



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Issue # 18 27th January 2025

Dear Families,

What a busy week we've just had! I'd like to start by celebrating our wonderful Year 4s, who not only enjoyed their trip to the Roman Baths, but who also earned the praise of the staff running the workshops for representing the school so well. What amazing role-models and ambassadors they are for our community!

Mrs Emery has asked me to remind everybody about the Year 3 cake sale this Wednesday after school, with the funds raised for this going towards the Salvation Army. At the same time, we will also be selling off more brand new uniform that has the old logo on, at a greatly discounted rate. We have cardigans, jumpers and several hoodies left.

We also have our Phonics Information session running today, from 2:45pm onwards. Slides will be shared via ClassDojo for parents/carers unable to attend.

Finally, I'd like to quickly remind parents of our uniform policy and the expectations over PE clothing in particular. Information can be found here - <https://axbridgefirstschool.co.uk/key-information/policies/>. We request that all PE shorts/joggers/t-shirts are plain and unbranded. Not only does this support consistency but it also ensures we remain inclusive in all that we undertake.

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Headteacher

Inspire Thrive Excel

This week, I would like to share my pride at the children's efforts from earlier in the year. During the Autumn Term, the children raised in excess of £3500 for Children In Need. Last week, 75 medals arrived in school and were handed out to some very happy recipients! Your amazing children accomplish things that really inspire those around them; especially the staff who witness these amazing acts of courage, kindness and determination on a daily basis. We are particularly proud of their attitude, whereby they are unafraid to take risks and take on new challenges!



January

- Monday 27th @ 2.45pm** - Phonics information session for Yr1 parents
- Tuesday 28th** - Yr 2 trip to SS Great Britain
- Wednesday 29th** - Redwood Class non-uniform day and Cake Sale
- Friday 31st** - Break the Rules Day

February

- Monday 3rd to 7th** - Children's Mental Health Week
- Thursday 6th** - Time to Talk Day
- Monday 10th** - Community Week - activities to be shared soon.
- Tuesday 11th** - Safer Internet Day
- Tuesday 11th** - Oak Class Assembly for parents session
- Thursday 13th** - PTA Film Night
- Friday 14th @ 9am** - Church Service, everyone is welcome to attend
- Friday 14th** - Community Café Day, more info to follow
- Friday 14th** - Valentines Day - children can wear red to school.

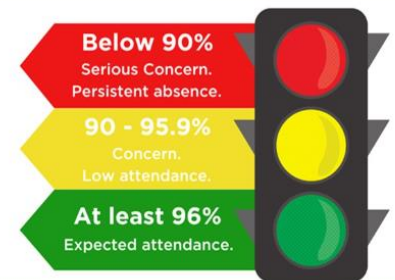
Friday 14th February - school closes for Half-Term at 3:20pm

Monday 24th February 2025 return to school

- Monday 24th** - World Thinking Day
- Tuesday 25th @ 7pm** - PTA meeting

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!

Our Christian Values are:

**Faith
Hope
Love**

Our Christian Vision is;

"I have come so that you may have life, a life in all its fullness"

John 10:10

Our Learning Skills are:

**Thinking
Social
Self-management
Communication
Research**

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week, we are so proud of you!

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Reuben	Saxon	Loki	Maya	Ethan O'
Christian Values	Zachary	Evie	Arthur	William	Menna
Learning Skills	Maddy	Jake	Robyn	Teddy	Rhys

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Evie N Hazel	Christian Values	Ollie L Redwood	Learning Skills	Freya Oak
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	737	570	603	663

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey



Junior Dukes Award – Year 3

The PTA have kindly offered to support our Year 3 children with the opportunity to undertake the Junior Duke award this year. It is similar to the Duke of Edinburgh award, but aimed at younger children. All children will take part and will complete most of the activities in school, but there will be opportunities for you to support at home too. More information can be found below. Once signed up fully, we will be sharing more information with Year 3 parents, but we wanted to make you aware of our plans for the year ahead.

<https://juniorduke.com/pages/the-junior-duke-awards>

What is the Junior Duke award?

The Junior Duke is essentially a 'Life Skills Awards For Children Aged 3 to 13'

'Life can be hectic and we are often too busy to allow our children to learn to do things for themselves as it's much quicker, as an adult, to do things ourselves. Many six year olds ARE capable of making toast for their breakfast, they CAN tie their shoelaces and they CAN make it up a hill whilst carrying their own essentials. After completing a level of the Junior Duke, many parents have said that they expect more from their children as



Bringing families together

Junior Duke reaches far beyond the classroom – the whole family can get involved with completing a variety of challenges.



Creating opportunities for parental links

Many schools make use of parents' skills to run this Award whilst others enjoy having the non-academic Award to enable new-found discussion about children's strengths and weaknesses.



Helping build a community feel

By completing their level and being celebrated in school, children feel a sense of being 'in it together'. Teachers' involvement in assessing creates bonds which may otherwise not happen.



Family fun!

Learning a skill for a challenge should be practised repeatedly. Thereafter, once parents understand how capable their children are, a new world of family adventures opens up!



Finding and developing independence

Giving children the space to learn new skills and do things on their own gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment in a non-academic setting.



Creating natural conversation

Many children love talking to teachers they don't know and sharing their achievements. Others are nervous to do so but soon realise being pushed to speak to unknown adults can be fun. Corridor conversations will become very interesting!



Discovering self sufficiency

Children naturally develop a 'can do' attitude when they are responsible for doing something for themselves and can see success.



Giving a feeling of belonging

Children will develop new friendships as they work through their level together – and may even compete to see who can complete challenges the fastest! Feeling pride that they earned points for their House or Class really boosts a feeling of belonging.



Increasing resilience

By having space to grow and make mistakes, children will be inspired to work through their setbacks to achieve success.



A welcome side-product

With the feeling of achievement and success through the non academic challenges, growth and improvement can often be seen in academics.

Centre of Somerset
COSMIC
Centre of Somerset Music Club
Music Club

JUNIOR
ORCHESTRA

SENIOR
FOLK ORCHESTRA

PERCUSSION
GROUP

ACOUSTIC
GUITAR
GROUP

RECORDER
GROUP

ROCK BANDS
FOR KIDS

ROCK BAND
FOR ADULTS

*music, friends, fun -
all in one club*



Saturday mornings
based at Crispin School
in Street

infocosmicmusic@gmail.com
for more details



Parenting Support

Later this week, it marks Parent Mental Health Day. With this in mind, please find some useful information from the WLT.

Parenting can be energising and exhausting all at the same time. There's constant pressure on parents to provide a fun, happy family life whilst juggling work and home priorities. Protecting their own mental health is often overlooked by many parents. Parent Mental Health Day aims to encourage understanding and awareness of the importance of parents' mental health and wellbeing and its impact on the whole family. Many of the country's parents and carers feel overwhelmed, isolated, and unable to cope.

Here are some top tips for parents and carers to protect their mental health:

We all use unhelpful coping strategies sometimes, but as with any skill we can learn new, helpful coping strategies. Here's some **self-care tips** to help **protect against stress**:

Try

Get moving! Physical and mental health are connected — so eat well and exercise to release endorphins. Find a fun activity that suits you and your schedule. 

Setting aside time to have fun or indulge yourself — positive emotions can help build a buffer against stress. 

Learning a new skill — whether painting, playing guitar or a new language. 

Sharing how you're feeling — it's OK to ask for help and support. 

Switching off from distractions — make time for yourself as a regular part of your routine. Schedule a reminder if you need to. ON OFF

Avoid

Overdoing it on sugar, caffeine or alcohol — they're a quick fix which can increase stress in the long term. 

Overworking and checking your emails out of hours — we all need time to unwind. 

Spending **too much of your free time** in front of a screen — phone included. Don't feel pressured to always be 'doing' something. 

Chasing perfection — it can create unrealistic expectations. Accept that mistakes will happen. 

Bottling up your feelings and assuming they will go away — this can make things worse in the long run. 

There are simple steps you can take to **#AddressYourStress**. Check out our resources at mhfaengland.org



MHFA England



Mind provides some advice and support on how to take care of yourself and how to get help if you are experiencing poor mental health as a parent.

[Parenting and mental health - Mind](#)



Parenting is hard, no one gets it right all the time, remember to be kind to yourself and celebrate the little wins!