



## Principal's Message

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Firstly I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter. In many ways this is a great holiday with improving weather, but we are aware of the hard work being done by Year 11 as they prepare for their final exams. Staff will be in over the holidays running a wide range of revision sessions and we wish them all well in their final preparations.

As ever, the newsletter is packed with a range of activities and events from the last few weeks. Thank you to the wonderful PTA team who ran a hugely successful comedy night last week. The main hall was transformed into a comedy club and was good fun. The team have raised close to £2000, which will directly benefit the wider work of the school, so I wanted to thank them on behalf of us all. I am sure that they would welcome any other parents who would like to be involved.



I hope that you enjoy the Easter holidays and we look forward to welcoming student back on Monday 20th April.

**Mr J Eddy**



# CALVERT EXMOOR

On March the 23rd a group of 73 Key Stage 3 students and staff attended a 2-night residential to the Calvert Trust, Devon.

During our time there, we were lucky enough to take part in bushcraft, abseiling, zip wire, climbing, archery and orienteering. On the first evening we went on a night walk around the reservoir and then on the last night we had a disco.

Our stay was amazing and we can't thank the staff at Calvert enough for giving us all the opportunity to experience the activities and spend time away from home - some of us, for the first time ever!



# RED NOSE DAY

For Red Nose Day 2026, Kingsmead students wore non-school uniform bringing in £1, wearing something 'red' as a theme. There was a variety of fundraising activities at lunchtime, run by students; such as a bean bag game, book stall, cake sales, adopt a friend and plenty more!



Well done to the top 3 stall holders below:  
 8K - £147.90 - 1st Place  
 9N - £113.75 - 2nd Place  
 8N - £96.40 - 3rd Place

There were also various other sponsored events taking place within Year 8, as part of the community theme of charity, 8E completing a sponsored silence, as well as a car wash with 8M & 8S. 9N sold snacks to Year 7 students, who watched Oliver Twist as part of their English Curriculum.



Tutor groups also took part in a 'LOLathon' competition, all entering their best jokes - the winners were 11K & 11N. All jokes entered were shared with tutor groups on Wednesday to start the day with laughter.

The total raised was £1267.99... AMAZING!

Thank you to all those who organised and supported.



# RED NOSE DAY



# KINGSMEAD'S GOT TALENT



Our very successful talent competition, Kingsmead's Got Talent, took place again just before the Easter break. Ted, Daisy and Archie organised the entire event and it has taken months of planning. They chose Crisis and The Alzheimer's Society as their charities this year and raised just over £1400 – absolutely incredible!

The show was varied and the standard was very high. The

judges had to make some very difficult decisions but everyone who took part - both in the preliminary auditions and the night itself should be rightly proud of their achievements.

Our eventual winners were Sienna C who sang accompanied by Henry and Alfie B. Many congratulations to them.



Kingsmead is out of this world! We have been looking at the Artemis 2 mission head towards the moon. On board is an official mascot called Rise. This represents the famous Earth rise picture taken from the Apollo missions. It is in the space capsule and when the crew hit zero gravity it will rise. Within is it a memory chip with over 5 million names from people across the world.

People could submit their names and Mrs Banks led the charge for Kingsmead. Incredible to think that our name is heading into space!

# A FOND FAREWELL

We are sad to say goodbye at Easter to two wonderful members of staff.

Firstly, Ms Day has secured a promotion as Head of Inclusion at The Castle School. Ms Day has been a wonderful colleague and those that have worked with her will know just how supportive and kind she can be. We wish her every success in her new role and hope that she remains in touch with us.

We also said goodbye to Mr Mark Norman - our senior site manager after an incredible 37 years of service to Kingsmead. If you came to Kingsmead as a student then you will remember Mark. He has seen the school through so many changes and could not be a more loyal supporter of the students and the school.

We gathered to mark the occasion on Thursday and were joined by staff who have since left or retired including Mr Tinker, the former headteacher. We wish Mark a very long and happy retirement.



Pictured left to right - Eva Heim - Vice Chair of Governors, Mr Tinker – Former Head, Mark Norman and John Eddy.

# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

# ART

British Science Week began at Kingsmead on Friday 6th March, following this year's theme of 'Curiosity; what's your question?'

Year 6 students were invited to take part in a quiz on Friday 6th March, giving them an opportunity to visit the school's science block.

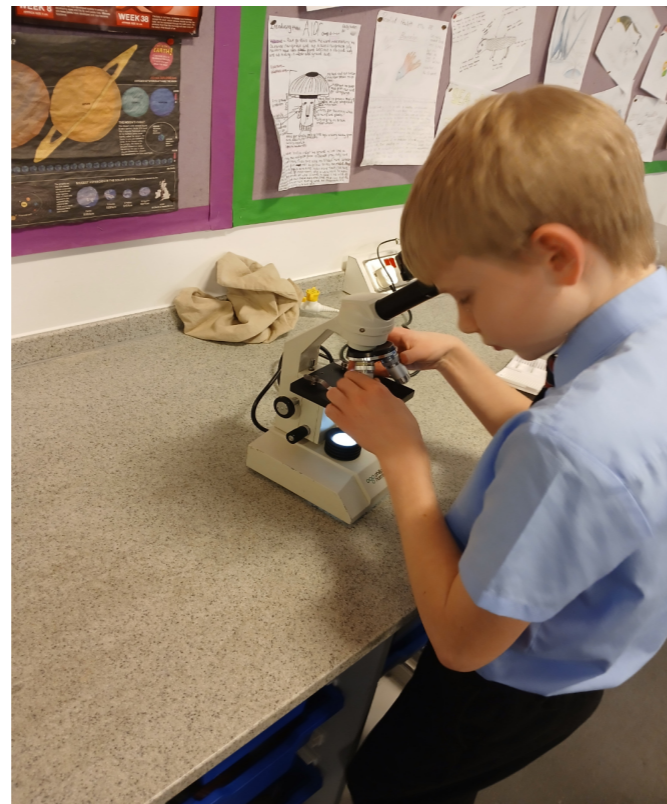
They demonstrated enthusiasm throughout their time at Kingsmead, and despite a close competition, the 'middle brainers' took the lead in the last round to win. Our Year 7 science club and Year 8 science ambassadors were a credit to the school, and we'd like to thank them for their help.

Activities continued in the following week, where students were invited to participate in a variety of tasks including a scavenger hunt, marvellous magnifications and quiz.

Thank you to those students that took part and well done to our winners. We look forward to celebrating British Science Week again next year!



The Art Department has taken part in a nationwide competition with The Royal Arts Academy. Now in its eighth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. We had some lovely entries which have been submitted and we are now waiting to hear if any have been selected for their in house and online exhibition.



# ENGLISH

This term Year 7 have been diving into Charles Dickens' classic novel Great Expectations, and today they enjoyed bringing one of literature's most memorable characters to life.

As part of their studies, students placed Miss Havisham in the "hotseat", asking her thoughtful and perceptive questions about her past and motivations. They explored ideas such as, "If you could turn back the clock, would you do anything differently?" and "What would you say to your younger self?" - demonstrating real curiosity and maturity in their understanding of the text.

A special thank you must go to Mrs Carey, who sourced a wonderful vintage wedding dress for the role. This added a fantastic sense of authenticity and excitement to the activity, and students were particularly enthused by the opportunity to question Miss Havisham in costume! In the English department, one of our core aims is to inspire a genuine love of literature and help students find joy in stories. Activities like this bring texts off the page and into the classroom, enriching students' engagement and deepening their understanding.

Students will be building on this experience by writing a letter in role as Miss Havisham, and we cannot wait to read their work!



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

This term in Computing we hosted an online live assembly on AI in everyday lives with years 8 and 9, as part of National Careers Week. The event was run by the TechSheCan organisation, who teamed up with Accenture to look at how AI works and how we can apply its use to daily tasks. We then went on to look at different careers that use AI, and we got to hear a showcase of an employee at Accenture - the qualification pathway she took, how she uses AI and the soft skills that she has been able to apply in her role.

Some of our year 9s have also participated in the Raspberry Pi Coding Challenge this term. This is run by the team behind the Bebras computational thinking challenge that all of our year 9s took part in during their lessons in November. This time they were introduced to textual programming in Python, engaging in making real-world programs to meet a given need. Python is the language we use for GCSE Computer Science, so it allowed the students to try it out and see how well they could do. It also helped to decide whether GCSE Computer Science was a good options choice for them. Well done to the 15 year 9 students who took part - results will be due after Easter!

Finally, we had 17 year 8 students register their interest for a few places on Exeter Maths School Computational Problem Solving workshops that will be running in April and May. At the time of writing we are unsure who has gained a place, but it is fantastic to hear so many students interested and wanting to develop their skills beyond the classroom!

As always, we are super proud of all our students and their engagement in Computing lessons. We have recently studied AI (year 9) and programming and computational thinking (year 7 and 8), moving on after Easter to understanding binary data for year 7 and 8 and animation for year 9. Our GCSE students have also been working very hard on their iMedia and Computer Science courses - with exams for year 11 just round the corner - wishing them the best of luck!



# YOUNG CARERS

At Kingsmead, we are committed to supporting our Young Carers. We ran a special session to celebrate Young Carers Action Day.

We had an online meet-up with Robert Blake School in Bridgwater where Young Carers had the opportunity to meet each other and share questions and experiences.

We were grateful to receive a grant from Friends of Somerset Young Carers to fund snacks and crafts for the session. A brilliant experience for everyone involved.



# LOVE MUSGROVE

Mr Norman is taking on an exciting and personal challenge with two friends this year: cycling from London to Paris to raise money for Love Musgrove – a cause very close to his heart, and he would love your support. Here's his story...

There are three key reasons why I am doing this. Firstly, a completely selfish one – I want to get fitter and push myself physically and mentally. Secondly, I want to bring people together through fundraising events and by promoting the incredible work of this charity. And finally, and most importantly, I want to raise as much money as possible for this essential local organisation that, in one way or another, touches all of our lives.



Many of us have our own stories connected to Musgrove Park Hospital. Over the years, my family has certainly had its share of experiences there. It is where my children were born, where my mother-in-law received cancer treatment, and where I have undergone surgery following a few accidents. These moments alone highlight just how vital the hospital and its services are to our community.

However, one memory stands out above all others. Thirteen years ago, my wife and I attended what should have been a joyful 12-week scan for our baby. In a matter of moments, our excitement and happiness turned into heartbreak when we were told that we had miscarried. It is impossible to fully describe the emotional impact of going from the highest high to the lowest low in seconds. During that incredibly difficult time, we were taken to a quiet room where we could begin to process what had happened and support each other. I vividly remember noticing a sign on the wall explaining that the room had been provided and decorated using funds raised by Love Musgrove. In that moment, surrounded by shock and grief, that space gave us comfort, privacy, and dignity when we needed it most.

Why am I sharing this? Because it shows the real impact that fundraising can have. The money raised does not just fund equipment or buildings – it provides care, compassion, and support at the moments people need it most.

This cycle ride is my way of saying thank you. Perhaps it is long overdue, but I hope that the money raised will help others in the future, just as we were helped all those years ago.

Any money that you could spare would be great appreciated. Please donate at:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/johntomjonathan?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/johntomjonathan?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

## Young Carers Action Day

**Wednesday 11 March 2026**

**Help us give young carers a fair future.**

Young carers are people under 18 who help look after someone – often a family member – who cannot cope without their help. Does this sound like you? Young carers have so much responsibility on their shoulders. They need more support.

We want to ensure every young carer has the same chance to learn, grow and thrive as their friends who are not carers.

Find out how you can get involved in Young Carers Action Day:

[carers.org/ycad](https://carers.org/ycad)

[#YoungCarersActionDay](https://twitter.com/YoungCarersActionDay)

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# SPORT

Last Wednesday saw an exciting Netball Finals Day, with over 35 girls taking part in a fantastic tournament despite experiencing all seasons of weather throughout the day. The teams showed great determination, resilience, and teamwork, playing exceptionally well in challenging conditions. Their hard work paid off with strong results across the age groups: the Year 8 and Year 10 teams both secured an impressive 3rd place finish, while the Year 9 and Year 11 teams fought hard to finish in 4th place. A brilliant effort from everyone involved and a great way to round off the season.



# SPORT

Year 9 delivered an enthralling performance tonight against Castle in a fantastic game of football!

A huge congratulations to Theo W, who was on fire in front of goal, scoring all FOUR goals for Kingsmead in an outstanding display.

Brilliant teamwork, determination, and spirit shown by the whole squad.

Well done, boys!



# SPORT

So far this season, Kingsmead have been involved in several close games across many sports. This one, was no exception!

The Year 10 football team played a brilliant, close game against Court Fields.

They showed great determination throughout but their legs were tired by the end.

Well done to the whole team.



A huge effort from our Year 10 rugby team today in the County Cup semi-final. A thrilling 42-42 draw against Brymore saw the game decided on the 'away team wins' rule, meaning Brymore progress to the final. A tough way to bow out, but what a performance from the boys!

Well played to all the boys – you are a real credit to the school. Thank you to all the parents and friends for your fantastic support, and to Wiveliscombe Rugby Club for the use of Plain Pond. Proud of you all!

The Year 11 rugby 7s team has had a string of great successes of late, so we were all excited to see how they'd get on when they participated in a festival organised by Kings College. They did not disappoint!

They defeated Kings College 42-12 and then triumphed over Kings of Wessex 24-17.

What an incredible group of lads we have!



What a game, Year 10!

A fantastic team performance against Monkton Wood Academy with some incredible saves by Oli R and a spectacular overhead kick by Callum C.

The winning goal was scored by Bradley M, marking his first goal for Kingsmead!

Well done, team!



Elsie S has done incredibly well this season in the school Netball team, so it is no surprise that she has been selected for the Titans Regional Squad!

Well done Elsie!

# SPORT

## EASTER HOLIDAY CHILDRENS CRICKET COACHING

### FROME YMCA

9<sup>th</sup> April

Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4  
Softball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7

### WESTON COLLEGE

14<sup>th</sup> April

Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4  
Softball & Hardball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7

15<sup>th</sup> April

Softball Cricket School Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6  
Hardball Cricket School Yrs 7, 8, 9

### CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, SCCC TAUTON

10<sup>th</sup> April

All Round Cricketer School Yrs 2, 3, 4  
All Round Cricketer School Yrs 5, 6  
Blast Batting School Yrs 7, 8, 9

16<sup>th</sup> April

Specialist Bowling - PACE, School Yrs 7, 8, 9, 10  
All Stars Mini Cricket, School Yrs R, 1, 2

### PERROT HILL SCHOOL, CREWKERNE

7<sup>th</sup> April

Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4  
Softball & Hardball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7

8<sup>th</sup> April

Softball Cricket School Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6  
Hardball Cricket School Yrs 7, 8, 9

### WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

14<sup>th</sup> April

Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4  
Softball & Hardball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7

15<sup>th</sup> April

Softball Cricket School Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6  
Hardball Cricket School Yrs 7, 8, 9

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## WIVELISCOMBE EASTER HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2026

- THEMED ACTIVITIES!
- LEARN NEW SKILLS!
- DEVELOP COOKING ABILITIES!
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS!
- ENRICHING ACTIVITIES!
- ACCESS SUPPORT!

**EACH SESSION WILL INCLUDE:**  
Meal and Snacks | Activities | Access to a Youth Worker | Sports and Games

**WIVELISCOMBE - THE HUB CENTRE**  
**TUESDAY 14TH APRIL**  
**NATURE CREATE AND CRAFT**  
**\*\*10:00AM-3:00PM**

**WIVELISCOMBE - THE HUB CENTRE**  
**WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL**  
**FOOD FUN AND LEARNING**  
**\*\*10:00AM-3:00PM**

**WIVELISCOMBE - THE HUB CENTRE**  
**THURSDAY 16TH APRIL**  
**SPORTS, SPORTS, SPORTS**  
**\*\*10:00AM-3:00PM**

**ADDITIONAL INFO AND DETAILS:**  
Programme for young people aged 8-16 years.

Suitable for young people with SEND.  
\*\*Support with entrance fees via our Accessibility Fund, contact us for details.

All places on a first come, first serve basis. You will be contacted following registration to confirm your booking/s and to confirm event details. No HAF Funded places supported by Feeding Britain

\*\*Events, programmes, and timings subject to change or cancellation based on areas out of our control.

REGISTER TO BOOK AN PAID FOR PLACE OR OTHER FUNDED PLACE



BOOK A FREE SCHOOL MEAL PLACE VIA THE SASP BOOKING PORTAL USING YOUR SCHOOL ACCESS CODE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

EMMA.POPPEL@INTHEMIXPROJECT.ORG.UK | 01984 629510

WWW.INTHEMIXPROJECT.ORG.UK

@INTHEMIXPROJECT



## How to Report an Absence

- Text: 07860 050210
- Email: [attendance@kma.clf.uk](mailto:attendance@kma.clf.uk)
- Call: 01984 623483 option 1
- Deadline: Before 9.00am

→ Please provide: Student name, date, and reason.  
Thank you for helping us keep attendance accurate!

Artificial Intelligence Guide for Parents and Carers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now part of everyday life, with tools like ChatGPT, image generators, or AI features in apps. If you're unsure what these tools do or how to keep your child safe, the Internet Matters Parent Guide to AI Tools is a great resource.

It explains AI in clear, simple language and lists popular tools children might encounter. The guide also gives safety tips—such as why filters aren't perfect and why it's important to supervise and talk with your child. It includes ideas for using AI in positive ways, while reminding families to check accuracy and encourage responsible use.

Read the full guide here: [www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/](http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/)

## YOUTH SAFE SPACE




Youth Safe Space runs out of hours – Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings online and at our Taunton or Yeovil Hub– to provide support to young people 13–18 who feel they are struggling with their mental health and are experiencing distress. Appointments will be 1-1 with trained staff in a therapeutic environment where de-escalation techniques and safety planning/healthy coping mechanisms can be introduced.

Scan here  
to book



01823 276892 

<https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/our-services/young-people/youth-safe-space/> 

# COMMUNITY

We are lucky to have such wonderful welfare and pastoral teams at Kingsmead who strive to support all students and their families, upholding our ethos of 'Achieving through Caring'. Please see below signposts to supportive websites and numbers that may be useful over the holiday.



Mental Health support:

Gives tips on how to cope and suggestions for supporting someone else.

[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)



**Call 116 123**

**Email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)**

Provides confidential, non-judgmental emotional support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those that could lead to suicide. You can phone, email, write a letter or in most cases talk to someone face to face.



**TEXT US NOW**

**SHOUT – for everyone, (24/7)Text 'SHOUT' to 85258**

Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It is a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. A Texter will be put in touch with a trained Crisis Volunteer (CV) who will chat to them using trained techniques via text. The service is designed to help individuals to think more clearly and to take their next steps to feeling better

# COMMUNITY



**online chat, Monday – Friday 12pm – 10 pm and Saturday – Sunday 6 pm to 10 pm.**

Safe and anonymous online chat support for young people – friendly counsellors, self-help and community support.



**From eating disorders, to abuse, anxiety, and depression – suggests support for a huge range of difficulties for young people and their parents/carers.**

Text the [YoungMinds Crisis Messenger](#) for free 24/7 support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis.

If you need urgent help text YM to 85258.

Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus



**Call 0800 068 41 41** – Monday to Friday 10am to 10pm, weekends 2pm to 10pm, bank holidays 2pm to 5pm

**Text 07786 209697**

**Email [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)**

PAPYRUS is the national UK charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. You can contact them for help and guidance for yourself or for someone else in your care.

**More resources can be found on our website:**

[www.kingsmead-school.com/school-life/mental-health-wellbeing](http://www.kingsmead-school.com/school-life/mental-health-wellbeing)

# SAFETY

The Online Safety Hub is available to parents/carers who would like help setting up parental controls and knowing how to monitor their child's online activities.

It's a free resource which has guides for various devices, platforms and games that your child may use or encounter online. These can help you to protect your child from inappropriate or harmful content and contacts, helping you to have informed conversations with them about their online preferences.

<https://safeguarding.thekeysupport.com/parent-online-safety-zone/>

## ITS NOT OK @ KINGSMEAD



ITS NOT OK @ Kingsmead

Anonymous reporting tool for parent/carers, students and the community



# CALENDAR

September 2025					October 2025					November 2025										
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24		
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25		
W		3	10	17	24		W		1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		1	8	15	22	29
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		2	9	16	23	30
December 2025					January 2026					February 2026										
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23		
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24		
W		3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25		
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su		1	8	15	22	
March 2026					April 2026					May 2026										
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25		
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26		
W		4	11	18	25		W		1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	
F		6	13	20	27		F		3	10	17	24		F		1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		2	9	16	23	30
Su		1	8	15	22	29	Su		5	12	19	26		Su		3	10	17	24	31
June 2026					July 2026					August 2026										
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24	31	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25		
W		3	10	17	24		W		1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		1	8	15	22	29
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		2	9	16	23	30

**Key:**

- School Holiday
- Bank Holiday
- Term Time
- INSET Day
- Early Finish

**Term dates summary:**

- Term 1:** 03 September – 24 October 2025
- Term 2:** 03 November – 19 December 2025
- Term 3:** 05 January – 13 February 2026
- Term 4:** 23 February – 03 April 2026
- Term 5:** 22 April – 22 May 2026
- Term 6:** 01 June – 21 July 2026

**Bank and public holidays 2025/26**

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2025	Easter Monday	06 April 2026
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2025	May Day Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Friday	03 April 2026	Summer Break Holiday	31 August 2026



# KINGSMEAD

— Achieving through Caring —