



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Issue # 25

24th March 2025

Dear Families,

We had a wonderful time last Friday, celebrating Red Nose Day in style with our face-painting, disco and colourful appearance at church! We managed to raise £213 for the Comic Relief charity too, beating last year's total by £3! Thank you for all of your support.

Speaking of support, the book sale held during Book Week raised over £500 for the school to spend on new titles for our learning hub. This coincides beautifully with our soon to be revealed Reading Ambassadors, who will be led by Mrs Hall our Phonics lead. These children will help support other children with their reading, make recommendations and even help select new book titles to enjoy.

It's been joyous to see the Year 3 children making a start with their Junior Duke award this weekend. Their first challenge involved cooking, with cakes being baked at home and some even making their way into school. Mrs Crompton, who is charge of this challenge, enjoyed the responsibility of signing off the challenges and providing a quality control check too. It's wonderful to see and hear about the children thriving, when given these opportunities and responsibilities.

The school will be running several Easter competitions and events for the children in the final few weeks this term, with more information to be shared via ClassDojo in the coming days. We have our PTA meeting this Tuesday too, 7pm in the Oakhouse.

Finally, towards the bottom of the newsletter is a message from Mrs Emery about the 'Great Big School Clean' happening this week and next. It would be wonderful to see our community engage with this worthwhile and important event.

With warmest wishes

Dominic Shillabeer

Inspire Thrive Excel

Congratulations to our Poetry writing entrants, who were successful in their submissions and will now have their poems published in the Young Writers 'Wonderverse' book. 7 children in total will have their work published and we can't wait to grab some copies for our



March

Wednesday 26th - World Maths Day

Friday 28th - Wear a Hat Day (normal uniform, wear headwear of your choice)

Sunday 30th @ 10am - Mothering Sunday Church Service

Monday 31st 1 to 3pm Parents Evening afternoon session - Oak Class

April

Tuesday 1st Parents Evening afternoon session 1 to 3pm - Redwood & Chestnut Class

Wednesday 2nd 4 to 7pm - Parents Evening

Thursday 3rd 4 to 7pm - Parents Evening

Thursday 3rd - Opera workshop for Year 4's

Friday 4th @ 9am - Church Easter Service

Friday 4th April - school closes for Easter Holidays at 3:20pm

Monday 21st - Easter Monday

Tuesday 22nd April returns to school

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%, whereas the

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	Connie	Betty	Henry	Aubrey	Amelia N
Christian Values	Bertie	George	Isaac	Ben	Phoebe S
Learning Skills	Zephyr	Tahlia	Ethan	Remy	Phoenix

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Jaxson K Hazel	Christian Values	Remy C Redwood	Learning Skills	Jake S Hazel
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	271	260	263	244

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey



Join our school litter picking challenge!

We have pledged as a school to collect 10 bags of litter over the next 2 weeks. We need **YOUR** help.

Your challenge:

- Go on a walk in your local area (or somewhere further afield),
- Take a bag, gloves (and litter picker if you have one),
- Collect as much litter as you can but follow the litter picking safety guide,
- Take a photo at the end and sent it to your class teacher via class dojo and let us know how many full bags of litter you collected.

There will be a prize for the family that can collect the most litter.

Let's make our community an even more wonderful place to live!



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 reading 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

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



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