



St Andrew's Church of England Junior School



St Andrew's Signpost

Issue 2

Week Commencing 15th September 2025

Shining Light on a World of Possibilities'

Notes for the week:

15th September 2025

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

PE Year 3

PE Year 4

Dandelion - Forest School

Thursday

Friday

PE Year 5

PE Year 6

Willow - Forest School

Headteacher Information

This week marked our first full week back, and it has been truly wonderful to see the children settling so confidently into their new classes. They are already beginning to adapt to fresh routines and expectations, and it's been a joy to see the excitement and energy they bring into school each day.

We were also delighted to welcome so many of you to the Meet the Teacher sessions. We hope you found them both informative and reassuring, as well as a valuable chance to gain an insight into your child's school life and what the year ahead will look like. Building strong links between home and school is so important, and it was fantastic to begin the year by sharing this time with you.

SASA

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.

PE

The children have enjoyed another exciting week of PE, Forest School, and sports enrichment. It's been fantastic to see their energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm shine through.

Looking ahead, we have a number of fixtures lined up before the end of the autumn term:

Football – Years 5 and 6 will be taking part in the Large Schools Football Tournament.


Sportshall Athletics – Our Year 5 and 6 pupils will compete in this fast-paced indoor athletics event.

Cross Country – Open to all year groups, with races taking place at both Brymore and Bridgwater College Academy.

We look forward to seeing the children representing the school with pride and determination.

<p>Flu Vaccinations</p>	<p>The nursing team are coming into school on Monday 29th September 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>Forest School</p>	<p>We are excited to share the upcoming dates for Forest School sessions. On these days, children should come to school dressed in Forest School clothes instead of their PE kit.</p> <p>Forest School is a fantastic opportunity for children to learn outdoors, explore nature, and develop new skills in a hands-on way. To make the most of the sessions, it's important that children are dressed appropriately. Please ensure your child comes in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm layers (as the weather can be changeable) • Waterproof coat and footwear (wellies or sturdy outdoor shoes) • Clothes that can get muddy (as activities often involve digging, building, and exploring!) <p>We want the children to feel comfortable, stay dry, and enjoy the experience without worrying about their clothes.</p> <p>Forest School Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dandelion – Wednesday 17th September • Kingfisher – Wednesday 24th September • Weasel – Wednesday 1st October • Willow – Friday 19th September • Heron/Otter – Friday 26th September • Newt/Otter – Friday 3rd October <p>Otters have been split but the children will know which date is relevant to them.</p>
<p>2026 Admissions Process – Yr7</p>	<p>YEAR 6 PARENTS</p> <p>The admissions process for school place applications for September 2026 will soon begin and the portal will be live for secondary applications from Monday 15 September and for primary applications from Monday 29 September.</p> <p>For children due to transfer to a secondary or upper school the closing date for applications is 31 October 2025 and the national offer day is 2 March 2026.</p> <p>For children due to start school for the first time or transfer to a junior or middle school the closing date for applications is 15th January 2026 and the national offer day is 16 April 2026.</p>

	https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/
Parking on site	<p>We would like to remind families that parking on the school site is very limited and is reserved for school staff. To help keep everyone safe, we also want to reduce the number of cars moving around the site at the beginning and end of the school day. We kindly ask parents and carers to park off-site and walk their children in whenever possible. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school environment safe for all.</p>
Attendance	<p>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</p> <p>Why is it important for children not to miss school?</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Struggle to keep up with schoolwork. 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?</p> <p>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 off 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?</p> <p>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>
Uniform	<p>We were very impressed with how smart the children looked on their return to school last week. Thank you for helping us start the year with such a positive standard.</p> <p>However, we have noticed a few uniform issues that need some attention, and we would kindly ask for your support in making sure all children follow our school uniform policy:</p> <p>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 our daily uniform.</p> <p>Shirts – Shirts should be tucked in smartly throughout the day.</p>

	<p>Nail Varnish – Nail varnish should not be worn in school.</p> <p>Jewellery – Jewellery, including wristbands and necklaces, should not be worn for health and safety reasons.</p> <p>We really appreciate your help in maintaining our high standards of uniform, which not only reflect pride in our school but also promote a strong sense of belonging and unity among our children.</p>									
<p>King Alfreds – TKASA open evening</p>	<p>On Thursday 18th September 4.00pm -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.</p> <p>Other Future dates include:</p> <p>This year our open evening for prospective students and families is Thursday 18th September 2025 from 4pm-7pm.</p> <p>Year 6 welcome evening for families with a place at TKASA will be Thursday 23rd April 2026 from 4pm which is the first week after the Easter holidays. Our transition days will then run similarly to this year with a community event on Monday 22nd June 2026 followed by 3 transition days 23rd-25th June 2026 concluding with a celebration evening on Thursday 25th June.</p>									
<p>Weekly Value Award</p>	<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: Cody Walker</p> 									
<p>Celebration and Praise</p>	<p>We held our Celebration and Praise Assembly this week to award children who have worked hard this week.</p> <p>Well done to the winners:</p> <p>Acorn Class – Brody Humphries Wren Class – Evelyn Burnett Dandelion Class – Lily-Yve McDonnell Weasel Class – Rosie Pomeroy Kingfisher Class – Emily Ford Magpie Class – Clark Buckland Willow Class – Kian Meek Bramble Class – Freddie Pope Heron Class – Jack Harrison Otter Class – Esmae Crook Newt Class – Harry Crafts</p>									
<p>Lateness</p>	<p>Not a great start to the term – lateness is already creeping in. Can we all work hard to ensure that children are in school on time each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gates open: 8:35am • Register taken: 8:45am <p>Between 8:45 and 9:00am, children are engaged in valuable activities such as consolidating key skills and working with teachers to address any misconceptions from the previous day. This time really helps set them up for a successful day.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="770 2022 1417 2139"> <thead> <tr> <th>House</th> <th>Nos of Lates</th> <th>Nos of Lates</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W/C 08/09/25</td> <td>W/C 01/09/25</td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Blackwell</td> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	House	Nos of Lates	Nos of Lates		W/C 08/09/25	W/C 01/09/25	Blackwell	10	12
House	Nos of Lates	Nos of Lates								
	W/C 08/09/25	W/C 01/09/25								
Blackwell	10	12								

Foley	2	2
Macmillan	7	2
Reed	19	9
Total	38	25

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

BRIDGWATER'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PRIDE
FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY.

**BRIDGWATER
COMMUNITY
PRIDE**

20TH SEPTEMBER 2025
VICTORIA PARK 12PM TILL 6PM

PRIDE FLAG PARADE
&
18+ AFTER PARTY

FAMILY PICNIC **COMMUNITY STALLS**
STAGE PERFORMANCES **FOOD & DRINK**
FACE PAINTING **CIRCUS SKILLS**
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC **QUIET SENSORY AREA**

**Bridgwater
Town Council**

