

St. Andrew's Newsletter 03 26/27

No: 03 || Friday 09th October 2026

National Nurturing
School Award
2025

St Andrew's Primary School



The term has been speeding by and Term 1 is notoriously busy! This week we have elected our student council. We were incredibly impressed by the speeches that the older children presented and the posters that are younger pupils designed. As a school, we are focusing on oracy this year and the speeches were a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to demonstrate how confidently and persuasively they could articulate themselves. It was evident that all of the children that were successfully elected are keen to make a difference and be advocates of pupil voice. We have changed the structure of how we run the student council for this academic year and they will be having regular meetings in school time supported by the previously elected Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary in Year 6.



In our parent survey last year, one of the top five areas that parents felt that we could improve on was school clubs i.e. a wider offering other than sports based clubs. Currently, we have outside providers offering Sports clubs run by PH active on 5 days after school and an outside provider for the Performing Arts Stage Starlings and Congresbury Tennis Club on Wednesdays. During the school day, we offer wider curriculum activities of peripatetic music lessons and our Rock Steady Music bands. Our teachers offer one club after school for a term throughout the school year. Reflecting and acting upon the parent feedback, this year we have sought the views of our pupils around the type of club they would like the teachers to kindly organise for them . The results were an interesting mix and the teachers have endeavoured to meet their requests with the following options :

Clubs

Day	Club	Term	Ran By	Lunchtime / In school Day	Afterschool
Monday	Piano Lessons	Term 1	WEMA	During School Day	
	Dance	Term1	PH Active		Afterschool
Tuesday	Gymnastics	Term 1	PH Active		Afterschool
	Lego Club	Term 2	Teaching Staff		Afterschool
	Choir Club	Term 2	Teaching Staff		Afterschool
	Oragami Club	Term 3	Teaching Staff		Afterschool
	Art Club	Term 3	Teaching Staff		Afterschool
	Chess Club	Term 4	Teaching Staff		Afterschool
Wednesday	Guitar Lessons	Term 1	WEMA	Durning School Day	
	Drama Club	Term 1	Stage Starlings		Afterschool
	Tennis Club	Term 1	Congresbury Tennis Club		Afterschool
	Football	Term 1	PH Actovw		Afterschool
Thursday	Band Practice	Term 1	Rocksteady	During School Day	
	Multisports	Term 1	PH Active		Afterschool
Friday	Tag Rugby	Term 1	PH Active		Afterschool
	Library Club	Term 2	Teaching Staff	Lunchtime	

The details for each of the clubs will be communicated ahead of the term that they will be on. Next term we will be offering a Choir Club for KS2 pupils and Lego Club for EYFS and KS1 pupils.

We look forward to seeing all of our parents at Parents' evenings on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October. It is a vitally important way for us to work in partnership and share feedback as to how they have settled into their new crew. It will also be a great opportunity for you to view our newly installed Reception outside provision if you haven't by then seen it on the school run! Just a reminder that as a result of the installation of the new area, we will be doing drop off and pick up differently next week . We will see Year 1-6 arriving and leaving via the small green gate at the back of the school!

Christian Vale - Courage

Our Christian value this term is COURAGE



Lateness

Lateness

At St Andrew's we strive to support you to ensure your child attends every day school is open.

During the first month of this school year, pupils have been late for school on 40 occasions which has amounted to 5.8 hours of lost learning time ☹

We will be contacting individual families to offer support but please could we remind you of the arrival opportunity for you to ensure your child is here and ready to learn.

We welcome our families from 8:40am each morning. This helps to build a close relationship between home and school; we aim to have positive partnerships with all our families. The official start of the school day and start of registration is at 8.45am and we strongly encourage all children to arrive on time.

The school gates are locked at 8.55am with all arrivals after this time accessing school via the school office.

Pupils arriving after 9:00am will be marked as late (L).

Being late for school reduces learning time.

If your child is 5 minutes late every day, they will miss 3 days of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes later every day, they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

Thank you for your continued support



Attendance Figures

Attendance for this academic year to 09/10/2026

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98%	92%	97.3%	98%	98%	97%	96%

Hello Yellow - Friday 9th October - Mental Health Awareness

On Friday 9th October we would like to welcome your children to wear something Yellow to school for the day, This is to raise awareness and support young people's mental health. If you would like to make a donation you can do so directly through Hello Yellow Young Minds

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/helloyellow/



Dangers of urban exploring in empty buildings.



Please use the link below to view a message below from the Avon and Somerset Police about the dangers of urban exploring in empty buildings.

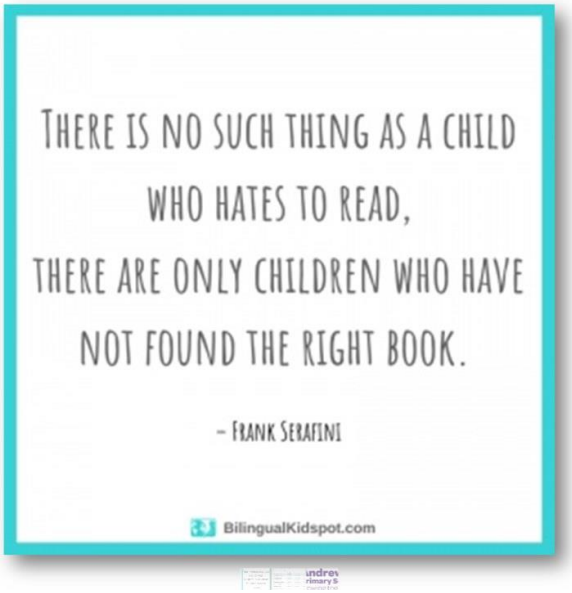
This is such an important issue that is happening every single day in North Somerset, involving many of our young people.

https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1C9tofQhQe/

Readers for Life

Branching Out Bunny vs Monkey





Our goal in reading is to create 'readers for life'. We want our children to love reading for pleasure and for this to be part of their lives. We are always keen to find books the children love to read and support you to recommend books to your child. We will be including a recommended read poster in each newsletter to support you in finding quality books that your child might be interested in. If you would like to find out more, please visit https://www.booksfortopics.com/reading-for-pleasure/ or https://www.thereaderteacher.com/bookmatch for ideas and recommendations. Our staff are always on hand to offer recommendations as well so please do speak to member of the team.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Gilbert (Reading lead)

Harvest Food Collection

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will once again be collecting donations for our local food bank in partnership with St Andrew's Church.Any donations of non-perishable food items would be very much appreciated and can be brought into your child's classroom by **Friday 23rd October**. Please do not feel under any obligation to donate. However, if you are able to contribute, your generosity will be greatly appreciated We will be taking all the donations with us to the church for a Harvest service on the last day of term Thank you for your continued support!

St Andrew's Primary School
growing together

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION

Help us support our local foodbank this Harvest by donating non-perishable food items.

Please bring food items into your child's classroom.



We are collecting:

- Tinned foods
- Pasta and rice
- Breakfast cereals
- Long-life milk
- Tea and coffee
- Biscuits and snacks
- Other non-perishable food items

ALL DONATIONS MUST BE IN BY

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Every donation, big or small, will make a difference.

Thank you for your support!

Courage, Compassion and Trust

PTA News Update



St Andrew's Primary School growing together — PTA

Term 1 Update

Welcome back to a new school year of fun PTA events. There will be a lot of opportunities for you to support fun events that raised valuable funds for St Andrew's school. We welcome new members and funding suggestions.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Non-uniform Day- *Friday 23rd October*- Please bring a gold coin donation.
- Bags 2 School Collection- *Wednesday 4th November*
- PTA AGM- *Wednesday 11th November*
- Autumn Disco- *Thursday 19th November*
- Christmas Shopping Day- *Friday 4th December*
- St Andrew's Christmas Fair- *Friday 11th December*
- Non-uniform Day- *Friday 18th December*- Please bring a gold coin donation.

We will send out more information about specific events nearer the time.

We are currently sourcing prizes for the Christmas raffle. Please let us know if you or your business can help.

CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER

You will have the opportunity to purchase some Christmas cards designed by your child.

It's always a lovely keepsake for family and friends. There will be more information coming home about this shortly.

NON-UNIFORM DAY- Friday 23rd October

Last day of term is always a non-uniform day in support of St Andrew's PTA. Year 6 pupils will be collecting donations on the gate and a donation link will be shared. Your support of our non-uniform days is always appreciated.

COME TO THE PTA AGM!

We would love new people to join our PTA team!

AGM at 8pm on WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

EMAIL: standrewspta.secretary@gmail.com

Could your employer help raise money for St Andrew's?

St Andrew's PTA is this year raising funds to improve our EYFS outdoor space and sensory spaces, alongside supporting a number of smaller projects across the school.

Some PTA members have already accessed corporate employer donation schemes, with recent support from Nationwide and Westerleigh Group.

Could your employer offer something similar?

Unlock funding through your employer

Your workplace may be able to support our PTA through:

Matched Giving Schemes
Your company may match money raised through PTA events and fundraising activities.

Corporate Donations
One-off financial contributions to help fund specific school projects.

Community Grants
Funding programmes designed to support local schools and community organisations.

Volunteer Grants
Some employers make donations to charities when their employees volunteer their time.

How you can help

Do you know of a grant, matched giving programme, corporate donation scheme or charity initiative available through your employer?

Even if you're not sure whether your company offers something, it could be worth asking your HR, CSR, Community or Charity team.

Every contribution can help us create better spaces and opportunities for the children at St Andrew's.

Get in touch with the PTA:
standrewspta.secretary@gmail.com

Please share this with colleagues, friends and family who may work for an organisation that could support our school.

Together, we can unlock even more funding for St Andrew's!

Free School Meals - Important Reminder on the Application Process

Free School Meals - Important Reminder on the Application Process

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware there are a number of changes to Free School Meals eligibility from the start of this academic year:• Eligibility is being expanded for all children and young people who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit.• Transitional protection ended at the end of July 2026 (Transactional protection had been in place since April 2018 and meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria retained their entitlement for 6 years, even if their household circumstances changed).

If your child(ren) already receive(s) free school meals:

As a result of these changes all pupils currently in receipt of free school meals will need to reapply for Free School Meals to take advantage of this benefit in the current academic year.

Please use the below link to the Free School Meals Checker to check your eligibility and to apply for FSM.

https://fsm.lgfl.net/

Free School Meals provide eligible pupils with a free school lunch during the school day. Registering for Free School Meals may also bring additional funding into school through pupil premium.

For more information about the changes to free school meals please visit Lighthouse Schools Partnership website:

https://www.lsp.org.uk/fsm-changes

Changes to FSM eligibility from September 2026

Free School Meals Expansion and Changes from September 2026 As you are probably aware, all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free hot school lunch. This initiative was introduced by the Government in 2014 and aims to ensure that all children can benefit from a hot meal at lunchtime. Additionally, your child might be eligible for Free School Meals programme based on your income or personal circumstances. Children may be eligible for a free school meal on this basis, if parents are in receipt of one or more of the below benefits.

The income threshold to qualify is that of £7,400:

- Income support
- Child tax credit

- Working Tax Credit
- Income based Job seeker's allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Income related Employment support allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

It has recently been announced that FSM programme is going to expand as of September 2026 to include families receiving Universal Credit, who will be able to access free school meals. If your child is joining Reception class in September 2026 and you believe that you are entitled to claim for a free school meal because you are in receipt of one or more of the above benefits, or you are receiving Universal Credit it is essential that you apply for the FSM benefit (even though all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are already entitled to a free school lunch). This also applies to families who receive Universal Credit and whose children are already attending school. This is important because Pupil Premium funding to schools is relevant to the number of pupils who are entitled to receive free school meals. If parents who receive such benefits do not apply for free school meals, then the school will not receive the maximum funding to re-invest into the education of your child. Additionally, if you are not currently entitled but your circumstances change, it is really important that you still submit an application. Please call into the office and speak to one of the team, who will be pleased to help you with any questions you may have.

The second big change is that the transitional protection policy will no longer apply to children entitled to Free School Meals and it will terminate at the end of the 2025-26 academic year. This means that the eligibility for FSM will only be granted for one academic year at a time.

Re-checks for each child will be required every year going forward. All existing pupils in receipt of free school meals will need to have their entitlement re-checked before the start of September 2026, over the summer break. Anyone who was awarded FSMs over 2 years ago would have applied via an old system. These parents/carers, as well as parents of the children joining Reception in September 2026 will need to apply/reapply via their North Somerset Citizen's account (which is the same as the one used for School Admissions applications), before September 2026, but not sooner than from the beginning of August. To apply please use this link: https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school Please contact school office if you have any questions or need support in applying. Unfortunately, North Somerset Council have advised that the schools cannot apply on parents' behalf, however, we are happy to guide you through the process and help wherever we can.

CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS

LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

From September 2026, more families will be eligible for Free School Meals

Applying could save you up to £495 per child, per year, on school lunches

FREE SCHOOL MEAL EXPANSION

More families may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026, when families receiving Universal Credit will be able to access free school meals. There will be two types of Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026:

TARGETED FSM

Continues to be based on the existing £7,400 income threshold.

EXPANDED FSM (NEW)

Applies to meals only. Covers pupils whose households are in receipt of Universal Credit

IMPORTANT: While eligibility to Expanded FSM will be automatically granted to all recipients of Universal Credit, families will still need to apply to receive this benefit.

RECHECKS FOR ALL PUPILS CURRENTLY IN RECEIPT OF FSM

Since 2018, there has been a Free School Meal transitional protection policy to ensure that children didn't lose their free school meals if their family's income increased. This meant that free school meals entitlement has been typically looked in until the end of the child's current phase of education (e.g. end of primary or secondary school).

This protection is ending at the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

This means that all existing pupils in receipt of free school meals will need to have their entitlement rechecked before the start of September 2026. If your family's earnings exceed the FSM threshold, your child(ren) will lose their eligibility and pay for school meals from September 2026.

In most cases, these rechecks will be automatic and no action will be required by parents

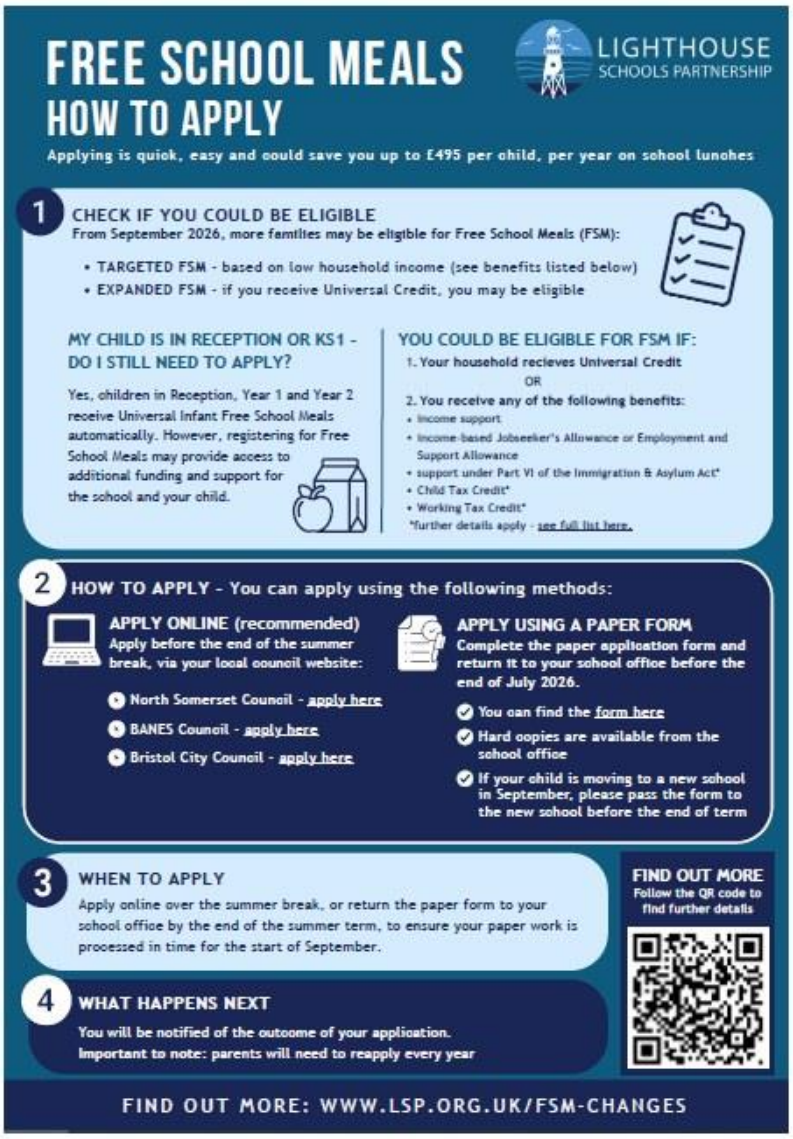
NORTH SOMERSET SCHOOLS ONLY

Anyone who was awarded FSMs over 2 years ago would have applied via an old system. These parents/carers will need to reapply via their North Somerset Citizen's account.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS THAT BENEFITS PUPILS

Pupil Premium is extra funding given to schools for every child whose family is entitled for Targeted Free School Meals. This money makes a big different to schools and the eligible pupils. It is often used for extra resources, school trips and additional staff. Pupil Premium will continue to be paid to schools for those pupils who have been covered by the transitional protection arrangements outlined above.

FIND OUT MORE: WWW.LSP.ORG.UK/FSM-CHANGES



St Andrew's young carer group

St Andrew's has an active Young Carer group.

We meet once a term on a Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm in The Haven and do activities, baking and other art and craft. It is a great opportunity to meet other Young Carers.

The next meeting is **Tuesday 13th October**

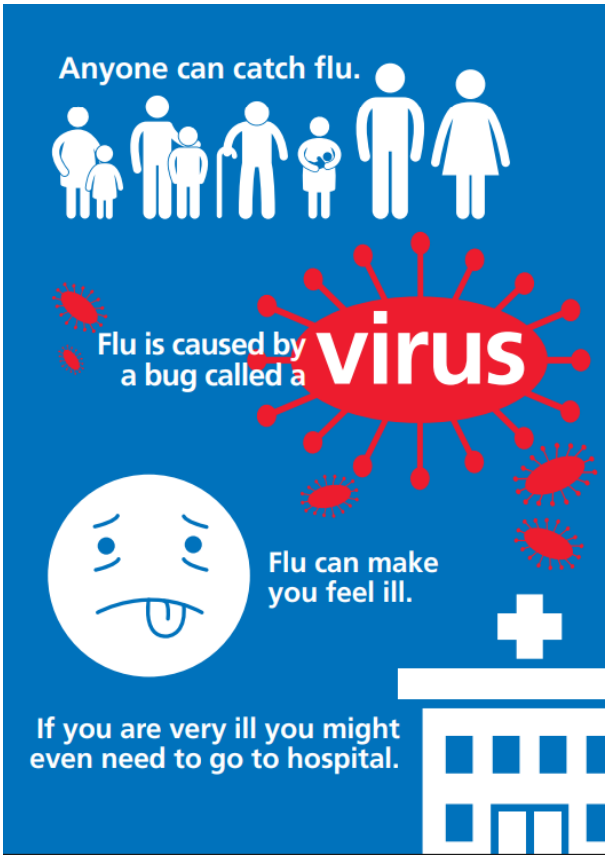
If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to message me in confidence Julie.mayo@standrewsprimary.org.uk

Reception intake 2027 School Tours

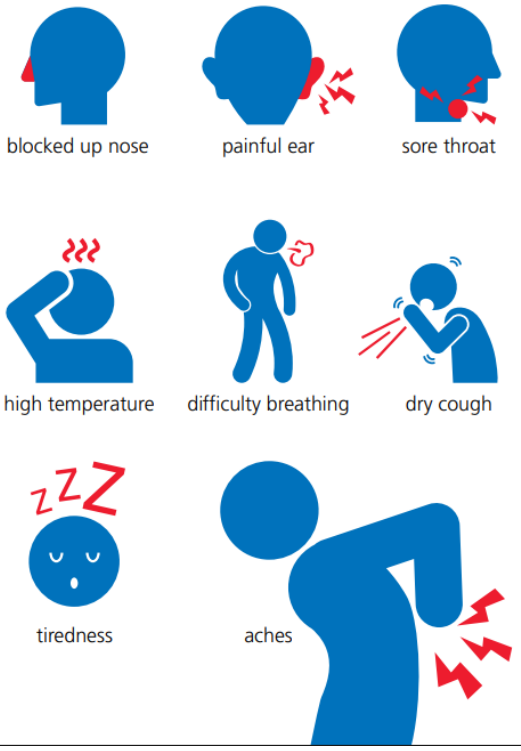


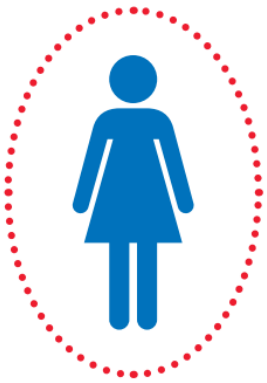
NHS Flu Immunisation Information



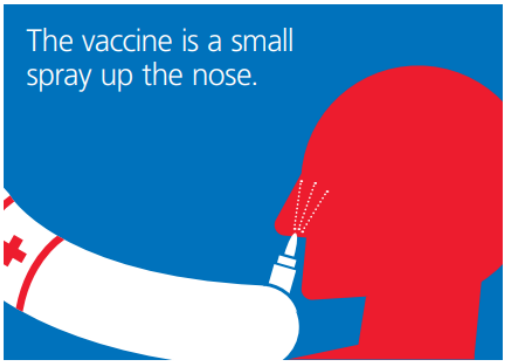


Here are the signs of flu.





Having a vaccine can help stop you catching flu.



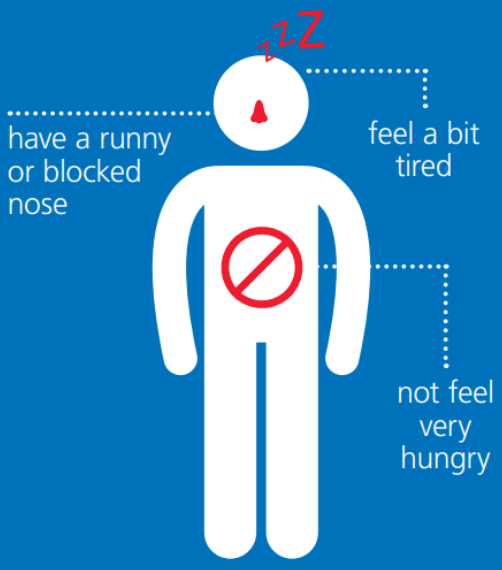
The best time to have a flu spray is in the autumn.

You need a flu spray every year as flu can change each year.

2021 2022 2023

Will the nasal spray make me feel ill?

After a nasal spray you may:



This will go away in a few days.

If you have any questions or want more information, talk to your school nurse.



You can also find information online at
www.tinyurl.com/NHSfluinfo

PH Active - After School Sports Clubs



Congresbury Tennis Club



St Andrews After School Tennis Club

Run by the Congresbury Tennis Club Coaching Team

Our fun and engaging after school tennis club is perfect for children in Year 1 and above who want to develop their skills, make friends, and enjoy the game!

- ⏰ Time: 3:15pm – 4:25pm
- 📍 Location: Congresbury Tennis Club (children are safely walked down by our coaches – just a 10-minute walk from school)
- 🎾 Activities: Rally skills, serving practice, match play, and building confidence on court
- 👥 Group size: Maximum of 10 children for quality coaching
- 💷 Cost: £30 for a 6-week block

Children will be collected from St Andrews reception at 3:15pm by our coaching team and walked safely to the tennis club. Parents will then collect them directly from the tennis club at 4:25pm.

Come and join us for some tennis fun after school – spaces are limited!

https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CongresburyLTC/Coaching/Book/e88d1496-6bb2-4df3-a9af-ef1bb6535897

Drama Club - Stage Starlings

I'm delighted to invite your child to join **Stage Starlings**, our fun and creative after-school drama club, with a new term starting next Wednesday! Stage Starlings is open to students in years 3-6.

My name is Eleanor, and I'm a drama teacher and theatre director with extensive experience working with children and young people. I teach drama at Stagecoach Weston-super-Mare and am involved in directing and teaching with Lympsham Musical Theatre and Wrington Drama Club. Directing productions such as Frozen Jr at The Blakehay Theatre and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. I'm passionate about helping young performers discover their confidence, develop their skills and, most importantly, enjoy every moment of being creative.

Stage Starlings is designed to give children a welcoming, supportive space where they can express themselves, make new friends and have lots of fun. Through drama games, improvisation, character work and storytelling, students develop confidence, communication, teamwork and imagination. Whether your child loves being in the spotlight or is a little more reserved, there is a place for them at Stage Starlings. No previous drama experience is needed!

This term's details

- **Day:** Wednesdays
- **Time:** 3.15pm–4.15pm
- **Term dates:** Wednesday 16th September - Wednesday 21st October
- **Cost:** £7.50 per session
- **Full term:** 6 sessions, £45 in total

If your child is new to Stage Starlings and would like to give it a go before committing to the full term, they are very welcome to attend a **trial session for £7.50**. It's a lovely opportunity to meet the group, join in with the activities and see whether they enjoy it.

To sign up, please complete the booking form below:

https://forms.gle/TnJzkKVyow3CMFcG7

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at stagestarlings@gmail.com[1] and check out our instagram page to see what we get up to: https://www.instagram.com/stagestarlings/

I would love to welcome your child to Stage Starlings and look forward to another term of creativity, confidence-building and lots of laughter!

[1] mailto:stagestarlings@gmail.com

Best wishes,

-

Eleanor CashmanStage Starlings07870811931



Celebration Assembly



Friday 25th September

Kingfisher Crew: Evie Zenaida

Jay Crew: Rhys Neveah

Owl Crew: Alfie Mabel

Kestrel Crew: Amber Penelope

Falcon Crew: Megan Lottie

Eagle Crew: William Jack

Friday 02nd October

Kingfisher Crew: Caleb Benji

Jay Crew: William Teddy

Owl Crew: Ivy Reuben

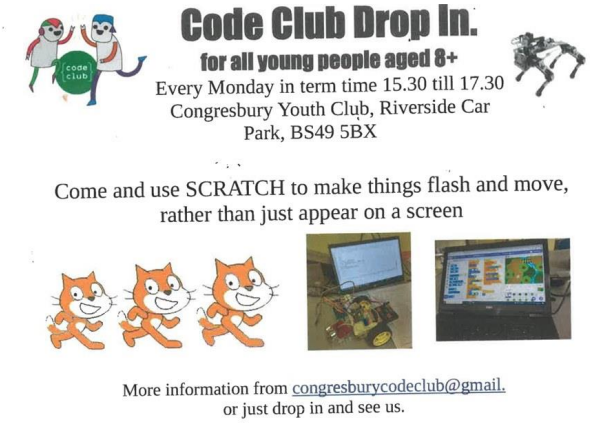
Kestrel Crew: Ellis Delilah

Falcon Crew: Arlo Charlotte

Eagle Crew: Jonah Kasper

Community News

Congresbury Code Club



Community Pantomime



Yatton RFC Community Day



Half Term Fun Days



Shine Holiday Clubs @Backwell School



Last chance to save 15% on Shine Half Term Holiday Clubs - ends this Sunday

We've loved seeing so many children at Shine Holiday Clubs this year and can't wait to welcome more of you.

For children at any school from Reception – Year 6, days run from 09:00-15:30 with early and late hours available if you need them.

With a range of exciting activities including; Creepy Creative, Cursed Cookery, Descendants Dance, Football Fun Days and Mini & Mega Monster Mash - there really is a day your child will love.

Shine are Ofsted Registered so you can pay via Childcare Vouchers and the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme.

Click here Shine Holiday Clubs | Sports and creative activities[2] to see what's on and use the code **Early Booker to get 15% off.**

School Calendar Dates

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1 - Thursday 3rd September 2026 - Friday 23rd October 2026

Term 2 - Monday 2nd November 2026 - Friday 18th December 2026

Term 3- Monday 4th January 2027 - Friday 12th February 2027

Term 4 - Monday 22nd February 2027 - Thursday 25th March 2027

Term 5 - Monday 12th April 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027

Term 6 - Monday 7th June 2027 - Friday 23rd July 2027

INSET days 2026-2027

Friday 20th November 2026

Friday 15th January 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027

Monday 12th April 2027

Annual Planner - Dates to remember

Dates to Remember 2026 - 2027:

School Book Fair -Friday 3rd October until Wednesday 8th October.

[2] https://myshine.co.uk/holiday-clubs?venue=6481d62b85360a001128ba88

Young carers meeting: Tuesday 13th October

Parents Evening: Tuesday 20th October @ 4:00-7:00pm

Worship for Parents Falcons: NEW DATE Monday 19th October moved from Monday 7th December @ 2:45pm

Parents Evening: Thursday 22ndth October @ 3:40-6:40pm

School Nursing Team Flu Nasal Immunisations 4th November 2026

Robins Stay & Play: Saturday 7th November 2026

Children In Need 2026 - Friday 13th November

PTA Disco Thursday 19th November 2026

Bikeability Level 2 : Monday 30th November @ AM and PM

Bikeability Level 2 Level 1 : Tuesday 1st December @ AM or PM

Individual School Photographs: Wednesday 2nd December

Bikeability Level 2 Tuesday 2nd December

Bikeability Wednesday Level 2 3rd December

PTA Christmas Shopping: Friday 4th December 2026

Bikeability Level 2 Tuesday 8th December

Worship for Parents Falcons: Monday 7th December @ 2:45pm

Nativity Performance to Parents: Wednesday 9th December

Nativity Performance to Parents: Thursday 10th December

Worship for Parents Eagles: NEW DATE Monday 14th December moved from 21st September @ 2:45pm

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day: Thursday 10th December

PTA Christmas Fair: Friday 11th December 2026

Year 6 Fish N Chip Disco Wednesday 16th December

Rocksteady Concert for Parents & KS2: Thursday 17th December 2026 9:30am

PTA Mufti Day: TBC

Worship for Parents Owls: Monday 8th February @ 2:45pm

Family Breakfast: Thursday 4th March

World Book Day: Thursday 4th March

Book Fair Delivered: Thursday 11th March

Parents Evening: Tuesday 23rd March @ 4:00-7:00pm

Parents Evening: Thursday 25th March @ 3:40-6:40pm

Worship for Parents Kingfishers: Monday 22nd March @ 2:45pm

Y6 Lifeskills: Tuesday 9th March

Rocksteady Concert for Parents & KS1: Thursday 18th March 9:30am

PTA Mufti Day: TBC

PTA Easter Egg Hunt: TBC

SATs Week & SATs Breakfast: Monday 10h – Thursday 13th May

Worship for Parents Kestrels: Monday 17th May @ 2:45pm

Y6 Camp: TBC

PTA Mufti Day: TBC

Sports Day KS2 – Monday 14th June moved from Friday 18th June KS2AM / KS1PM

Reserved Sports Day – Monday 28th June moved from Friday 2nd July KS2 AM / KS1 PM

Permission to Play: Friday 9th July

Class School Photography Tuesday 6th July AM

Worship for Parents Jays: Monday 5th July @ 2:45pm

Rocksteady Concert for Parents & KS2: Thursday 15th July 9:30am

Y6 Leavers Service: Thursday 22nd July

PTA Mufti Day: TBC

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[3]

School Phone Number: 01934 832505

[3] mailto:office@standrewsprimary.org.uk