



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 # 10

17th November 2025

Dear Families,

It has been a fantastic few weeks of inquiry learning across the school! Early Years are busy preparing for their Nativity, filling the school with their festive excitement. Year 1 enjoyed exploring Axbridge's rich history during their visit to St John's Hunting Lodge, while Year 2 have been embracing British traditions through Maypole dancing. Looking ahead, Year 3 will visit Cheddar Caves this week to deepen their understanding of the Stone Age and Year 4 are enjoying discovering more about life as a Spartan, with some guides on this to follow!

This Friday, we're thrilled to welcome The Greatest Robot Show to school, which we're certain will be a brilliant opportunity for our children to explore live theatre in a fun and engaging way! Also on Friday, our wonderful PTA are hosting a Film Night, with Flushed Away being the choice this month. Next month, we will be holding a special Christmas Film Night for the children, with hot chocolate and marshmallows to enjoy!

Finally, we would like to thank our amazing PTA for their quiz night heroics last Friday night. A special thanks to Kirsty Edwards, our brilliant host, and to all families and community members who came along. Together, we raised **£476** for the school and had a brilliant night of fun, laughter and friendly competition! Huge congratulations to Oak Class parents, our new quiz champions!

With warmest wishes for the week ahead,
Mr Dominic Shillabeer

EXCEL

In Busy Bees this week, they've enjoyed thinking like scientists whilst exploring the natural world and creating habitats for their animal friends to hibernate in. They've loved being outside and enjoying the weather and seeing how the seasons bring change for us all to enjoy!



November

Tuesday 18th – Vision Screening Test for Reception pupils

Wednesday 19th – Year 3 trip to Cheddar Caves

Friday 21st – The Greatest Robot Ever Theatre Performance, 1:45pm

Friday 21st – PTA Film Night

Monday 24th – Year 1 visit the Church

Friday 28th @ 9am – Church Service – everyone is welcome

December

Wednesday 3rd @ 2pm – Early Years Nativity

Thursday 4th @ 10.15am – Early Years Nativity

Friday 5th – PTA Chocolate Mufti Day

Tuesday 9th – PTA Film Night

Tuesday 9th @ 7pm – PTA meeting @ The Lamb

Wednesday 10th @ 9am – Rocksteady Christmas Concert

Friday 12th @ 3.30 to 5pm – PTA Xmas Fair

Monday 15th @ 6pm – Carol Service

Tuesday 16th – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 18th – PTA Craft Session

Friday 19th @ 9am – Church Service

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!

Attendance was 96.7% last week.



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

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week, we are so proud of you!

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Emmie	Zephyr	Arthur W-B	Amy	Aubrey
Christian Values	Dexter	Pippa	Jake	Arthur	Remy
Learning Skills	Albie	Arlo	Tahlia	Charlie	Cooper

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Reuben T Hazel	Christian Values	Annabel D Chestnut	Learning Skills	William N Oak
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	247	212	217	212



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey



COMMUNITY



COURAGE



LOVE

Community Champions



🌿 A Huge Thank You to SB Garden Services & Landscaping! 🌿

Today, we were incredibly lucky to have the brilliant team from **SB Garden Services and Landscaping** (<https://www.facebook.com/sbgardenservicescheddar/>) donate their time and expertise to help us remove a large conifer from the school grounds. This important work marks the very first step in creating our brand-new **Outdoor Learning Area**, with a greenhouse set to be installed later this year! 🌱 ✨

A massive thank you to Sam and Danielle, who spent the entire day with us, working tirelessly to support a project that will benefit our children and school community for many years to come. Your generosity and commitment mean so much to us.

We are so grateful for their help and we can't wait to see this exciting new space come to life! ❤️ 🙌

Personal recommendations make such a difference, and we'd love more families to discover what makes **Axbridge C of E Academy** such a special place to learn, grow and flourish. If you've had a positive experience with our school, whether it's the warm welcome, your child's experiences or the wonderful sense of community you feel, please do **spread the word!**



Axbridge
C of E Academy

www.axbridgefirstschool.co.uk



OPEN AUTUMN 2025-26

We believe that every day is special at Axbridge, so we don't offer open days like other schools. Instead, we invite you to join us for our 'Open Autumn', where you can enjoy a tour of the school with the headteacher at a time that is convenient for you and your family. You'll have the chance to meet our inspiring teachers, enjoy the joyous atmosphere and see our wonderful children who make our school so special. Email or phone the office to book in a date. We look forward to hearing from you!

STARTS
15
SEP

ABOUT US

'Rooted in Community: Growing in Excellence'

- We provide a safe, nurturing, and aspirational environment where all children thrive and flourish.
- We offer a wide range of clubs, events, experiences and visits, allowing all children the space to discover and explore their passions in life.
- Five straight year group classes for ages 4-9 and a welcoming Nursery for ages 2-4.
- Follow us on Facebook to see what an incredible start in life looks like



Contact Us

01934 732391

office@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel





MOVIE NIGHT

FLUSHED AWAY (U)

Friday 21st November
3:30pm - 5:00pm

Email
pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk
to book

£3 with
squash
and a
biscuit



SMC *Christmas*
CAMP

WHERE? CHURCHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHEN? 22ND, 23RD, 29TH & 30TH DECEMBER

We are now taking HAF Bookings

HAF NORTH SOMERSET
Holiday Activities & Food

SPORTS MASTERS COACHING LTD are pleased to announce they are running a holiday club in December. To make a booking please follow the link:

bookings:<https://bookwhen.com/smc-churchill-holiday-club>



KI AIKIDO

Junior Classes



Gentle but powerful

- Learn to co-ordinate mind and body & improve mobility, flexibility, and stamina.
- Suitable for all ages, all levels of fitness and all body types.
- Classes in a dedicated dojo in Mark, Somerset.

Ki Aikido does not rely on size or strength - students develop skills to redirect a partner's energy rather than resist it. There is no aggression or violence; it is a supportive community where discipline and etiquette are maintained in a friendly atmosphere of mutual respect.

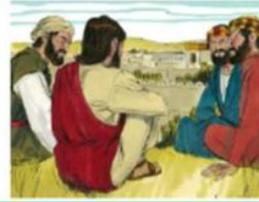
Ki Aikido students report feeling more resilient and confident, and happier and healthier in their lives.

**MARK,
SOMERSET
TA9 4PZ**

**JUNIORS: 5 - 12 YEARS
WEDNESDAY TERM TIME: 6PM TO 6:45 PM
£3 PER CLASS + £12 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

- * kifederationofgreatbritain.co.uk
- * 01278 641166
- * The Causeway, Mark, Somerset, TA9 4PZ
- * bruce.reedsense@gmail.com

The Ki Federation is a non-profit organisation with area clubs throughout the UK and beyond.



In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow Benefice & Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 16 November
2nd Sunday before Advent

Services today

0800	LOXTON	Holy Communion
1000	AXBRIDGE	Holy Communion
1000	LOXTON	Morning Worship
1000	SHIPHAM	Together in Worship (Patronal Festival)
1600	ROWBERROW	Holy Communion

Taking place this week

Monday 17 November

- 1100 Axbridge Warm Spot, Church Rooms (ends 1300)
- 1700 Crook Peak Special Choir Practice, Badgworth (ends 1830)
- 1900 Crook Peak PCC, Weare Churchroom (ends 2100)
- 1930 ASR Homegroup, Pam's, 2 Beech Road, Shipham (ends 2100)

Tuesday 18 November

- 1930 CP Homegroup, Crooklands, Old Coach Rd, Cross (ends 2115)

Wednesday 19 November

- 2000 Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church

Thursday 20 November

- 0900 Crook Peak online morning prayer:
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-1258H/service-and-events/>
- 1100 Advent Course, Cesca's, 64 Houlgate Way (2/6)

Friday 21 November

- 1100 Lenny's Community Café, Shipham Church (ends 1400)
- 1930 ASR Benefice Choir Practice (ends 2030)

Saturday 22 November

- 1030 Bereavement Café, Shipham Church (ends 1200) – see News & Events

Every 4th Wednesday of the month

**Axe Vale Arts Centre (former Methodist Church),
West Street, Axbridge BS26 2AA**

Sign up from 7PM for a 7:30 start



Axe Vale Acoustic

**Inclusive music night. All welcome to play or listen.
Singers, musicians, songwriters, bands, soloists... all
formats and styles welcome to come along and enjoy the
acoustics of our amazing venue**

**An Axe Vale
Arts production**

**Facebook: Axe
Vale Arts**



Parent carer Drop-In Cheddar

**The Space Hub , 10am -12-pm
No need to book.**

Come and meet our SEND Navigator who is here to help families of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities in Somerset to:

- Access good quality information.
- Signpost to people who can help.
- Support parents to prepare for meetings and appointments.
- Help parent carers understand what help is available.
- Help parent carers by supporting with completion of forms such as DLA, PIP and applications for funding from grants.
- Help parent carers build confidence in understanding and supporting their child's needs.

2025 Dates

- Tuesday 15th July
- Tuesday 16th Sept
- Tuesday 21st October
- Tuesday 18th Nov
- Tuesday 16th Dec
- Tuesday 20th Jan 26

A: Axbridge C of E Academy, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2BA

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**Wessex
Learning Trust**
We Learn Together!

Wake Up Wednesday Guide for Parents – AI Videos

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

DEEPIAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION

AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College