



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 # 2

15th September 2025

Dear Families,

Today is an exciting day, as our Reception Class children all begin full time in school, hooray! Mrs Bissett, Mrs Bush and I have already been so impressed with their positive attitude, teamwork and kindness towards each other; what bright futures they all have! A huge well done to our Year 4 'Buddies' too, who have helped them settle in and feel so welcome in their short time with us,

My Child At School (MCAS) will soon be fully operational, but we had issues across all WLT schools (and nationally) in the first week back, so we hope to have this up and running as soon as possible. A reminder to please contact the school office if you have not been able to sign up yet, as MCAS will become the one-stop shop for all school related events, payments and bookings.

- ✓ We will be requesting Harvest donations in the coming weeks, in support of Cheddar Valley Foodbank.
- ✓ We would love to support the Church fundraising effort to restore the organ; old coins, foreign notes and spare change will be gathered and donated towards this cause.
- ✓ Church service this Friday at 9:05am for Year 1, 2, 3 and 4. Reception Class to join for the October service.
- ✓ Macmillan coffee morning taking place on Friday 26th September, more details to be shared separately.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support

Mr Dominic Shillabeer
Head teacher

EXCEL

Well done to our new school councillors, who have been elected this week! We know you will make a positive difference to our school and bring great energy and enthusiasm to the role!



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
- Thursday 25th @ 2:50 - 3:15pm - Year 4 parents MTC information session in Oak 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!



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

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Theo G.	Christian Values	Shaniya	Learning Skills	Aubrey
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	183	162	149	229

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

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

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We are delighted to let you know that we are now using Times Tables Rock Stars across the whole school! 🎸 ✨

What is Times Tables Rock Stars?

It's an engaging, online programme designed to help children learn and practise their times tables and related division facts in a fun, game-based environment. Children can personalise their avatar, challenge classmates, and see their progress over time.

Why we're using it

- Builds speed and accuracy with multiplication and division facts.
- Boosts children's confidence in maths.
- Encourages healthy competition and self-improvement.
- Links directly to the national curriculum expectations for times tables.

How it works at school

- Each child has their own login details.
- We will be using it regularly in lessons and for practice sessions.
- Teachers can see how children are doing and set challenges to match their needs.

How you can help at home

- Encourage your child to log in regularly at home - even just 5-10 minutes practice can make a big difference.
- Celebrate their achievements when they improve their speed or "rock status."

Getting started

Your child will come home with their username and password. You can access Times Tables Rock Stars on any device via the website or app:

🔗 <https://trockstars.com/>

We're excited to see the impact this will have on our children's maths skills and confidence. Thank you for your support in making times tables practice fun and effective!

Axbridge Blackberry Carnival
PRESENTS
PHIL KING
 "the song weaver"
 BBC RADIO 2's
 Bob Harris



SUNDAY 5th October
Doors 7.15pm
AXBRIDGE TOWN HALL
TICKETS £10 (+ bfee)
Wegottickets.com
Or AXBRIDGE POST OFFICE

CASH BAR **A Carnival Fundraiser**

SCAN ME 

Are you interested in singing,
 acting and dancing?
 Why not join...
Winscombe Youth Theatre

Weekly classes for children aged between 4-18 at Churchill Academy.

Contact WYT via email: stagenast@hotmail.co.uk
 Or visit our website for a taster session.

www.winscombeyouththeatre.com

Why not check out our pages on socials?
 @WinscombeYouthTheatreSchool



Dance With Georgia
dream & believe

JAZZ & STREET DANCE



Monday - Draycott
 4:15pm - 5pm Ages 4 - 7
 5pm - 5:45pm Ages 8+

www.dancewithgeorgia.co.uk

Coin Collection

Have you any loose change, foreign coins or shillings and pence you don't know what to do with? Please dig deep in the back of the sock drawer or look for notes tucked into passports (we know it is a coin collection but will not be offended by notes!).



We will be collecting at the Farmers Market in September and October. Donations can also be dropped to
Barbara Wells at 49 West St Axbridge

Collection is on behalf of Friends of Axbridge Church for maintenance of this fantastic Grade 1* listed building.



PRESERVE—PROTECT—ENHANCE



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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College