



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

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

John 10:10

Issue # 1

8th September 2025

Dear Families,

It's been wonderful seeing you all again and even better to hear of the wonderful summer so many of you have enjoyed. Despite the mixed weather, it has been such a positive start to the term and the children have really approached their learning with a can-do attitude, which has been a pleasure to witness. At this point, we extend a huge congratulations to our Reception Class children who have demonstrated great enthusiasm, curiosity and kindness towards each other in the short time they have been in. Mrs Bissett and Mrs Bush have been very impressed!

Looking ahead this term, we can't wait to start exploring our different inquiry questions, which will have a focus around 'Humankind' and 'Community'. More information on this will be shared today in the class newsletters.

Attendance at school is vitally important, outlined in the recent news article from the [BBC](#). We are grateful at Axbridge for your commitment to this and this is reflected in the fact that we have enjoyed the highest attendance across the WLT for the past two years. Thank you for your incredible and ongoing support.

We are still very mindful of the increase in the cost of living and the impact that this may have for many of our families, so we will be sharing an overview of trips and events and approximate costings for each year group, in order for you to plan ahead if needs be. We continue to offer a broad range of clubs this term, with the Lego Club remaining free for all and a new Chess Club starting for Year 3 and 4. These will appear of My Child At School shortly.

Please make a note of the dates for some of the planned events for this half term. Reading books and spellings will be sent out today, with learning conversations starting at the end of the week.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support

Mr Dominic Shillabeer
Head teacher



September

Friday 19th @ 9am - Church Service
Wednesday 24th @ 7 to 8pm - PTA AGM @ The Oakhouse
Monday 22nd @ 2.50 to 3.20pm - Parents Phonics Workshop
Thursday 25th @ 3.20 to 4pm - Welcome to My Class
Friday 26th - MacMillan Coffee Morning Fundraising

October

Thursday 2nd @ 9 to 10am and 2.15 to 3pm - EYFS Parent Curriculum Workshop
Monday 6th - Harvest Collective Workshop - Autumn colours and donations
Tuesday 14th @ 2.30 to 3.20pm - Community Café Session for Reception & Yr 1 parents
Thursday 16th - Yr 3 Quarry Trip
Friday 17th - Whole School Flu Jab
Thursday 23rd @ 9am - Church Service

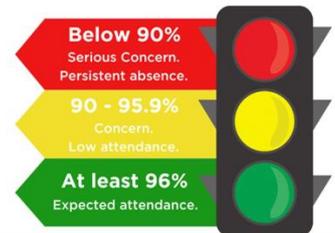
Thursday 23rd October - school closes for Half-Term at 3:20pm

Friday 24th is an INSET Day

Monday 3rd November we return to school

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

**Our Christian
Values are:
Community
Courage
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**



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

A quick reminder of our school vision and our school Christian Values

"Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel"

Our mission, for each child and their family, is laid out simply below:

'In our vibrant, inclusive community, every child is empowered to *thrive* and experience the joy of learning. By igniting the unique spark within each student, we *inspire* a lifelong passion for exploration and discovery. Empowered as independent thinkers, our students *excel* and are prepared to embrace *a life in all its fullness*.'

In providing this, we ensure that we also stay true to the Christian ethos and values of the school. These values have been simplified too and in consultation with the church, partners and Rev Alistair Forster, we have chosen: **Community, Courage** and **Love**. These values will be explored with the children throughout the year. In staying true to these values and aspirations, we believe that your child will flourish during their time at Axbridge and truly enjoy 'a life in all its fullness'.

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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Our Christian Value we are focussing on this term is

Community

At the heart of Christian teaching is the value of *community*; coming together, supporting one another, and recognising that we are stronger when we stand side by side. In the Bible, the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 shows us a powerful example of this: a crowd shared what they had, and with Jesus' blessing, there was more than enough for everyone. Community is about more than simply being in the same place, it's about **sharing**, **caring**, and **working together** for the good of all.

We see community in many of the Christian stories and teachings. In the book of Acts, we read how the early church gathered together, shared everything they had, and supported one another so that no one was left in need. In the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, everyone worked together, shoulder to shoulder, to achieve something greater than they could alone. The Bible reminds us again and again that God calls Christians to live in fellowship, to support each other, and to look out for those in need.

In our school, we see this value come to life every day. Children work together as teams, share ideas, and encourage one another. Teachers and staff support each child to thrive, while families and the wider community contribute their time, energy, and talents to help us grow as a school. When we live out community, we create a place where everyone belongs and feels valued.

Community reminds us that we are all connected. Each of us has a part to play, and together we can build a school, a local community and a world, filled with care, respect, and joy.



LOVE



COMMUNITY



COURAGE

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

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Congratulations to Isaac Parsons!

We are delighted to celebrate Isaac Parsons, who was the winner of the recent competition run by Heidelberg Materials to name their brand-new Bug Hotel. Isaac's brilliant and creative suggestion, **"The Creepy Crawler Hauler,"** was chosen as the winning name!

As part of his prize, Isaac received some special gifts and was invited to take part in the exciting opening ceremony, which took place just before the summer holidays. It was a wonderful way to mark the end of term, and we are so proud of Isaac for his imagination and enthusiasm.





**Wessex Learning Trust
Terms and Holidays
2025/2026 Academic Year**

September 2025						October 2025						November 2025									
M		1	8	15	22	29	Mo			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		Fr		3	10	17	24	31	Fr			7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		1	8	15	22	29	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		2	9	16	23	30	
December 2025						January 2026						February 2026									
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26	M			2	9	16	23	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu			3	10	17	24	
W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28	W			4	11	18	25	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th			5	12	19	26	
F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	30	F			6	13	20	27	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa			7	14	21	28	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su		1	8	15	22		
March 2026						April 2026						May 2026									
M		2	9	16	23	30	M			6	13	20	27	M			4	11	18	25	
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			5	12	19	26	
W		4	11	18	25		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			6	13	20	27	
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			7	14	21	28	
F		6	13	20	27		F		3	10	17	24		F		1	8	15	22	29	
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		2	9	16	23	30	
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		3	10	17	24	31	
June 2026						July 2026						August 2026									
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		3	10	17	24	31	F			7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29		
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30		

Key:

- School Holiday
- Bank Holiday
- Term Time
- Inset Days

Term dates summary:

- Term 1: 04 September – 23 October 2025 (36 days)
- Term 2: 03 November – 19 December 2025 (35 days)
- Term 3: 05 January – 12 February 2026 (29 days)
- Term 4: 23 February – 02 April 2026 (29 days)
- Term 5: 20 April – 22 May 2026 (24 days)
- Term 6: 01 June – 17 July 2026 (35 days)



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

RECOGNISING & MANAGING STRESS

According to recent studies, over 60% of young people report feeling regularly overwhelmed – with stress impacting their learning, emotional wellbeing and social connections. If left unaddressed, stress can lead to more serious concerns such as anxiety, depression or disengagement. This guide offers ten practical, evidence-based strategies to help children and young people recognise, manage and recover from stress in healthy ways.

1 SPOT THE SUBTLE SIGNS



Look out for changes in mood, behaviour, or energy levels, such as irritability, withdrawal, clinginess, or frequent headaches. These may indicate that a child is feeling overwhelmed. By tuning into these cues early and offering a calm, non-judgemental space to talk, adults can help children feel heard and supported before issues escalate.

2 KEEP CONVERSATIONS FLOWING



Make time for open, informal check-ins – whether it's during car journeys, over dinner, or in quiet classroom moments. Let children know it's okay to talk about what's bothering them. Regular, low-pressure conversations create a safe space where emotions are validated, not dismissed.

3 MAKE MOVEMENT PART OF THE DAY



Physical activity can dramatically reduce stress hormones while improving mood and focus. Encourage movement through activities children genuinely enjoy – from team sports to dancing around the kitchen. Even light activity like stretching or walking the dog can help us all unwind.

4 SUPPORT HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS



Poor sleep makes stress harder to manage. Establish a calming evening routine that avoids screens before bedtime and promotes winding down, such as reading, listening to music, or chatting quietly. Good sleep hygiene helps reset mood, enhances concentration, and boosts emotional resilience.

5 PRACTISE MINDFULNESS



Mindfulness doesn't have to mean long periods of meditation. A few slow breaths before lessons or short family meditation sessions before bed can make a real difference. These simple habits help children ground themselves, reduce emotional reactivity, and build inner calm over time.

6 SET DIGITAL BOUNDARIES



Excessive screen time, especially before bed or on social media, is linked with higher stress levels. Set clear expectations for when and where devices can be used and suggest screen-free alternatives like crafts, nature walks, or board games to promote digital balance and reduce overstimulation.

7 NURTURE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



Strong relationships act as a buffer against stress. Whether it's a trusted adult, a sibling, or a good friend, ensure children have people around them they can talk to and spend quality time with. Help them build those bonds through shared activities and meaningful interaction.

8 PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION



Set realistic goals and praise effort, not just outcomes. When children feel pressured to be perfect, stress naturally follows. Celebrate small wins and help them reframe setbacks as learning opportunities. This helps build confidence and reduces the fear of failure.

9 TEACH EVERYDAY PROBLEM-SOLVING



Use real-life scenarios to build resilience. Encourage children to identify problems, consider possible solutions, and choose a plan of action. Practising these steps builds a sense of control and reduces the helplessness that often accompanies stress.

10 BE THE MODEL THEY NEED



Children notice how adults respond to challenges. Model healthy coping strategies such as taking breaks, asking for help, or calmly expressing frustration. By showing how you manage stress constructively, you help normalise these behaviours and encourage children to do the same.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.



The National College

