



06 June 2025

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Headteacher's insight

I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable half term break. As we begin this final half term of the academic year, we look ahead to a busy and important few weeks. This is a time where we focus on consolidating learning, celebrating progress, and preparing the children for a successful transition into their next year group in September.

It gives me great pride to share with you our teaching arrangements for **September 2025**, which you will find outlined below. These plans are shaped with the needs of our children at heart and with a strong focus on continuity, care and high-quality teaching.

To support a smooth transition, children will spend the morning of Tuesday 1st July with their new teacher, and will also have other informal opportunities across the half term to get to know them better. We know how important these relationships are and want to ensure children feel confident and excited about the year ahead.

In September, we will also be holding a **'Meet the Teacher'** session for parents, giving you a chance to connect with your child's new class teacher and hear more about expectations and opportunities for the coming school year.

I'm really looking forward to all that this half term has in store for us — from learning and growth, to celebrations and shared experiences. Thank you for your continued support.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Teaching arrangements for Sep 25

Caterpillars - Nursery - Mrs Sellars 3 days, Mrs Houlder 2 days

Butterflies - Reception - Mrs Catchpool-Joseph 3 days, Mrs Braybrook 2 days

Ladybirds - Year 1 - Mrs McLachlan 4 days, Mrs Houlder 1 day

Dragonflies - Year 2 - Mr Chambers 4 days, Mrs Houlder 1 day

Squirrels - Year 3/4 - Miss Maxwell

Owls - Year 4/5 - Miss Rubete 4 days, Mrs Parker 1 day

Badgers - Year 6 - Miss Westrope 4 days, Mrs Parker 1 day



News from our classrooms

Comets Class

It's been a fantastic first week back in **Comets** Class after the half term break! The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, and it's been lovely to see them approach their learning with such positivity.

In **Literacy**, the children have been writing **Letters to the Earth** after reading *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers, sharing what they love about where they live and what they will do to help the planet. Their thoughtful ideas and growing confidence in writing have been a joy to see. Comets Class have been sharing some fantastic ideas about what they already know about the planet, and we excited to continue deepening our understanding of the world around us next week.

In **Maths**, teamwork has been the focus as the children worked with partners to solve number problems. They've shown great cooperation and resilience as they tackled each challenge together and showed how they worked out each question in different ways.

In **PE** this week, the children have been practising their aiming and throwing skills, showing determination and excitement as they prepare for using these skills on Sports Day. Comets Class successfully worked in teams, encouraging one another and showed fantastic sportsmanship with lots of high fives and cheering!

In **Science**, we began our new topic, and this week discovered all about push and pull. The children explored how different objects move and had lots of fun creating their own moveable push-and-pull puppets to demonstrate what they had learned.

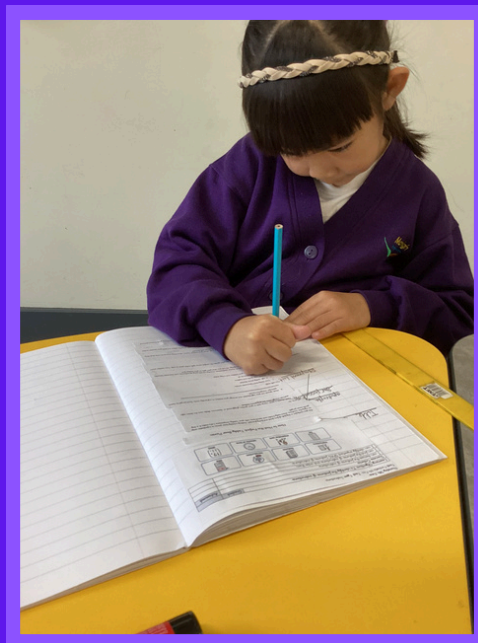
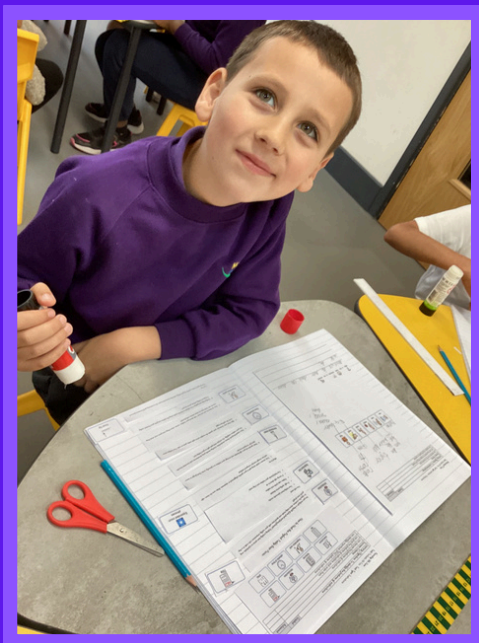
Well done to all of Comets Class for showing such determination when taking on new learning challenges this week.



Vulcan Class

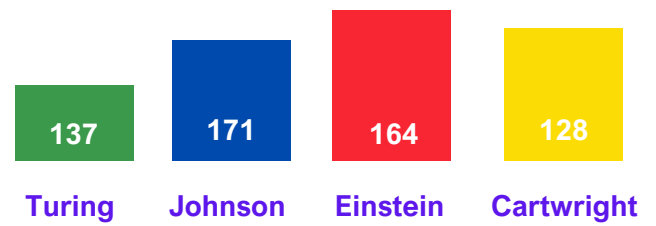
Vulcan Class have been diving into the world of instructions this week, inspired by **Fantastic Mr Fox!** We've been learning how instructional texts are structured and why clear, precise language matters. To test this out, we followed a set of instructions that led us around the playground on a clue-finding trail. Some clues were easy to follow, while others showed us just how important it is to write carefully so that someone else can understand what to do.

In **Maths**, we've just completed our unit on time. The children have been learning to read analogue clocks, focusing on telling the time at half past, quarter past, and quarter to. We then moved on to recognising times in 5-minute intervals and began to understand how to use 'to' and 'past' when describing time. Even though time can be a tricky concept, the children have made strong progress and are beginning to use time language with greater confidence.





House Point Totals



Sports Day

We're excited to share that this year's Sports Day will take place on 26th June with a 9:30am start. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us from **9:15am**, with the event running through to **11:30**.

It promises to be a fun-filled morning of sporting activities, teamwork, and plenty of cheering from the sidelines! Please pop the time in your diaries—we'd love to see as many of you there as possible.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Lilian - Comets
Sofia - Hurricanes





Term Dates 2024/25

Spring term

Monday 6th January to Friday 4th April

Half term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February

Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April

Easter holidays: Monday 7 April – Friday 18th April

Summer term

Tuesday 22nd April to Wednesday 23rd July

Back to school Wednesday 23rd April

Bank holiday Monday 5th May (school closed)

Half term: Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

Back to school Tuesday 3rd June

Last day of term 23rd July

INSET Days (closed to pupils)

Tuesday 22 April

Monday 2 June

Term Dates 2025/26

Autumn term 2025

Thursday 4th September to Friday 24th October

Half term: Monday 27th October – 3rd November

Tuesday 4th November to Friday 19th December

Christmas holidays: Monday 22nd December to Tuesday 6th Jan

Spring term 2026

Tuesday 6th January to Friday 13th February

Half Term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

Summer term 2026

Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May

Half Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July

Summer Holiday: Monday 20th July onwards

INSET Days (closed to pupils)

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Wednesday 3rd September

Monday 3rd November

Monday 5th January

Monday 20th July

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍷 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + 'wooly' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET – The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

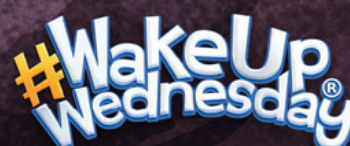
- | | |
|---|--|
| 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around | 🥰 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping' |
| 😬 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless | 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold |
| 😘 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement | 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.) |
| 😐 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered | 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference |
| 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great | 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour |

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms) | 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness |
| ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine | 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced' |
| 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use | 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm |
| 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis | ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil |
| 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse | 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles) |

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College