

St. Andrew's Newsletter 04 26/27

No: 04 || Friday 23rd October 2026

National Nurturing
School Award
2025

St Andrew's Primary School



Can you help our school please?

We are wondering if there may be any parents / carers able to help us please? Do you have any equipment that may be useful to help us move our PE Tin to another area within the school?





We are also seeking any parents / carers who may have connections within the dental industry to come in and speak to our Robins Crew about their role. If you are able to help with either of these, please get in touch with the school office.



Christian Vale - Courage

Our Christian value this term is COURAGE



Attendance Figures

Attendance for this academic year to 23/10/2026

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98%	92%	96.5%	97%	98%	96%	96%

Celebration Treats

We would like to remind parents / carers that we cannot accept treats for children to give out to their class friends for occasional celebrations. It is something that we have allowed in the past but will no longer continue to do. This is across all of our classes and is to ensure we can keep all children with allergies and medical conditions safe.

Thank you for your support.



LSP Allergy Update

IMPORTANT UPDATE

LSP Allergy Policy

As mentioned in this week's bulletin the Trust-wide Allergy Policy has been reviewed and ratified by the Audit and Risk Committee and published on the LSP website.

This policy applies to all schools and outlines how we will address and mitigate risk of allergies within our organisation.

You can view the policy on the LSP website (public facing) or LSP Leaders Connect (internal only)

We are expecting further guidance from the Government regarding Benedict's Law prior to January 2027. Should the policy or our processes need to be updated as a result of this we will let you know.

Next steps for schools:

Staff Training: Please continue to ensure staff are completing the 'Allergy training' module on iAM Compliant (as outlined on the Training Matrix). This is compulsory for all staff this year.
During a staff briefing/meeting before the end of this term please run through the published Allergy Policy and ensure you cover the local arrangements for allergy support in your school (including locations of AAIs (epi-pens) and pupils with known severe allergies). We are aware that some schools using dummy AAIs to practice administering them. This is not mandatory (this process is covered in the iAM compliant training), but could help staff feel more prepared.

School Website: You should already have a link to the LSP policies page on your website, so do not need to upload this policy directly to your website. If you have a list of the names of trust-wide policies, please add Allergy Policy to this list so parents/carers will know where to find this.

Communications: You can include this policy's publication on emails/newsletter home. You may also wish to reiterate communications with staff and parents/carers in regards to items being brought onto the school site for snacks/lunchboxes, birthday celebrations and cake sales/fundraising activities etc (section 7.4 of the policy) and how risks for allergies relating to this need to be managed.

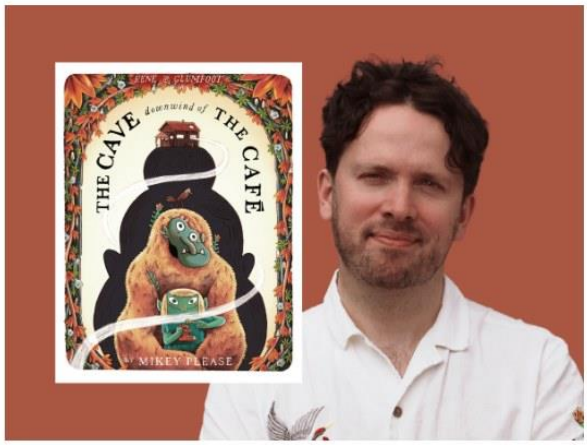
Meet out new Reading Ambassadors



Meet our wonderful new reading ambassadors! They are on hand to help with recommending books, looking after the library, helping with author visits and book events and making reading even better at St Andrew's.

A virtual visit from Mikey Please

Last week Kingfishers, Jays, Owls and Kestrels enjoyed a virtual visit from author Mikey Please. We got to hear all about the books that Mikey has written and did a draw along workshop. We were even able to ask him questions. Anyone who ordered a signed book will receive them this week. We hope the children enjoyed it and were inspired.



Schooltastic Bookfair

Thank you to everyone for supporting our school book fair. We earned £299 of rewards from all the books sold. This will be used to add new books to the school library. Thank you!

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR

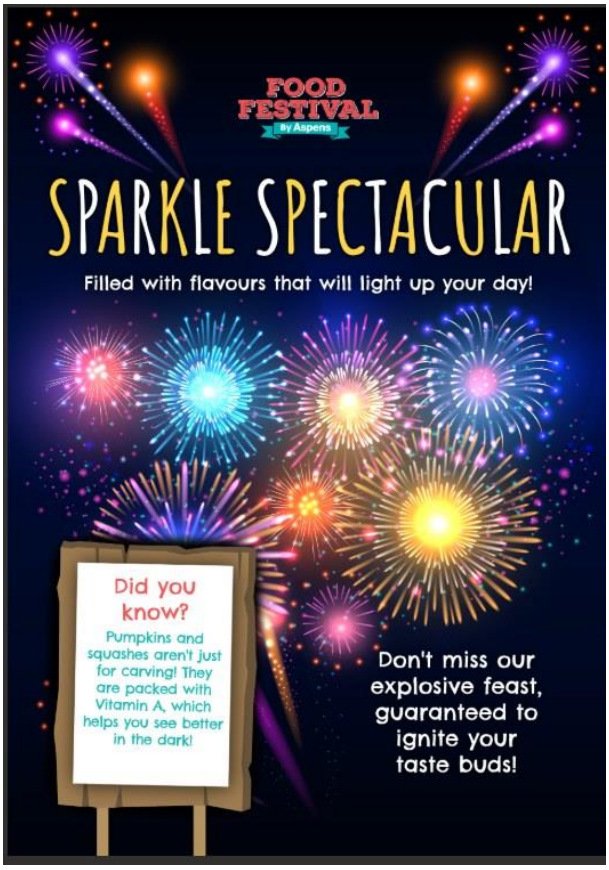
Readers for Life

Branching Out - Harry Potter



Sparkle Spectacular Wednesday 5th November

On Wednesday 5th November Aspens are offering an explosive menu to celebrate Bonfire Night. You can make your order via Select. We hope the children's lunch goes off with a bang.


FOOD FESTIVAL
by Aspens
SPARKLE SPECTACULAR
Filled with flavours that will light up your day!
Did you know?
Pumpkins and squashes aren't just for carving! They are packed with Vitamin A, which helps you see better in the dark!
Don't miss our explosive feast, guaranteed to ignite your taste buds!


FOOD FESTIVAL
SPARKLE SPECTACULAR
5th November
Bonfire Banger Hot Dog Baguettes
with Potato Wedges
and Smoky BBQ Baked Beans
Or
Quorn Bonfire Banger Hot Dogs
with Potato Wedges
and Smoky BBQ Baked Beans
And
Toffee Apple Sponge & Custard


FOOD FESTIVAL
SPARKLE SPECTACULAR
Top 14 Allergen Free Menu
5th November
ALLERGY FREE MENU
Bonfire Beef Chilli
with Sweet Potato Wedges
and Sweetcorn
Or
Bonfire Veggie Bean Chilli
with Sweet Potato Wedges
and Sweetcorn
And
Sparkle Cookies

PTA Bags2School - Wednesday 4th November



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

FREE SCHOOL MEALS
HOW TO APPLY

LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Applying is quick, easy and could save you up to £495 per child, per year on school lunches

1 CHECK IF YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE

From September 2026, more families may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM):

- **TARGETED FSM** - based on low household income (see benefits listed below)
- **EXPANDED FSM** - if you receive Universal Credit, you may be eligible

MY CHILD IS IN RECEPTION OR KS1 - DO I STILL NEED TO APPLY?

Yes, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals automatically. However, registering for Free School Meals may provide access to additional funding and support for the school and your child.

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FSM IF:

1. **Your household recieves Universal Credit**

OR

2. **You receive any of the following benefits:**
   - Income support
   - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
   - support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act*
   - Child Tax Credit*
   - Working Tax Credit*

*further details apply - see full list here.

2 HOW TO APPLY - You can apply using the following methods:

APPLY ONLINE (recommended)
Apply before the end of the summer break, via your local council website:

- **North Somerset Council - apply here**
- **BANES Council - apply here**
- **Bristol City Council - apply here**

APPLY USING A PAPER FORM
Complete the paper application form and return it to your school office before the end of July 2026.

- **You can find the form here**
- **Hard copies are available from the school office**
- **If your child is moving to a new school in September, please pass the form to the new school before the end of term**

3 WHEN TO APPLY

Apply online over the summer break, or return the paper form to your school office by the end of the summer term, to ensure your paper work is processed in time for the start of September.

4 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You will be notified of the outcome of your application.
Important to note: parents will need to reapply every year

FIND OUT MORE
Follow the QR code to find further details

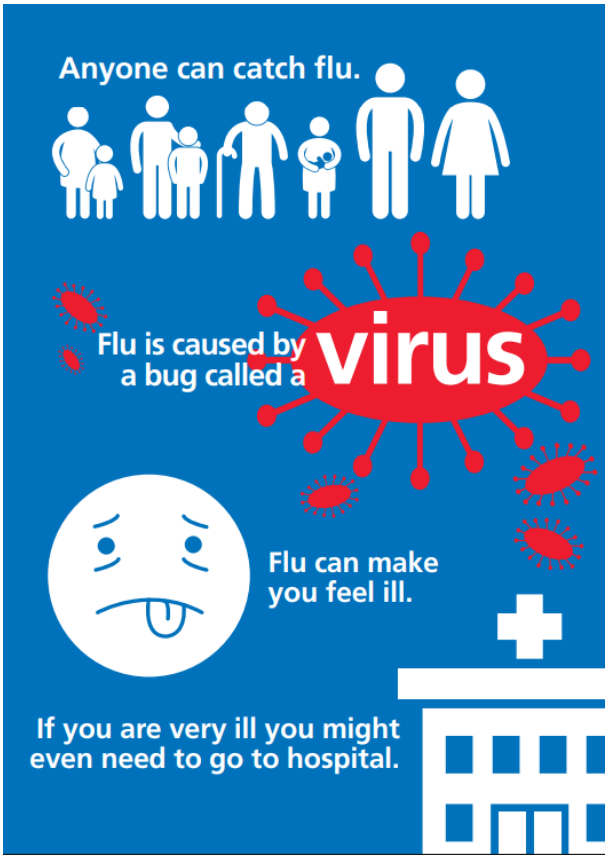
FIND OUT MORE: WWW.LSP.ORG.UK/FSM-CHANGES

Reception intake 2027 School Tours

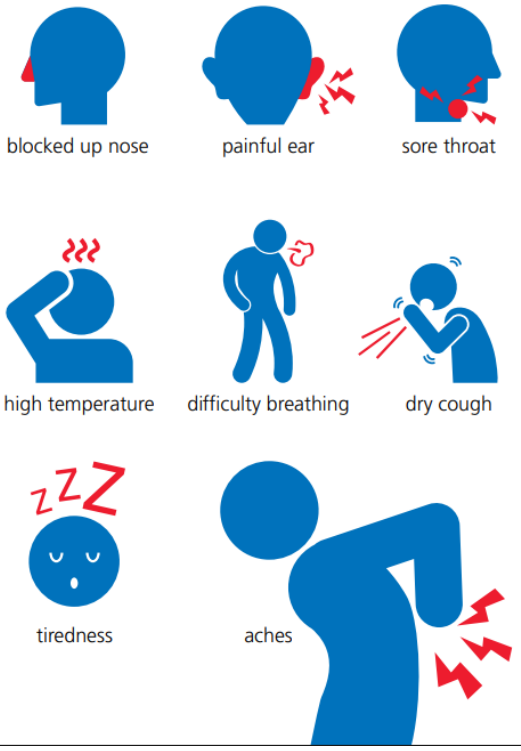


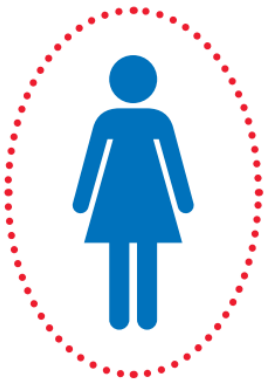
NHS Flu Immunisation Information



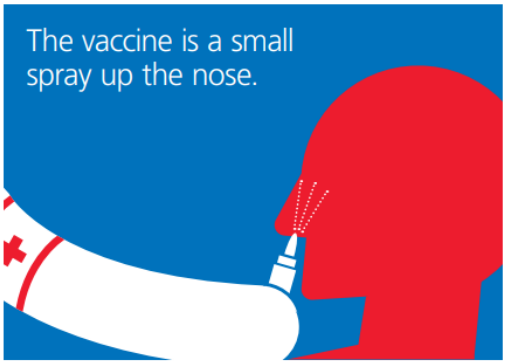


Here are the signs of flu.





Having a vaccine can help stop you catching flu.



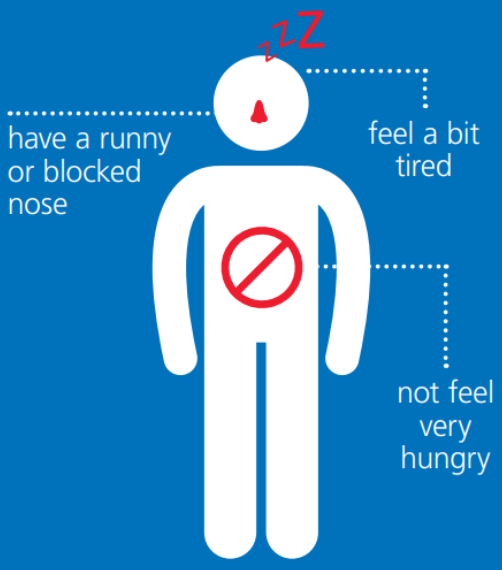
The best time to have a flu spray is in the autumn.

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 - Term 2



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 - Term 2

Calling All Young Performers – Join Us for a Magical Christmas at Stage Starlings!

Does your child love performing, making new friends, being creative or simply having fun? Perhaps they'd like to grow in confidence, try something new or discover their inner star?

Stage Starlings Drama Club is back for a very exciting Christmas term, and we'd love to welcome some new faces!

This term, we'll be bringing a much-loved Christmas classic to life with our very own production of...

SCROOGE: A Christmas Carol!

Inspired by Charles Dickens' timeless festive tale, our young performers will step into the magical world of Ebenezer Scrooge, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, and a host of wonderfully colourful characters!

Over six fun-filled sessions, the children will explore characters, learn lines, develop their acting skills, play drama games and work together to create a special Christmas performance for family and friends.

Why Join Stage Starlings?

Drama is about so much more than standing on a stage! Our sessions are designed to help children:

- **Build confidence and self-esteem** – finding their voice and feeling proud of what they can achieve.
- **Develop creativity and imagination** – exploring characters, stories and exciting new ideas.
- **Make friends and develop teamwork** – learning to listen, collaborate and support one another.
- **Improve communication skills** – developing clear speech, expression and the confidence to speak in front of others.
- **Have LOTS of fun!** – through drama games, improvisation, laughter and performance!

At Stage Starlings, I absolutely love seeing children grow in confidence, form friendships and discover what they're capable of. For me, drama isn't just about creating a fantastic final performance, it's about making sure every child feels valued, encouraged and proud of themselves along the way.

Whether your child is a budding West End star or someone who has never tried drama before, everyone is welcome! There's no experience necessary, just a willingness to have a go.

Christmas Term Dates

Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November 2nd and 9th December

Christmas Performance: Wednesday 9th December

Our final session will include a special performance of *SCROOGE: A Christmas Carol!* for parents and families to enjoy.

Not Sure? Come and Give It a Try!

We know that trying something new can feel a little daunting, so we're offering a **one-off trial session on Wednesday 4th November for just £7.50.**

It's the perfect opportunity for children to meet the group, join in some fun drama activities and see whether Stage Starlings is for them, with no obligation to continue.

Interested in Joining Us?

We'd love your child to be part of our festive adventure!

To book a trial session or ask any questions, please get in touch:

Email: stagestarlings@gmail.com[1]

Phone: 07870 811931

Places are limited, so please do get in touch if your child would like to join the fun!

I can't wait to welcome our young performers and start bringing a little Christmas magic to the stage!

--

Eleanor Cashman Stage Starlings 07870811931

[1] mailto:stagestarlings@gmail.com


STAGE STARLINGS
DRAMA CLUB
FOR YEARS 3-6
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
UNTIL 4.15PM
Christmas Performance
SCROOGE!
A Christmas Carol
One-off trial session 4th Nov £7.50
£7.50 per session
stagestarlings@gmail.com
07870811931

Celebration Assembly



Friday Friday 09th October

Kingfisher Crew: Archie Adaline

Jay Crew: Kiera Rome

Owl Crew: Piper Theadora

Kestrel Crew: Louis Edward S

Falcon Crew: Josh Harley

Eagle Crew: Matilda Ivy

Friday 16th October

Kingfisher Crew: Olivia Cillian

Jay Crew: Max Bonnie

Owl Crew: Crimea Danny

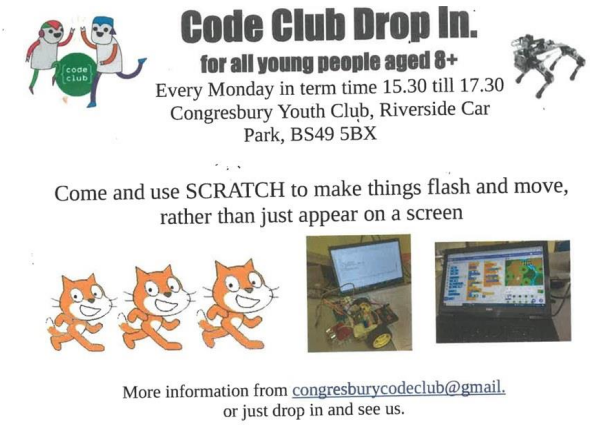
Kestrel Crew: Alice Salman

Falcon Crew: Lottie James

Eagle Crew: Everyone

Community News

Congresbury Code Club



North Somerset - Better Health



A special health event is being held in Weston-Super-Mare next Tuesday. The event is running from 10am-2pm at the Healthy Living Centre, BS23 3SJ. There will a range of free

advice and support for families including blood pressure checks, flu jabs, covid vaccinations, weight advice, Healthy Start information, mental health information and stop smoking advice

Community Pantomime



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.**

Local Counselling Service - Feather Compass Counselling



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

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

Friday 15th January 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027

Monday 12th April 2027

Annual Planner - Dates to remember

Dates to Remember 2026-2027

PTA Mufti Day: Friday 23rd October

School Nursing Team Flu Nasal Immunisations 4th November 2026

Bags 2 School Collection: Wednesday 4th November

Robins Stay & Play: Saturday 7th November 2026

PTA AGM: Wednesday 11th November

PTA Autumn Disco: Thursday 19th November

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

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

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day: Thursday 10th December

Christmas Fair: Friday 11th December

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

Fish N Chip Disco Wednesday 16th December

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

PTA Mufti Day: Friday 18th December

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

Year 6 Churchill Transition Day Tuesday 29th June

Year 6 Drama Day @ Churchill Wednesday 30th June

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 Website: www.standrewscongresbury.co.uk[3]

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[4]

School Phone Number: 01934 832505

[3] http://www.standrewscongresbury.co.uk/
[4] mailto:office@standrewsprimary.org.uk