



St Andrew's Church of England Junior School



St Andrew's Signpost

Issue 2

Week Commencing 16th September 2024

Notes for the week: 16th September 2024

Monday

Swimming Year 6 (from 16th Sep)

PE Dandelion Class 3P

PE Wren Class 3N

PE Magpie Class 4M

PE Acorn Class 3GD

Tuesday

PE Bramble Class 5L

PE Willow Class 5D

PE Kingfisher Class 4B

PE Weasels Class 4S

Wednesday

PE Magpie Class 4M

PE Kingfisher Class 4B

PE Raven Class 5K

PE Heron Class 6 GK

PE Otter Class 6H

Thursday

PE Wren Class 3N

PE Willow Class 5D

PE Bramble Class 5L

PE Raven Class 5K

Friday

PE Weasel Class 4S

PE Dandelion Class 3P

PE Acorn Class 3GD

PE Newt Class 6G

Headteacher Information

This week was our first full week back, and it's been wonderful to see all the children settling into their new classes and adapting to their new routines. It was also great to meet so many of you at the Meet the Teacher sessions. I hope you found them helpful and enjoyed the opportunity to get a glimpse into your child's school life.

PE

We are looking forward to a busy year of sports activities. We have provisionally entered football tournaments, sportshall athletics and cross country. We have also booked some exciting sports to try for our sports week in June. If your child is interested in any of sports events please contact Miss Sylvester using her class email weasel@standrewsjuniors.co.uk.

SASA and Fundraising

A big Hello and Welcome to St Andrew's school from SASA (St Andrew's School Association)!

Our role as SASA is to support St Andrew's school by organising various events throughout the year for both parents and the children, to raise money to fund and support substantial additional resources and activities for the school to benefit the children.

As parents at St Andrew's you are all now members of SASA and it would be nice to see as many of you as possible take part in our events. Also, as members of SASA we invite everyone to help make these events happen - this could mean joining the committee, helping to run one of our events or volunteering at an event.

We will soon be holding our SASA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and would be great to see you there. Dates and further information will follow.

Attendance

Good attendance at school is the cornerstone of a good education. However, children only benefit from the opportunities available at St Andrew's if they attend school regularly. The Department for Education are really focussed on improving attendance in all schools

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

All parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly. If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. School is a very busy place and sometimes it is hard for teachers to find the time to carry out additional catch up sessions.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to form and sustain friendships which is a vital part of growing up.

	<p>What does good attendance look like? I think that good attendance for a school year looks like 95% or better. This would equate to having no more than 10 days absent from school in an academic year. Now, as a parent myself I know that things happen and sometimes children have to take extended periods of time away from school for a number of very good reasons. However, I also know that from time to time my own children tried to get a day of school because they were tired or it was their birthday for example. These one-off absences are the ones that we are keenest to reduce.</p> <p>When should I keep my child off school? It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. Also, you can click on the link below which provides a helpful guide on whether you should send your child to school or not. is-my-child-too-ill-for-school</p>
<p>Flu Vaccinations</p>	<p>The nursing team are coming into school on Tuesday 26th November to administer the flu vaccination. The vaccine is given as a simple spray up the nose. It is painless, quick, and serious side effects are uncommon. It is designed to protect your child against flu which can be an unpleasant illness and, although rarely may cause serious complications. The flu vaccine provides protection against the strains that are predicted to circulate in the coming season. These strains may change from year to year which is why we recommend receiving the vaccination every year.</p> <p>This vaccination is part of the NHS routine immunisation programme for which your child is now due.</p> <p>Further information can be found at the NHS website child-flu-vaccine. This information includes details about children for whom the nasal spray is not appropriate. Please click on the link https://www.somersetsaint.co.uk/Forms/Flu. The consent form needs to be completed even if you do not consent to the vaccination.</p>
<p>Arriving Early to School</p>	<p>We kindly ask that children do not arrive at school too early, as there is no supervision available for them before the gates open at 8:35 am. For everyone's safety, please try to avoid arriving on site before 8:25 am, as there are still cars moving in and out during that time.</p>
<p>Uniform</p>	<p>I was very impressed at how smart the children looked on returning to school last week however we have noticed a few uniform issues that need attention, and we kindly ask for your support in ensuring all children are following our school uniform policy:</p> <p>Ties: A large number of children are not wearing their ties. Please ensure your child wears their tie every day.</p> <p>PE Hoodies: These should only be worn on PE days. Hoodies are not part of the daily uniform.</p> <p>Shirts: Please remind children to keep their shirts tucked in.</p> <p>Nail Varnish: Nail varnish should not be worn in school.</p> <p>We appreciate your help in maintaining our high standards of uniform, which contribute to a sense of pride and unity in our school.</p>

Parking and Driving on Kingsway Road	<p>We have had a concern that has been brought to our attention regarding parking and driving on Kingsway Road during drop-off and pick-up times.</p> <p>This morning, we received a report from a local resident whose car was scuffed, and there have been ongoing concerns about the safety of children crossing the road. Kingsway Road is a residential area, and heavy traffic, particularly during school hours, poses a significant risk to both pedestrians and drivers. We kindly remind all parents to be mindful of where they park and to drive slowly and carefully, especially during these busy times.</p> <p>We urge everyone to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid parking in ways that obstruct driveways or restrict the flow of traffic. • Be extra cautious when approaching pedestrian crossings. • Refrain from using the road for drop-offs or pick-ups whenever possible. <p>The safety of our students and the local community is a priority, and we appreciate your cooperation in helping to maintain a safe environment for everyone.</p> <p>Thank you for your understanding and support.</p>
Jewellery in school	<p>For health and safety reasons no jewellery should be worn in school, if your child has pierced ears, one pair of small plain stud earrings will be allowed.</p> <p>Following advice and recommended best health and safety practice children should not wear earrings or jewellery in P.E. lessons this does include 'Fitbit or step trackers'. Children should remove their own earrings and store them safely or parents should remove them at the start of the school day. Staff cannot remove earrings for children.</p> <p>Alternatively, surgical tape could be used to cover any earrings during PE, this must be supplied by parent/carer on the day of your child's PE lesson</p>
Year 6 Swimming	<p>Don't forget that Year 6 will start their swimming sessions on Monday 16th. Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit on this day.</p> <p>A big thank you to the parents who have kindly agreed to help with supervision—these sessions wouldn't be possible without your support.</p>
Somerset Library – Summer Reading Challenge	<p>Some of you may have taken part in the Somerset Libraries Summer Reading Challenge over the summer holiday. If you have and have been awarded a certificate or a certificate and a medal please could you bring them into school by Friday 21st September. These will be awarded in an assembly in the following week.</p>
Children with Their Own Tissues	<p>As we move through the colder months, we have noticed a significant increase in the use of tissues at school. While we always encourage good hygiene, we are spending a considerable amount of money on tissues, and the demand is only expected to rise as the cold season continues.</p> <p>We kindly ask that you send your child to school with their own packet of tissues, particularly if they are suffering from a cold. This will help reduce the strain on school supplies and ensure that we can continue to provide for all students throughout the school day.</p>

King Alfreds – TKASA open evening

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, and together we can keep our classrooms healthier and well-supplied.

****Reminder****

On **Thursday 19th September, 4.30pm -7.00pm** TKASA will be holding an open evening to welcome all current year 6 parents to the school. This is a great opportunity to see TKASA and meet the staff and tour the school. More details will come out soon via their social media channels and letters home to families.

THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL
An Academy

Open Evening

Thursday 19th September

4.30pm-7pm

Headteacher's Talk
Main Hall
5pm or 6pm

Please scan the QR code to book your free place.

5pm **eventbrite** 6pm

THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL
An Academy

THE PRIORITY LEARNING TRUST

Students and staff at The King Alfred School Academy would like to invite you to join us for our Open Evening on

Thursday, 19th September 2024 4.30pm to 7pm

During the evening you and your parents/carers can visit the school and talk to students and staff.

- There will be an opportunity to hear a talk from our Headteacher at either **5pm** or **6pm** in the main hall. **Please book your place** by clicking the appropriate time.
- You will be able to take part in a treasure hunt and win prizes
- Take guided tours with our Year 11 Prefects or explore the school at your leisure
- You will also be able to sample the food in our canteen and take part in a range of activities in our departments

Burnham Road, Highbridge, TA9 3EE | 01278 784881 | tkasa.org.uk | in-

School Lunches

****Reminder****

Please place orders on **Aspens Select**. For children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), choices still need to be made on **Aspens Select**. You will not be charged. Letters and information have been sent out but can also be found on our website [select-introduction.pdf](#) bookings can be made by clicking on <https://select.aspens-services.com/>

Roald Dahl Day

****Reminder****

On the Friday 20th of September, we will be having a dress up day to mark Roald Dahl's Story Day. Children (and staff) can come to school dressed up as a character from a Roald Dahl story, you could wear pyjamas, a pair of glasses and carry a dream jar with you to be Sophie from the BFG. Alternatively, you could wear non-uniform and just bring a clue about your favourite book, such as bringing a golden ticket from Charlie and the Chocolate factory or bringing in a dream jar from the BFG. On the day if the children bring in £1, this will go to support the Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity who have provided specialist nurses and support for seriously ill children living with complex, lifelong illnesses for 30 years.

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:
Jack State



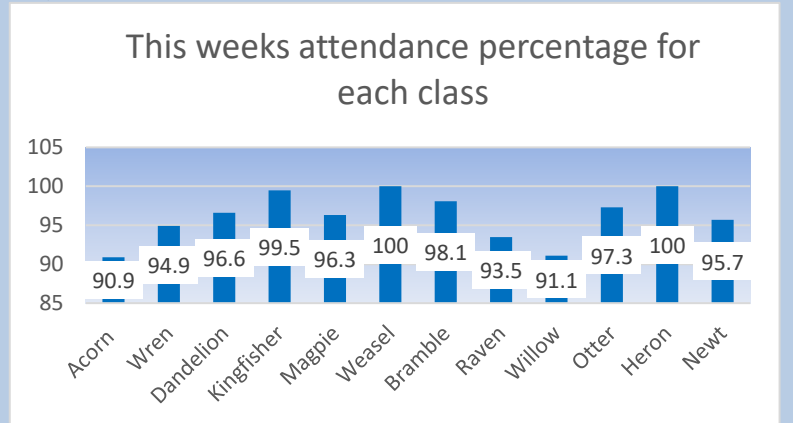
Celebration and Praise

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 – Natalia Ager
 - Wren Class – Ava Walshe-Thorne
 - Dandelion Class – Ollie Dee
 - Magpie Class – Oscar Fairhurst-Cottle
 - Kingfisher Class – Noah Sweet
 - Weasel Class – Jack State
 - Willow Class – Lexi Nall
 - Bramble Class – Flynn Phillips
 - Raven Class – Lucas Woolacott
 - Heron Class – Sophie Ross
 - Otter Class – Xavier Murray
 - Newt Class – Archie Smith

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

Considering this week was our first full week the number of lateness was low particularly for those in Reed House. Well Done. It would be great to see the numbers reduce next week.

House	Nos of Lates	
	W/C 09/09/22	W/C 02/09/22
Blackwell	2	4
Foley	5	5
Macmillan	11	1
Reed	1	3
Total	19	13

- 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 Sarah Taylor

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

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

In the guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as age-inappropriate content, dangerous challenges and contact with strangers.

[what-parents-need-to-know-about-tiktok-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.

The Newsletter shares some information about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25.

You can access previous copies of the newsletter here.

[SEND Newsletter Archive](#)

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



**6-11
years**

HIGHBRIDGE

Morland Hub, Pearce Drive, Highbridge, TA9 6FU

THURSDAYS @ 4.00pm - 5.00pm

For more info & to book visit: www.somersetyt.com
or email: info@somersetyt.com

*A safe place to
create, explore & find
your voice through
Theatre & the Arts...*



SOMERSET YOUTH THEATRE CIC



11-18
years

HIGHBRIDGE

Morland Hub, Pearce Drive, Highbridge, TA9 6FU

THURSDAYS @ 5.00pm - 6.00pm

For more info & to book visit:
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or email:
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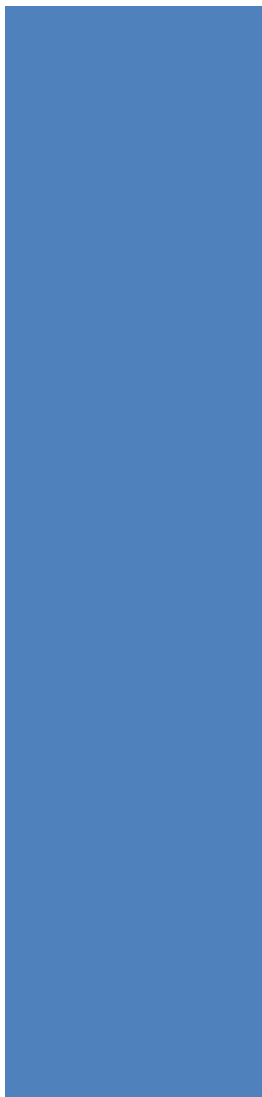


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Term Dates for 2024-25

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

Key Dates: Autumn Term

Date	Activity	Details
Monday 2nd September	Staff Training	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 3rd September	Staff Training	School closed for staff training
Wednesday 4th September	First day of Autumn Term	Welcome Back
Monday 9th September	'Meet the Teacher' week.	Parents and carers have the opportunity to visit their child(ren)'s new teachers and classrooms and to find out what the children are learning about and what life is like in their new classroom.
Monday 9th September 3.15 -3.45pm	Year 3 Meet the Teacher	
Tuesday 10th September 3.15 -3.45pm	Year 4 Meet the Teacher	

Wednesday 11th September 3.15 -3.45pm	Year 5 Meet the Teacher	
Thursday 12th September 3.15 -3.45pm	Year 6 Meet the Teacher	
Friday 20th September	Dahlicious Dress Up Day	This year's Dahlicious Dress Up Day takes place on 13th September. Our school will be celebrating it on 20 th September. Schools and workplaces across the UK will be brimming with Oompa-Loompas, Twits and Matildas in aid of Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.
Monday 30th September	Harvest Festival	A celebration of the food grown on the land - we celebrate this day by singing, praying and collecting fruit and food in a festival known as 'Harvest Festival',
Tuesday 15th October	Individual School Photos – Tempest - TBC	All children and siblings in school have individual school photos by Tempest.

Date	Activity	Details
End of Autumn term 1 Thursday 17th October	Last day of Autumn term 1	
Friday 18th October	Staff Training	School closed for staff training
Monday 21st October -Friday 1st November	Half term	Enjoy your break!
Autumn Term 2 Starts Monday 4th October	First day of Autumn term 2 School Starts	Start 2nd Half of Autumn Term
Wednesday 13th November 3.15—6.30pm	Parents' Evening	Our parents' evenings are held in your child's classroom. The children's work is available for you to look at prior to your appointment. Lists of appointments will be available for you to sign up to during w/c 31st October. Appointments are for ten minutes and we would encourage you to not bring your child to the appointment.
Thursday 14th November 3.15—6.30pm		
Friday 15th November	Children in Need	Letter and details provided

		nearer the time
Friday 29th November	St Andrews Day	On this day we recognise the Patron Saint of our school
Thursday 12th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch - TBC	All children have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.
Thursday 12th December	Christmas Jumper Day	Children take part in Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children. A suggested £1 donation and the chance to feel festive wearing your Christmas jumper to school.
Friday 20th December	School Carol Service	We will be having our carol service in St Andrews's Church. Everyone is welcome. Also, we will be awarding the Headteacher's Commendations.
Friday 20th December	End of Autumn Term 2	School Breaks up for Christmas Holiday