. Over the course of the day the students had to programme their robot so it could complete a variety of tasks. Once they had mastered the basics, there was a robot dance-off, with the students competing to see who could programme their robot to do the best dance routine. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

*Miss Gibson*



## **Tropical Rainforest Destruction: FOR or AGAINST?**

Our Tropical Rainforest unit in Geography ended on a high with some fantastic presentations from different groups on the controversial issue of deforestation. Each group were given different roles and had to present a convincing case FOR or AGAINST the destruction of the rainforest. Those arguing FOR were politicians, hamburger chain bosses (hence the sumo suits) and cattle ranchers. Those arguing AGAINST were the environmentalists, local tribes, and scientists. Each group were assessed on their presentation, looking for clear explanations, independent research to back up their arguments and creativity in their approach. Well done Year 7!! *Mrs Smith*



*Politicians: Sadie, Emily, Tia, Becky, Jasmin & Holly*



*Hamburger Chain Bosses: Megan, Anna, Jodie, Carley & Ella*

## **Referendum 2016**

Following on from last year's successful SCS Referendum on school uniforms at the school, students in the Year 8 Citizenship class are preparing for a school referendum on the place of Britain in the EU. As in the EU Referendum of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be two parties interested in trying to persuade students and staff at the school to vote for them. While the country has already decided to vote Leave, it will be interesting to see if this is reflected among young people here in Silloth given that 75% of people under the age of 24 who voted in the national referendum on June 23<sup>rd</sup> voted to Remain.

The referendum will take place before the end of term. As well as Year 8 students involved in the two political parties, the referendum is being organised by a smaller group of Year 8 students who have already designed a ballot paper, a ballot box, a polling booth and have compiled a voter registration list. The group is also in the process of designing posters to advertise the referendum around the school. The results of the referendum will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter. *Mr Murray*

## Calling all Yr 6—read the article below and see what you have got to look forward to in September !



### **BORROWDALE** by Emily Hodgson (Yr7)

Dale Head was the first activity we did at Borrowdale. It took us a long and tiring one hour to get up it but it was worth it as the view was amazing. Then we had to go all the way back down again. On Thursday we did ghyll scrambling in the river. It was sooooo cold!!!!

We had to wear lots of equipment to stop us from freezing to death, this equipment included wetsuits, waterproofs, helmets and wellies. It was pretty uncomfortable but it was worth it as we had so much fun. Also on the Thursday, we went canoeing. We had a few boats and they were tied up in twos. Lots of people fell out of their boats and had to swim. My boat started off well and we were beating the other group but then we got frustrated because it wouldn't steer and we argued about it. Then we had to team up with another boat because there was a rain storm and the waves were really big and our boats sank. By the time the instructor got to us, one boat had sunk... it was hilarious!!! But the best part was that we got to go for a swim in the lake afterwards.

On the last day we went up Skiddaw (that is a mountain if you don't know) and we climbed all the way up to the top. It was incredibly cold up there and all you could see was grey clouds, but occasionally you could look down and see Derwent Water. All together, up and down, it took us about four maybe five hours and then it was time to go home. The youth hostel was where we stayed for the time we were at Borrowdale. On the first night we played lots of games including squeak piggy squeak, parachute, rainbow run and more. Then it was time for the ghost story ..... It was sooo scary!!! On the second night a man came in to do a presentation about when he climbed Mount Everest. The food was also delicious like a full English breakfast and a three course meal...yum!

Overall I really enjoyed Borrowdale and I would definitely recommend other children go in the years to come. Yes, so you do get a bit cold and a bit wet, but its worth it!



## Solway Wetlands Expedition

This term Science and Geography came together for a cross-curricular event that took place at Solway Wetlands Trust in Bowness-on-Solway. It was a unique opportunity for pupils to get involved in building a clay dabbin house – a traditional building using earth and clay instead of stone or brick. Buildings like this were found in other parts of Britain but the Solway Plain is one of the only areas in the country where clay dabbin buildings still survive in number. There were about 1300 clay dabbin buildings on the Solway Plain before the First World War but a recent count has discovered that only around 300 remained in 2005. Some of these buildings date as far back as the 1500s.

Our first trip was on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May and it was muddy! Annarose Johntston won the prize for the muddiest pupil on the day – she was covered from head to toe. Pupils got stuck in and helped to build a clay dabbin house using traditional methods. They learnt about the materials and techniques used and the history of the Solway coast.

The second expedition took place on June 29<sup>th</sup>, which involved an expert tour round the marshlands and bog where the pupils went onto Bushcraft Island, analysed clay extrusions, walked along a floating boardwalk to hunt for carnivorous sundew and carried out experiments on pH, peat formation and organism identification.

We had a great time and pupils got to show off their findings at an exhibition on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Well done to all of Year 8!

*Mrs Thorp (Science) and Mrs Smith (Geography)*



## Wordsworth Trust Visits

The Year 9s were visited by Catherine Kay, who is based at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> June. She gave us an introduction to 'Romantic Poetry'.

It was great to have a real expert giving us a whistle-stop tour of the revolutionary times in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, covering history (with Jake stunning the class with his own knowledge of the times), art and literature, along with juicy bits of scandal and gory details.

All in all, it was a really useful introduction to the poetry section of the GCSE Literature course that everyone has to do. *Mr Green*



## Golf English Conference

Year 11s who were aiming at the higher tier English Language paper were given the chance to do some intensive preparation, away from the distractions in school.

Over the two days at the beginning of May, we also had a presentation and workshops delivered by two experts from The Wordsworth Trust on the unseen poetry and poems from the anthology they studied for Literature.

While it was hard work, it was helped by The Golf Hotel's excellent shortbread biscuits for morning coffee and their homemade fresh chips for lunch.

Let's hope that the students' subsequent revision meant that they got the grades they needed to go on to the next stage in their careers.

## Legacy 110

Following a successful battlefields trip to France earlier this year, Natalie, Jenny and Chelsey (Year 9) were tasked with completing a 'Legacy 110' project. The project involved students sharing their experience and knowledge about World War One to 110 people or more from across Cumbria. As part of the project the students have written two newspaper articles and delivered two presentations based on their experiences.

One presentation was delivered to a group of Year 8 students within the school. This presentation acted as a trial run before the students went to Holme St. Cuthbert's School to deliver it to pupils in years 3-6. Both presentations were a success and the students were confident and dedicated throughout the entire process. They really were an asset to the school! And the work they have carried out has not only met, but exceeded, the target of reaching out to over 110 people. *Miss Dakers*



## **Peer Mentoring 2016**

Peer mentoring 2016 were an outstanding team of volunteers. They were enthusiastic, motivated and eager to learn. I have no doubt they will be very much appreciated by the incoming Year 7s.

Many congratulations to all who participated, I thoroughly enjoyed it and I believe you will be very successful in your new role. *Mr Harris*



*"Peer mentoring is a brilliant and fun experience"*

*"The peer mentoring course was easy to understand"*

*"Peer mentor training has been so much fun, it has been a great experience and I can't wait to put my skills into practice"*

*"The course was good and made me feel more confident"*

*"The course was really fun and it was really helpful for my life skills"*

*"The peer mentoring course was fun but also very educational and interesting"*



## Silloth Youth Lifeboat Crew 2016

Silloth Youth Lifeboat was an incredible opportunity for young people aged 13-15 years old. This lively 8 week course covered learning a variety of practical skills essential in the work of the Lifeboat station.

During this course, pupils had to learn a variety of essential skills and develop a knowledge and understanding of the work of our Lifeboat crew. Attending the exhibition demonstration was a privilege and it was with pride that we watched the youth crew go through their paces, preparing the Lifeboat for launch and taking to the water in the "D" class practice boat "Spirit II" for the first time. The eight pupils have had a really great time and are justifiably proud of their achievements. We owe a huge thanks to the dedication and commitment of our local Lifeboat crew who gave up their time to help with this course and a special thanks to Eddie Studholme, Sue, Mel and Rocky for their organisation and input into the course content.



Week 1 3.5.16	Week 2: 10.5.16	Week 3: 17.5.16	Wee4: 24.5.16
6.30-8pm Introduction to the Station. H+S Basic introduction to the RNLI  Pager system  Boat crew and shore crew PPE  What happens in the event of a "shout"  Assessment	6.30-8pm Boat layout and equipment Locker drills Equipment use  Access to and Egress from the boat  Assessment	6.30-8pm Chart work GPS System Radar Tides  Assessment – individual and group	6.30-8pm VHF Radio Limitations – use – regulations – responsibility  Licensing Phonetic Alphabet  Practical use  Assessment
Week 5:	Week 6: 14.6.16	Week 7: 21.6.16	Week 8: 28.6.16
Wk commencing 6.6.16 1 full day this week First Aid at Work certificate.  Training to include the role of a First Aider and the use of a Defibrillator.  Certificates last 3 years	6.30-8pm Knots and Lines Line construction and maintenance Life rings Throw bags Group exercises Assessment individual and group	6.30-8pm or perhaps later  NIGHT EXERCISE – to demonstrate the launch and recovery of the Lifeboat.  Involvement in exercise plan and crew debrief after the exercise.	6.30-8pm  Full practice Launch drill as exhibition exercise using all module training in this final assessment.  Parent welcome.

## A warm Welkom for Dutch Teachers

We were excited to welcome a group of 12 Dutch teachers from Jeroen College, Hertogenbosch for a day in June, who were visiting as part of their training. From September, a large group of their new pupils (like our Year 7s) will be taught the majority of their subjects in English, and the teachers were learning the subject vocabulary to be able to teach in their second language.

However, right from the start, when they took the assembly, it was clear that their English was better than a lot of ours! The whole school quiz on the Netherlands showed our knowledge of Cumbria's closest ally in Europe to be sketchy, to say the least.

They spent the day in lessons, watching or joining in with classes, and it was interesting to compare their experiences with ours. The year 7s

and 9s were jealous to find out that their students can have sweets and energy drinks in school; that they don't wear uniforms; and they can have mobile phones in class: their teachers were impressed that we didn't allow sweets and energy drinks and were committed to healthy eating; that the uniforms made it so much easier for kids and avoided so many problems; and that the lessons were blissfully peaceful without mobile phones being used – they commented that the behaviour of the students they met was wonderful.

Our students couldn't believe that they offered so many languages including Latin, Russian and Mandarin, and were awed by the idea of ice skating outside for games in winter, but really couldn't get their heads round the idea that Dutch kids of their age would be doing Maths, Science, Geography and History in a foreign language.

The Dutch teachers loved the school lunches, as none of their schools offer food and everyone has to bring a packed lunch; they don't have interactive whiteboards in every class as we do; their schools just timetable teaching and offer little in the way of pastoral care (they were full of praise for Mr Harris and the Year 9s who were training to be peer mentors and who gave them a little presentation).

It was a great day for understanding and international understanding – the year 9 lads couldn't quite believe that they knew what 'dabbing' was – and loved the Stroopwafel sweets!

If you are interested in reading the blogs and vlogs they have written/made, feel free to surf to their website: <http://www.jbc.nl/DeSchool/Watbiedenwe/TTO/TTOblogvlog.aspx>



Liesbeth Pelders enjoying her first school lunch with Mrs Schafer

## Yr 5 Technology Day

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of June was a very exciting morning for year 5 pupils from our feeder primary schools as they experienced both Food Technology and Resistant Material Technology here with us. By the end of their sessions, pupils had successfully produced a curly plastic key ring and developed their healthy eating knowledge by producing a Couscous salad. All were justifiably proud of their achievements. From the comments and feedback during the sessions it was clear that all pupils had a great time and were enthusiastic throughout both activities. It was a pleasure for us to have them in school and we look forward to seeing them again in the near future.



## WALK FOR WATER 2016

This year our annual walk for water will take place on Friday 15th July. This is a significant fund raising activity for many of our young people in our local community. As usual our pupils are joining forces with our feeder primary schools to take part in this event and as we have all demonstrated in previous years, together we can really make a difference to the lives and wellbeing of many families.

The route will be the same as previous years, with nursery and infants walking to the Lighthouse, Junior pupils continuing on to the end of the promenade at Skinburness and the Secondary pupils completing the 6 miles to Grune Point and back.

We have high hopes again this year and with your support will once again raise in excess of £1000. This money will help thousands of people in desperate need, by paying for sanitation units, making existing water sources safe and providing communities with Biosand water filters. A mornings walk and the generosity of our community saving lives. Fantastic!

We will be presenting the cheque to the northwest Director of Samaritans Purse in a special assembly during the Autumn Term and will report on this in the following newsletter.



Together we can  
make a  
difference



Drinking DIRTY WATER  
causes **4000** children to  
DIE every DAY



## **BUTLINS 2016**



Well done to all the girls who attended the Butlins netball trip! The U14s reached the cup stage of the tournament and both the U13s and U12s reached the shield. They all played really well and entertained the crowd with some VERY close matches. They have all made so many brilliant memories and it makes all the planning worth it to see how much they have enjoyed themselves. All of the girls were fantastic for the whole weekend with no problems at all, all of the students were very mature and worked very hard across the weekend. Look out in a couple of years for the next Netball tour! Final results: U14B- (Shield) 4th out of 8, U14A- (Cup) 7th out of 16 & U12s- (Shield) 2nd out of 10  
A massive thank you to Miss Dakers & Miss Gibson for attending the trip and working very hard to ensure all the girls had a great time! *Miss Cross*

**Netball Club** Well done to all the girls who have attended netball club this year. The turn out has been fantastic and everyone's netball performance has improved hugely. I hope to see as many of you back again and working just as hard in September 2016 as the new team selection starts. ALL positions on all teams are up for grabs, including new captains for those who show exceptional leadership and commitment.

Particular congratulations go to the year 7A netball team who have won the Copeland and Allerdale school league!

Another trophy! We are going to need a bigger cabinet soon.

Junior Netball Club will be up and running in over the summer...more information to follow before the end of term.

*Miss Cross*



## **Year 10 Sports taster day!**

Miss Cross took a group of year 10 students to a taster day at the university of Cumbria campus in Carlisle.

The students turned up very smartly dressed and gave 100% throughout the day. They had two different taster sessions; sport rehabilitation and physical education.

In the sports rehabilitation session the students learnt all about PNF stretching, how it benefits exercise and how it can reduce injury.

In the physical education session students learnt about training equipment and how elite athletes are assessed and what coaches look at to improve performance.

The students also had the opportunity to look at the halls of residence and the general life of a student. Year 10 really enjoyed their experience which has now got some students thinking about future careers.



# SOLWAY SCHOOL PROM 2016

## Awards



<i>Best Dressed Boy KS3</i>	<i>Andrew Nixon</i>
<i>Best Dressed Boy KS4</i>	<i>Vincent Barulis</i>
<i>Best Dressed Girl KS3</i>	<i>Elizabeth Dixon</i>
<i>Best Dressed Girl KS4</i>	<i>Emily Smith</i>
<i>Best Hair Female</i>	<i>Lucy Penrice</i>
<i>Best Hair Male</i>	<i>Josh Pearson</i>
<i>Best Make-up KS4</i>	<i>Kia Lamb</i>
<i>Best Shoes KS4</i>	<i>Merrick Adams</i>
<i>Cutest Couple KS3</i>	<i>Grace Bennett &amp; Leon Hewitson</i>
<i>Cutest Couple KS4</i>	<i>Macy Baker &amp; Charlie Garner</i>
<i>Prom Prince</i>	<i>Calum Spence</i>
<i>Prom Princess</i>	<i>Erin Henderson</i>
<i>Prom King</i>	<i>David Williamson</i>
<i>Prom Queen</i>	<i>Natalie Whitfield</i>









## Sweets and drinks in school:

### We are a healthy School!

**Please remember!** We only allow water in school; we have a water dispenser which supplies cold or ambient water. Students need their own bottles, these can be filled at break and lunchtimes. Please don't bring in sweets or fizzy drinks or gum. Please remember that goes for packed lunches too. They should be as healthy as our school meals. Please could we also remind you that we have students with **nut and kiwi allergies**, so please make sure these food items are not brought into school. Thank you.

**School lunches:** If you would like to pay weekly or monthly please do ask at reception.

**Reminder:** One pair of stud earrings only—this is for health and safety reasons and we ask students to respect this.

## **Solway Community School**

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Head teacher: Judith Schafer

## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016/2017

### AUTUMN TERM 2016

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
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Monday 5 September	Friday 16 December	Monday 24 October— Friday 28 October
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Number of school days in term—70

### SPRING TERM 2017

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
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Thursday 5 January	Friday 7 April	Monday 20 February—Friday 24 February
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Number of school days in term—62

Good Friday-14 April  
Easter Sunday - 16 April

### SUMMER TERM 2017

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
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Monday 24 April	Thursday 20 July	Monday 29 May— Friday 2 June
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Number of school days in term—58

Early May Bank Holiday  
Monday 1 May