



# Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Issue # 23

10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Families,

I'd like to start by thanking you all for your incredible support during Book Week at Axbridge Academy. It was a fantastic week for the children and it was wonderful seeing them browse through the book fair, as they discussed and shared their love of reading! As always, your support during this week was greatly appreciated!

Whilst Book Week is exciting and raises the profile of reading, we want to support our children in becoming life-long lovers of texts, who have access to up-to-date titles and spaces to enjoy these in. Your support at the book fair will allow us to spend over £500 on new titles, which will go in to our new Learning Hub area in the dining hall. This will be a new space for the children to enjoy and will allow us to facilitate a library club for the children to take part in too. The PTA have kindly donated £2000 towards this project along with contributions from the local Jack Todd Trust Fund, which means we are in an excellent position to begin the project and bring this space to life!



Looking ahead, Mothering Sunday is fast approaching and there will be a special service being held at St John's on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March, from 10am onwards. A survey will be sent out shortly to get an idea of numbers attending and how many posies need making for this special service. It's always a wonderful event and the children will be learning a special song to share with their families.

With warmest wishes

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Inspire Thrive Excel



March

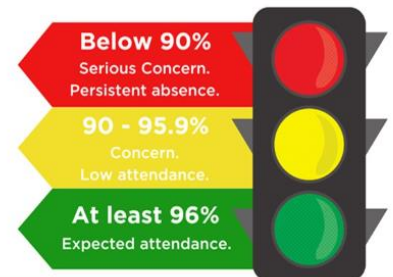
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Science Week
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – PTA Quiz Night
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2.50 to 3.20 – Yr 4 Residential meeting in Oak Class for parents.
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Red Nose Day
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9am – Church Service
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – World Maths Day
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Wear a Hat Day
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10am – Mothering Sunday Church Service
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> 1 to 3pm – Oak Class Parents Evening afternoon session

April

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 1 to 3pm - Redwood & Chestnut Class Parents Evening afternoon session
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 to 7pm – Parents Evening
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 4 to 7pm – Parents Evening
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Opera workshop for Year 4's
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9am – Church Easter Service

## ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

**Attendance across the school last week was 97.1%, whereas the average across all primaries was 95.1%. Keep up the great work!**

**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!**

|                         | <b>Pine</b> | <b>Hazel</b> | <b>Chestnut</b> | <b>Redwood</b> | <b>Oak</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| <b>Star of the Week</b> | Cara        | Jake         | Ella            | William        | Phoenix    |
| <b>Christian Values</b> | Clover      | Ziggy        | Delilah         | Tristan        | Henry      |
| <b>Learning Skills</b>  | Gracie      | Mollie       | Charlie         | Cora           | Poppy      |

**Headteacher's Awards**

| <b>Star of the Week</b> | Phoebe S | <b>Christian Values</b> | Lucy O' | <b>Learning Skills</b> | Kobe |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|------|
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|------|

**House Points**

|                  | <b>Black Rock</b> | <b>Crook Peak</b> | <b>King's Wood</b> | <b>Strawberry Line</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>This week</b> | <b>202</b>        | <b>180</b>        | <b>223</b>         | <b>156</b>             |

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL**

**Safeguarding Lead:** Mr Dominic Shillabeer

**Deputy Safeguarding Leads:** Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

# Axbridge Book Week 2025



# Axbridge First School PTA Presents:

## TO BOOK:

Please email:  
[pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk](mailto:pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk)  
with your team name and transfer the  
relevant amount to:

Axbridge PTA  
S/C: 30-91-84  
A/C: 00284059

# Quiz Night

Friday 14th March

7.30pm Start

School Hall

£5 per person (Max team of 8)

***BYO booze & donation  
based bar***

BOTTLE  
BASED  
RAFFLE!

# ***It's Back!...***

# Wake Up Wednesday - Online Safety Guidance and Advice

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

### 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

### 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

### 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

### 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

### 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

### 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

### 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

### 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

### 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

### 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College

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## Kings Fitness

📣 FINAL CALL, RAVERS! 📣

Cheddar Happy Little Ravers is making its debut on Saturday, 15th March at **Kings Fitness & Leisure** – and you don't want to miss this! 🎧🎉👶

Expect epic tunes, disco lights, and non-stop family fun in a safe, vibrant party atmosphere. Perfect for little ravers and big kids alike!

📣 Tickets are selling FAST – grab yours now before they're gone!

👉 <https://bookwhen.com/thehappyra.../e/ev-swr7-20250315130000>



## Kings Fitness

Did you know we offer swimming lessons for babies and toddlers?

Our experienced teachers will help your child develop water confidence and a positive association with swimming, along with developing their core skills in the water.

We follow the Swim England Foundation Framework with awards to be achieved throughout your child's journey - <https://www.swimming.org/.../swim-england-foundation.../>

You can book your child's space here - <https://kingsfitness.courseprogress.co.uk/onlinejoining/home>



**Did you know we offer swim lessons for babies and toddlers?**

Lessons are available Monday to Friday during the daytime, from birth up to the age of 4. Prices start from just £21.25 per month for a weekly 30 minute lesson and include unlimited public swimming.

[www.kingsfitness.co.uk](http://www.kingsfitness.co.uk)



**KINGS**  
FITNESS & LEISURE

**Dive into March with our exclusive offer.**

Join now with an annual membership and get **15 months for the price of 12!**

Plus, receive a **FREE EXCLUSIVE INTRODUCTORY PACK** that's perfect for making a splash!

Introductory pack includes;  
Swim Bag  
Goggles  
Towel  
Swim toy