



# St. Andrew's Newsletter 08 2024

No: 8 || Thursday 19th December 2024

## Christian Value

This term's Christian value is Trust. Please see this term's Values newsletter for more details.





Working in a school at this time of the year is always very special but equally very busy! A few weeks ago, Year 5 and year 6 went to the Old School Rooms and sang carols at the Christmas dinner festivities with our local community. They had excellent feedback and it was a special moment for everyone involved.

Last week we had the pleasure of watching “Shine Star Shine” – a perfect start to the run up to Christmas festivities. The children were incredible and it was a joy to watch! The children were courageous and rose to the occasion: performing songs, actions, acting, dancing and just simply being very engaging! We were very proud of them all!

On Friday 6th Dec, we also opened the doors to our PTA run Christmas fair. It was very well supported and we would like to thank everyone for their support in raising funds for the school. The PTA worked tirelessly for weeks preparing for the event and there was a team working busily throughout Friday. On behalf of the Governing body and the staff team of St Andrew’s I would like to express how appreciative we are of all of the PTAs hard work as well as the parents that also volunteered on the night – THANK YOU!

Last Friday we had Christmas shopping and Christmas jumper with Christmas dinner day! Again, the PTA worked hard preparing for the Christmas shopping event. It is a magical experience and the children absolutely love carefully choosing family members’ gifts to share on Christmas day. Thank you again for supporting this event.

This week, we had Experience Christmas at the church for all of our classes to enjoy; Year 6 have enjoyed their Fish and Chip disco and all of the classes have enjoyed Christmas parties together as a crew. This morning we finished off our Christmas celebrations with an incredible live music performance with our Christmas Rock Steady concert – they blew the audience away with their stunning performances!

Don't forget it is a MUFTI non - school uniform day tomorrow in lieu of donating money to the PTA.

As we do every year, our school Christmas tree, that was kindly donated by Cadbury garden centre, will be out on the playground at the end of the day to go to a home that would like it.

Christmas is a time for joy and a time for love; I hope that you are able to feel these over the festive period. If I am not able to see you before we break up, I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

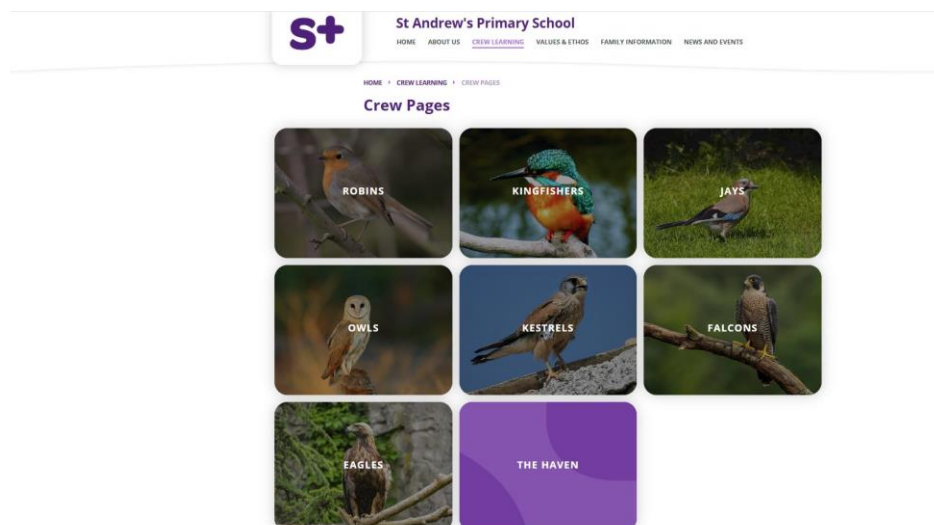
Take care and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Fran Martin

## Crew Pages

Thank you to the parents that responded to our survey regarding school communications. We were pleased with the feedback that the vast majority of parents are happy with the level of communication that school provides.

We had a few parents sharing that they didn't know where the Crew pages are on our website. Please look at the home page on our website, click on Crew learning and then the Crew Pages. Then if you click on your child's class icon you can see key information and updates on their learning.



## Parking at the back of the school

In a previous newsletter we reminded that parents should not park in the staff parking bays that are clearly marked as “staff parking”. This academic year, our staffing numbers have increased and therefore we have had additional parking marked out in bays to support with this.

We have Aspen’s staff working in our kitchen that need parking spaces too. Since mid-September, Aspen Catering company have been renting one of our spare classrooms next to Eagle crew. Adhering to the same process that Congresbury Community Pre school have followed in renting our space, Aspens have had to follow strict safeguarding procedures. All Aspen members of staff that use this office space have had all the necessary safeguarding checks.

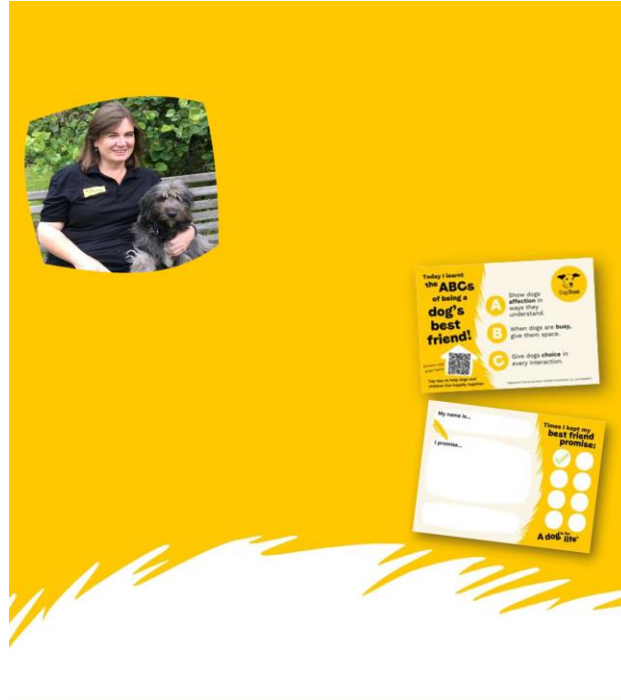
Please can we gently remind once again that we would really appreciate it if you can support staff by not parking in our designated spaces or blocking the spaces.

## Christmas Charity Volunteering

Matilda, Una, Zoe and Hadley from Kestrels decorated and sold Christmas decorations and raised £39.61 for the church during Take 5 the last 2 Fridays. Well done girls!



## Dogs Trust Assembly & Workshop



This week we enjoyed a visit from Helen from **Dogs Trust**. She introduced herself, and her toy dogs Daisy and Dexter, in assembly. Then each class had lots of fun working with Helen to find out how we can behave **safely and kindly** around the dogs we live with and meet.

In KS2 we learnt the ABCs of being a **dog's best friend**, and each made a promise to a dog we know. Look out for your child's **best friend promise postcard** and see if you can spot them keeping their promise when they spend time with a dog.

In KS1, we met Wilfred the Woof (Y1) and Toby (Y2). They taught us how to **give dogs space** when they are eating or resting. We also practised showing dogs love with **gentle strokes and snuggles** instead of hugs and kisses!

### Further support from Dogs Trust in your area:

Need help with your dog's training or behaviour? Contact Dogs Trust's **Behaviour Support Line** for free expert advice:

Call 0303 003 6666 (Monday to Saturday 9.30 am - 5pm)

Dog and puppy **training classes** and 1:1 sessions in venues across Bristol and

South Gloucestershire: [www.dogstrust.org.uk/dog-advice/dog-school/bristol](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dog-advice/dog-school/bristol)



In the assembly, we had a special visitor come in and talk about a lovely charity called Dogs Trust. Her name was Helen. She talked to us about how to behave around dogs and we learnt some facts about dogs that most of us didn't know! During the assembly, Helen had some actors come up and pretend to be dogs to give us an example of what they do and she gave us an example of how they should behave when you are around them. We have learnt how to read a dog signals which shows how the feel and

whether they want to be left alone or they want someone around them. We really enjoyed it and we learnt that giving dogs some space will make them the best dog they can be.

Written by Jess, Eagles Crew

## Bikeability

As Year 6, we had to tackle the challenge of Level 2 Bikeability where we were learning how to check over our bike, look over our shoulder and indicate by sticking out our arm when turning. Our determination definitely showed and we all did exceptionally well and all passed.

Written by Lucas, Year 6, Eagles on behalf of Sophie, Esmee, Holly, Hollie, Amelie, Lucy, Joey, Theo H, Rory, Ralph, Ivy, Evie, Monty, Sam G, Lucas, Martha, Megan.

## History Presentation

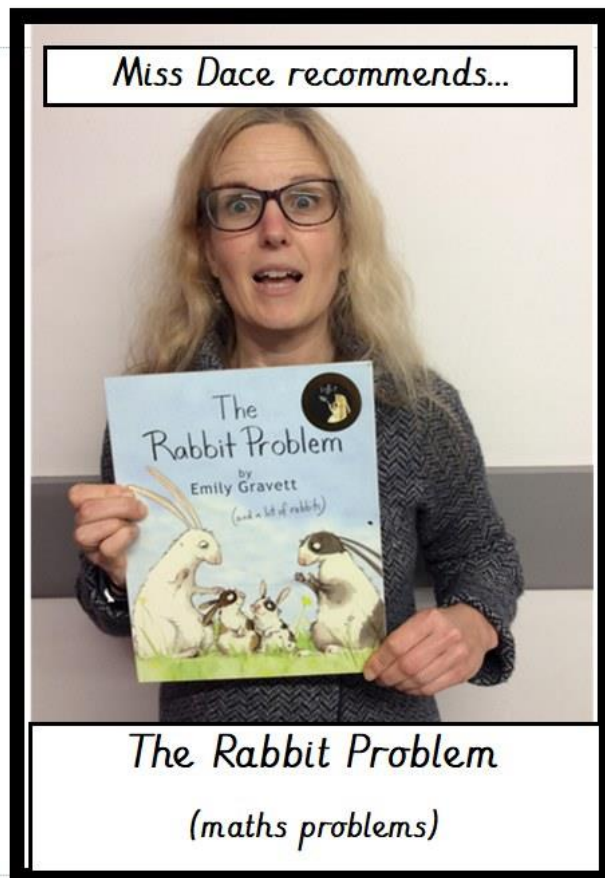
On Monday 9th December, we showcased our history learning to our families. We were answering the question Who left the best legacy: The Stone Age, The Bronze Age or the Iron Age? As a crew, the majority of us thought that The Iron Age left the best legacy as they had advanced weapons which were more durable and could be fixed whereas the parents voted for The Stone Age due to them inventing and controlling fire which meant they could have heat, light and cook food. Which era would you have chosen?

Written by Holly, Year 6, Eagles





## We love Reading!



Miss Dace- *The Rabbit Problem* by Emily Gravett

*The Rabbit Problem* by Emily Gravett is recommended for children because it combines humor with clever, interactive storytelling to teach concepts like numbers, growth, and seasons through the adventures of a growing rabbit family. Its engaging illustrations, pop-ups, and playful design invite young readers to explore counting and patterns in a fun and creative way.

**Pupils that have gone above and beyond**



## Celebration Worship



### Celebration Worship 13th December

**Kingfisher Crew** - Mabel, Daniel

**Jay Crew** - Sonny, Ellis

**Owl Crew** - Luna, Jessie

**Kestrel Crew** - Mason, Aniela

**Falcon Crew** - Jamie, Ellie

**Eagle Crew** - Martha, Alex

## VIP Monday

VIP Monday 16th December

Eagle Crew: Gui, Theo H, Jess, Evelyn, Theo W, Lucas



# Attendance for this Academic Year so far

## Attendance for this academic year to 19 December 2024

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.37%	96.84%	94.08%	97.83%	89.82%	95.08%	94.98%

## Feel Fab Festive Fun

Miss Dyer has set our pupils, for the Christmas half term, a Feel Fab Fitness Fun challenge.

If pupils would like to participate, then please return the completed sheet to Miss Dyer and she will present your child with a certificate.

Hope they all have fun.

### FEEL FAB FESTIVE FITNESS FUN




**FIND YOUR CHRISTMAS STARS**

Here are some activities which help us stay active and make us feel good! This is great for our Physical Literacy! IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO ASK FOR SOME HELP FROM AN ADULT & STAY SAFE WHEN TRYING ANYTHING NEW. Activities can be done in any order. Certificates are available from your school. Can you achieve CHRISTMAS GOLD by collecting at least 7 stars from the list? Let your teacher know if you do!

We would love to see some of your attempts on Twitter using #FeelFabFestiveFitnessFun and tagging: @AshtonSSP @CSETSports1 @NSSPEA1

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY 

DID YOU COLLECT? 

<p>Go for a 'Christmas lights walk' as a family - where are your favourite lights? </p>	<p>Perform at least one random act of kindness a day. </p>	<p>Set yourself a daily Christmas Star Jump challenge e.g., 3 sets of 10. How many can you do a day? </p>	<p>Make a Christmas table decoration and design your own name place markers for your family. </p>
<p>Make Christmas cookies or mince pies. You could go big and make a gingerbread house! </p>	<p>Host a Christmas games night and play all of your favourite games. </p>	<p>Make your own Christmas music playlist... what songs will you choose? </p>	<p>Ride your bike, walk or scoot for at least 10 minutes a day. </p>
<p>Organise a Christmas movie night or even a whole week, then everyone gets a chance to watch their favourite film. </p>	<p>Organise your own Christmas Treasure Hunt... this could take place in the house or outdoors! </p>	<p>Turn your Christmas cards into next year's present tags. </p>	<p>Donate or gift a toy or something else in new or good condition to charity. </p>
<p>Make up your own game using balloons. Give it a name and play it with your friends or family. </p>	<p>Get creative with art... make a snowman or angel paperchain. Perhaps even design your own tree ornaments. </p>	<p>Take up the 16-day holiday challenge... go for a walk with your dog or friends every day </p>	<p>Prepare hot chocolate for your friends or family. Will you be adding marshmallows and whipped cream? </p>

## Sports Clubs

# After School **Sports clubs**

At  
St Andrews Primary School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No Club	Alternative Sports (All years)	No Club	Football (All years)	No Club
	£33.90 6 Weeks		£33.90 6 weeks	
	Mr Jenkins		Mr Jenkins	

All clubs run **3:15pm - 4:15pm**

Clubs start the week commencing **06/01/2025**.

Our after-school clubs are a fantastic opportunity for your children to enhance their learning and physical development in a safe and enjoyable environment.

# The Buzz

December 2024

North Somerset Council

## The Buzz

Written in Co-production with the voice of The SEND Children and Young Peoples Council

- Introduction
- Student blog I am Neuro-diverse My Journey
- Test your skills quiz page
- Student blog Hello! I am a rep
- Help and Information
- Hints and tips
- Get Active (It makes you feel better!)

Happy December !

Welcome to the 3rd, and winter edition of The Buzz newsletter, co-produced by the North Somerset SEND children and young peoples council.

So far its been a very busy school year. Winter has crept up and suddenly the days are shorter and night time sneaks in really quickly every evening.

The SEND council meetings started again in October and we welcomed several new students attending, who are representing their schools. At the last SEND children's and young persons council meeting

We started the meeting by telling everyone which superpower we would like to have - invisibility was the most wanted.

In this edition we have two students writing their blogs. They are both from different schools and different year groups. We hope that you read each of their blogs and know that whatever your SEND or additional need that you are not alone.

VISION  
ORGANISE  
INFLUENCE  
COPRODUCE  
EMPOWER

1

December 2024

## SEND Student Blog:

### I AM NEURO-DIVERSE. MY JOURNEY

Hi! everyone. I am a student at a secondary school in North Somerset. I have AuDHD- short for Autism and ADHD. I am going to tell you a bit about me and how I found out I was neurodiverse, and how moving to secondary school and finding good friends helped me understand myself.

I first found out I was neurodivergent in the Christmas holidays of 2022. For about a year after I struggled a lot with my mental health. I would have regular meltdowns. I was late to school nearly every day then (I would have been in year six - I am in year eight now) and I sometimes even had to have days off school.

WHO AM I?  
IM BEING LEFT BEHIND  
IM DIFFERENT!

Then.... at first I thought I only had ADHD but then we found out that I also had Autism.

My family was incredibly kind and helpful, but in school I struggled with my friend group as they began to act more grown. I felt left behind. My family told me that this was normal for girls who were neurotypical ! I felt different.

Once I knew this, I started to understand myself better.

December 2024

I noticed lots of things around me; that people at school believed and used a lot of negative stereotyping words about neurodiverse people. There was a boy in my class who also had ADHD and once when he was upset, he hit another student. When I asked a friend what had happened, and she said "he can't help it! He's got ADHD!"

She had forgotten that I also had ADHD. I explained to her that ADHD doesn't make you automatically hit people - although we may have impulsive thoughts sometimes. There would have been other reasons for him doing what he did.

I also heard a lot of other negative labels from students, like them using the word 'autism' as an insult, or one girl in my year group at the time saying that a student in her old school "he **must** have ADHD because of his behaviour". Thankfully - even though I still hear these comments a lot in my class and school - my new friends never say anything like this. A lot of my friends at secondary school are either neurodiverse or questioning whether they could be neurodiverse!

Everyone gets angry and frustrated not just people with ADHD

When I was transitioning from primary to secondary school I was terrified.

But looking back, even though I struggled at first it was one of the best things that could have happened to me at the time. When I first came in to secondary school I worried about making friends, but I slowly made friends with lovely people. I ended year seven with a close friend group of four, and now I have a close friend group of seven. My friends are so kind, understand and help me if I'm struggling. They respect my hyper-fixations which I know can be annoying if I go on about it for too long !

One of my hyper-fixations is an amazing book series called Warrior Cats. Some people in primary school used to make fun of it without ever reading a single page. My friends now listen when I'm talking about my hyper-fixations and encourage me to talk about them now. Two of my friends have even tried the book series- one of them didn't enjoy it, but the other loves it! Even though I still mask around my friends quite a lot, they are very supportive and kind.

December 2024

## Test your skills!

### Winter Wellbeing

b	a	s	b	s	t	f	a	r	c	s	r	x	z
l	u	c	o	d	c	i	e	h	r	i	z	o	a
a	u	s	a	g	o	v	a	o	s	n	a	r	r
n	b	o	r	b	l	v	b	t	l	g	t	e	
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7	4	6	5	2	3	9							8
			4	6									
	6	7	3										1
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4	8				7								2
	1		2	6		8							7
6	7	2			3	8							1

### Winter Crossword

Across

- Keeps your head warm in the cold.
- A warm piece of clothing to wear inside and outside.
- A sign of a very cold night left on the pavements and windows.
- Demolishing this piece of ice.
- A fun way to ride down a hill on a snowy day.

Down

- Very cold flakes which fall from the sky.
- Huge snowstorm.
- Your body's reaction to a very cold chill.
- Perfect to keep your hands cozy in the cold.
- Ice sport which needs you to be super balanced.

## SEND Student Blog HELLO!! I AM A STUDENT REP

Hello 🍁

I go to Weston College, and I am on the Pathway into College course. This is also helping me build my confidence and be more independent.

I love to dance and am part of a community dance club called Twist'o'Flex. The group has helped me build my confidence and meet new people who also love dancing. I love fashion, especially goth clothes.

I decided to become a student rep because I am kind, helpful, and I think am a good person to my friends. I am responsible and listen to others.

As a rep I go to meetings, and help parents at parent meetings. We also stay at college if there's anything we need to help with.



I am the voice for the college and my friends

I will ask them what they like about the college and how it could be improved. We listen to the students when they need something. We let our teachers know how we are feeling and the Vice Principal. We meet with people outside of college who talk to us about how we can get more involved in the college community.

We meet with people outside of college who talk to us about how we can get more involved in the college community. When we get involved, we can earn points and the more points we get means we can get amazon vouchers – which is awesome! I love my badge and my hoodie is awesome!

One of my favourite things recently is meeting Shelly the Engagement and Participation officer on Zoom because she is very nice, and she is really communicative.

I am really looking forward to getting my Amazon voucher so I can buy new shoes and oversize **black** hoodies!



Being an ambassador makes me feel important and that I am on top of the word

### HELP AND INFORMATION

**OTR** [The Off The Record website](#)  
Mental Health social movement by and for young people aged 11-25.

**YOUNG MINDS** [The YoungMinds website](#)  
We are here for you. From practical advice to helping you find support

**Wellspring Counselling** [Wellspring Counselling](#)  
Donation based counselling for children and Young people aged 11 - 18

**ChatHealth** [Sirona Care and Health Chat Health](#)  
Please note this is not an emergency service.  
The service is open on Mondays to Fridays from 9am-5pm, excluding bank holidays. It is available during term times and school holidays.

## HINTS AND TIPS From Sirona Care and Health

Christmas can bring change. For some children and young people, change or uncertainty can cause anxiety. So here useful hints and tips to help navigate the season:

Make yourself a Christmas calendar/timetable, with any different events that will be coming up. Also, add all the things that you usually do. Check with your family what is happening at home over this time too, so you have a full picture of Christmas events

[Free calendar downloads](#)  
[Microsoft 365](#)

If your class are going to watch a school concert or show, ask teachers or parents to let you know in advance where it will take place, how long it lasts, and how many people will be there. Ask if you can sit somewhere you prefer, for example, near an exit

It helps to know in advance what food, activities, and people will be at an event you can ask parents, teacher, or friends to let you know before the event

If the change to how the house looks with all the Christmas decorations is stressful for you, ask your family if there can be at least one room with no decorations, or maybe they could put up the decorations gradually so its not an instant change

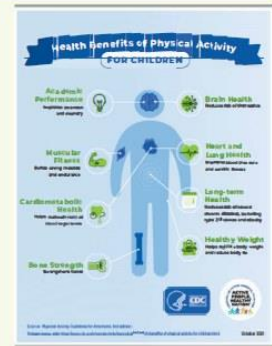
If you are feeling overwhelmed, talk to someone at school or at home. They can help you to decide what you can do or what strategies you can use to cope

Shops are often busy, noisier, arranged differently. Check if any localshops have quiet hours or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) friendly hours

And dont forget keep something that will help to occupy you in your bag or pocket

## GET ACTIVE IN 2025

Physical activity is good for children in many ways. Benefits include improved academic performance, brain health, muscular fitness, heart and lung health, cardiometabolic health, long-term health, bone strength, and measures of a healthy weight.



[Bristol Bears Community Foundation](#) is the club's award-winning charity, delivering programmes that are proven to change the lives of people across the region

- [HUTTON MOORE](#)
- [BACKWELL LEISURE CENTRE](#)
- [SCOTCH HORN LEISURE CENTRE](#)



Weston Ability is a Pan Disability Football Club for ages 7 to adults with disabilities and/or additional needs. They play in the Somerset Ability Count's League. We've partnered with them so they can access our facilities and resources allowing the club to continue their growth. Contact us to find out more enquiries@seagullstfc.org

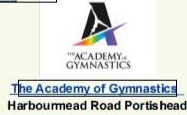
X-TREME AIR GYM SESSIONS	TRAMPOLINING TENNIS	SWIMMING SPLASH ATTACK
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December 2024



HAF Winter Activities now available to



1 - 2 Rectors Way Weston super Mare

Project Inc. is Bristol City Robins Foundation pan-disability football programme which provides an opportunity for both young people and adults with disabilities the opportunity to make friends, get active and have fun. [For further information](#)

December 2024

WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY LOVELY WINTER BREAK AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



We hope that you have found this newsletter helpful. If you would like anything added which you think would be useful for the children and young people in North Somerset please contact Shelly Smith Engagement and Participation Officer [shelly.smith@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:shelly.smith@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Community News

**Churchill Academy & Sixth Form**

**WE WILL ROCK YOU**  
 SCHOOL EDITION

**15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025**

**Churchill Academy & Sixth Form**  
 Doors 6.30pm Show 7.00pm

Music and Lyrics by QUEEN  
 Story and Script by BEN ELTON

"WE WILL ROCK YOU School Edition" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW).  
[www.theatricalrights.co.uk](http://www.theatricalrights.co.uk)



**St Andrew's Primary School**  
**Congresbury**  
**Volunteer Work Day**

YACWAG (Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group) is organising a volunteer work party to spend an afternoon re-establishing the Jubilee wood in the school field by clearing brambles and making the area more accessible to the school.

**Date: Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 from 12pm to 4pm**

Sixty trees were planted to mark the late Queen's diamond jubilee in 2012 and we are keen to give this area some much needed love and care. Can you spare some time to support us? Tools and gloves provided. Children welcome to come play on the field whilst grown-ups work!

If you are interested in getting involved to maintain this site please email [contact@yacwag.org.uk](mailto:contact@yacwag.org.uk)



YACWAG: Registered Charity no. 1076362

## **Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime**

There will be a pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, at Congresbury War Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st December at 3:30pm. Tickets are priced at £10 for adults and £5 for school children. A family of four must be at least one adult and is £20.

Tickets may be obtained from the War Memorial Hall most weekday evenings after 7:30pm, or from the post office. Only limited tickets are available. Call for details on 01934832004.

## **School Calendar Dates**

**All dates are in Annual Planner previously shared and on our website**

### **Term Dates 2024-2025**

Term 1 - Monday 02 September 2024 to Friday 25 October 2024.

Term 2 - Monday 04 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024.

Term 3 - Monday 06 January 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025.

Term 4 - Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 04 April 2025.

Term 5 - Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025.

Term 6 - Monday 02 June 2025 to Tuesday 22 July 2025

### **INSET Days for 2024 – 2025**

Friday 25 October

Monday 6 January

Friday 14 February

Monday 2 June

### **Upcoming Dates**

PTA Christmas Fair: Friday 6th December @ 4:30-6:30pm

Falcons Worship: Monday 9th December @ 2:45pm

Nativity Performance to Parents: Wednesday 11th December @ 2:15pm

Nativity Performance to Parents: Thursday 12th December @ 9:30am

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 13th December

Y4 Christmas Party: Monday 16th December

Y2 & Y3 Christmas Party: Tuesday 17th December

Fish N Chip Disco for Y6: Wednesday 18th December

Rocksteady Concert for Parents & KS2: Thursday 19th December @ 9:30am

Y5 Christmas Party: Thursday 19th December

PTA Mufti Day: Friday 20th December

Y6 Lifeskills: Wednesday 8th January @ PM

Kestrels Worship: Monday 3rd February @2:45pm

PTA Mufti Day: Thursday 13th February

## Contacts

School Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Education-Website/St-Andrews-Primary-School-Congresbury-631401120595092/>

School Office e-mail Address: [office@standrewsprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@standrewsprimary.org.uk)

School Phone Number: 01934 832505