



St Andrew's Church of England

Junior School

St Andrew's Signpost

Issue 3

Week Commencing 20th January



Notes for the week: 20th January 2025

Monday

Year 3 Swimming from

13.01.25 – 24.03.25

PE Heron Class 6GK

PE Magpie Class 4M

Tuesday

PE Otter Class 6H

PE Bramble Class 5L

PE Willow Class 5D

PE Kingfisher Class 4B

Wednesday

Year 4 Swimming from

15.01.25 – 26.03.25

PE Heron Class 6GK

PE Raven Class 5K

PE Wren Class 3N

Forest School – Otter Class, 6H

Thursday

PE Newt Class 6G

PE Willow Class 5D

PE Bramble Class 5L

PE Raven Class 5K

Friday

PE Dandelion Class 3P

PE Acorn Class 3GD

PE Weasel Class 4S

PE Newt Class 6G

Headteacher Information

As we complete the second week of 2025, I reflect on what has been a busy and rewarding week at school.

Our Year 3 and 4 children had their first swimming session this week, and their excitement was palpable. They were excellent ambassadors for the school, walking to the pool with enthusiasm. Despite some initial nerves, every child got into the pool, and I couldn't be more proud of them. For some, this was their very first experience of swimming. A heartfelt thank you to the parents who supported the Year 3 and 4 team—it truly wouldn't have been possible without your help.

In addition to swimming, Year 4 has been diving into their learning about the Vikings, and Year 5 students have been crafting diary entries about a UFO sighting—a very imaginative and exciting project! Meanwhile, our Year 6 students have been channelling their creativity into writing suspense stories. I can't wait to see the final results of their hard work!


PE and Sports

Sportshall Athletics Success!

On Thursday, 20 of our Year 4 students participated in the Sportshall Athletics event at Bridgwater College. The morning session, in which our team competed, included seven schools, with another seven schools competing in the afternoon.

The children showcased their talents across a range of activities, including running events, obstacle relays, over-and-under relays, throwing, and jumping. Each student had the opportunity to take part in at least one track or field event. Despite limited access to specialized equipment for practice, our team performed brilliantly, achieving notable successes in the races and finishing an impressive 4th place in the morning session. Well done to all the participants for their fantastic effort and team spirit!



	<p>Sedgemoor Cross Country Reminder</p> <p>The final race of the Sedgemoor cross country season is coming up next week. Years 3 and 5 will race on Tuesday, while Years 4 and 6 will compete on Wednesday. This event will take place at TKASA after school.</p> <p>Please note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can leave school at the usual time before heading to TKASA. • Parking is not permitted on-site at TKASA. We kindly ask parents to park considerately on nearby streets. • As this is an after-school event, transport will not be provided by the school. • <p>Good luck to everyone taking part, and thank you for your cooperation!</p>
<p>Coats in school</p>	<p>As the colder months continue, could we kindly ask that all children bring a warm, named coat to school every day? The children go outside in the fresh air every day throughout the Autumn and Winter, and having a warm coat ensures they can enjoy their time outdoors comfortably.</p> <p>Thank you for your support in keeping the children prepared for all weathers!</p>
<p>Parents Evening</p>	<p>Date for your diary –</p> <p>The parents’ evening for the spring term are Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March. Information and booking information will be sent out nearer the time.</p>
<p>School Kitchen</p>	<p>🌟 Fantastic News from the Kitchen! 🌟</p> <p>Following a visit from an Environmental Health Officer (EHO) this week, we are thrilled to announce that our kitchen has proudly retained its 5-star food hygiene rating!</p> <p>A huge well done to Tiff, Emma, Sally, and the entire Aspens team for their hard work and dedication to maintaining the highest standards. 🙌</p> <p>Thank you for ensuring our kitchen remains a shining example of excellence!</p> 
<p>Deciding When to Keep Your Child Home</p>	<p>Navigating the decision of whether to keep your child at home when they're feeling unwell can be challenging. We understand the concerns and would like to provide guidance on this matter.</p> <p>Government Guidelines:</p> <p>There are official government guidelines available for schools and nurseries on managing specific infectious diseases, which</p>

	<p>can be accessed at GOV.UK. These guidelines outline when it is advisable to keep children off school and when it is appropriate for them to attend.</p> <p>Communication is Key: If you decide to keep your child at home due to illness, please make it a priority to contact the school on the first day. Inform them of your child's absence and provide a brief explanation of the reason. Open communication ensures that the school can appropriately manage attendance records.</p> <p>Infections that Could be Passed On: In cases where your child is well enough to attend school but has a contagious infection, such as a cold sore or head lice, it is crucial to notify their teacher. By doing so, we can take preventive measures and work together to maintain a healthy environment for all students. Your cooperation in following these guidelines contributes to the well-being of our school community. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's health and attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school office. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to the health and safety of our children. This page from the NHS is helpful for knowing how long to keep your child off school when they are ill. is-my-child-too-ill-forschool</p>
<p>The Priory Learning Trust</p>	<p>I am pleased to share that the progress on our conversion to The Priory Learning Trust is nearly complete. We are still working towards the February deadline, which means that as of February 3rd, we will officially be part of The Priory Learning Trust.</p> <p>While there will be some changes in the office, we have been working closely with the trust over the past year, ensuring a smooth transition. This means that the day-to-day running of the school will remain much the same, with minimal disruption.</p>
<p>Scopay</p>	<p>In preparation of joining The Priory Learning Trust on 3rd February 2025, Scopay is no longer available to use.</p> <p>Extended School Provision – In the short term, please contact the school office if you need to book any sessions for February and they will book them for you. This can be either by email to office@saja.theplt.org.uk or telephone 01278 783558.</p> <p>Camp 2025 – All balances held will be transferred to sQuid in due course. Information regarding paying your remaining balance will follow.</p> <p>As soon as we have further information with regard to the new payment and communication system, we will let you know.</p>
<p>Healthy Snack Reminder for Playtime</p>	<p>We have noticed an increase in the number of unhealthy snacks being eaten at playtime, including crisps, chocolate bars, and cake bars. Often, these snacks are being chosen from lunchboxes instead of healthier options.</p> <p>We'd like to remind families that children in KS2 are allowed a snack at playtime, but it must be a healthy choice. Examples of acceptable snacks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cereal bars or rice cakes Fresh fruit or vegetables A small portion of cheese Breadsticks Dried fruit (e.g., raisins), but not processed fruit like Winders <p>Please note that chocolate, crisps, and sweets should not be consumed during playtime.</p>

	<p>This list provides a variety of options while ensuring snacks are mindful of nutritional value and lower in fat and sugar content. Thank you for your cooperation in promoting healthy eating habits!</p>
<p>Happy Healthy Holidays Team</p>	<p>The Happy Healthy Holidays Team have been allocated a pot of money to operate a small HHH programme in the February Half Term holidays.</p> <p>The February Half Term Programme 2025 will run for five days. This is being funded by The Household Support Fund. 'Help Through Winter' programme is funded by Somerset Council. <i>**Please note this is not funding by the DfE but by Somerset Council. It is not an extension of the HAF programme but we are using the branding for familiarity for families**.</i></p> <p>This funding is intended to support existing provision and therefore spaces are capped.</p> <p>Families will be able to use the same code from the winter programme.</p> <p>Bookings will go live next Monday, 20th January. Letters to parents and the map of provisions will follow shortly.</p>
<p>Start of School Day</p>	<p>In relation to the above notice – can I remind you that we have updated our school opening hours.</p> <p>The school gates will now open at 8:35 AM, with the school day starting promptly at 8:45 AM which is when the registers will be taken. Anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.</p>
<p>Email address and communication</p>	<p>Starting from 1st February, we will be moving to a new platform for communicating with parents: WEDUC - Reach More Parents.</p> <p>To ensure a smooth transition, it's important that we have the correct email address on file for you. If you have changed your email address within the past year and have not yet notified the school office, please email us at office@saja.theplt.org.uk with your new or preferred email address.</p> <p>If you already receive emails from us regularly or know that we have your most up-to-date email address, there is no need to contact us.</p> <p>Thank you for your cooperation as we make this transition to enhance our communication with you!</p>
<p>Mental Health Support Team</p>	<p>The Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in Somerset are a partnership between Young Somerset and Somerset CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).</p> <p>The MHST work in educational settings across the county, supporting children and young people aged 5-16 with their mental health and well-being. Our primary goal is to ensure that children, young people and their families receive timely help when they need it. Additionally, they aim to build resilience by equipping children, young people and their families with tools and strategies to use now and in the future, enabling young people to fully engage in their education.</p> <p>They provide support for mild to moderate mental health concerns. Low Intensity-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LI-CBT) is most effective when mental health changes first begin to emerge.</p>

Click on the link below to access helpful links to other services and support they can offer.

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/e728c8ad85.html#page/10>

Fully Funded School Support Courses

Adult Training opportunities

Fully Funded School Support Course - Online Guided Learning with our friendly tutors - Full Time - 6 Weeks - Intensive Course Fully Funded (FREE) NCFE | CACHE Courses available in levels 1 & 2 with fully funded progressions available for 3 level - starting on 27th January.

The deadline to enrol is Wednesday 22nd January!

We run ONLY in term time and not during half term/ end of term periods.

This is a six-week intensive course, with online live webinars with Aspire Education's friendly tutors, starting at 9:30am and finishing at 2pm (with lunch break) from Monday to Friday.

This is a six-week course, available in level 1 & 2, with live webinar sessions running from 9:30am - 11:30am, with a 1 hr lunch break, followed by a second 1.5 hr session from 12:30-2pm.

All you need is access to the internet and a laptop or tablet.

These courses are fully funded by the ESFA (Education Skills Funding Agency).

If you are earning less than £23,500 per year or claiming benefits (including Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits, carers allowance or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit) you are eligible for a funded place.

*Please see more details about our eligibility on our website.

www.studysmartuk.online

Take advantage of this opportunity while it's still available.

Please go to: www.studysmartuk.online for more information.

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Free Online Courses

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Education & Skills Funding Agency

Fully Funded School Support Course

Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

6 Week Course Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

Available In the following levels:

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
	CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment
	CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing
	Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
Level 2:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.

PFSA resources and Support

We're pleased to share that our local Parent Family Support Advisor, Chloe Steventon, has created a dedicated webpage for the PFSA service. This new resource provides valuable information about the support available to families and how Chloe can assist with any challenges you may be facing.

We encourage you to take a look at the webpage to explore the range of support on offer. It's a great way to stay informed and access the help you need.

<https://www.borrowprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Parent+and+Family+Support+%28PFSA%29&pid=91>

Rewarding Reading

Star Quizzers – Passing AR Quizzes

This week receiving their 50 Quiz certificates:

Theo Cunningham

Jorgie Fardon

Mia Jeffries

Freddie Waterfield

Reading Champions

Massive well done to **Lacey Fowler** for becoming a Reading Half Millionaire.

Weekly Value Award

This award is given by the Senior Leadership Team and the office staff for a child who has demonstrated one or more of the

school values during the week.

This week's winner is:

Kyron Sage



Celebration and Praise

We held our Celebration and Praise Assembly this week to award children who have worked hard this week.

Well done to the winners:

Acorn Class – Adalyn Butcher-Adams

Wren Class – Tilly Arnold

Dandelion Class – Elijah Browne

Kingfisher Class – Flynn Quinton

Willow Class – Lily-Mae Walker

Bramble Class – Jenson Finch

Raven Class – Harry Crafts

Heron Class – Samuel Tennent

Otter Class – Lexie Hoff

Newt Class – Noah Porteous

TT Rock Stars

Results from this week's tournament:

Year 6 Tournament

1	Oliver	Nika Lightspeed	6GK Heron	3370
2	Hadley	Velda Rocket	6H Otter	3043
3	Freya	Bella Bell	6GK Heron	2182
4	Mya	Sky Cronin	6H Otter	2032
5	Reece	Johnny Steele	6H Otter	1769
6	Harley	Mark Been	6H Otter	1766
7	Nithin	Frank Palmer	6G Newt	1455
8	Sufyan	Jayden Jorgensen	6GK Heron	1437
9	Mollie	Grace Dederer	6H Otter	1391
10	Archie	Blue Cavaliere	6G Newt	1388

Year 5 Tournament

1	Nancy	Angelo White	5K Raven	3625
2	Jesse	Maynard Howe	5D Willow	2315
3	Amelia	Joel Jules	5L Bramble	1166
4	Alfie	Freddy Robinson	5D Willow	1082
5	Reuben	M. A. Hendrix	5D Willow	1035
6	Finlay	Aaron G. Hendrix	5L Bramble	987
7	Louie	Logan Rockingchair	5K Raven	835
8	Flo	Ray Hopkins	5D Willow	704
9	Olivia	Rocky Vendera	5K Raven	701
10	Oscar	Toryn Donnelly	5D Willow	653

Year 4 Tournament

1	Yusuf	Beau Ramirez	4B Kingfisher	2836
2	Lily	Susan Andrews	4M Magpie	2179
3	Eliza	Sunshine Dunn	4B Kingfisher	1893
4	Codie	Toryn McKeon	4S Weasel	1548
5	Benjamin	Doogie Sullivan	4M Magpie	1371
6	Demi-Mae	Mad Bruno	4M Magpie	1118
7	Elijah	Nick Preciado	4B Kingfisher	854
8	Lavinia	Perry Furay	4M Magpie	812

9	Eliza	Sean Daly	4S Weasel	789
10	Frankie	Chad Riley	4M Magpie	744

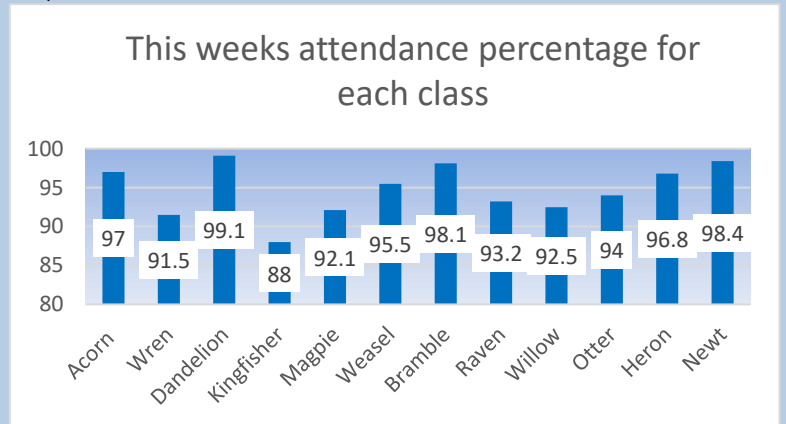
Year 3 Tournament

1	Hugo	Win Hart	3P Dandelion	1214
2	Charlie	Thomas Berry	3DG Acorn	1214
3	Lucas	Chuck Manga	3P Dandelion	1094
4	Mia	Taylor Fox	3N Wren	715
5	Harrison	Rippy Martin	3N Wren	711
6	Ava	Mindy DiFulvio	3N Wren	689
7	Mia	Loreena Stewart	3N Wren	615
8	Chloe	Darren Bowie	3DG Acorn	573
9	Elijah	Todd Lightrock	3P Dandelion	526
10	Poppy-Mae	Blayze Frusciante	3N Wren	514

Promoting Attendance at St. Andrew's School

Current Attendance Overview:

To keep you informed, we have included a chart below, displaying our overall attendance percentage and a breakdown by class. This transparency allows us to collectively work towards our attendance target and celebrate our successes along the way.



Lateness

We are pleased to see a slight reduction in lateness this week, but the numbers are still higher than we would like.

Please remember that the school **gates open at 8:35 am**, and children come straight into class to start activities that support their learning. **Lessons officially begin at 8:45 am**, and when children arrive after this time, they are missing out on the vital introduction to their lesson.

This can lead to feelings of anxiety or stress as they try to catch up and understand what is happening. Being on time ensures a calm and confident start to the day for your child.

Thank you for your support in helping your child arrive promptly, ready to learn.

House	Nos of Lates	Nos of Lates
	W/C 13/01/25	W/C 06/01/25
Blackwell	12	14
Foley	4	5
Macmillan	12	11
Reed	8	9
Total	36	39

Please remember that being late can lead to your child:

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons making them fall behind
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future

The impact of being just a little late can accumulate to a loss in learning time:

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Wayne Higgins and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) are Tamsin Thomson, Chrissie Collett. Our safeguarding governor is Kerry Andrews

Here are some useful websites recommended by our DSL;

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/>

<https://getsetsomerset.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

If you have concerns about your child at home or school, see the office to book an appointment. Alternatively, if you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224, by email at childrens@somerset.gov.uk or the police. You can contact the police directly by dialling 101 and they will discuss with Children's Social Care what action should be taken. In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999. If you would like to speak to a social worker outside of office hours please phone the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 123 23 27.

Change of Numbers and email addresses

****Important****

If you have changed your telephone number or email address can you please let the school office know so that we can update our records. We need to have at least 3 contact numbers for your children in the event that we are unable to reach the main contacts.

Online safety

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation ... but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time. In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as the potential for online addiction, in-game purchases and simulated violence

[what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-world-of-warcraft-parents-guide.pdf](#)

SEND Newsletter

This week's SEND weekly newsletter is now available – please click on the link below or the following [SEND News](#) to read the latest stories.

Please click on the link below to find out more about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Somerset.
[Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

For your Information

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Free Online Courses

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Education & Skills Funding Agency

Fully Funded School Support Course

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6 Week Course
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ChatHealth



Parent advice & support

Healthy lifestyles

School transitioning

Emotional health

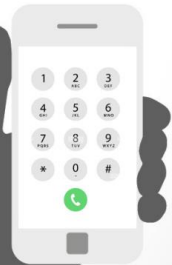


**is your child
5-19 and are you**
looking for confidential
help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact
your School Nursing Team

Just send a text

07480 635 515



Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.

Improving
LIVES

Term Dates for
2024-25

Please see below our term dates for 2024-25 including our school INSET days.



September 2024					October 2024					November 2024						
M	2	9	16	23	30	M	7	14	21	28	M	4	11	18	25	
Tu	3	10	17	24	Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu	5	12	19	26	
W	4	11	18	25	W	2	9	16	23	30	W	6	13	20	27	
Th	5	12	19	26	Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th	7	14	21	28	
F	6	13	20	27	F	4	11	18	25	F	1	8	15	22	29	
Sa	7	14	21	28	Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	
Su	1	8	15	22	29	Su	6	13	20	27	Su	3	10	17	24	
December 2024					January 2025					February 2025						
M	2	9	16	23	30	M	6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24	
Tu	3	10	17	24	31	Tu	7	14	21	28	Tu	4	11	18	25	
W	4	11	18	25	W	1	8	15	22	29	W	5	12	19	26	
Th	5	12	19	26	Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th	6	13	20	27	
F	6	13	20	27	F	3	10	17	24	31	F	7	14	21	28	
Sa	7	14	21	28	Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	1	8	15	22		
Su	1	8	15	22	29	Su	5	12	19	26	Su	2	9	16	23	
March 2025					April 2025					May 2025						
M	3	10	17	24	31	M	7	14	21	28	M	5	12	19	26	
Tu	4	11	18	25	Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu	6	13	20	27	
W	5	12	19	26	W	2	9	16	23	30	W	7	14	21	28	
Th	6	13	20	27	Th	3	10	17	24	Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	7	14	21	28	F	4	11	18	25	F	2	9	16	23	30	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	3	10	17	24	31
Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su	6	13	20	27	Su	4	11	18	25	
June 2025					July 2025					August 2025						
M	2	9	16	23	30	M	7	14	21	28	M	4	11	18	25	
Tu	3	10	17	24	Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu	5	12	19	26	
W	4	11	18	25	W	2	9	16	23	30	W	6	13	20	27	
Th	5	12	19	26	Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th	7	14	21	28	
F	6	13	20	27	F	4	11	18	25	F	1	8	15	22	29	
Sa	7	14	21	28	Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	
Su	1	8	15	22	29	Su	6	13	20	27	Su	3	10	17	24	31

Key:	
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Staff Training Day
	Term Time

Term Date Summary	
Term 1:	2 September 2024 – 18 October 2024
Term 2:	4 November 2024 – 20 December 2024
Term 3:	6 January 2025 – 14 February 2025
Term 4:	24 February 2025 – 4 April 2025
Term 5:	22 April 2025 – 23 May 2025
Term 6:	2 June 2025 – 22 July 2025

Bank Holidays and public Holiday 2024-2025			
Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2024	Easter Monday	21 April 2025
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2024	May Day Bank Holiday	5 May 2025
New Year's Day Holiday	1 January 2025	Spring Bank Holiday	26 May 2025
Good Friday	18 April 2025	Summer Bank Holiday	25 August 2025