

# PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS



# **BONT Life**

**Our Newsletter** 

Summer 2023



### **Headteacher's Letter**

Dear Parent/Carer,

This newsletter is a celebration of the incredible accomplishments that pupils and staff can achieve when they work together. I am pleased to share, with the broader school community, a glimpse into the diverse range of activities that our pupils continue to excel in.

Over the past few months, our pupils have enjoyed various enriching activities such as Sports Day, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, expressive arts concerts, and school visits. Many of these experiences are highlighted in this newsletter.

To stay updated with the pupils' impressive array of achievements please follow the school on our Twitter account. The summer holidays offer an opportunity to relax and explore an interest in a particular sport, recreation or hobby. At school there is a broad range of opportunities that will continue to be available in the upcoming academic year, you can view the current provision here: <a href="https://pontcomp.co.uk/extra-curricular-timetable/">https://pontcomp.co.uk/extra-curricular-timetable/</a>

Looking ahead to the next term, I extend a warm welcome to our new Year 7 pupils. We eagerly anticipate the return of all our pupils on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Best wishes,

**Gareth Rees** 

Headteacher



### **SPORT**

#### **Netball / Dance / Gymnastics**

Congratulations to Kiera Davies in year 10 who became the youngest qualified umpire in Wales. What a fantastic achievement.





Congratulations to Keira Davies, year 10 and Lila Hemingway, year 11 who represented West Wales & A.N.T. in the Inter Country championships in Bangor at the beginning of the year. Both girls did exceptionally well

Congratulations to Megan Wells and Florence Ible in Year 7, as well as Amelie Jones, who is joining us in September! These three outstanding individuals have brilliantly secured roles in the upcoming enchanting Christmas Panto, Cinderella!





Let's give a huge shoutout to Alexia Pope and her talented sister for their exceptional performance at the prestigious Gymnastics British Championships! Bravo, girls!



Annie Evans & Farah Sanders in year 10 competed in the British Dance Competition & achieved 1st in team performance, 2nd for their duo and Annie won 3rd overall for her solo debut. They will represent their Team & Wales in the World Championship at the end of August.



Huge congratulations to Ava Edwards, Ruby Edwards and Ella Rowe for reaching the Dance World Championship in Portugal this summer. We are incredibly proud of them.

#### **Rounders**



#### **Results**

Year 10 versus Gowerton A Team	Lost 6½ - 7
Year 10 versus Gowerton B Team	Lost 7-7½
Year 10 A Team versus Cefn Hengoed	Won 9 - 6
Year 10 B Team versus Cefn Hengoed	Drew 5-5
Year 9 versus Cefn Hengoed	Won 6-2
Year 9 versus Cefn Hengoed	Lost 4-4½
Year 9 versus Penyrheol A Team	Won 6-2
Year 9 versus Penyrheol B Team	Won 4-1



#### **Football**







➤ Very proud of Harri Davies in year 9 who received his Welsh Cap after their game against England on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, where they won on penalties.









Very proud of Joseph Cusack in year 7 who is the goalkeeper in Pontardawe Academy U12 Football Team. They won the FAW South Wales Academy League in April and reached the National final against Connah's Quay Nomads in Aberystwyth, winning 4-1. It was also wonderful that Angel Rangel, a former Swans player, presented them with their well-deserved medals.







➤ Very proud of Connor Hughes who represented FAW South Wales FAW South 2010 this term. Connor also played with the Swansea Schoolboys and contributed to their victory in the U13 Welsh Inter Schools Championship. They drew 1-1 at full time and emerged victorious with 4-3 win on penalties.







➤ Congratulations to Sam Jones, who plays for Pontardawe Town FC U15's. Their outstanding performance led them to victory in the West Glamorgan Junior League. The team received their well-deserved championship shield from a former Swansea City player, Angel Rangel. Well done!





#### Hockey

Congratulations to Callum, Ewan, Stephen, Daniel & Jacob who have had a very successful season playing Hockey. It was an excellent opportunity for them to promote hockey within schools and for more schools to participate in the Hockey Wales School tournament programme, and this would support the local youth club hockey @SWYHA1





### **Rugby - Girls**

➤ Ffion-May Edgell in year 10 earned her Welsh cap, participating in the U15's team European championship. Ffion-May has been selected to join the U18's girls' team, and represented Wales in the Atlantic touch rugby championship in Nottingham. Well done





➤ The girls really enjoyed the rugby training sessions.



- Our year 10 girls took the Urdd in their stride reaching the last round of the Plate before narrowly losing out to the eventual finalists. They performed brilliantly in awful conditions and we were very proud of their achievement.
- Our Year 9 and 10 girls finished off what had been a successful year of rugby for them with an outstanding performance, resulting in two wins in our round robin festival with Birchgrove and Cefn Hengoed. Although a frustrating year with many games cancelled, the girls have trained and performed brilliantly including an Urdd 7s semi-final.









#### Rugby - Boys





- ➤ Our Year 7, 9 and 10 boys all competed in various 7s rugby events!
- Our Year 9s went to the Plate final beating Greenhill, Bryntawe, Llangatwg and Llandovery College on their way!
- We hosted a fantastic 7s round robin at the school and they played brilliantly against Birchgrove and Dylan Thomas.





> Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the Ospreys Inclusive Rugby event held in Llandarcy.







#### **Ice Hockey**



Congratulations to Ashton in year 7, who has made incredible strides this year being called up to play first line for the Cardiff Junior Devils U14s team and leading them to victory in the South Britain U14 league, an immense achievement for an U12 player. But the excitement doesn't end there, Ashton has been handpicked for the England Draft Showcase Tournament in Sheffield GB. Keep shining on the ice Ashton! Your dedication and talent are truly inspiring.







#### **Cheer Leading**





Swansea Falcons had yet another remarkable season. Among the fantastic cheerleaders representing them at the Future Cheer International Competition in Bournemouth were Maddi Buckley, Hannah Tucker, Freya Blewett, Jessica Docking-Evans, Sophie Crane in year 10. The team participated in multiple performances, showcasing their talent in both pom and cheer categories, and they competed fiercely against some of the most prestigious teams in the UK. Needless to say, we are absolutely thrilled with their outstanding achievements. Wishing the girls the best of luck in Season 23.24!







# **Racing**

Jaden Hill in year 8 started racing 3 years ago on an YZ65 he only raced a few times due to the pandemic before being told he had to move up the following year onto a KTM 85 small wheel bike, which he couldn't reach the floor on. He had to start races using starting blocks, that year he came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the championship which was a fantastic result for the time he had been racing.







Jaden is now riding in the 85
Big wheel class, he has had
quite a few hole shots (which is
first out of the start gate and
around the first corner, out of
30 to 40 bikes) and last
weekend's racing in Brecon he
came 1<sup>st</sup> overall for both days
and had rider of the day trophy
too.









Jaden must concentrate 100% when riding as it is a dangerous sport, but he wears all the best safety protection. He has had a few small injuries this year with his knee and fractured hand but the effort he puts into his training and dedication is showing it is paying off.



# **Public Speaking**



Our Debaters took part in several public speaking events this year, including an ESU Public Speaking competition this year.

# **Dementia Friendly**





Pontarddulais Comprehensive School was again fortunate to be able to work with PeopleSpeakUp and run a workshop over at The Hollies care home.

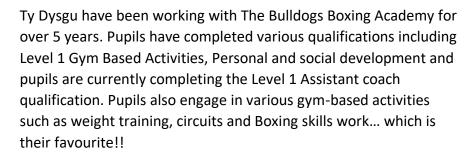
This was a fantastic opportunity to continue to strengthen their intergenerational relationships. Activities included telling stories, singing and just general chit chat.

The pupils represented the school extremely well and brightened the day for many of the residents. Opportunities to visit are hoping to continue when we return in September.



# Ty Dysgu







The pupils have been working with Active Young people and have engaged in a range of activities including paddle boarding, kayaking, raft building and bouldering. All these activities have helped to build their confidence and self-esteem, improve team building skills and encouraged the pupils to step out of their comfort zone!! A big effort made by all in every activity (even after falling in the water countless time!!)







# Ty Dysgu

Jersey showing us how it's done, she was the quickest to climb to the top of this wall!! All pupils achieved their Level 1: New Boulderer Qualification!





The pupils have cycled to various locations with Active Young people. This Cycle was their longest! They cycled from the start of the cycle path in Pontarddulais to Black Pill and back...totalling 32kms!!! Super effort!!

A big CONGRATULATIONS to Troy Cross who successfully completed his placement with Skills4life. During his placement Troy completed courses in bricklaying, plastering and construction. Troy also worked with A1Resin during his placement which has led to him securing full time employment with the company.







## Music

It has been another busy few months in the Music Department.

A fantastic concert demonstrated the hard work of the pupils throughout the year. Well done to all

































### Music

A resounding "well done" to each and every pupil who successfully passed their external music exams this term. Your hard work and dedication have paid off splendidly!

Special recognition goes to Olivia Jones, Aleta Zarenkova, Erin O'Brien, Ella, and Mia Eckhardt, who achieved outstanding results under the guidance of their Peripatetic Teachers.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this year, the Music Department eagerly anticipates a future filled with delightful concerts, inspiring projects, and countless thrilling adventures in the upcoming year

Thank you to all the pupils and staff for their support and dedication this year.

#### **WNO Music Project 2023**

What an amazing experience for our "Space Cats"

Over 8-week period pupils had the opportunity to create a 3 minute opera working with musicians and project managers from the Welsh National Opera and its team. Pupils created the story line, props and music then recorded, rehearsed and created all ready for the amazing team of Bill, Zoe and Dan to put it together for a premier in the Welsh National Opera, Cardiff Millennium Centre.



Pupils creating their reflective books





Time to get creative!

Singing rehearsals & recording



Warm ups, vocal games all helping to build up our confidence and so much

Using green screen to become our characters!

Space Cats rule!!!



Who is the best Space Cat?





A Day at the WNO





























# **Drama Department**

#### **Performance of Wonderful**

This May our wonderful members of the drama club took us on an adventure through *Wonderland* in their fantastic drama performance.

The main hall was a complete sell out and it wasn't surprising with the incredible talent on show. Daisy Squire as Alice made a delightful leading lady along with the rest of the talented cast.





The dancers were a wonderful addition to the production showcasing their skills and incredible expertise in dance.

The whole cast and production crew had an absolute blast.

We can't wait for the next one!!

Drama club currently runs every Thursday after school 3- 4pm.

Dance club currently runs every Wednesday lunchtime.

Everyone is welcome!









### **Science**

#### **Design Thinking Project in Science**

Hello. Recently, we did a fun science project with our teacher, Miss Dorrell, creating a game and a PowerPoint presentation on fixing a problem in our lab. We were in groups of around 4-5 people.

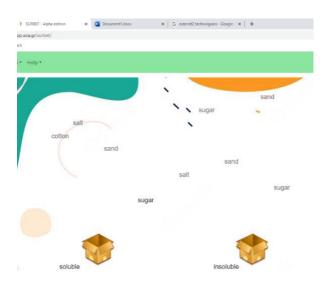
We each chose roles that we decided in our group, for instance, I was the team leader and knowledge organizer. It was a fun project as we got to create a company name, logo, and slogan and got to roleplay as a company fixing a problem and present to the class how we solved it.

We created a game using a template online to help other classes with the project.



We designed a sorting game where you had to decide whether a substance was soluble or insoluble as the words moved down the screen.

We enjoyed learning in this way as it got us thinking more creatively and allowed us to show our talents from other areas of learning.

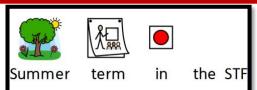


**Annabelle Owen 7P** (Team Leader and Knowledge Organizer of the Insoluble Thinkers)









lighthouse and harbour





Summer term has been jam packed with all sorts of lovely things. We have been learning about lighthouses and had a great trip to see the Burry Port Lighthouse. We HAD to stop at Crazy Crepes for a treat as we were there and we were not disappointed.

**Burry Port** 













Branwyn Hall schools music event

The Swansea Music Service ALN event at the Brangwyn hall, Swansea was a highlight of the summer term. We danced, played instruments and sang to many sea shanties. Kev Johns was the compere and Captain Jack Sparrow was there getting into lots of trouble!















We could not ignore the fact that there was a massive historical event happening this term, we of course embraced it in true STF style! The King visited us - although we didn't realise he had long hair! And of course, we had to have a Coronation afternoon tea!







Everyone got involved in tidying up the garden although some thought that it was child labour and some just fancied a chat! We love to spend as much time outside as we can and are very fortunate to have this space. We have also enjoyed Mrs. Holland coming to read to us in the garden - we love a story!













### **Business Studies**

#### Year 10 – Big Bocs Bwyd



At Pontarddulais Comprehensive, we take immense pride in the dedication and achievements of our pupils. We are thrilled to highlight the remarkable efforts of our Year 10 Business Studies pupils, as they embark on a mission to address a pressing social issue: period poverty.

Through our Big Bocs Bwyd community initiative, these ambitious capable learners are making a tangible impact on the lives of individuals in need while showcasing their determination to help the wider community.

Recognising the scope of the challenge they were undertaking, our pupils took the initiative to reach out to several supermarkets in our local area, seeking assistance and support. We are delighted to share that ASDA Gorseinon responded to their call and graciously offered their backing. The generosity and collaboration shown by ASDA Gorseinon have been invaluable, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their involvement in our cause.

We are also thrilled to share with you that our application for the Tesco Community Grants Scheme has been approved, and we are proud to announce that our Big Bocs Bwyd project has been selected for the customer vote at Tesco Pontarddulais.

We firmly believe that addressing period poverty requires a collective effort, and we invite all individuals and organizations who share our passion for creating positive change to join us. If you would like to contribute to our cause or learn more about our efforts, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Together, we can create lasting change and empower individuals in need.

### **Public Services**





Our Public Services classes completed a range of activities and challenges in both our Teamwork and Adventurous Activities Units.

Pupils have worked with the Army and the prison service and taken part in Rock Climbing, Surfing, Orienteering and a large number of team building exercises. Pupils have fully embraced the course and pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone.



These activities have developed many personal and team attributes in particular communication, perseverance and confidence













### **Extra-Curricular**





After coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Regional Finals, Bont Panthers were awarded a wild card to progress further. For getting that far they would like to thank Macmillan Distribution for their financial sponsorship, Bergoni for supplying the Decals on their uniforms, EESW for milling out their car designs and Lunia3D for 3D printing their front and rear wings. This was due to their high overall score which would have seen them win many other regions! They had been busy building upon their experience and making improvements. It was the first time the school were present in the National Finals of all classes...

First a little context...

F1 in schools is the only global multi-disciplinary challenge in which teams of pupils aged 9 to 19 deploy CAD/CAM software to collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test, and then race miniature compressed air powered cars made from F1 model block.

The challenge inspires pupils to use IT to learn about physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacture, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership/teamwork, media skills and financial strategy, and apply them in a practical, imaginative, competitive and exciting way.

Here at Bont it is run as an extra-curricular activity which spans over afterschool club and lunchtimes.

Bont Panthers is a team of five from Year 9: Coby Chapman-Team Manager, Ethan Gourley-Graphic Designer, Robert Hicks-Engineer, Cai Fitzgerald-Sponsorship Manager and George Rokosz-Financial Manager. They secured sponsorship from MT Polo Group, Arvato Group and Cosgrove Brown. Bergoni granted them two more sponsor additions to their uniforms. Without these wonderful





sponsors the team wouldn't have been able to compete all that way up North at The Edge University of Leeds. A massive thank you to them on behalf of the team.

Over the two days the team were busy with the races, presentations, portfolio judging, pit display set up and more judging etc.

Sadly, the team couldn't stay for the award ceremony as it was pushed back, they had to get dinner and catch the train to Manchester to change for our return to Swansea. During our dinner the team were watching the ceremony live on YouTube. Parents were phoning us as we saw our name come up on screen-Fastest Car Development Class 2023-Bont Panthers. What a fantastic achievement!





Everyone wants fastest car! We're not sure where they finished overall, but they competed against 30 plus teams over the two days.

They made themselves, their school and their country proud! Fastest Car in Professional Class was also from Wales!

Currently we have two teams entering next year in Entry & Development Classes (one in each) and potentially a Professional Class entry too! If you are interested in sponsoring the teams or have contacts that could help them out, please do get in touch.

Mr. Venkiah, Design Technology





#### **Army Cadets**

Charlotte Nicolle & Maddy Johnson in year 9, marched alongside the Gorseinon attachment of the Army Cadets in the VE Day commemoration in Swansea on 13th May. What a remarkable experience for them to honour the significance of victory in Europe Day.



#### **UKMT Challenge**

Pupils across all year groups had the opportunity to participate in the UKMT Maths Challenge. UKMT's goal is to inspire a love of problem solving in young people.

There were two types of challenges available to the year groups in the school, which were the Junior and Intermediate Challenges.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed competing in the challenges as they encouraged mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve problems.

We were proud of all pupils that participated with some being awarded bronze, silver and gold certificates. A huge well done to you all!

For the intermediate challenge, the following awards were achieved:

#### **Bronze awards:**

Evie Beck 11P (Best in year), Stephen Lake 10O, Daniel Lake 10I, Sage Morgan 10O, Holly Pitt 10I, Freddie Poiner 10P, Jack Smith 10I, Eleri Tancock 10P, Ethan Thomas 10P.

#### Silver awards:

Cleo Jones 10A, Brooke Marston 10A, Harry Williams 10S, Ben Richards 10N (Best in School). For the Junior Challenge, the following awards were achieved:

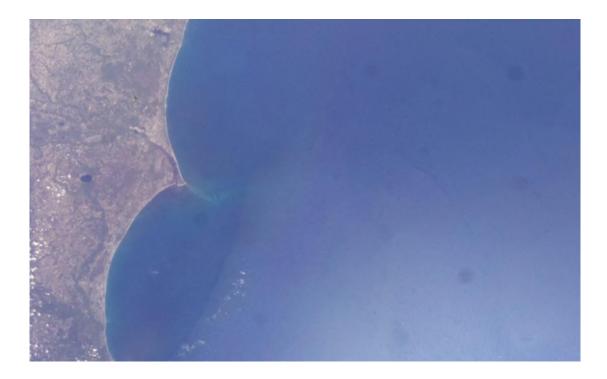
#### **Bronze awards:**

Tomos Austin 7N, Alys Baynham 7P, Joseph Cusack 7N, Ethan Maides 7I, Bailey Thomas 7O, Jack Williams 7S, Verity Iles 8N(best in year), Marli Akomah-Mordi 8O, Matthew Appleby-James 8P, Cainan Thomas 8P

Silver awards: Kenzo Williams 7N (best in school), Jake Coleman 7N, Dax Taylor 7N



#### Reaching for the Stars: Pontarddulais Code Club's Stellar Achievement in Astro Pi Mission Lab



We are thrilled to showcase the incredible accomplishments of our talented pupils from Pontarddulais Comprehensive's Code Club team. Earlier this year, the club enthusiastically participated in the Astro Pi Mission Lab competition organized by the European Space Agency. The competition consisted of four distinct stages: Initial Idea & Proof of Concept, Create, Deployment, and Report.

We are delighted to announce that Holly Pitt (Year 10) and Coby Chapman (Year 9) dedicated a significant amount of time and worked diligently to meet the demanding deadlines throughout the competition. Their commitment and effort truly paid off.

Our project was granted "flight status" by the space agency, which means it was selected to run in space. In April of this year, our project took flight, with the data being sent back to us earlier this month. It's important to highlight that out of numerous entries received, only 249 projects were chosen for this remarkable opportunity.

We are excited to share a glimpse of our project's journey by attaching some captivating images captured from space using the code developed by our talented pupils. You can find the images at this link: <a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/XUkY5J21RhU29frK9">https://photos.app.goo.gl/XUkY5J21RhU29frK9</a>

Congratulations once again to Holly Pitt and Coby Chapman for their exceptional contributions to the Astro Pi Mission Lab competition. Their dedication and hard work have truly made us proud. Stay tuned for more updates and achievements from our Code Club!



## **Hot Chocolate Awards**

The school's core values, such as resilience, kindness and respect, are recognised through weekly awards given to deserving pupils. Congratulations for embodying these values.

Zero Cole & Elin Baynham





Ryan Garrad

Tomos Austin





Sven Lieb with Mrs. Hurlow

Casey Bolton





Isobel McNeil, Daisy Squire & Mrs. Harris



Ava & Ruby Edwards



Aaron Mathias



Harrison Williams



Caitlyn Smith



Ava-Grace Burnett



Thomas Kennedy





# **Year 9 Ospreys Tackle Programme**

Throughout this academic year a group of year 9 pupils have taken part in an employability programme run by Ospreys in the community. The aim of the Tackle programme is to improve a range of lifestyle qualities and enhance young people's opportunities.

The pupils have gained a WRU leaders' qualification after running a mini-tag rugby festival for local primary school pupils and have also recently completed a first aid qualification.

As a reward for their hard work in the sessions through the year they have been able to take part in a tour of the Swansea.com stadium and a trip to Breakout live Swansea.











# **Year 9 Premier League Inspires**

Three different groups of year 9 pupils have taken part in a 12-week Premier league inspires programme run by the Swans Foundation. The sessions cover health and wellbeing with topics on mental health, nutrition, sleep and five ways to wellbeing. Each group has finished their block of sessions with a celebration event at the Swansea.com stadium







As part of the inspires programme pupils were asked to create a social action project. Two smaller groups of pupils were chosen to present their ideas to a panel at the stadium against other school in the Swansea area. After hearing all the pitches the panel chose one of our groups as the best project. The group were given the opportunity to develop their idea of animal shaped recycling bins and an education programme on recycling for primary school pupils. They attended an online development day with the other premier league inspires football clubs around the country and produced prototypes of their bins. They completed their project by delivering their education session to year 6 pupils from Llangyfelach primary school. As a reward the team attended a celebration day at the Aston Villa stadium in Birmingham with some of the other winning teams.









# **Duke of Edinburgh**







First DofE walk with year 10.

Little bit damp under the falls, but lovely & dry for lunch.





July adventure on the breath-taking Gower Peninsula.

A gorgeous day for pupils to set up tents and master the art of cooking lunch in preparation for their epic September Finale.







# **2G Pitch Official Opening**





The grand official opening of our new 2G pitch took place on a rainy afternoon. Despite the weather, nothing could dampen the spirits of our pupils as they had a blast on the brand new facility.

On the special day of the grand official opening, we were joined by Swansea Council Leader Rob Stewart, Cabinet colleagues, Local Members, School Governors, Senior Officers, and of course, our enthusiastic pupils.

The 2G pitch offers our pupils a fantastic space to play during their break and lunch times. Its high-quality surface ensures an excellent playing experience, and with shelters and a spectator area, everyone can enjoy the games comfortably. Thanks to the floodlights, the facility can stay open late into the evening, benefiting both pupils and the wider community.

We are grateful for the support of Swansea Council, Ward Members, and the Welsh Government's Community Focused Schools Grant, which made this fantastic facility possible. Its presence will undoubtedly enrich the lives and promote the wellbeing of many in our local and surrounding communities.

We couldn't be happier with the new pitch and can't wait to see all the great moments and memories it will create for our pupils in the years to come!







### **Charities**

The Comic Relief money that pupils raised was split to support the families affected by the gas explosion in Morriston.

Congratulations to Alfie Mock for his fantastic fundraising effort by washing cars, walking dogs & helping with some gardening projects, raising £25 to support the Kidney Community in Wales. Well done Alfie.

### **Thank You**

Many thanks to Pontarddulais Town Council who provided our pupils with a commemorative coronation mug. They were absolutely delighted.



Big thanks to Samantha Ks for their generous donation of prom dresses for our year 11 pupils. Your support is truly appreciated and has enabled all our pupils to feel special on their Prom Day.



Thank you for generously donating your pre-loved uniform to our school. We truly appreciate your support. Your contribution will go a long way in helping us stock our second-hand shop where others can purchase items for £1.00 each. We kindly ask you to continue supporting this venture as all proceeds from the sales will be reinvested back into the school to purchase essential resources.



### **Year 11 Prom 2023**





















View all the photos by clicking on the link below:

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMq1l34vukNYjxd4LUaC-6TDaLoK2 0XI2DXA5nPKd k6mEOGJHMgC5M9xR6a-Mfg/photo/AF1QipOAP2kzvA8frOwx-XAb1IOyRqbaznPZD5F47dUP?key=OGVmZUppN29qYXNwdkFDc3BZeER5MmMxYVk5Qmxn



### WHAT A LOVELY WAY TO END THE TERM













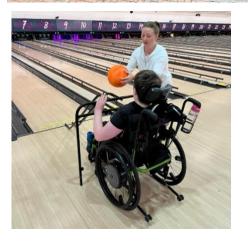






























**Term Dates 2023/24** 



Term	Term begins		Mid-term holiday begins	Mid-term holiday ends		Terms ends
Autumn	Friday 1	Friday 27	Monday 30	Friday 3	Monday 6	Friday 22
2023	September	October	October	November	November	December
Spring	Monday 8	Friday 9	Monday 12	Friday 16	Monday 19	Friday 22 March
2024	January	February	February	February	February	
Summer 2024	Monday 8 April	Friday 24 May	Monday 27 May	Friday 31 May	Monday 3 June	Friday 19 July

#### **INSET Days**

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024