



# Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Issue # 27

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025



Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed some sunshine, as well as some quality time with family and friends. It's been such a joy to see the children return to school this morning, full of energy, curiosity, and excitement for the term ahead. We have lots of engaging activities, new topics, and special events planned, and we can't wait to share them with you.

A final reminder that we close our afterschool club link on Wednesday at 3:30pm, <https://forms.office.com/e/nDum8MVGXp> so please complete this in order to sign your child up to any clubs they may want to do. You will then hear later this week regarding spaces and payment.

Please take note of the upcoming dates in the calendar section and as always, we will be sharing specific updates for classes via ClassDojo throughout the term. This Thursday, our Year 4 children are taking part in an Opera Performance at Kings of Wessex, with all families and friends invited. The performance starts at 5:30pm.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're looking forward to working together to make this term a positive and rewarding experience for every child. Here's to a fantastic start and a successful term ahead.

With warmest wishes

Dominic Shillabeer  
Head teacher

## INSPIRE - THRIVE - EXCEL

Our Year 3 pupils have been thriving on the challenges set out for them in our Junior Dukes programme. It's been wonderful to see the imagination, creativity and independence on display. We love Kip's homemade flags and what great timing for St George's Day!



April

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** - Year 4 Music Performance @ KoW

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>** - Height & Weight checks for Reception

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>** - Swimming for Years 3 & 4

May

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May** - 8:00am School Mile Run in the playground, everyone welcome.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** - 7pm PTA meeting at the Oakhouse

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup>** - Year 4 Residential to Kilve Court

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** - Year 1 trip to Noah's Ark

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** - 9am Church service.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Break the Rules Day

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - school closes for Half-Term at 3:20pm**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - return to school**

## ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



**Below 90%**

Serious Concern.  
Persistent absence.

**90 - 95.9%**

Concern.  
Low attendance.

**At least 96%**

Expected attendance.



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

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with school news and events

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567455713055>

<https://www.instagram.com/axbridgeacademy/>



## 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**

Our Christian Value we are focussing on this term is

# Love

At the heart of Christian teaching is the value of love—unconditional, selfless, and kind. In the Bible, Jesus teaches us to "love one another" as He has loved us (John 13:34). This kind of love goes beyond just feelings; it's shown through actions, compassion, and a willingness to put others first. Whether it's offering a helping hand, being a good friend, or simply showing kindness in everyday situations, love is a powerful way to reflect God's presence in our lives.

We see love shown in the Christian narrative in many ways. Christians believe that Jesus' death and resurrection were all because God loved us and wanted us to be made right with Him again. This was the ultimate expression of love. Almost every Christian story has at the heart of it the love of God. For example, the Passover, Abraham and Isaac, The Good Samaritan, Calming of the storm and so on.

In our school, we see this value come to life when students support each other, when teachers show care and patience, and when our community comes together to help those in need. By practicing love in both big and small ways, we help build a safe, welcoming environment where everyone feels valued. Love reminds us that we are all part of one big family, united by respect, empathy, and the desire to make the world a better place.



### **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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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



# SEARCH ENGINES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

### MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

### MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

### ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

### ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

### UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

### QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

### IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

### PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

### 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.



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](https://www.actionforhappiness.com).

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 it any photos to your class teacher and let's celebrate together our Active April Actions!

**Active April 2025**

**MONDAY**



**1** Commit to being more active this month, starting today

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

**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

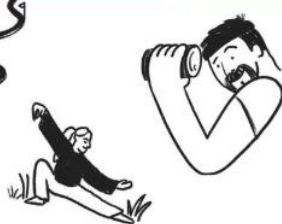
**26** Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes

**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**