

## December 2025- End of Autumn Term 2



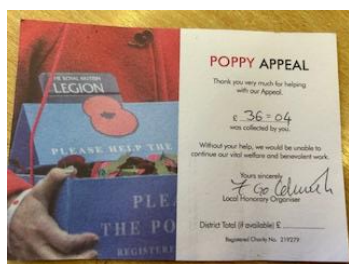
Dear Parents and Carers,

As Autumn term comes to a close, it is great to reflect back on what has been an exceptional start to the new academic year, filled with energy and enthusiasm. From the first day of term, our pupils have demonstrated a positive attitude towards learning and have wholeheartedly embraced the opportunities they have been given. The atmosphere across the school is vibrant and purposeful, the children are full of curiosity and creativity. This strong beginning sets the tone for what promises to be a year of growth, achievement, and memorable experiences for all.



### Charity Work

This term we have held a 'Come to School in Pyjamas' Day to raise money for BBC Children in Need and raised £87.50. We were also fortunate to have been visited by Pudsey himself to thank us for our efforts!



We also raised £36.04 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Thank you for all your support with these appeals.



### Parental Surveys

Thank you to everyone who completed the Parental Surveys. We received some very encouraging feedback and comments from you, including:

*"I believe the school to be a safe, positive and encouraging environment where my two children are always happy and fulfilled. The staff are always happy to discuss any concerns and on the rare occasions any issues arise they are dealt with quickly and efficiently. I would recommend this school to anyone".*

*"Our son is thriving here and his love for learning is so evident from the way he describes his day to us. He's very happy and making excellent progress academically and personally. We are so pleased and grateful for all that staff do to make this school such a wonderful place to learn".*

*"My child moved to the school recently and has enjoyed every day and says he loves the school and all teachers. He has settled in really well and finds everyone so friendly".*

As always, we appreciate your feedback and ideas for improvements. If there is anything you think we can do to improve then please do speak to me or Mrs Silver.

## **Parents' Meetings**

Our next Parent Meetings will take place on the afternoons of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026. We will let you know when the bookings go live for this.

## **PE**

This half-term, Mr Kerrigan has focussed on improving the children's motor skills with lessons in Football, Hockey and Frisbees. He will continue to offer an After-school Sports club for KS2 on Wednesday afternoons. Reception and KS1 will get their opportunity in the summer term. We have some additional sporting events planned for next term including a fencing session and our Year 4s will be heading to Yeovil to take part in some hockey sessions.

## **Visitors and enrichment opportunities**

### **High Sherriff of Somerset**



On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we welcomed Janet Montgomery, High Sheriff of Somerset, to our schools. Janet spoke to the children about her role as the High Sheriff, explaining the history and the job as it stands today. The children were keen to learn more about the work that Janet has undertaken and were very impressed that she had met the King and Queen!

### **Outdoor Learning**

The children in year 3 have enjoyed their weekly outdoor learning sessions with Mrs Hall. They have learnt how to light a fire, made bird feeders using lard, suet and seeds and made Christmas decorations and wreaths using local foliage. They also enjoyed s'mores and hot chocolate around the fire. Thank you to Mrs Hall for organising these sessions.



### **Unicorn Class Nativity**

There is nothing quite like a nativity to get us all in the Christmas spirit. Unicorns Class performed 'Prickly Hay' to their families and the school last week. We are extremely proud of them all and would like to thank parents for providing the costumes and Mrs Silver and her team for all the hard work behind the scenes. A special mention has to go to the unicorn who clearly had to stand in for the donkey on this occasion! We all loved the show!



### **Middlezoy Coffee Morning**

Our Year 6 children performed a selection of Christmas songs at the Middlezoy Chapel Coffee Morning. They were amazing! It was lovely to see so many parishioners there along with parents and carers. We would like to thank everyone who attends the coffee morning regularly for their kind donation to our PTA.

## 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 tracksuit bottoms, jumpers or sweatshirts worn for PE days. We have been seeing a few examples coming through the gates in recent weeks. Earrings and jewellery should not be worn to school on Wednesday (PE days) or Thursday for Dragons class who go swimming. We really do appreciate your support with this.

### Attendance

Our combined attendance figure for both schools currently stands at 96.2%. Children whose attendance is below 90% are deemed as “persistently absent.”

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. For your reference, our attendance policy can be found on our website.



# PTA

This term's PTA events have included a Halloween dressing up day and sweet sale, Be Yourself Day for donations for the Christmas Raffle and Bingo night. Their main project this year has been to support with the replacement of the trim trail, this is an area they fundraised for at the end of last academic year. They are now busily replenishing their savings to support with other projects.

In addition to the trim trail, they have supported with the cost of the coach to the whole school pantomime. They also organised an end of term whole school Christmas Lunch which is always a huge hit and an absolute treat. The children will all be bringing home a selection box for Christmas, making the end of term incredibly special for all.

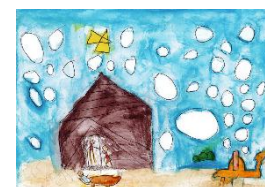


As always, your support with these events is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the children, parents and staff, a huge thank you to all the committee members of the PTA who work hard behind the scenes and to the helpers supporting at the various events.

## Competition Success

Each year, Mrs Green asks the children across PPAT to enter the Christmas Card competition. The winning design is used as her card to send out. I am delighted to say that Jessica's design was chosen this year. Congratulations Jessica, a first for Middlezoy and Othery enjoy your prize! In addition, we sent some entries to the card competition put on by local MP, Ashley Fox. We are thrilled to announce that Teddy was a runner-up in the competition this year. Well done, Teddy!



For individual class news, please look at the individual class overviews that follow. The Spring Term Curriculum Maps will also be sent out for your information and can be viewed on our website: [Middlezoy & Othery Schools - Curriculum Maps](#)

Wishing you all a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

*Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othery Team*

# Unicorn Class

What a wonderful Autumn term Unicorn class have had. We welcomed our lovely new reception cohort, and they have begun to learn the fundamental life skills of reading and writing and are becoming much more independent. Our Year 1's and 2's have continued to excel in their learning and we are all very proud of the children's commitment and achievements. This term in history we learnt about the Great Fire of London, a topic the children loved and in Geography we have explored the 7 continents of the world and developed our map reading skills using atlases. In art we have explored colour and in DT we designed a new chair for Baby Bear. Over the term we have had a great deal of fun and embraced several memorable experiences. Some highlights include our recent nativity performance, 'Prickly Hay', our harvest festival assembly and a visit from the fabulous artist, Darrell Wakelam. The photos below show a selection of these and hopefully give you a snapshot of what life is like in Unicorn Class!

We wish you all a super Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year.



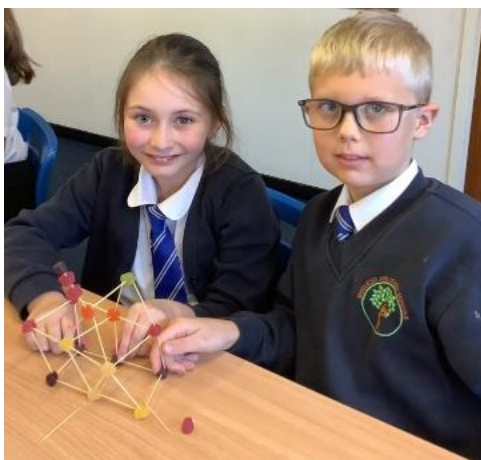
# Phoenix Class

We have had a very busy and productive term in Phoenix Class. The children have shown great enthusiasm for their learning and made good progress especially in their times tables which has been the focus in Maths this term. Keep practising them over the holidays Year 4!

In English we thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Kindlekrax' and created a wonderful collage of Lizard Street across the entire back wall of our classroom. We did lots of creative writing around the story and more recently have enjoyed reading and writing about 'The Christmasaurus'.

We have explored Magnets and Forces in Science and enjoyed exploring whether materials are magnetic. In Geography we learnt about different types of settlement and even had a go designing our own. Our DT projects were free-standing pavilions that the children really excelled at showing their creative sides, thanks for all the cardboard contributions towards these and I'm sure you'll agree they turned out great!

Wishing you all a lovely festive holiday and a Happy New Year!



# Dragons Class

It has been a fabulous term in Dragons Class; the children have continued to work hard and have made super progress. They have all applied themselves fully to their learning, particularly with their writing and maths this term. They truly deserve their Christmas break! Year 6 have started their transition work, individually meeting with Miss Robinson from Huish Academy. Further transitional work will happen next term.

One of the highlights have been their DT project, "Funky Cushions" to which we added a Christmas theme. They have all shown great resilience with the sewing. Their patience and efforts have paid off as you can see below. Well done to all the children for creating such lovely, festive cushions. Huge thanks to Mrs Brown for teaching the children and to Mrs Hall for her support with these. We were also fortunate and very grateful to welcome two of our governors, Mrs Mannion and Mr Thorne, in to support with the initial sewing stages they both offered invaluable help and guidance.



Towards the end of term, the children have taken part in some festive activities including writing some lovely list poems linked to Christmas and taking part in a Christmas themed game show involving multiple rounds, one being decorating a member of their team as a Christmas tree!



**Wishing you all a fabulous  
Christmas and a very Happy New Year!**

# Upcoming Dates

## Spring Term 1

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – Inset Day

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – Start of Spring Term

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 5 & 6 Swimming until Easter

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 4 to attend Hockey Programme in Yeovil a.m. (Also on 22/1 and 29/1)

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January** – Extra Curricular PE Session with Premier Education – All year groups to wear PE kits today please

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** – Proposed Swimming Gala at Huish Academy (Years 3 – 6)  
2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m. (Details to follow)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** – End of Spring Term 1

## Spring Term 2

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – Start of Spring Term 2

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Cross Country at Huish Academy 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Year Groups TBC)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent Meetings (No After-school Club tonight)

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent Meetings (Sports Club will run as normal)

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** – Cross Country at King Ina 4:00 p.m. Start (TBC)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March/** – Bikeability – Year 6 (Details to follow)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

## 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>

All 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 find 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](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints 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.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

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