

October 2025- End of Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous start to the new academic year we have had. The children continue to work hard each and every day and it is wonderful to share their learning journey with them. Welcoming them in at the gate each morning is such a lovely start to the day. Our new starters, across the school and in Reception, have quickly settled into the routines and we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them.

Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been making the most of their phenomenal new trim trail. It has been such a successful community project, once again our thanks go out to all who contributed to this. The children and staff are very grateful, we know it will continue to bring a lot of fun for many years to come.



Charity Work

We have helped to raise some money for several charities this term. Through wearing something green and buying cakes, the children raised an incredible £173.82 for Macmillan Cancer Support- thank you for all the donations and for coming to join us in the afternoon for some cake!



Our annual #helloyellow day raised £64 for YoungMinds, a charity supporting young people's mental health.

The children donated money and wore something yellow; we had great fun throughout the day including a whole school Zumba session led by Mrs Nevard.



Parents' Meetings

Thank you to all who attended our recent Parents' Meetings, if you did not manage to attend and would like an update on your child's progress, please contact Miss Braithwaite to arrange an appointment or telephone call with your child's teacher.

Parental Surveys

We have now sent out the Parent Survey for you to complete online. The governors and I would be very grateful if you could find the time to complete this. I am always keen to know what is working well and any suggestions to help improve our provision are very welcome.

PE

This term, Mr Kerrigan has joined our teaching team and has been working with the children across the school. They are loving his sessions. He has also run a busy after-school club and a bonus handball tournament for Phoenix and Dragons classes.

Outside of school, three of our children in year 6 represented the school at the cross-country event held by Huish CLP. Well done to Beau, Jason and Thatcher for flying the school flag so brilliantly.

Visitors and enrichment opportunities

We enjoyed another wonderful day with Darrell Wakelam earlier this term, he worked with all the children and their families on class themed pieces. It is always lovely to see the children sharing their ideas with parents and carers and we love welcoming you in to school to share these opportunities,

To support learning in PSHE, the children have had workshops this term with the following themes:

Year R – All About Me, Years 1 and 2 – My Wonderful Body, Year 3 and 4 – Meet the Brain and Years 5 and 6 – Friends.

The children in year 2 have been enjoying their weekly outdoor learning sessions with Mrs Hall. They have created creatures made of clay, learned to light fires, munched their way through s'mores and milkshakes, created art through nature and had a thoroughly good time! Thank you to Mrs Hall for running these sessions.

Unicorn Harvest Assembly

Unicorns Class hosted another amazing Harvest Assembly to a packed hall. The children performed so well, sharing a story, songs and poems. The donations

of produce were delivered to Victoria Boulton at Langport Cares Foodbank who sent the following message:

“I just wanted to thank everyone for the extremely generous donations to Langport Cares Foodbank. They have made all the difference to people dealing with difficult times.

Thanks again for your support.”



New Starters, September 2026



We have already shown many prospective parents and children around for our September 2026 intake. Thank you so much for sharing your experiences of the school with family, friends and villagers. We are so keen to ensure that we continue to offer local children the very best education and your positive feedback really enables our school to continue to grow. If you know of anyone looking for a place in Reception from next September, please do ask them to call the school office to book a tour. (01823 698464) We would love to show them around.

Uniform

Once again, please ensure that all uniform is clearly named. Reuniting numerous jumpers and cardigans can prove a little tricky when items are not labelled. Please remember that there is no requirement for the children to wear the jumpers with our logo on. As lovely as these jumpers and cardigans are, the children do grow constantly, I really do appreciate how costly this can become. We do have some spare uniform, in very good condition, so please ask at the gate or in the office if there is anything you need for your child/children.



As the weather is changing, please ensure your child/children have a Warm, waterproof coat in school each day. We like them to get out in the fresh air as much as possible even on wet days! We do have a few coats available if you need one, please ask us.

On PE days, children may wear blue or black tracksuit bottoms and should bring their school jumper with them. There should not be any alternative colour jumpers or sweatshirts worn for PE days. Earrings and jewellery should not be worn to school on Wednesday (PE days) or Thursday for Dragons class who go swimming.

Attendance

Our combined attendance figure for both schools currently stands at 96%. Parents and Carers of children whose attendance is below 96% will receive an attendance letter.

Whilst we understand that much of the attendance is due to medical reasons, we are required to inform parents of their child's attendance level. All authorised sickness is recorded as such, unauthorised absence is given when no reason is given for an absence or when leave for days off or holidays does not the criteria to be granted exception. Our attendance policy can be found on our website.



PTA

Following the recent AGM meeting, we welcome back some familiar faces to the committee who remain in post and a couple of new faces too. Ella (Chair), Kirstie (Vice-Chair), Emma (Treasurer), Rachael and Alex (Secretary), Jodie (Banker), Kirstie (Fundraising and Publicity) and Alex (Event Co-ordinator). It is wonderful to hear that the meeting was attended by other parents so thank you for your support.

PTA Fundraising

Today's dressing-up event has been a great success with lots of fantastic costumes and wonderful make-up! The staff also embraced the fun!



Remembrance Exhibition at Wells Cathedral.

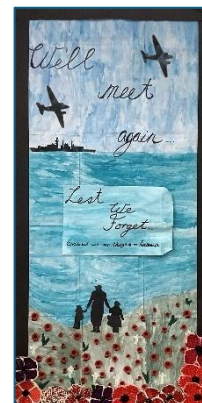
To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day and the end of World War 11, the Cathedral invited schools to contribute to a **Schools' Remembrance Exhibition**. As a school, we have submitted three collaboration pieces of work for the Remembrance Exhibition. The children's work can be viewed in the Chapter House at Wells Cathedral between **3rd and 30th November**.



Unicorns Class



Phoenix Class



Dragons Class

Please take a look at the individual class overviews at the end of the letter.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 3rd November.

Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othry Team

Half Term Suggestions....



Just For Tonight
The Night The Turkeys Flew
A NEW MUSICAL ADVENTURE

Mark Whitford-Williams

Children's Half Term Music & Create Workshop!

Work with an artist and local composer to help create props for our upcoming music event – and have fun exploring ways of making music!

Calling All Young Music Explorers!

- What: Children's Music Workshop with Clay & Craft
- Who: All kids in School Years 3-7 (aged 7-12yrs) no experience needed—just bring your energy & a packed lunch!
- When: Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th October 10am-3pm
- Where: Middlezoy Village Hall
- Cost: Just £7.50 per day

To book your spot, simply text Caroline on 07718 487317
All in support of the 22nd November event 'Just for Tonight', bring your wildest imagination, and let's get creative together!



Half-Term Holiday Activities: Art Adventures

WELLS CATHEDRAL

27-29 October 2025, 10:30-15:30

Take inspiration from Wells Art Contemporary (WAC) installations in the Cathedral this half term with our creative drop-in workshops for families!

Monday 27 October
Branching Out
Explore relationships between humans and trees with 2D and 3D art

Tuesday 28 October
Willow and Windows
Create a willow-framed suncatcher

Wednesday 29 October
Decorate a Deck
Design a deck and create your own mini skateboard model



Admission FREE with adult entry. No need to book – simply drop in on the day! Plan your visit online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays

Standard adult admission tickets include re-entry for 12 months from date of purchase so you can enjoy access to a number of seasonal events, including exhibitions and Family Holiday Activities beyond your initial visit. Please note that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at these activities.

WELLS ART

The following websites may give you some helpful ideas for budget friendly days out and places where children eat free or for £1...

<https://www.somersetfamilyadventures.com/free-things-to-do-in-somerset-budget-friendly-adventures/>

<https://moneytothemas.com/quick-savings/tips/how-to-save-money-on-eating-out-with-children-this-school-holiday#>

<https://downsomersetway.co.uk/october-half-term-activities-in-somerset/>

<https://www.visitsomerset.co.uk/things-to-do>

Unicorn Class

We have had a lovely half term in Unicorn Class. It has been a pleasure to welcome 8 new children into reception and 1 child into year 2. They have all settled in so quickly and we have loved getting to know them. Our year 1 and 2 cohorts have hit the ground running and are already pushing themselves and making great progress. We are very proud of them all!

Our reception children have learnt lots of new sounds and are beginning to learn to blend these to form simple words, a skill that is essential for early reading. Our year 1 children have embraced the challenges of transitioning to the National Curriculum and are demonstrating great resilience and stamina! Whilst year 2 are consolidating their existing knowledge and learning new skills that will enable them to become even more independent.

We have enjoyed creating some collaborative Remembrance art that will be on display in Wells Cathedral, hosting our harvest festival assembly, a wonderful family learning session with Darrell and above all having lots of hands-on fun!



Phoenix Class

We have had a fantastic first half term in Phoenix. We have worked hard and crammed a lot of learning in. I am incredibly proud of Year 3 who have settled into Key Stage 2 so well and tackled everything thrown at them. Year 4 have also worked very hard and challenged themselves to extend their learning. In English we have looked at some books related to our History and Science topics. We wrote a diary based on the characters in Stone Age Boy as well as some beautiful descriptions of cave paintings and progressed to writing our very own time travelling adventure story. We studied the history of the Earth whilst reading 'The Pebble in My Pocket' and imagined where our own pebbles might have come from.

In Maths we have looked at Place Value, Addition and Subtraction. We have practiced using suitable methods and are beginning to really understand these key mathematical areas. We have regularly been practising our times tables and made good progress at these too, keep up the good work. In Science we have been learning all about rocks, soils and fossils, conducting experiments on different types of rocks and soils and creating the layers of the Earth out of apple, biscuits, golden syrup and custard!

We have gone about as far back as you can go in History this term, from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We've learnt about what life was like for people back then and some of the significant developments over time. We created a fact file about the Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae, learnt some Bronze Age rituals and compared homes through these time periods.

In Computing we have explored branching databases and made our own dinosaur-based ones. In French we have learnt 8 animals and the numbers 1-12. In RE we have learnt a lot about Hindu gods and the story of Rama and Sita to celebrate Diwali. In PSHE we have been learning about ourselves and relationships. We have studied William Morris in Art and created our own wallpaper designs.



Dragons Class

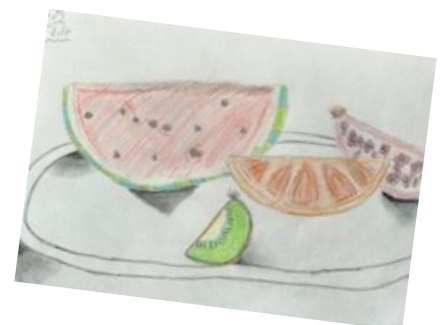
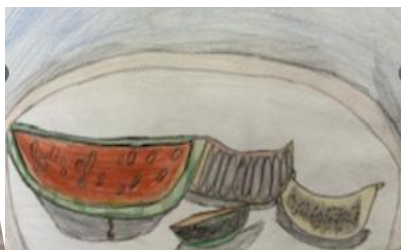
This half term really has flown by, and the children have settled in well to Year 5 and 6 and they are all working incredibly hard. In the mornings, the Year 5s have focused on place value, the four operations and have just moved onto learning about fractions, which will continue into next half term. They continue to practise their arithmetic skills daily as part of their morning starters and practise their times tables weekly, which are vital to their other areas of Maths over the coming year. In English, the Year 5 children have focused their writing on the Anglo-Saxon story Beowulf. They have written a CV for Beowulf, created a kenning poem linked to one of the characters, retold the story in their own words and have created their own defeat the monster story. They really have produced some fantastic writing this half term.

The children in Year 6 have developed their descriptive writing and focussed on using this with their own stories. They have written instructions linked to their family learning with Darrell Wakelam and penned their own autobiographies. They have also created a piece of work for display at Wells Cathedral linked to remembrance. They have started to read Carrie's War and will continue with this next term. In Maths, they have revisited all four operations and confidently tackled both long multiplication and division this term. Most recently, they have looked at the order of operations. Their arithmetic skills are becoming incredibly strong, they are now confidently using and applying this well to problem solving and reasoning.

In Science, the class have learnt about materials and their properties, carrying out several investigations including trying to find the best material to insulate a poorly designed travel cup. In history lessons, they have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Scots settlement into Britain after the Romans. The children have explored many aspects of their lives including the differing tribes and rankings, kingdoms, religions and their settlements, where they designed and annotated their own Anglo-Saxon settlement. After half term, we will then be moving onto exploring the Vikings battle for power over England against the Anglo-Saxons.

During our computing lessons, the children have been learning about flat-file databases, where they have investigated physical and online records and data as well as looking at real life data by exploring flight options on Expedia. In French, they have spent this half term consolidating of their learning on greetings and holding a small conversation by asking and answering questions about one another.

In Art on Fridays with Mrs Brown, the children have focussed on still life drawings with some phenomenal pieces having been created. Some of the work will be on display in the entrance hall next term.



Upcoming Dates

Autumn Term 2

Wednesday 5th November – YR R Vision Screenings (An Opt-Out Letter has been sent home)

Thursday 6th November – Swimming for Dragons

Friday 7th November – Tempest Photography (Afternoon session)

Monday 10th November – Anti-Bullying Week starts with ODD SOCKS DAY

Tuesday 11th November – Remembrance Day

Friday 14th November – BBC Children in Need Day



Tuesday 2nd December – Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament at Huish Episcopi Academy

Tuesday 9th December – Unicorn Class Nativity @ Oothery Village Hall- 1:30pm start

Thursday 11th December – Whole School Trip to McMillan Theatre to watch Cinderella.

Thursday 18th December – PTA Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 19th December – Church Service tbc

End of Autumn Term 2

Spring Term 1

Monday 5th January – Inset Day

Tuesday 6th January – Spring Term 1 starts- gates open at 8:30am

Wednesday 7th January – PE sessions start for all

Thursday 8th January – Swimming for Dragons

Keeping Children Safe Online

In such a rapidly changing world, keeping up to date with the latest online games, platforms and crazes can be a challenge. To support you with this, there is a dedicated page on our website which, along with the links below, give some good guidance and advice.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://nationalcollege.com/parents>

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- **1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- **2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.
- **3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS**

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.
- **4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- **5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP**

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- **6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- **7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- **8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- **9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- **10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

 **National Online Safety**
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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