



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 # 4

29th September 2025

Dear Families,

As always, many thanks for your continued support, in what has been a very busy week of workshops, visitors and community events. A real highlight was welcoming Paralympian Katrina Hart to the school, who shared her passion for athletics and gave all of our children the chance to meet a professional athlete, try new activities, and boost their skills, confidence, and teamwork. The sponsorship raised will help us buy new sports equipment, so many thanks again for your support!

Later this week, Mrs Bissett will be running her EYFS workshop for Reception Class parents, please see the calendar for timings.

Next week we have our **Harvest Collective Worship** in school, which we warmly invite parents to join us for at **9:00am**, this will be led by Rev Sue Hoskins. On this day children can wear Autumn colours to school (mufti) and we are also supporting the Cheddar Valley Foodbank. This year, they are kindly requesting any of the below donations:

Tinned Veg	Tinned Custard	Cooking Oil	Tinned Meat Pies
Tinned Fruit	Hot Chocolate	Tomato Ketchup	Long Life Fruit Juice
Pasta Sauces	Coffee	Toiletries	
Sponge Puddings	Sugar	Washing Up Liquid	

Here's to another fantastic week at Axbridge!

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

INSPIRE

Huge thank you to Katrina Hart for leading the circuit of challenges with great energy and positivity on Wednesday. All the children put in 100% effort and we are incredibly proud of them all. The total is still to be confirmed, but we have raised in excess of £1800 - AMAZING!



October

Thursday 2nd @ 9 to 10am and 2.15 to 3pm - EYFS Parent Curriculum Workshop

Monday 6th - Harvest Collective Workshop - Autumn colours and donations

Wednesday 8th - Years 1 & 2 Strawberry Line Walk.

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

Wednesday 22nd @ 3.30 to 4.30 - PTA Autumn Craft session (after school) £5

Thursday 23rd @ 9am - Church Service

Thursday 23rd @ 3.20 - PTA Cake sale in the hall

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

Friday 24th is an INSET Day

November

Wednesday 4th @ 4 to 7pm and

Thursday 5th @ 4 to 7pm - Parents Evening

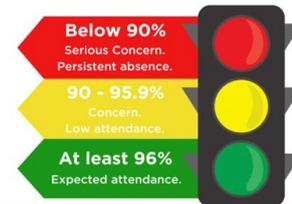
Monday 10th - IMAGO photography taking individual photos

Friday 14th - Children in Need

Friday 14th @ 7pm - PTA Quiz Night

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

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

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Rafferty	Ottilie	Lacey	Ellie	Aaliyah
Christian Values	Millie	Ned	Leyla	Lucien	Shaniya
Learning Skills	Angus	Alfie	Arthur	Felicia	Tristan

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Edith Mearns	Christian Values	Cobey Chard	Learning Skills	Billie Brinson
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	82	139	76	68

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Our Christian Value we are focussing on this term is



COMMUNITY

A Week of Wonderful Events

Community is our focus this term, and this week has shown just how strong those links are here at Axbridge.

We've loved welcoming families into school for a series of special events:

- ✦ **Welcome To My Class** - children proudly showed their families around and shared what life is like in their classrooms.
- ✦ **Great Athletes Visit - Katrina Hart** - Mrs Hector helped organise an afternoon of fitness and circuits to help raise funds for sports equipment for the school.
- ✦ **Multiplication Tables Check Meetings** - Mrs Emery and Miss Nash led a practical, hands-on session full of tips and strategies to support children at home.
- ✦ **Macmillan Community Coffee Afternoon** - an incredible show of generosity and support, raising £135 so far, with more to count!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along, donated cakes, or gave their time. Special thanks to **Sonia Mehra, Miss Nash and Ms Page** for their wonderful hosting skills.

Events like these remind us what makes Axbridge so special, we are a warm, vibrant school community working together for our children. 🧡



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

SCAN ME 

CASH BAR **A Carnival Fundraiser**

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



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

TUESDAY 28TH - FRIDAY 31ST

OCTOBER HOLIDAY CAMPS

£20 PER DAY
 EARLY DROP OFF £5





All abilities welcome!

Fun and professional sessions full of games, technical coaching and match play. 9am-12pm with early drop off option of 8am at Winscombe Tennis Club

Scan the QR code or contact Dominic at winscombetennisdubcoaching@outlook.com to book your slot





In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham &
Rowberrow Benefice
& Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 28 September
Trinity 15

Sunday 28 September

1000	SHIPHAM	Holy Communion and Prayer for Healing
1000	COMPTON BISHOP	Holy Communion
1800	BADGWORTH	Choral Evensong – see <i>News & Events</i>
1800	AXBRIDGE	Taizé-style Evening Service

Taking place this week

Monday 29 September

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

Wednesday 1 October

1930	Crook Peak Women's Fellowship, Cross Hall (ends 2130)
2000	Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church

Thursday 2 October

0900	Crook Peak online morning prayer: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-125BH/service-and-events/
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Friday 3 October

1930	ASR Benefice Choir Practice (ends 2030)
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Next Sunday, 5 October, Trinity 16

0900	WEARE	Agape Meal
1000	WEARE	Harvest Service
1000	AXBRIDGE/ZOOM	United Benefice Communion
Zoom Meeting ID: 893 5983 8684 Passcode: 294593		



Sat 11 October Axbridge Churchyard Clear-up Day



From
9am

Come and spend some time working together to
make your churchyard neat & tidy: it's always
fun!

Hot drinks and
cakes will be
available




JOYFUL SPIRIT Choir

Entry FREE

Friends of the Church are raising funds for the continuing restoration of our Grade 1 listed building. Donations will be much appreciated.

All welcome

St John the Baptist Church, Axbridge

Invite you to a fun evening of music with Joyful Spirit Choir.

Saturday 4th October 7-9pm

www.joyfulspiritgospelchoir.org/concerts

Wake Up Wednesday Guide for Parents

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK
97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEX TORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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Wessex Learning Trust
We Learn Together!