



# Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

*"I have come so that you may have life, life in all its fullness"*  
John 10:10

Issue # 12

1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Dear Families,

We've made it to December! Hooray! This is always such a busy, joyous time in our schools and we are very much looking forward to seeing you at our many events in the coming weeks. We wish our EYFS children and staff the best of luck for their Nativity this week; what a magical way to start advent and the countdown towards Christmas!

In previous communications and media posts, you would have seen us mention The Space. This is a Cheddar-based children's mental health charity that supports many young people and families within the Wessex Learning Trust community, who would be incredibly grateful if you would consider supporting them for Jumpers for Joy Day on December Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Their self-referral system means children and families can access help quickly, at the moment they need it most. Any contribution, big or small, will directly support wellbeing services for our pupils. Thank you for considering them at this time of the year, a time when it can be a challenge for many. To donate, please scan the QR code

With warmest wishes for the week ahead

Mr Dominic Shillabeer



## EXCEL

It's not just the children who excel at Axbridge, Miss Nash recently competed in a regional CrossFit competition and did herself and her team proud! Well done Miss Nash, keep inspiring and excelling!



December



- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 2pm** - Early Years Nativity
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10.15am** - Early Years Nativity
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** - PTA Chocolate Mufti Day
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>** - PTA Film Night
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm** - PTA meeting @ The Lamb
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9am** - Rocksteady Christmas Concert
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Jumper day
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> @ 3.30 to 5pm** - PTA Xmas Fair
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** - Carol Service at St Johns.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** - PTA Craft Session
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9am** - Church Service, all welcome!

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December - school closes for Christmas Holidays at 3:20pm**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - 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!

Attendance was 96.6% last week for the whole school, with Oak having the highest attendance across all classes, at 98%.

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

E: office@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk | W: www.axbridgefirstschool.co.uk | T: 01934 732391



**Wessex Learning Trust**  
We Learn Together!

**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!**

	<b>Pine</b>	<b>Hazel</b>	<b>Chestnut</b>	<b>Redwood</b>	<b>Oak</b>
<b>Star of the Week</b>	Demian	Reuben	Nelle	Ethan	Gracie
<b>Christian Values</b>	Olivia	Maddy	Jesse	Leo	Maya
<b>Learning Skills</b>	Laila	Rosa	Cobey	Henry	Howie

**Headteacher's Awards**

<b>Star of the Week</b>	Clara Oak	<b>Christian Values</b>	Seth Redwood	<b>Learning Skills</b>	James Hazel
-------------------------	-----------	-------------------------	--------------	------------------------	-------------

**House Points**

	<b>Black Rock</b>	<b>Crook Peak</b>	<b>King's Wood</b>	<b>Strawberry Line</b>
<b>This week</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>287</b>



**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL**

**Safeguarding Lead:** Mr Dominic Shillabeer

**Deputy Safeguarding Leads:** Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

## Mid Somerset Consortium (MSC)

# BACK TO SCHOOL... AS A TEACHER



The Mid Somerset  
Consortium

*Train to Teach with Mid Somerset Consortium  
– Inspire the Next Generation*

- Flexible training designed for busy parents
- Make a real difference in children's lives
- Start a meaningful career in your community
- Earn while you learn with hands-on classroom experience

Ready to take the next step?

**JOIN MSC TEACHER TRAINING TODAY!**

e: [office@mscitt.org.uk](mailto:office@mscitt.org.uk) | w: [www.mscitt.org.uk](http://www.mscitt.org.uk) | t: 01458 449418

The MSC is proudly part of the Wessex Learning Trust and delivers high quality, supportive teacher training with a particular focus on future primary teachers.

If you are looking to explore a career in teaching, the MSC would love to hear from you!



## Winter Reading Challenge

Calling all book worms - **#WinterMiniChallenge** kicks off today, the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

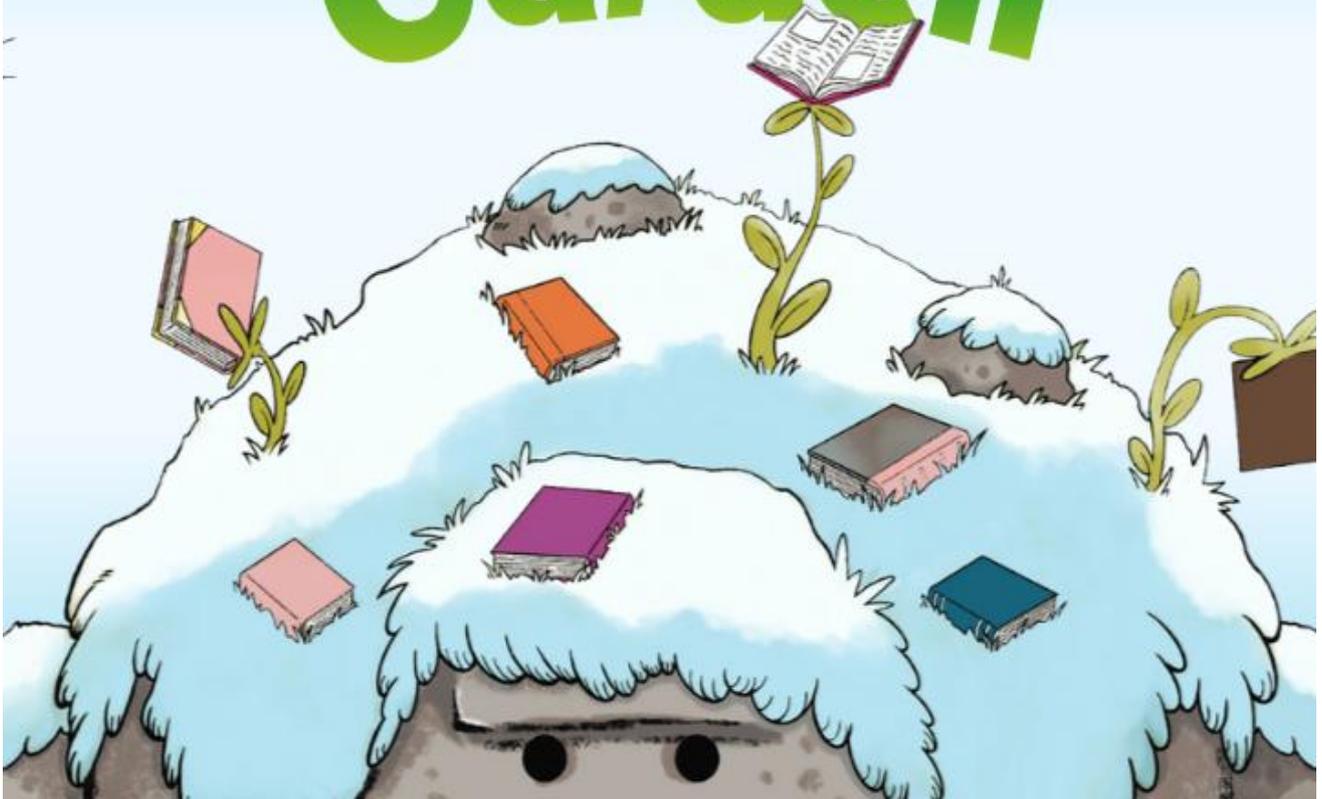
The Winter Mini Challenge is a free online reading challenge that tackles the holiday reading dip, encouraging children to discover the joy of reading and keep up good habits. This year's **#StoryGarden** theme encourages children to connect with nature and books.

Head to [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk) from the 1 December to sign up, find fun activities, and earn rewards for reading.

Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

## Winter Mini Challenge

# Story Garden



# Messy Church Christingle

Sunday 7th December  
3pm - 4.30pm  
Cheddar Village Hall

Come and join in the Christingle crafts, and more followed by a yummy tea.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To help with an idea of numbers, please let Samm know if you hope to come:  
beneficecdrs@gmail.com

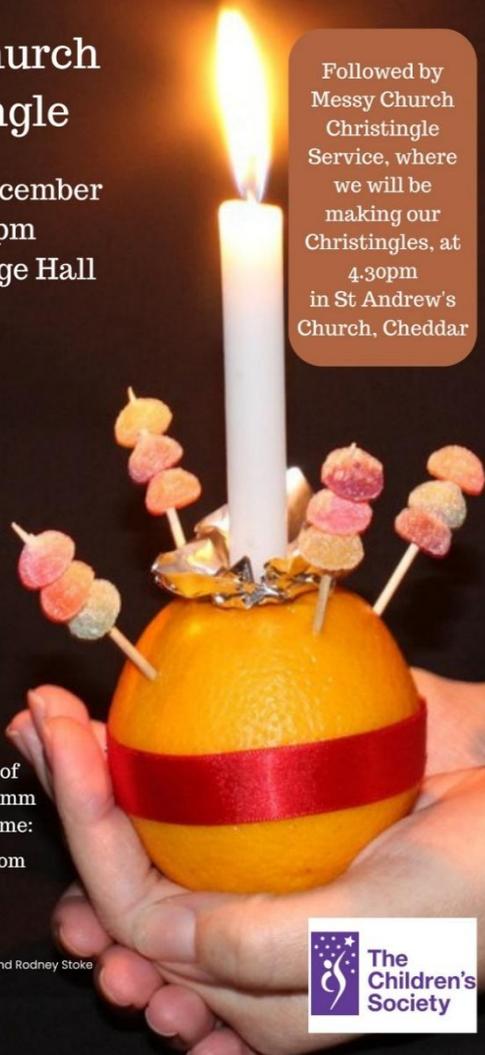
#### MORE INFORMATION:

Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke

Cheddar Village Hall

www.beneficecdrs.org

Followed by Messy Church Christingle Service, where we will be making our Christingles, at 4.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Cheddar



## A FINAL FIGURE!

**The Friends of Axbridge Church  
unwanted coin/note collection**

**raised £1,000**

**ONCE MORE OUR THANKS TO ALL  
SUPPORTERS OF THIS FUNDRAISER**



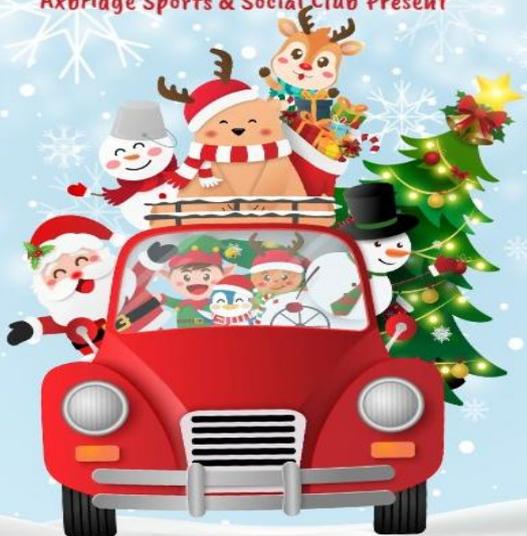
This 1776 "farthing" was donated and sold for a goodly sum—though technically it was a forgery!!

The Friends aim to  
**PRESERVE - PROTECT  
& ENHANCE**  
Axbridge Parish Church  
**WE HOPE TO ORGANISE  
ANOTHER COIN FUNDRAISER  
IN 2026 SO SAVE YOUR COINS!**



Registered Charity No: 1109351

### Axbridge Sports & Social Club Present



## SANTA IN THE SQUARE

**20TH DECEMBER 2025 - FROM 4PM**

**Santa arrives at 5pm**

**Pig Roast, BBQ, Mulled Wine, Carols,  
Live Music, Childrens Entertainment**

**Register by e-mail: santainthesquare@gmail.com**

### SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2025

<b>7th</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
10.00am	AXBRIDGE + Zoom	United Benefice Communion
<b>14th</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
10.00am	BADGWORTH	Holy Communion
4.00pm	ROWBERROW	Holy Communion
6.00pm	SHIPHAM	Evening Praise
<b>21st</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
10.00am	AXBRIDGE	Parish Communion
10.00am	SHIPHAM	Together in Worship
6.00pm	AXBRIDGE	Carol Service with the Benefice Choir and Bristol Brass
<b>24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
4.00pm	SHIPHAM	Christingle
4.00pm	AXBRIDGE	Christingle
6.00pm	ROWBERROW	Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm	AXBRIDGE	Midnight Mass (with Carols from 11pm)
<b>25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
10.00am	AXBRIDGE	Family Service
10.00am	SHIPHAM	Family Communion
<b>28th</b>	<b>First Sunday after Christmas</b>	
10:00am	AXBRIDGE	United Benefice Communion with Crook Peak

Zoom services will also be livestreamed on the Axbridge Church YouTube channel.  
Zoom details for this month: Meeting ID: 893 5983 8684, Passcode: 294593

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

**E:** office@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk | **W:** www.axbridgefirstschool.co.uk | **T:** 01934 732391



**Wessex  
Learning Trust**  
We Learn Together!

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](http://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](mailto:office@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk)

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

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

E: [office@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk](mailto:office@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk) | W: [www.axbridgefirstschool.co.uk](http://www.axbridgefirstschool.co.uk) | T: 01934 732391



**Wessex**  
Learning Trust  
We Learn Together!

# Wake Up Wednesday Guide for Parents - Tracking Devices

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

### BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

### MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

### ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

### 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 and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College