

Tickford Times

Friday 29th April 2022

Summer Term

We are pleased to see you all back after the Easter Holidays and hope that you and your families had a pleasant break. We're somehow into the Summer Term already and are excited about the learning and events that we've got planned for the children of Tickford Park in the coming few months.

I've included in this week's newsletter some of the key dates that you might want to take note of between now and the end of the school year.

Parent-Teacher Consultation

By the end of the day today, we will have concluded our Spring PTC schedule and I hope that those of you who have taken part in a PTC over the past few weeks have found these to be informative and helpful. If you have not been able to schedule an appointment and would like to do so, please get in touch with your child's class teacher to arrange one at a mutually convenient time.

At the end of the Summer Term, we will be holding an open session to give you a chance to come into school and see your child's schoolwork, as our remote PTCs do not give you this opportunity. This session has been scheduled for Wednesday July 20th, shortly after you will have received your child's end of year report.

We do hope that the flexibility we have tried to create around our new PTC model has enabled many of you to attend appointments – online or over the phone. If you do have any feedback on this process, we are always happy to hear this as it helps us to inform our future planning.

Ski School!



In this week's newsletter, we are delighted to celebrate with Jack, from Year 3, who attended a Ski School during the Easter Holiday.

At the end of the week the students took part in a slalom race which Jack won, achieving first place in the intermedia ski school for the whole week. He was awarded the only star award in his group. Well done Jack!

Term Dates

Please don't forget that school is closed on Monday 2nd May as this is a Bank Holiday.

We wish you all a pleasant, relaxing – and hopefully sunny – long weekend.

SATs

If you have children in either Year 2 or Year 6, you may be aware that SATs have unfortunately been reintroduced this year, after two years of absence. These are statutory assessments that children must take at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2. These tests take place in May and schools are required to follow clear guidelines on how they are administered.

In Year 6, children will sit these quite formally; however, at Tickford Park, our priority is always on pupil wellbeing and we will take any steps that we can to support pupils and help them feel as relaxed and stress-free as possible at this time. Our team have worked hard to create a positive environment for the children. These tests will be administered during the week beginning Monday 9th May.

In Year 2, the tests are taken in a much more relaxed manner to reflect the age of the children. Whilst it is still important that we use these assessments to obtain a picture of what children can do independently, we do not create a formal test environment for this in the same way that we are required to do in Year 6.

It is important to remember that these tests are simply a measure of how the pupils are getting on at the end of their Key Stage. They have no lasting consequence for the child and, whilst we want to develop confident children, who will perform their best in such a situation, we understand that children do not always find assessments easy.

In June, children in Year 1 and some children in Year 2 will also take part in a statutory phonics check, whilst children in Year 4 will undertake a multiplication tables check.

If you or your child have any questions about any of these assessments, we encourage you to get in touch with the class teachers who will be able to talk to you about them in greater detail.

Summer Term Dates

Please see below a list of events and activities scheduled for the Summer Term at Tickford Park Primary School. Further details will be shared closer to the events.

Date	Event
Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday
Monday 16 May	FS farm trip
Friday 27 May	Jubilee celebration (also last day of half-term)
Monday 6 June	Children return to school after half term break
Monday 13 – Friday 17 June	Year 6 North Wales residential
Monday 20 – Tuesday 21 June	Year 3 Caldecotte residential
Thursday 23 June	Welcome evening for new FS parents.
Tuesday 28 th June	Y3 visit to Verulamium, St Albans
Monday 4 July	FS & KS1 Sports Day
Monday 4 July – Friday 8 July	Year 5 Oakwood residential
Friday 15 July	School reports out
Monday 18 July	KS2 Sports Day
Tuesday 19 July	Year 6 Leavers' Party
Wednesday 20 July	Open Session for parents
Thursday 21 July	Last day of school year.
Friday 22 July	Staff Development Day

Rocksteady Music School

Next week, on Tuesday 3rd May, we will be visited by a team from Rocksteady Music School who will be running taster sessions for all children across the school. I've worked with Rocksteady extensively in my previously school and am sure that the children will enjoy these sessions.

Following these taster sessions, you will be able to sign your child up to become part of a band that will practise together each week to combine music, confidence and collaboration. Lessons will start on Thursday 19th May. You can find out more information by checking out the [Rocksteady website](http://www.rocksteadymusic.com).