



AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

British Section

www.afnorth-is.com Twitter: @AFNORTH_IS www.facebook.com/AFNORTHschool

British.office@afnorth-is.com

08 March 2024

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely and bright this week, though it is still chilly. Please make sure the children continue to dress appropriately...layers are always good at this time of year. Spring has begun to show itself with flowers appearing and buds on trees starting to burst... and what a welcome that has been!

We believe the future of our world is here in our classrooms



Our Curriculum Intent states: We understand the importance of being globally aware, reflecting on our actions and how they impact the world around us. The UN Sustainable Development Goals are incorporated across the curriculum, helping drive and shape our curriculum themes and activities and prepare the children to be effective global citizens. Year 2 have truly exemplified this in their learning this term and we were all so impressed with their beautiful work as well as their knowledge and understanding of the important message "Save our Oceans". In "Taking Action" they have raised over €200 for "Surfers Against Sewage". You are Superheroes!

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend. Happy Mother's Day and to those who observe Ramadan we send our best wishes..



Bucket Fillers



Alfonso, Atahan, Chloe, Jaxon, Milian, Norañ, Year 2, Shív, Stepan, Anders, Isaac, María Sofía, Mihnea, Teo, Alena, Alexander

March

- 12 Class Reps Meeting
- 15 Arnhem Bake Sale
- 20 Easter Egg Competition Entries Due
- 21 Sunbeams to Year 2 Easter Bonnet Singalong

**March 22-April 5
SCHOOL CLOSED**

April

- 17 1400 Dismissal
- 23 Children's/ Culture Day

May

- 13-16 Y6 National Assessments

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Attendance This Week

Whole School 95%	
Reception	93%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	96%
Year 4-5	95%
Year 6	95%

Very proud Gymnasts, Cheerleaders and Basketball players sharing their success with us.

AFNORTH International School

Ferdinand Bolstraat 1
6445 EE Brunssum
The Netherlands



Brunssum, 1 March 2024

Information Letter: upcoming road construction works near AFNORTH International School

Dear AIS community

Please be informed that starting Monday 11 March major road construction will start in Brunssum on the intersection at the former main entrance to JFC HQ. The areas known as "Bodemplein" and the Karel Doormanstraat, will both be under construction.

The intersection will disappear, and two roundabouts will be created. At the same time the tarmac will be replaced.

Private vehicles will have to follow the indicated detours. For the AIS school buses, as well as public transport buses, special arrangements will be in place.

More information on the works can be found on the municipal website:

https://www.brunssum.nl/inwoner/verkeer/Wegwerkzaamheden/Herinrichting_Bodemplein

It is anticipated that construction works will last till 1. August.

Please be aware that this might affect your travels when coming to AIS.

Mr. R. Bindels
Assistant Director



Decorate an Egg

2024



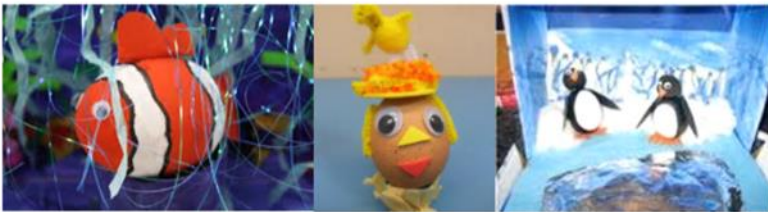
As part of our end of term celebrations we are inviting the children to demonstrate their imagination and creativity by taking part in the annual "Decorate an Egg" activity.

The children can choose which type of egg they decorate; it can be hard-boiled, blown or polystyrene. The egg can be decorated however you like. You might want to turn an egg into an animal, a character or just put a pattern on it.

Each child who participates will be entered into a lucky draw

The only rule is that names must be attached to the egg creation to enter the draw. So, get thinking and bring your creation to school on Wednesday 20th March.

We are looking forward to seeing all the "eggciting" creations!



Grade 5 /Year 6

Arnhem

BAKE SALE



All items 1 Euro

FRIDAY
MARCH 15TH
@ 8:30AM

Thursday 21st March,

Sunbeams, Reception, Year 1 and 2 will join with the US and CDN classes for an Easter Singalong where we hope the Easter Bunny will make an appearance!

We encourage all the children to wear their special Easter Bonnet which they can create at home.

Sunbeams/Reception parents are invited to a "Stay and Make" session during that week where the children can create their bonnet.





PTO are excited to host our first Read-a-thon in the month of March! Your child should be bringing home a signup flyer with their classroom code, if not follow this link instead: <https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/323738393930>

The PTO will receive 80% of the funds raised, and 100% of that goes back to our students and school!

If you have questions, reach out to us at afnorth.is.es.pto@gmail.com

COOL FOR SCHOOL
Have fun learning together

Looking for Maths and English activities to enhance your child's learning?

Our learning boxes are designed by educational experts and provide games and activities linked to key National Curriculum objectives.

All the activities are quick and easy to set up, fun to play and all the resources you need are included in your box.
Visit our website to view our full range of boxes, designed for children in Reception to Year 3.

For 25% off your first box use the code CFS25 at the checkout
www.coolforschoollearning.co.uk

Telephone - 07874 255203

AFNORTH ELEMENTARY PTO

USED BOOK SALE

Wednesday, 20 March
09:00 - 14:00

AFNORTH Elementary PTO

We need your help at the Used Book Sale!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Reading is a passport
to countless adventures

Sunbeams

As part of our curriculum relates to learning about different places and communities from around the world we like to take regular trips with our Reception friends to explore all corners of our wonderful world. This week our Super Sunbeams had the very best time learning all about Norway. We welcomed some very special visitors into our class, Elena and Christine Victoria's mummies, to help us prepare and be our Norwegian experts for the day. We learned all about the traditional story, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and pretended to be goats trip trapping over the bridge and then grumpy trolls trying to catch the goats to eat and made our very own troll masks. We took part in a dance that originated from the 1994 Olympics in response to the freezing temperatures and finally were treated to the most delicious freshly made Norwegian waffles with scrummy brunost cheese, chocolate cake and tasty tortillas. What a way to learn about a new country and their culture, from friends!



Reception

How do children lead their learning in Reception Class? The staff take careful observations of the children every day. If they find common themes and interests, this is put into planning and resources are made available. A recent interest has been animals. In the photographs you will see a pet shop in the outdoor shed, wooden blocks and small world animals (our animal restaurant) and the new woodland tray with dens. The children even made animal beds and tents at Forest School.

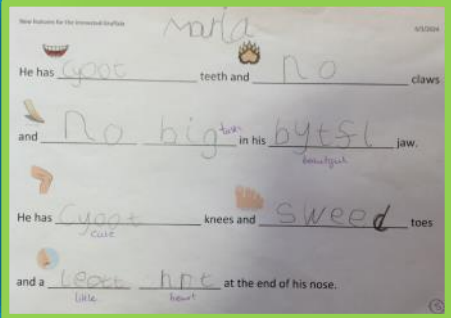
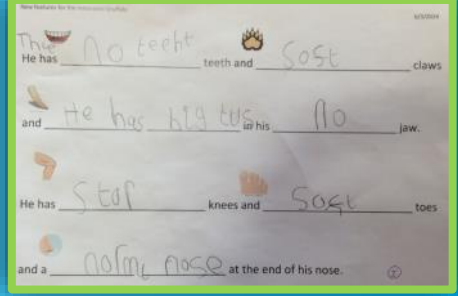


Year 1

This week year 1 have been learning about measuring in centimeters. We have been using rulers to measure various things around our classroom and compare the sizes of different items. We have learnt the importance of starting at 0 when measuring.

We have also been inventing our own Gruffalo character and describing its features. There have been some fantastic ideas including the Lazerluffalo and the Candylo as well as the Fluffalo!

At forest school we have fun looking for minibeasts. The children enjoyed learning the names of the different creatures and finding out what they are called in each other's home languages.



Year 2

I am so proud of Year 2 this week for their amazing efforts in our class fundraiser. We raised an amazing £275.50 for Surfers Against Sewage, an ocean conservation charity based in Cornwall, United Kingdom. They sold tote bags to help reduce unnecessary plastic use, they made postcards to sell that they will use to spread their knowledge about this big issue and they sold their art work to raise this amazing amount and share awareness.



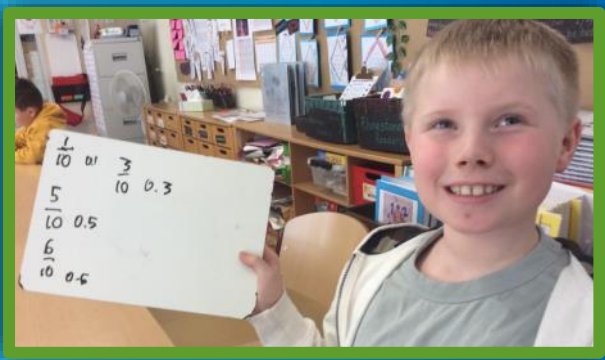
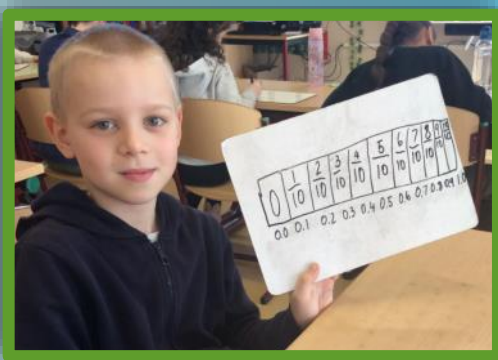
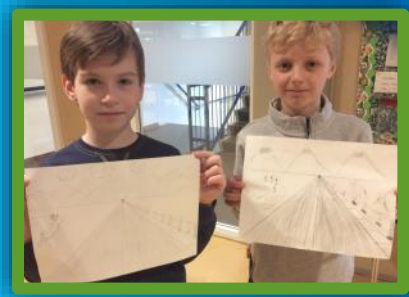
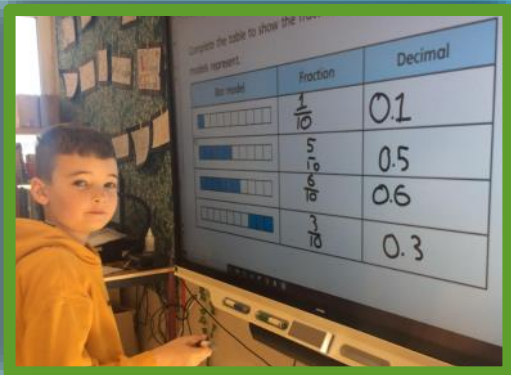
Year 3

This week we have begun to write our own version of the Stone Troll story, we certainly have a few weird and wonderful trolls appearing! We have carried out our own experiments and written the instructions to make our very own volcanoes! Continuing our ideas about volcanoes, we have debated the pros and cons of living near volcanoes, there were lots of very persuasive arguments on both sides. In maths we have been finding the fraction of a group of objects. And we have been pretending to be robots and our friends have been giving instructions about where we need to move!



Year 4-5

"We had a visit from Mr Berlin (the school librarian) this week. He taught us how to log in to Destiny Discover and showed us how to 'hold' (reserve) a book and how to find ebooks. There are so many choices of great books to read and it's good that we can use this at home or even when we are on a trip to a different country! In Maths we have been learning about equivalent fractions and also how fractions link to decimal numbers. We have used fraction tiles and place value charts to help us understand them better. Art was fun and interesting too as we were learning how to draw using a vanishing point - a road going into the distance to the mountains!" **Reported by Poyraz and Teo**



Year 6

In Year 6 we welcomed some guest speakers to talk about their 'Steps to Success' in life in order to recognise International Women's Day, 2024. The theme for International Women's Day this year is 'Inspire Inclusion'. Thank you to Shona Johnston, Kylie McCaffrey, Sally Heatlie, Anne Church-Taylor and Bev Mistry for coming in and sharing in your inspiration and stories! We created cards to thank and celebrate our mums! Thank you to all mums and women in our lives!



When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world.

And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment.

Collectively, let's forge a more inclusive world for women.

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com>



Year 6

We have just finished reading *Street Child* in Year 6. We absolutely loved reading this book together, and have spent time this week thinking about and digesting the book. We have created 'double-paged' book reports to show characters, settings, themes, powerful vocabulary and amazing extracts, quotes and phrases. It has been interesting to see which parts of the story really stayed with and impacted the children - such as a small iron 'boot cleaner' at the door of a mansion; the description of a shilling pie; Rosie's bread recipe; the money jar from the lodging house; the workhouse conditions; the ragged school; 'a coin burning his hand'.... to name just a few. The children have obviously been captured by this book. The routine of reading for pleasure is strongly embedded here in Year 6!



Reading for pleasure

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) said as recently as 2021 that 'PISA data consistently shows that **engagement in reading** is strongly correlated with **reading performance and is a mediator of gender or socio-economic status**'.

Whatever pupils' socio-economic background, making sure that they become engaged with reading from the beginning is one of the most important ways to make a difference to their life chances. For this to happen, however, they need to learn to read as fluently as possible and be **motivated to continue reading**.

(Extract from: *The Reading Framework, July 2023*)

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk>

Year 6



THANK YOU



to all our Mums...



each one an Inspirational Woman!



Bucket Fillers



Linked to the book "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" by Carol McCloud our Bucket Filler Award recognises positive behaviours e.g. kindness, respect, responsibility, resilience as well as hard work and achievement.

Everyone carries an invisible bucket that holds our good thoughts and feelings. When our buckets are full, we feel happy and when our buckets are empty, we feel sad.

Our actions and words can either fill a bucket or dip into it. We fill buckets when we do and say things that are kind, considerate, caring, and respectful. But if we are inconsiderate or disrespectful, we dip into buckets and remove those good feelings.

[Click here for the story.](#)



Host Nation news

March 2024

We would like to send out this reminder:

***4th and 5th Grade project:
'The Host Nation ducks
explore the Netherlands'***

Inspired by the book
'The orange duck explores the Netherlands',
4th and 5th Grade students are invited
to submit a request to take a small rubber duck
with them on a trip through the Netherlands.

The Host Nation teachers would like to receive
1 or more photos from the trip to create a wall
of photos with the HN rubber duckies and
to evaluate with the students in class.

You can send pictures to
hostnation@afnorth-is.com

Kind regards,

*Ms. Dyon Damen
Mrs. Gina Lavere
(substitute for Mr. Craig McMorland)*

Host Nation Teachers



AFNORTH International School

Ferdinand Bolstraat 1
6445 EE Brunssum
The Netherlands



1 March 2024

Information letter: Fifth Disease

Dear Parents

Please be informed that we have a few confirmed cases of "Fifth Disease" within our school. This disease, which manifests itself through little red spots or red cheeks and sometimes a fever/temperature, mainly occurs with younger children. The spots may spread out over the body but will disappear again after approximately a week. Sometimes they may reappear shortly in the following weeks. The children will often not feel sick from the disease.

Children who show symptoms of Fifth Disease but do not feel sick, can continue to come to school. The contamination time can range from one to three weeks prior to the symptoms showing. Adults with Fifth Disease that do not feel sick can continue to come to school.

Adults who have had Fifth Disease as a child are immune and cannot get the disease again.

For pregnant women it is advised to contact the family doctor.

The disease is a virus settling in the throat of a person/child. Being in the vicinity of a person carrying the virus may be contagious. Sneezing and coughing can spread the virus. Not everybody is susceptible though.

Use paper towels or paper handkerchief when sneezing or coughing. Or use the elbow to sneeze and/or cough in. Discard of the handkerchief. Wash your hands. Remind children to cover their mouth when sneezing/coughing.

Mr. R. Bindels
Assistant Director



Defence Children Services

Building 183
Trenchard Lines
UPAVON
Pewsey
SN9 6BE

Tel: 01980 618710
E-mail: RC-DCS-HQ-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Monday 4th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Absence During Term Time

I am writing to introduce myself as your Education Welfare Officer for Defence Children’s Services. My role is to support schools, pupils, and parents to ensure attendance is maximised in school. I offer informal support to Service Personnel and entitled MOD civilians who have been identified as requiring early intervention.

The role of The Education Welfare Officer is to replicate where practicably possible the formal Education Welfare Process for children and young people who have been identified as Persistent Absentees (below 90% as outlined by The Department for Education). However, we are fully aware that being part of the MOD can have its challenges for families especially due to living overseas.

We understand that there may be occasions when a child might be absent from school – for example, if unwell. We also understand on occasions there may be compassionate or exceptional circumstances for an absence to be authorised such as Post Operational Leave. However, we request other absences should be kept to a minimum and parents should avoid taking children out of school during term-time to go on a holiday.

Please also refer to your child’s school attendance policy along with JSP 342 Education of Service Children & young people and JSP 760 Tri-Service Regulations for Leave and Other Types of Absence.

Please be aware if the absence request is not authorised by the school and the absence is still taken, this will remain unauthorised. If leave is granted but your child remains absent for longer than agreed, then this extra time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

If leave of absence is taken and children are off school further for additional reasons this also impacts attendance. The diagram below highlights for you lost learning from absences over an academic year. Please be aware if your child’s attendance is below 90%, they may fall under the radar of the Education Welfare Officer who supports school with their military family’s attendance matters. As per the DfE the guidance outlines attendance between **96 – 100% is deemed as good**. 90% attendance may sound good however over your child’s academic career this equates to a year and a half of lost learning.

I understand this can be confusing and the Education Welfare Team is here to support and help navigate you as a family through your child’s learning journey with all attendance related matters and can offer both formal and informal support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly for advice or guidance on the email below or contact The Education Welfare Team group mailbox: RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely

J Kelly

Jane Kelly | Education Welfare Officer (ROW)

Email: jane.kelly239@mod.gov.uk

Direct line: +443001616669

Group email: RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk

Attendance	Days absent	Lost learning hours
100%	0	0
98%	4	20
96%	7.5	37.5
94%	11	55
92%	15	75
90%	19	95
86%	28	140
80%	39	195

LUNCH

Please note the price for lunch is €3.75



Week 11 11-03 t/m 15-03-2024

MONDAY

Korean Rice, Spring Roll or Omelet, Atjar Salad, Hot Sauce	1, 2, 3, 4
"Korean Menu"	
Korean Rice	
Spring Roll or Omelet	1, 2, 3, 4
Atjar Salad	4
Hot Sauce	3

TUESDAY

Pasta, Tomato & Zucchini Sauce	3, 4
"Italian Menu"	
Pasta	3
Bolognese Sauce	3, 10
Snack Tomato	
Rocket Salad	

WEDNESDAY

Quiche, Potato & Mixed Vegetables	1, 2, 3, 9
"French Menu"	
Quiche (French Pie with Cheese, Cream, Vegetables)	1, 2, 3, 9
Potato & Mixed Vegetables	9
Mustard Sauce with Thyme	3

THURSDAY

Soy Bites (Greek Style), Tomato Rice, Cucumber Salad	3, 4
"Greek Menu"	
Chicken Filet Greek Style	3, 6
Tomato Rice with Zucchini & Eggplant	
Cucumber Salad	
Yoghurt Garlic Sauce	1

FRIDAY

Empanada, Fries, Carrots, Tartar Sauce	1, 2, 3, 4
"British Menu"	
Fish Nuggets or Hot Dog	2, 3, 5, 7
Fries	
Carrots with Mint & Dill	
Tartar Sauce	2

LISTED PRODUCTS AND DISHES CAN CONTAIN TRACES OF ALLERGENS.

- 1 = milk
- 2 = egg
- 3 = gluten
- 4 = soy
- 5 = pork
- 6 = chicken
- 7 = fish
- 8 = sesame
- 9 = peas
- 10 = beef



All meals are nut free



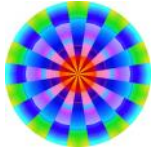
Looking for suggestions for your child's lunchbox...

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>



Attendance

It is really important that we work together to do all we can to prioritise children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers. The profile of attendance is a key priority for schools and as school has returned to normal following Covid restrictions we have been instructed to adhere strictly to school policy.



Our attendance target is 96%. To achieve this a child should have less than 7 days absence across the school year. Our current whole school attendance is 95.42%.

Reporting Absence

Unplanned Absence e.g. your child is unable to attend due to ill health

Parents must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence by 0900 or as soon as practically possible. Parents should email british.office@afnorth-is.com or call 045 5278241 to report an unplanned absence. Absence due to illness will be authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness. If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask parents to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence.

Leave in Term Time

We recognise the challenges our parents face when living overseas. However, regular attendance at school is vital in helping children to achieve their full potential and get the best possible start in life.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

Headteachers may not grant leave of absence to pupils during term time unless they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. Examples of 'exceptional circumstances' include:

- a. bereavement or serious illness of relatives.
- b. medical needs where treatment is required in the Home Country.
- c. where delivery of the Defence Mission by service parents employed in specific roles impacts on the ability to observe standard leave patterns.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances, current attendance figure, and relevant context behind the request. The headteacher may choose to discuss a request with their local Assistant Chief Education Officer (ACEO); however, a leave of absence is granted entirely at the headteacher's discretion.

Valid reasons for authorised absence include:

- a. Illness and medical/dental appointments.
- b. Religious observance - where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong.
- c. Post Operational Leave.

REMINDERS

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Times

Reception -Year6

School Day 0900-1530

Drop off from 0845.

Please note there is no supervision prior to this time.

Pick Up at Main Gate

Reception/Year 1 1525 Year 2-6 1530



NO NUTS

We have a number of children with a nut allergy and we therefore ask for no nuts or products containing nuts to be brought into the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

WATER BOTTLES



Children are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle to school every day and to keep hydrated during lessons. The children have access to chilled water fountains to top up their bottles. Children should take their bottle home each night to be washed. permitted. Cans and bottles of carbonated drinks, including energy drinks, are not permitted in school.

END OF THE DAY CHANGES

If you are making changes to your child's routine e.g. Parent Pick Up rather than the bus we request that these changes are sent via email to:

TO: british.office@afnorth-is.com

CC: class teacher

CC: firstname.lastname@afnorth-is.com (teacher)

These changes should be made before 1000

Sunbeams

Session 0900-1200

Drop off from 0855

Pick up at 1200

Location for Drop Off and Pick Up is at the Flagpoles.

During periods of inclement weather please wait inside the main entrance (in the well area under the stairs or when this area is in use please wait outside the British Office). Staff will collect/deliver the children to you. There is no need to sign in

EDC Pick Up 1500 or 1525-Children will be brought to the gate.

Times and locations are related to supervision and to avoid congestion outside of Sunbeams.

LABEL LABEL LABEL

Please assist us in preventing items being lost or misplaced by labelling your child's belongings e.g. items of clothing, footwear, bags, packed lunch boxes/containers. Please also impress on your child that they



PE SHOES (Y2-Y6)

Please ensure your child has a separate pair of shoes for PE/Gym lessons with Coach Guest. Shoes should have non-marking soles.



PERSONAL ITEMS

Children should NOT be bringing anything to school other than essential items or requested by the teacher to support their learning. Please ensure unnecessary items do not slip into bags e.g. toys, pokemon cards.

AFNORTH Calendar 2023-2024

Autumn Term

August 21 School Opens

September 6 1400 Dismissal

September 18 STAFF DAY-NO SCHOOL for Children

October 23 to October 27 SCHOOL CLOSED

October 30 School Opens

November 1-2 1230 Dismissals (Parent Conferences)

November 29 STAFF DAY NO SCHOOL for Children

December 22-January 5 SCHOOL CLOSED

Spring Term

January 8 School Opens

January 24 1400 Dismissal

January 29 STAFF DAY-NO SCHOOL for Children

February 12-February 16 SCHOOL CLOSED

February 19 School Opens

March 25-April 5 SCHOOL CLOSED

Summer Term

April 8 School Opens

April 17 1400 Dismissal

May 9 STAFF DAY NO SCHOOL for Children

May 20 SCHOOL CLOSED

June 21 LAST DAY 1230 Dismissal