



St Andrew's Church of England

Junior School

St Andrew's Signpost

Issue 2

Week Commencing 13th January



Notes for the week: 13th 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

Happy New Year, and welcome back to school for the Spring Term! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break over the holidays.

It's been wonderful hearing about the lovely times the children had during the holiday—lots of happy stories, excitement, and cherished memories. It's clear they've returned refreshed, settled, and ready to embrace new challenges and learning opportunities.

The school feels alive again with their energy and enthusiasm, and it's great to see their smiles as they reconnect with friends and dive into this term's activities.

PE and Sports

As we settle into the new term, the first week back has brought some chilly weather, but regular PE lessons have carried on as usual. This week truly feels like the calm before the storm, as next week marks the start of an exciting line up of sports activities and events:

Swimming Lessons Begin:

Both Year 3 and Year 4 will start their swimming lessons next week. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly for the walk to and from the swimming pool.

Sportshall Athletics:

Our Year 4 children will be competing in the Sportshall athletics competition, showcasing their skills and team spirit.

Raven Class Skills Session:

Raven Class will have the fantastic opportunity to participate in a skill session at Bridgwater College Academy, organized by SASP (Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership).

Cross-Country Competition:

The final stage of the cross-country event will take place at TKASA. Following this, the area team will be selected to compete in the area finals in Yeovil later this year.

Gymnastics Competitions:

We're expecting details soon for the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 gymnastics competitions, which typically occur in March.

Sports Enrichment Day:

Before the Easter holidays, the children will take part in a sports enrichment day. More information about this exciting event will be shared closer to the time.

	<p>It's shaping up to be a busy and exciting term for sports—stay tuned for updates and results!</p>
Coats in school	<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>
Swimming Year 3 and 4	<p>This term, Year 3 will begin their swimming sessions on 13th January, and Year 4 will start on 15th January. Both sessions will run for 10 weeks.</p> <p>If you have not already done so, it is important to provide your consent for your child to participate. Please ensure this is completed as soon as possible to avoid any disruption.</p> <p>Thank you for your cooperation.</p>
Scooters in School	<p>Many of our children come to school on bikes and scooters, which is a fantastic way to keep healthy. We ask that the children refrain from riding their bikes or scooters on the playground and walk them to the bike-shed. Also, please make sure that scooters and bikes are not left around the green substation at the Dunstan Road entrance.</p>
Attendance	<p>As we begin a new term and a new year, we want to take a moment to reflect on our school's attendance and its crucial role in our children's' success. Overall, we are pleased to report that our attendance rates are generally good for most pupils. However, it's essential to address the issue of persistent absence for some students.</p> <p>Understanding Persistent Absence: Persistent absence is classified as attendance below 90%, and this was recently highlighted as a concern in our attendance report. Research consistently shows a strong correlation between poor attendance and poor academic achievement. Therefore, we are keenly emphasizing the importance of regular attendance for all pupils.</p> <p>Monitoring Your Child's Attendance: If your child's attendance falls below 95%, you will receive a letter to make you aware of this situation. We kindly request your cooperation in ensuring that your child's attendance improves in the coming month. Regular school attendance is a key factor in unlocking your child's potential and achieving their academic goals.</p> <p>Illness and Attendance: We understand that children may experience occasional coughs or colds. However, even with mild illnesses, we still expect your child to attend school. If you have concerns about your child's health, please inform their teacher when dropping them off. Our dedicated staff will ensure your child receives the care they need and will contact you if any concerns arise during the school day.</p> <p>Attendance Facts: We want to share some important attendance facts to highlight the impact of attendance on academic success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Above 97%: Less than 6 days of absence a year – Excellent attendance! 95%: Less than 10 days of absence in a year – More likely to achieve targets. 90%: 20 days of absence over the year – Missing approximately a

	<p>month of school and may fall behind.</p> <p>85%: 30 days of absence in a year – Missing approximately 6 weeks of school, making it challenging to keep up and achieve the best.</p> <p>80%: Missing a day for every week of school – Extremely challenging to keep up with learning; attendance will be closely monitored.</p> <p>We appreciate your ongoing support in prioritizing attendance and ensuring that your child has the best opportunity to succeed academically. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to reach out to us.</p>
Start of School Day	<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>
Email address and communication	<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>
Mental Health Support Team	<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> <p>Click on the link below to access helpful links to other services and support they can offer.</p> <p>https://heyzine.com/flip-book/e728c8ad85.html#page/10</p>
Fully Funded School Support Courses	<p>Adult Training opportunities</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The deadline to enrol is Wednesday 22nd January!</p>

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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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.

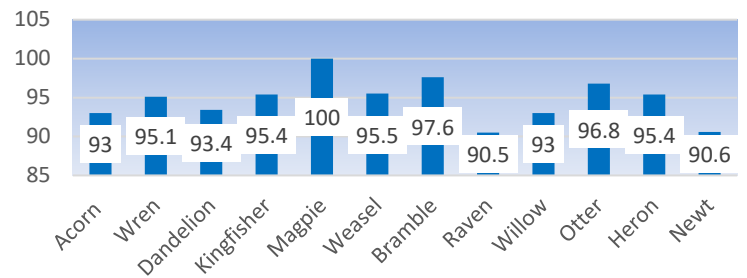
Extended School Provision

Sunrise and Sunset Club are now available on Scopay for bookings in January 2025 only

As we are joining The Priory Learning Trust on 1st February 2025, bookings from February 2025 will be made through a different payment system. Details to follow shortly.

	<p>With this in mind, please only make payment for those sessions booked, as it is unlikely that any balances will be able to be carried forward.</p> <p>Childcare Vouchers</p> <p>If you use Childcare Vouchers to pay for Extended School Provision, information will be sent to you directly.</p>
School Choir	<p>There is no choir this week (14th January). Choir will restart on Tuesday 21st January 3.15-4.15pm.</p> <p>If your child was in choir last term, they will automatically be in choir for this term. If they no longer wish to be in choir please let the school office or Mrs Bunning know.</p> <p>If your child would like to join choir, their class teacher will have a letter which will need to be signed and brought back to school.</p> <p>This term the choir will be preparing for their performance at the Highbridge Festival in March and working on their vocal skills.</p>
PFSA resources and Support	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>https://www.berrowprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Parent+and+Family+Support+%28PFSA%29&pid=91</p>
Weekly Value Award	<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This week's winner is: Oliver Waterfield</p> 
Celebration and Praise	<p>There was no Celebration and Praise Assembly this week. This will return next Friday – 17th January.</p>
Promoting Attendance at St. Andrew's School	<p>Current Attendance Overview:</p> <p>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.</p>

This weeks attendance percentage for each class



Lateness

Not a great start to the new year and although I know that the frosty mornings haven't helped it was still a steep increase. Remember as mentioned above the school gates open at 8.35 and registers are taken between 08.45 and 09.00. Anyone arriving after 8:45 will be marked as late.

House	Nos of Lates	
	W/C 06/01/25	W/C 16/12/24
Blackwell	14	10
Foley	5	5
Macmillan	11	9
Reed	9	6
Total	39	30

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/>

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Change of Numbers and email addresses</p>	<p>**Important**</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Online safety</p>	<p>Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles were nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers. In the guide, you'll find tips such as disabling in-app purchasing, take note of age ratings and watching out for imitators.</p> <p>what-parents-need-to-know-about-setting-up-apps-games-and-software-parents-guide.pdf</p>
<p>SEND Newsletter</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Please click on the link below to find out more about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Somerset.</p> <p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)</p>
<p>For your Information</p>	

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School
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ChatHealth

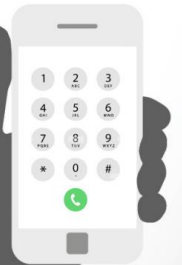


**is your child
5-19 and are you**
looking for confidential
help and support?

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