



# 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 # 17

19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to hear the feedback from our Y2 pupils, as they enjoyed a visit to SS Great Britain as part on their inquiry learning last week. *"We loved seeing the ship and the mannequins, but it was a bit smelly in there."* *"I loved dressing up in the Victorian clothes and waving the flags"* *We saw how he made the Great Western too.* Whilst many found the 'talking toilet' a real highlight, it was impressive the amount of information they had retained from the visit and we can't wait to see them apply this in their learning in the coming weeks. Happily, Oak Class will be journeying up to The Roman Baths this Wednesday, as they discover more about the impact of the Roman's settlement in Britain. This is always such a memorable trip, good luck Year 4!

At Axbridge, we are always looking at how we can develop our staff, in order to ensure your children thrive in our care. Miss Meldon from the Nursery team is currently undertaking Makaton training, to support and strengthen how we develop communication and understanding in the Early Years. In the main school, Miss Hart has recently completed her Drawing and Talking course, which complements our existing ELSA provision and gives children ways of processing and exploring emotional challenges they may face. Finally, Mrs Preece will be undertaking Mental Health First Aid training, and alongside Miss Nash, will ensure we are continuing to ensure the school remains a safe, positive environment for all to thrive in. I am incredibly proud of **all** the staff and this is just a snapshot of their ongoing commitment in providing your children 'a life in all its fullness'. To the team, 'Thank you!'

Following a meeting with our wonderful school council yesterday, they are excited to share some great plans around some exciting events, as well as raising funds for their selected charity, School In A Bag. News on this to follow!

Mr Dominic Shillabeer  
Head teacher



January

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Year 4 trip to the Roman Baths

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - 2.45pm Phonics Information session

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9am - Church Service everyone welcome

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> - PTA Ceilidh and Burns Night Event - 6-9pm

February

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Break the Rules Day

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - NHS dental checks for 5 years old.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Safer Internet Day

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's - wear red for School in A Bag

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - PTA Valentine Crafternoon - 3:25 - 4 :25pm

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February - school closes for Half-Term at 3:20pm**

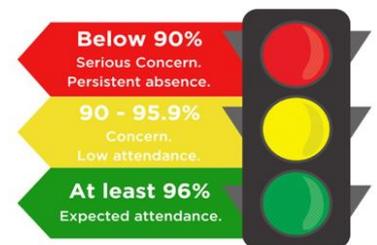
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is an INSET Day**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February - DIY SOS day**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - return to school**

## ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

Whole School Attendance was 98.2 % last week, amazing!

**Our Christian Values are:**  
**Community**  
**Courage**  
**Love**

**Our Christian Vision is;**  
*"I have come so that you may have life, 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>	Harlie	Alfie	Tahlia	Leo	Tristan
<b>Christian Values</b>	Isabella	Arlo	Nelle	Mila-Rae	Aaliyah
<b>Learning Skills</b>	Artemus	Pippa	Arthur W-B	Dylan	Jessica

**Headteacher's Awards**

<b>Star of the Week</b>	Noah G Chestnut	<b>Christian Values</b>	Dexter S Pine	<b>Learning Skills</b>	Robyn O'S Redwood
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**House Points**

	<b>Black Rock</b>	<b>Crook Peak</b>	<b>King's Wood</b>	<b>Strawberry Line</b>
<b>This week</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>159</b>



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

**Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer**

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



# PTA CEILIDH

*Come and join us for a  
Family Friendly evening  
and learn how to Ceilidh!*

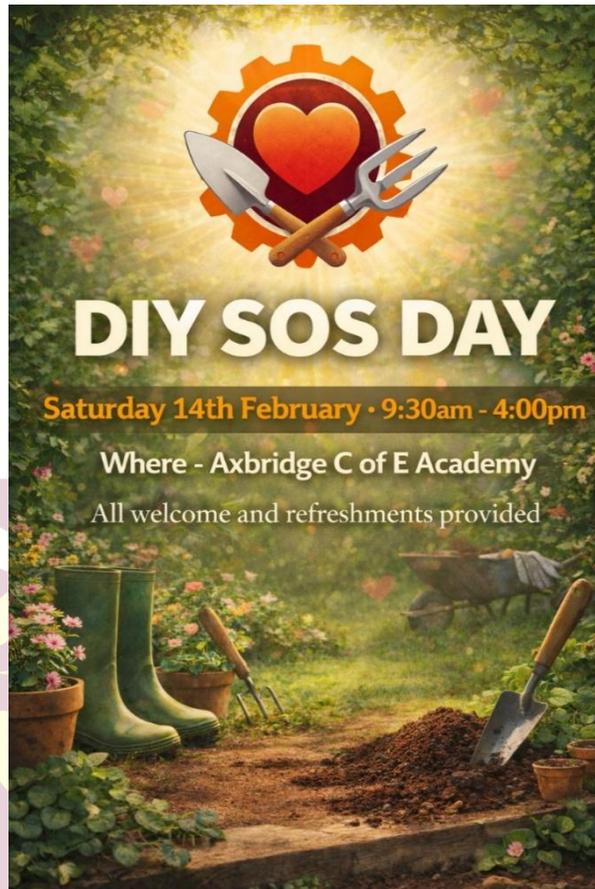
Tickets £8 (adult) and  
£4 (kids) or £20 (family  
ticket with up to 4  
kids) which includes  
chilli!

Email  
[pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk](mailto:pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk)  
with confirmation of  
payment into the PTA bank

account

**Friday, January 30th | 6pm - 9pm**

AXBRIDGE SCHOOL HALL



## DIY SOS Day - Saturday 14th February

Sign up here: [DIY SOS Day - Fill in form](#)

To support our Christian Value of **Love** and showing the school site a small amount of this, we are inviting families to join us for a school DIY SOS Day. Jobs include:

- Focus on preparing the memorial garden for the new greenhouse and outdoor learning space.
- Digging, weeding, moving gravel and laying membrane.
- Support needed to dispose of old school furniture at the local recycling centre. Trailers/ vans are welcome!
- Indoor jobs available such as painting and decorating.
- Hot food and drinks provided throughout the day.
- A great way to help keep our school a vibrant, welcoming space for all children, staff and families.
- Perfect for any ex-pupils undertaking Duke of Edinburgh or parents whose employers provide a day to support such causes.

### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

**Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer**

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

**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



**MACCLESFIELD FC IS A WINNING TEAM! WHAT'S YOURS?**

ASK TO JOIN A TEAM.

OR

FORM ONE OF YOUR OWN.



IF YOU WANT TO JOIN A TEAM OR NEED A TEAM MEMBER TO MAKE UP A SIX THEN EMAIL US FOR HELP

[paul.passey@yahoo.com](mailto:paul.passey@yahoo.com)

**TOWN HALL AXBRIDGE**

**24TH JANUARY 2026—EVENING**

**£10 per head—tables of 6**

**TO INCLUDE FOOD AND ENTRY**

**BAR AVAILABLE**

**ENTRY FORMS in CHURCH PORCH, POST OFFICE, PHARMACY AND CO-OP**

**The Friends of Axbridge Church**

**PRESERVE - PROTECT - ENHANCE**

**Friends of Axbridge Church**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Raising funds to help renovate the Parish Church organ



**THE QUIZ QUESTIONS [answered]**



**When? Saturday 24th. Jan.**

**Where? Axbridge Town Hall**

**Why? To raise funds**

**For what? To help renovate the Parish Church organ**

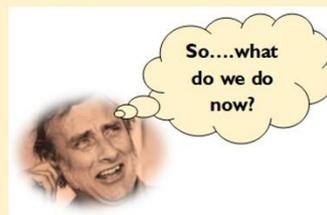
**Whose Quiz? The Friends of Axbridge Church**

**Who's coming? We have invited everyone!!!**

**BONUS QUESTIONS—EASY ANSWERS**

**FOOD? YES BAR? YES RAFFLE? YES**

**TEAM of 6 COST £10 per person [incl,food]**



**Well Spike ... [not his real name!!] ... You could ask 5 friends, or neighbours, or anyone from among your favourite town group**

**and form a team. Then find an Entry Form in the Church Porch, Pharmacy, Co-op or the Post Office and help The Friends of Axbridge Church to ....**

**PRESERVE—PROTECT—ENHANCE**

# THE SPACE

## Parent Club

Being a parent is HARD! Do you sometimes just want to talk to like-minded people without judgement?

Does your child experience school avoidance or have

SEN? Or maybe you just need a gentle chat with someone who understands?



 We are here for YOU!

Parent Club offers a safe, welcoming space with:

 Hot coffee  Friendly faces  Support, advice & signposting

 Every Wednesday  9am-10:30am



No need to book — just drop in!

Prefer to reserve a spot? Text 07940 177399

We also have activities to keep little ones occupied!



### New Evening sessions

Evening sessions available by appointment only

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month  
From 6pm  
Coffee @ The Hub

Please email Victoria  
VBoorman@thespacesomerset.org.uk  
to book your space

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
available for booking now

**COFFEE @ THE HUB, 1-2 LOWER NORTH STREET,  
CHEDDAR. BS27 3HA (OPPOSITE TESCO EXPRESS)**



# HOLIDAY CLUB

## At Kings Fitness & Leisure



For ages 5-13 years  
from £23\* per day  
9.00am-4.00pm.



Extend the day with early  
drop-off and late pick-up  
from £4.50 per session



Have Fun playing games,  
sports, going swimming,  
and doing arts and crafts!



Bring packed lunch, snacks,  
refillable drinks bottle, swimming  
kit, weather dependant items  
(sun cream, waterproofs etc).



Visit our Junior  
Activities Page here:

Contact Kings Fitness & Leisure at  
01934 744939 to sign up NOW!



\*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively, £28 per day, if booked  
after this time frame



# WEDMORE HOLIDAY CLUB



For ages 5-13 years, from £23\*  
per day, 9.00am-4.00pm, at  
Wedmore First School grounds



In the winter, have fun doing  
outdoor adventure activities in the  
forest school grounds, and enjoy  
our outdoor swimming pool in the  
summer!\*\*



Enjoy a jam packed day of  
playing games, sports, and arts  
and crafts!



Bring packed lunch, snacks,  
refillable drinks bottle, outdoor  
adventure clothing, and weather  
dependant items (sun cream,  
waterproofs etc).



Visit our Junior  
Activities Page here:

Contact Kings Fitness & Leisure at  
01934 744939 to sign up NOW!



\*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively, £28 per day, if booked after this time frame  
\*\*This is a seasonal, weather dependant activity.



### In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham &  
Rowberrow Benefice  
& Crook Peak Parish  
Sunday 18 January  
Epiphany 2

#### Sunday 18 January

0800	COMPTON BISHOP	Holy Communion
1000	AXBRIDGE	Holy Communion
1000	LOXTON	Morning Worship
1000	SHIPHAM	Together in Worship
1600	ROWBERROW	Evensong

#### Taking place this week

##### Monday 19 January

1100	Axbridge Warm Spot, Church Rooms (ends 1300)	
1930	ASR Homegroup, Sue's, 29 Beech Road (ends 2100)	

##### Wednesday 21 January

1945	Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church	
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##### Thursday 22 January

0900	Crook Peak online morning prayer <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-125BH/service-and-events/">https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-125BH/service-and-events/</a>	
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##### Friday 23 January

1930	ASR Benefice Choir Practice (ends 2030)	
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#### Next Sunday, 25 January, Epiphany 3

1000	COMPTON BISHOP	Holy Communion
1000	SHIPHAM	Holy Communion & Prayer for healing
1800	AXBRIDGE	Evening Praise
1800	BADGWORTH	Evening Prayer

# The PURPLE BALL

FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
THE PURPLE BALL IN MEMORY OF JOHDI RUSSELL

3 COURSE MEAL AND ENTERTAINMENT  
FROM LIPINSKI

PLUS :  
HEADS N' TAILS, SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE

£55 A TICKET (TABLES OF 8, 10, 12 & 14)



SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR THE TICKET  
SHOP

7

March  
2026



SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR THE TICKET  
SHOP

THE GRAND PIER  
WESTON SUPER MARE



ADI SECURITY  
Mike D  
photography



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JOHDI RUSSELL  
28.02.2000 - 05.10.2017  
AND IN SUPPORT OF  
SUDEP Action

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Wessex  
Learning Trust  
We Learn Together!

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

#### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

#### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 3* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

#### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

#### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

#### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College