



**Bankside
School**

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Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Newsletter: 22nd May 2026

As we reach the end of this half term, we want to take a moment to reflect on just how much our pupils have achieved. It has been a busy, joyful and successful few weeks, filled with hard work, creativity and memorable experiences.

Our pupils have shone in so many ways — from their fantastic engagement in lessons to the determination they've shown across all areas of school life. We are incredibly proud of the effort they have put into their learning and the impressive work they have produced.

This half term has also been rich with opportunities beyond the classroom. Highlights have included our trip to the theatre, the resilience and teamwork shown during Duke of Edinburgh, and the brilliant performances in Bankside's Got Talent, which once again showcased the confidence and creativity of our young people.

As we head into the break, we hope all our pupils and families enjoy a restful and refreshing half term.

We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back for the final half term of the academic year — a term full of celebration and exciting events. Coming up, we have the KS4 Prom, our Awards Assembly, the Summer Fayre, and many more opportunities for pupils to shine.

Wishing you all a lovely half term. We can't wait to see everyone again soon.

Important Dates

Monday 1st June	- School reopens after half term
Friday 10th July	- Bankside Prom for KS4
Thursday 16th July	- End of Year Awards Presentation
Friday 17th July	- Summer Fayre for pupils and staff

Just as a reminder we are a **NO NUT** School, we have a number of pupils who have allergies, this includes for some pupils, coconut allergy, please be mindful of pupils using sprays or body lotions as they can be sensitive to this.

Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- **Sammy T** - for his full attendance to and enthusiasm for his English lessons this week. He has arrived on time, remained for the full session and has contributed brilliantly to each lesson. A great Job, Sammy. Well done!
- **Kay E** - for attending maths and completing her work confidently, Kay finished all of her work with a smile and did a great job of explaining her process 😊
- **Zak R** - For the fantastic work he produced in English analysing how Miranda's character is presented in The Tempest. He wrote an excellent analytical paragraph and even went on to complete all three of the additional challenges - absolutely brilliant effort!
- **Archie C** - Archie has shown amazing determination over this half term to finish his presentation on the history of Walter Lantz Studios. Throughout the project he has engaged with staff and peers about his favourite cartoons, sharing new information and his opinions. He has had to work hard to focus and add relevant information into his power point presentation.
- **Ola D** - Ola has worked really hard on understanding and practising simultaneous equations this week. It's a challenging topic and she has shown real resilience and determination in the last few weeks as a result she can now answer questions on the topic with ease.
- **Hayward F** - He was amazing in cooking on Wednesday, he followed the recipe to a tee, and made a fab bunch of brownies, which he was extremely proud of!! He was brilliant the whole session.
- **Clare Mc** - For amazing retention of knowledge about our History topic, the Industrial Revolution and relating everything she learnt at the Black Country Museum to her learning. Well done Clare!
- **Sylvie U** - Not only did Sylvie excel in using Padlet to create an excellent mood board for her animal project but she also showed kindness to others, helping other students when they had issues with their Padlet.

Kindness Champions:

For showing compassion, helping others and lifting the mood of those around you:

- **Hayward F** - for helping with an IT issue that I had, he was happy to volunteer to help and approached the problem with a mature attitude and quickly solved a problem I had been struggling with for over an hour!
- **Harley M** - for volunteering to help me pick up litter outside!

Progress Heroes: Special Mention:

For making visible strides in learning, behaviour and confidence:

- **Erin B** - For her enthusiasm, increasing independence and fabulous knife skills in the kitchen 😊 Well deserved, Erin!
- **William E** - William was amazing on his Duke of Edinburgh in the Peak District! Despite having to spend over 30 hours with Jack & Lewis, he has remained positive, enthusiastic and prepared! He was independent during setting up his tent, cooking for himself (even making bread from scratch!), and map reading to ensure his 5 hour walk was in the right direction! Well Done William, we are really proud!
- **Roo H** - Roo returned to English which had been off his timetable for a while due to being picked up early, he engaged in catching up with a book his group had been working on, asking serious questions and listening well to others read. Well done Roo 😊
- **Clare Mc & Ren H** - For excellent engagement and participation in PE this week
- **Sammy T** - In computing Sammy persevered and was able to use Blender to create an animation. Fantastic work Sammy!
- **Elsa S, Millie F, Erin B, Cyrus C & Caleb W** - They showed incredible resilience when on a trip to Birmingham bravely facing crowds in the city, high levels of noise at the theatre and a last minute change of plans on a journey there and back. They made us proud!

D of E Expedition

On Wednesday, William, accompanied by Jack & Lewis, set off early for a long trip to the Peak District. This was in aid of completing his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. This involved an overnight stay camping, 2 intense days of walking (up lots of steep hills!), setting up our own tents, cooking our own food over a stove, and most importantly, taking in all of the beautiful views around! Despite the challenges of the terrain, hills and carrying a 15kg backpack, the group hit all checkpoints on time and kept smiles throughout! This was a great step forward for Bankside as our first Duke of Edinburgh expedition, and future groups look forward to being able to have their expeditions!



Bankside's Got Talent

This morning we enjoyed a fabulous show, 'Bankside's Got Talent', where we experienced some amazing talent. Eight pupils performed for a packed audience in the Chapel and were all greeted with rapturous applause.

Jess I, Archie Ho, Archie Ha, Cyrus C, Hannah W, all sung perfect song choices displaying great confidence and moving many of us to tears.

Ewan L provided a great comedy act making us laugh until our sides ached! The content and timing of his delivery was superb.

Zak R achieved a great performance on the drums and achieved a standing ovation.

And finally, the judges watched a magician, in the shape of Elsa S who managed to confuse her teacher a few times with her tricks.

All the pupils' acts were fantastic and they did themselves proud. To perform in front of an audience is a brave thing to do and they all stepped up to the mark

Congratulations to you all!



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOh3FMv1q0wHa5WPIYHH88lgP78m8X8fD>

Wild school holiday fun



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust



Don't get bored in the school holidays - try our fun nature activities instead!

Make a nectar bar

No matter how big or small your space, there's a lot you can do to help our insects!

1. You'll need a window box (or two if you've got space) with drainage holes.
2. Use peat free compost in your window box.
3. Stock up on pollinator-friendly plants that are suitable for window boxes. Chose from lavender, thyme, sage, agrimony and rosemary.
4. Water regularly throughout the summer!



Make a butterfly painting

You will need water-based paints, brushes, sugar paper, marker pen and plenty of newspaper to cover your table.

1. Fold a piece of sugar paper in half (as if making a card) and open it back out.
2. Paint the shape of butterfly wings on one half. Fold the paper over again and press down.
3. Open out the paper and add more colours to one side. Refold and press.
4. When the butterfly wings are dry, add a body and antennae with a marker pen.

How to build a mini wildlife pond



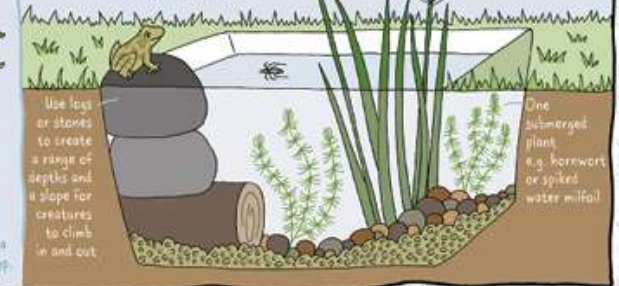
You will need:

- a watertight container
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles
- pond plants
- spade

* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 10-30cm deep.

- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.
- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).
- 5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.

One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. flowering rush



Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out

One submerged plant e.g. hornwort or spiked water milfoil

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Don't introduce frogs, fish or even water from another pond as this can spread disease.

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