



May 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the May newsletter. This term has flown by, and we have so much to look forward to after half term — especially our celebrations for the school's 150th anniversary. Below is a summary of life at Denver School throughout the month of May.

Sensory Room Update

Our sensory room is now almost complete — and what a wonderful space it is becoming. This calming, safe environment is already being enjoyed by the children, and it will continue to support their wellbeing for years to come.

We are currently part of the **Tesco Blue Token scheme** until July to help raise the remaining funds needed to finish the room. If you are able to support us, please do pop a token in our box each time you shop at Tesco. Your help makes a real difference.



Class 1 Visit to Snettisham Park Farm by Mr Rackham

Class 1 had a fantastic time on their school trip to Snettisham Park Farm. The children spent the day living the lives of farmers, working in different roles including feeding goats and lambs, collecting and grading chicken eggs and even caring for a shire horse. In the afternoon, the class got to go on a deer safari to visit the park's deer, feeding them and feeling the males new antlers. The class had an amazing time and thank you to Mrs Fenn for providing delicious lunches and to the Friends who paid for the trip.





KS2 SATs

Last week, our Year 6 pupils completed their KS2 SATs. We were extremely proud of how calm, focused and determined they were throughout the week. They approached each test with maturity and resilience, and we couldn't be prouder of them. Well done, Year 6 — you should feel very proud of yourselves.

Crucial Crew at King's Lynn Fire Station by Mrs Henden

This year's Crucial Crew for Year 6 children across the King's Lynn area was a great success. Throughout the afternoon plentiful knowledge was gained about how to be safe in a range of situations as the children visited a host of workshops to enrich their personal, social, health and safety education.



The first stop was with the RNLI station where dangers by the sea and beaches were identified and then a full explanation of how to deal with them. The children practised shouting for help and how to lay on their backs in a star position if they are stranded out in the sea or rivers.



The second stop was with St John's Ambulance volunteers who explained the DRS ABC procedure for dealing with casualties then a hands-on opportunity to practise calling for help, checking for breathing and whether responsive, clearing the airway and putting partners into the recovery position.

Another station was manned by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service volunteers. They had made a mock-up of Deal or No Deal renamed 'Spark or No Spark' about fire hazards. Together the children found the hazards and worked with the expert fire officer to discuss how the risks could be eliminated. The fire officer also stressed the importance of checking smoke alarms on a weekly basis – and not just when food has been burnt in the kitchen! Apparently, that is not an effective check: the button must be pressed to check the unit is functioning properly.

From there, the next workshop was led by two police officers from Norfolk Constabulary. They shared very common-sense advice about fighting and criminal responsibility. We learnt that criminal responsibility starts at age ten. We also discovered that you could get a criminal record if you film a fight and upload it to social media.

Luke from Cadent had everyone entertained by his lively and humorous talk about what to do in the event of a gas leak to prevent explosions. He taught us the helpline number, to open doors and windows for ventilation, to get out fast and seek help and that you should never flick switches on or off if you smell gas because the small spark in the socket could trigger an explosion.

The sixth stop was with NHS wellbeing practitioners who talked through some helpful strategies for grounding when you are really anxious and need to get out of panic-mode.



The last stop was with paramedics from the East Anglian Air Ambulance who explained how to make a 999 call, the information that would be requested in an emergency and how to perform CPR using dummies. It was an eye-opener what hard work it is to make continuous and deep enough chest compressions. A few seconds of it was hard work. In a real event this could take 30 minutes before a responder arrives.

If there are some takeaways from today for parents to help with, they are about making sure your child knows their postcode so that help in any emergency at home can arrive in the most rapid way. It was highly recommended that when out of the home, anyone with a phone downloads the What Three Words app to be able to pinpoint specific places for rescue services to attend in the event of an emergency.

The whole event was free thanks to the charitable institutions mentioned above that run these sessions on a voluntary basis.

Beekeeper Visit

Whilst learning about animals and with World Bee Day in May, Class 1 had a special visit from Lee who is a beekeeper. Lee taught the class about the different types of bees in a hive and what the jobs of each bee would be. Lee even brought in some of his own hive with him for the class to look at and see the difference between a worker and a queen bee.



A Visit from a New Zealander by Mrs Henden

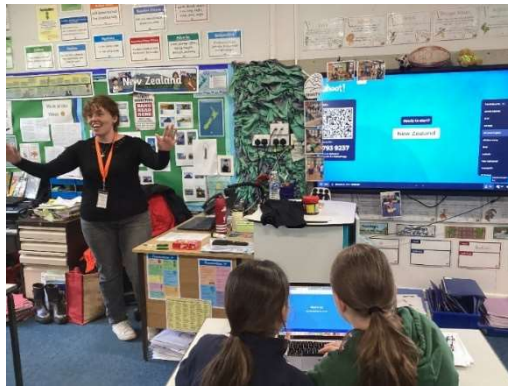
Class 4 children had a great time learning about their geography topic, New Zealand, through a guest visitor, Laura, who originates from New Zealand. She will be travelling back to visit her family this summer.

It began with Laura greeting us in Māori language followed by an exciting, interactive Kahoot quiz to learn different facts about New Zealand. Thankfully, this showed that they have been learning well in class!

Laura then shared some information about the climate, landscapes and main cities, including sharing some images of her home city, Napier. She explained what it is like to live with the threat of earthquakes (which we didn't realise happened every day) and the emergency drills they learn to do at school.

Laura shared some New Zealand items, including her All Blacks team shirt. The Marmite was just like in the UK: you love it, or you hate it! There was a chance to ask questions to find out more.

This was a very valuable experience, and we are very grateful to Laura for her time and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

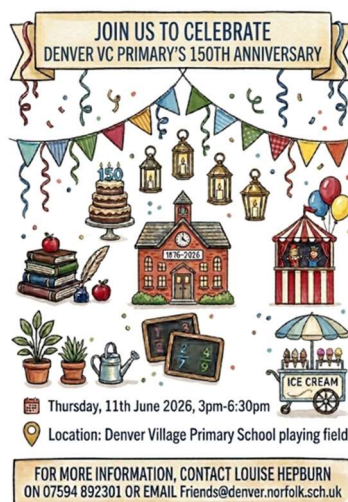


Class 3 Art by Mr Bonham

During the afternoon of Wednesday 20th May, Class 3 visited St. Mary's Church. The children were armed with pencils, rubbers and clipboards and used their time to sketch the buildings, plants and environment of the grounds. The children enjoyed their time there and only encountered a few raindrops. The drawings will be shown as part of the Art Exhibition on the 17th June.

150th Anniversary Celebrations

Preparations for the school's 150th anniversary are now well underway, and excitement is building. We are very much looking forward to our celebration day on 11th June. Please do help us spread the word — we would love to welcome pupils, families and staff, both past and present, as well as members of the wider community.



Service of Celebration

A special service will be held at St Mary's Church on Saturday 20th June to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary. We are delighted that Bishop Graham will be joining us for this important occasion. Following the service, refreshments will be served back at school.

Whole-School Photograph

The whole-school photograph to mark Denver in 2026 is now ready to view and purchase. Please use the following link to access the gallery: <https://htmp.st/WSG-A6D869F743>

If you require any assistance or have any questions about placing an order, please contact Tempest Photography directly.

The Living Wall - A Whole-School Leaf Art Project

As part of our 150th anniversary celebrations, we are embarking on a whole-school art project that will result in the creation of a permanent tree sculpture to be displayed on an external wall at school. This special piece will feature a clay leaf made by every child and adult currently in our setting, each one representing a member of our school community. It will stand as a lasting celebration of the people who make our school what it is. An email has already been shared with you giving more details.

We are very grateful to the Friends for kindly funding the materials for this project, and to Jonathan Webster, one of our Foundation Governors, for organising this exciting opportunity.

Synagogue Virtual Tour by Mr Cawley

Class 2 enjoyed a virtual visit to Norwich Synagogue on Wednesday 20th May. Thanks to a Zoom call and some clever video wizardry, the children were able to explore everything the Synagogue offers the Jewish community in Norwich — all from the comfort of their classroom. They were fascinated by the real-time, two-way communication and asked thoughtful questions throughout.

The session brought their RE learning to life, allowing them to see and hear about the practices and traditions they have been studying in a real setting. Our host, Deborah, was brilliant; she made the experience engaging, child-friendly and interactive, and the children responded beautifully. Their behaviour was impeccable, and they gained so much from the opportunity.



Courageous Advocacy

Courageous advocacy is the act of **speaking out against an issue of injustice**, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard. We encourage children to think of issues they would like to speak out against and support them to become courageous advocates.

This month, Isabella in Class 4 has been busy collecting rubbish at the beach, while Ivy and Bonnie from Class 3 have been doing a litter pick around their local area. Lily (Class 3) and Fred (Class 2) have been supporting hedgehogs at the Hedgehog Sanctuary and Eve (Class 3) is keen to have a non-uniform day in school to support those people and their families living with dementia. Well done to them all for being such fantastic, courageous advocates. Their kindness and commitment to helping others is something to be truly proud of.



Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term has been forgiveness, and after half term we will focus on justice.

Attendance Focus

We are continually working hard to improve school attendance due to the impact that absence from school can have on learning. As part of this work, each newsletter throughout the year has had an attendance focus.

At the beginning of the school year, we sent out a letter from the Local Authority regarding school attendance. In line with the expectations set out in '[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)', fixed penalty notices will be issued if the criteria set out in that letter is met. The letter can be found on our school website. Our Attendance policy can also be found on our website under About Us, Attendance.

To promote good attendance, we celebrate the class with the highest attendance each week in our celebration assembly and each month in our newsletters. May's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	94.6%
Class 2	98.2%
Class 3	96.6%
Class 4	93.1%

Well done to Class 2 for achieving the highest attendance for May!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95.7%**, which is below our school target. We ask that you continue to support us in improving school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Holidays

Please remember that holidays during term time **will not be authorised** and may be considered for a Fixed Penalty Notice should the criteria be met (**10 sessions or 5 school days of unauthorised absence within a 10-school week period**). An absence request should be completed **before** any holidays are taken and can be accessed by requesting a link from the school office.

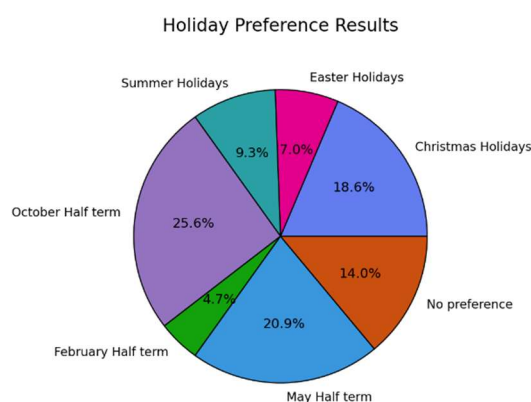
It is important that we are made aware of children taking holidays before they are taken, rather than once children are on holiday as is sometimes the case.

INSET Days

Thank you to everyone who recently took part in our consultation regarding the possibility of grouping the existing INSET days into a single week within the academic year. The aim of this proposal is to offer families greater flexibility and help reduce the impact of increased costs during peak school holiday periods.

We received 43 responses, and we are grateful to all who shared their views. As shown in the graph below, October half term emerged as the most popular option.

After half term, we will share further communication outlining the planned changes and inviting additional feedback.



End of Day Collection

The safety of our pupils is our highest priority, and we will be making some changes to end-of-day collection procedures after the half-term break to strengthen our safeguarding measures.

From this point onwards, all children in Classes 2, 3 and 4 will need to be collected from the school playground. Pupils will only be released once the class teacher or teaching assistant has seen a parent or carer.

- Classes 2 and 4 will be dismissed from their classroom side doors.
- Class 3 will be brought out onto the playground for collection.
- Class 1 collection arrangements will remain unchanged.

A member of staff will continue to be present at the back gate, and no child will be permitted to leave through this gate unless accompanied by an adult. The only exception is for Year 6 pupils for whom we have received written permission to walk home independently.

We hope you understand the reasons for these changes and appreciate your support in helping us keep all children safe.

Wraparound Care

Just a reminder that all bookings for our wraparound care provision (Before School Care and the 3:15 Club) must now be made through Arbor. All bookings should be made at least 24 hours in advance. We are no longer able to accept walk-ins or late bookings, as staffing and ratios must be planned ahead.

Darts Club

Starting from September, Mr Rackham will be starting up a darts club after school. Darts is fantastic for not only hand-eye coordination but for children's mental maths in a more fun and competitive way. We have recently been donated four completely new dartboard setups ready for the school to find the next Luke Littler! A massive thanks to Roy and Sue Barton from NORA Motorsport for their very generous donations.



Young Carers Update by Mrs Wright

All of our Young Carers attended our latest session on 20th May, and we were also joined by a child from a local school who quickly reconnected with another child she knew from a club they both attend. The children were extremely welcoming, and it was lovely to see how well everyone got on together.

Although we had originally planned for the session to take place outside, the weather had other ideas, so we adapted and stayed indoors. An obstacle course was set up for the children to complete in pairs, and as always, the older children naturally took the younger ones under their wing, offering encouragement, support and reassurance throughout. It was wonderful to see such teamwork and kindness.

The obstacle course included eight different activities:

- Ten pin bowling
- Trampoline

- Throwing beanbags into a hoop
- Tunnel
- Sensory room
- Balance boards
- Stepping stones
- Skipping ropes

There was plenty of laughter, encouragement, and positive teamwork around the room, creating a fun and supportive atmosphere for everyone involved. Before we knew it, the hour had flown by and it was time for the children to return to class.

Our next Young Carers session will take place on 9th June at Lynnsport and will be a morning session, giving the children the opportunity to meet and take part in activities alongside other Young Carers from local schools.



Sun Protection

During the summer term the children will spend more time outside. To help protect them from the sun, please ensure that they bring a sun hat and water bottle to school each day, and that they apply sun cream before coming to school. Thank you.

Online Safety

With the world becoming increasingly digital, there are many more opportunities for our children but also new dangers. In our monthly newsletter, we will now share a brief online point for parents to help you keep your children safe online.

With half-term coming up, there may be a little more time spent on sites like YouTube whilst everyone enjoys their relaxing break. With that in mind, we are sharing a poster with a few tips for parents on how to ensure your child is safe whilst enjoying their time watching their favourite videos or streamers. This poster can be found on our school website under: About Us, Online Safety - [Denver VC Primary School - Online Safety](#)

Supertots

Our Denver Supertots Playgroup will continue running throughout the summer term, and the children who attend now have access to our wonderful new sensory room. It has already become a much-loved space, and we are delighted that our youngest visitors can enjoy it too.

RSHE Update

We can now confirm that the new policy and curriculum map (emailed out to all families earlier this year) has been approved by the governing body and will begin in September. Mrs Henden would like to thank all parents and carers for your time to give feedback via the questionnaires.

Class 1

Class 1 has continued with their PATHS learning, understanding how to share with all our friends and covered new emotions of tired and excited.

Class 2

Here is a summary of what Class 2 has been learning:

- Privacy – parts of our body, private places, trusted adults, unsafe secrets
- Touch and surprise – type of touch, your body belongs to you, how does it make you feel, surprises and secrets, what can I say?
- Feelings and emotions – our feelings, all feelings are ok, talking about how we feel, managing big feeling, how would you feel?
- Respect and kindness – what is kindness? What is respect? The golden rule, including everyone, kind words to use, what would you do?
- Relationships – The people in our lives, our circles of relationships, what makes a good relationship? Healthy and unhealthy relationships, how we care for each other.
- Managing worries – What is a worry? What a worry feels like, worrying is normal! Ways to manage worries, the worry steps, let's talk about worries!"

Class 4

In Class 4 we concluded our work on money by thinking about the difference between needs and wants and about ethical spending. We have since moved on to learning about safety in the home and basic first aid. In class, we have been using the resources from the British Red Cross to explore hazards in the home, how to make these safe and what to do with common injuries such as bumps, cuts and burns. The children in Y6 travelled to Crucial Crew at King's Lynn Fire Station to learn about safety in different situations. After the half term break, Louise Ramsay from The Swan Youth Project will be coming in to lead transition preparation sessions for the Y6 children.

Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley

The Bug Hotel - 6th May

After spending a couple of hours over the bank holiday building the frame of our new bug hotel, today it was the children's turn to transform it into a natural five-star retreat for our smallest visitors. This evening's club session took place at the church, where we were warmly welcomed by Nigel and Jonathan.

The group split into two: one half explored the church grounds in search of insects, while the other stayed behind to complete the bug hotel, swapping over halfway through. The children discovered a wonderful variety of insects around the grounds, including a swarm of harmless honey bees — a brilliant sight and a reminder of how important these creatures are in their natural habitat.



Sunny Muddy Days and Powder Paint – 13th May

With the amount of mud the children wore home, I'm surprised we have any field left. As the rain poured, we broke out the powder paints and created some wonderfully individual — if very messy — masterpieces. It also served as a timely reminder that a change of clothes is always a wise idea for Outdoor Learning. The children had a fantastic time, and I can almost hear the whirr of washing machines across the village.



The Last Casting – 20th May

The last of our KS1 outdoor learning sessions for this year (!) was a chance for the children to learn about and create their own cast sculptures. The children found items in and around the field and cast these in a mould of playdough, using plaster of Paris. The children were amazed as they peeled off the playdough to reveal a model of their chosen piece. The children have been brilliant, and the adults have been invaluable. A successful club that will return for KS1 in September. Next term is the return of KS2.... watch this space!



Update from The Friends

We've reached the final half term of the school year, and it's certainly been a busy one for the Friends! Much of this month has been spent planning events and preparing for an exciting run of activities.

Our 150th Anniversary Celebration is fast approaching on 11th June, and it's shaping up to be a fantastic event for children and families who can join us after school. If you are able to bake cakes or would like to volunteer on the day, please come and find us on the field—we'd love to chat.

Today, we enjoyed this year's sponsored walk, complete with the now-famous obstacle course, which is quickly becoming a firm favourite. It's always a joy to organise events that bring parents and children together. We will share the total raised very soon, but in the meantime, thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

Looking ahead, Bags2School will take place on Friday 12th June. Please leave any donations at the front of the school before 9:15am. Thank you for your support.

On Wednesday 17th June, the school will be hosting an Art Exhibition, showcasing the incredible work the children have created throughout the year. The Friends will be serving teas and coffees while families enjoy the displays.

Next month also brings Sports Day, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. The Friends will once again be providing refreshments to keep everyone going. Finally, a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who have completed their SATs. We are all incredibly proud of you.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School

Sports News

London Mini Marathon

Inspired by the athletes and charity runners who took part in the London marathon at the end of April, children across all classes joined in with a national initiative, 'The London mini-marathon which involved running 2 miles (16 laps) of our school field. Those who took part received a certificate. Well done to everyone.

Tri-Golf Festival

On Tuesday 28th April, some of Class 2 and Class 3 were lucky enough to take part in a Tri-golf competition with local schools. The event took place at Hilcrest Primary School where we enjoyed a sunny morning of learning new skills and competing with other children of the same age. It was a festival event with the experience counting more than the scores.

Quotes from some of the children:

I loved how kind the people were at the different stations – Bonnie

My favourite bit was the pool where you had to chip it into the pool – Tarran

The people who hosted it were really supportive – Robyn

Dynamos Cricket Tournament

Members of our cricket club from Class 4 who have been training with Luke and some additional Y6 children, attended the cluster Dynamos tournament on Thursday 21st May. This took place at Downham Market Memorial Field.

The tournament was led by West Norfolk Schools Sports Partnership. Teams competed in a round robin format with the top two teams progressing to the area finals. Though not one of the top two teams, the children performed to the best of their ability and showed solid development in their skills as they settled into the matches. They won two matches and lost three.



Forthcoming Events

Y3/4 Football Tournament – 5th June

Class 3 will be representing our school in a football tournament at Hillcrest on 5 June. We wish them the best of luck.

150th Anniversary Celebrations – 11th June

Please join us for the school's 150th anniversary celebrations on 11th June from 3-6.30pm.

Tag Rugby Festival at WNRFC – 12th June

Class 4 will be visiting West Norfolk Rugby Club for a tag rugby festival on 12th June.

Bag2School – 12th June

The next Bag2School collection will take place on 12th June.

Phonics Screen Week – 8th – 12th June

The children in Y1 will be doing the statutory phonics screen to assess their phonics understanding during this week.

Art Exhibition – 17th June

Mr Bonham is busy organising our Art Exhibition, which will take place at the end of the school day on 17th June. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the fantastic artwork the children have created throughout the year.

Special Church Service – 20th June

There will be a special service at St Mary's Church, Denver, on Saturday 20th June to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the school. We are excited to be welcoming the new Bishop, Bishop Graham, to lead the service. The service will begin at 2.30pm, and refreshments will be served afterwards in the school hall.

Sports Day – 24th June

Sports Day will take place on 24th June, with 25th June held as a reserve date in case of bad weather. Children in KS1 will take part in a carousel of activities, while KS2 pupils will compete in more traditional races. We look forward to welcoming you and hope you can join us for this enjoyable event.

Eaton Vale Residential – 29th June-1st July

Class 4's residential trip to Eaton Vale is fast approaching, and excitement is definitely building. It promises to be a fantastic experience for the children and one that we're sure they will remember for many years to come.

Active Kids – 29th June

The final session of Active Kids for Y1 takes place on the morning of Monday 30th June.

Class 2 Visit to Bewilderwood – 2nd July

Class 2 are looking forward to a trip to Bewilderwood on Thursday 2nd July. Let's hope the sun shines for them!

CPR/AED Training – 6th July

Representatives from East Anglia's Air Ambulance will be visiting school on 6 July to teach the children important CPR skills.

Move Up Afternoons – 8th, 9th and 10th July

On the afternoons of 8th, 9th and 10th July, we will welcome the new reception intake into school and the whole school will move up to their next year group/class. A meeting for the new reception parents/carers will take place on Friday 10th July at 2pm.

Denver Fun Day – 12th July

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 12th July. The Friends will be running a tombola stall again this year and the school choir will be performing. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

KS2 Production – 14th and 15th July

Rehearsals are now well underway for the end-of-KS2 production, which this year is entitled *Sakura & The Spirits of Philosophers Park*. Please note that there has been a change to the performance dates due to the availability of the village hall. We are very much looking forward to sharing the play with you and celebrating the children's hard work.

School Games Festival – 16th July

The children will all take part in our School Games Festival on the penultimate day of term.

End of Year Assembly – 17th July

Continuing with tradition, we will have our end of year assembly at St Mary's Church on the last day of term, starting at 2pm.

And finally...

We've reached the half-term break, and I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest. Fingers crossed the weather brightens and we see some much-needed sunshine and warmer temperatures. The second half of the summer term is always a very busy one, so please do take a moment to note the upcoming events listed in the diary dates below.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable bank holiday and half-term break.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2025/2026

Summer Term

June 2026	1 st	Mon	Children return to school
	5 th	Fri	Football Tournament – Y3/4
	8 th	Mon	Girls' Cricket Tournament – Y5/6
	11 th	Thu	150 th Anniversary Celebrations
	12 th	Fri	Tag Rugby Festival – Y5/6
	12 th	Fri	Bag2School Collection
	17 th	Wed	Art Exhibition
	22 nd	Mon	Quad Kids Festival – Y5/6
	24 th	Wed	Sports Day
	25 th	Thu	Reserve Sports Day
	29 th	Mon	Eaton Vale Residential – Class 4
	29 th	Mon	Active Kids Festival – Y1
30 th	Tue	Eaton Vale Residential – Class 4	

July 2026	1 st	Wed	Eaton Vale Residential – Class 4
	2 nd	Thu	Bewilderwood Trip – Class 2
	6 th	Mon	CPR/AED Training for Children
	8 th	Wed	Tea and Talk Marketplace Event 2-4pm
	8 th	Wed	Move Up Afternoon
	9 th	Thu	Move Up Afternoon
	10 th	Fri	Move Up Afternoon
	10 th	Fri	New YR Parent Meeting 2pm
	14 th	Tue	Young Carers pm
	14 th	Tue	KS2 Production
	15 th	Wed	KS2 Production
	16 th	Thu	School Games Festival 1-3pm
	17 th	Fri	End of Year Assembly 2pm
	17 th	Fri	Last day of summer term