



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Issue # 26

31st March 2025

Dear Families,

This week started with a bang, as Chestnut Class welcomed in Space Detective and European Space Agency member, Jo Richardson. She worked with the class and in teams they managed to create and launch their very own rockets! Jo was also impressed with their knowledge of space and the different exploration missions!



A few quick dates to remind you of too:

- ✓ Church this Friday at 9:05am. All are welcome!
- ✓ Cake Sale on Friday, 3:20pm in the school hall. We also have more brand new 'old logo' uniform that will be sold at a heavily discounted price, so come and grab a bargain!
- ✓ Guess the number of eggs competition - tomorrow is the last day to bring in money for any guesses please. It is £1 a guess.
- ✓ If possible, remember to log on to Aspens and book in those lunches before we get back
- ✓ The PTA have added some dates for our diaries:
 - Friday 16th May Family Bingo
 - Friday 23rd May - Break the Rules Day Returns!
 - Friday 20th June - Quiz Night in School.

I know that I will have the pleasure of seeing most of you in the coming days during parent's evening, when we will have the opportunity to collectively celebrate the achievements of your children. They have all worked so hard this term and we are incredibly proud of them, just as you are.

It leaves me to wish you all a very restful and relaxing Easter Holiday, and at the same time, extend a huge thank you to the amazing staff at the school who work tirelessly and strive towards giving your children the very best start in life.

With warmest wishes

Dominic Shillabeer



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 @ 3:20pm - PTA Cake
Sale!

**Friday 4th April - school closes for
Easter Holidays at 3:20pm
Monday 21st - Easter Monday**

**Tuesday 22nd April return to
School**

Thursday 24th - Year 4 Music
Performance @ KoW
**Tuesday 29th - Height & Weight
checks for Reception**



'Happy Easter to our wonderful school community! As we celebrate this season of renewal, may we be reminded of the power of **faith**, the strength of **hope**, and the beauty of **love**. May these values guide us in all that we do, bringing us closer together and helping us grow as individuals and as a community.

Wishing you all a joyful and blessed Easter!'

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	Ottilie	Ellie-May	Isla	Gracie	Poppy
Christian Values	Pippa	Cobey	Reuben	Jessica	Maya R
Learning Skills	Leonie	Arthur W-B	Reuben	Monty	Sofia

House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	199	216	136	197

THRIVE - INSPIRE - EXCEL

This week, it's a pleasure to share with you the passion two of our younger learners, Ted and Reuben, have for their favourite sport - Rugby! The two boys took part in a Rugby Tour in Bude, which involved playing games against other teams from the area and also experiencing a big group tournament. The skills they learn from team-sports are innumerable and it's also a wonderful way to link into our Active April message.

They've certainly inspired us to think about staying active and it's wonderful to see them excel in a sport they love. Keep up the hard work boys!



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

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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!





Bridgwater Bay
PRIMARY CARE NETWORK

Neurodiversity First Contact Service

This service aims to improve the experiences of young people (aged 5-25) who are potentially neurodiverse and their families. We can help to identify needs and access support by assisting with referral pathways and connecting individuals to community support.

We know that accessing services can be confusing and overwhelming, so we are here to listen to what matters to you.

Our Offer:

- Support with referral pathways
- Help to understand the benefits of creativity, the natural environment and physical activity
- Emotional support
- Practical, helpful and non-judgemental support
- Liaison with education providers
- Central point of contact for families
- Advocating for young people and their families

To access support, ask your GP to be referred to the Neurodiversity First Contact Service, or call us at our Victoria Park Hub on 01278 720270.



Neurodiversity is a term used to describe a range of differences in the way our brains process information. Neurodevelopmental disorders include:

- Autism – ADHD – Tourette's/Tics – Dyscalculia – Dyslexia – Dyspraxia



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much: it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live. ~ Jim Rohn



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

In April, we encourage our children and families to engage with this wonderful Activity Calendar, provided by the super website, [Action For Happiness](#).

Prioritising happiness and kindness influences how we approach everything - including our personal lives, families, communities, schools and workplaces. It also shapes our views on the wider world and helps us to consider the wellbeing of future generations too. Send us any photos to your class teacher and let's celebrate together our Active April Actions!

Active April 2025

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today	2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today	3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do	4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water	5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today	6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels	
	7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening	8 Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh	9 Turn your housework or chores into a fun form of exercise	10 Have a day with less screen time and more movement	11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge	12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside	13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time
	14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation	15 Get active by singing today (even if you think you can't sing!)	16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things	17 Be active outside. Plant some seeds and encourage growth	18 Try out a new exercise, activity or dance class	19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often	20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today
	21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day	22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it	23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour	24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting	25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself	26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes	27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil
	28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat	29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in	30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together