



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 # 5

7th October 2025

Dear Families,

Yesterday, our whole school community took part in a joyful day of worship and creativity as Rev Sue led our special Harvest Service, thanking everyone for their generous food bank donations and sharing her wonderful story, Stone Soup. Following this, the children took part in a series of workshops exploring global Harvest traditions, art, music, and prayers; a true celebration of our value of **Community**.



Today, we're delighted to welcome members of the Wessex Learning Trust's teaching arm, the MSC, who will be joining us to observe our wonderful teachers in action. At Axbridge, we're proud to play an active role in nurturing the next generation of educators, sharing our passion for teaching and learning, and inspiring others to make a difference in children's lives.

If you've ever thought about a future career in teaching, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with the school office to find out or explore this website - <https://mscitt.org.uk/about/welcome/>

Finally, we wish our Year 1 and 2 pupils the best of luck for Wednesday, when they visit Kingswood and the Strawberry Line to undertake work as geographers and scientists. May the sun shine on you all!

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Excel

A huge shout out to our Year 3 and 4 children, who have really started positively with their new Times Tables Rock Stars programme. Keep up the great work and many thanks to our families for your support at home, it's making a difference!



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

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



October

Wednesday 8th - Years 1 & 2
Strawberry Line and Kingswood 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

Friday 17th @ 2:40pm - Stay and
Read session in the school hall
and learning hub, all years.

Thursday 23rd @ 9am - Church
Service

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

Friday 24th is an INSET Day

November

Wednesday 4th @ 4 to 7pm

- Parents Evening

Thursday 5th @ 4 to 7pm - Parents
Evening

Monday 10th - IMAGO
photography taking individual
photos

Friday 14th - Children in Need

**Friday 14th - PTA Quiz Night in
the school hall.**

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 is **98%**
What an amazing start
Axbridge, keep up the great
work!



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!

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Harlie	Zac	Ellie-May	Delilah	Rosie P
Christian Values	Edith	Rosa	Evie	Kobe	Rosie J
Learning Skills	Rupert	Clover	George	Isla	Evelyn

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Betty R Chestnut	Christian Values	Oak Class Community	Learning Skills	Rafferty M Pine
-------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	--------------------

House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	213	210	208	189

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey



☀️ **Charity Champions!** ☀️

We're so proud of Monty and Clover, who showed incredible kindness and community spirit this weekend by raising money for charity! 🤝

Together with their friends Abby and Rhys, they designed, made, and sold beautiful loom band rings, bracelets, and necklaces from home – all in aid of good causes. Their creativity and teamwork paid off, as they raised an amazing **£20**, which they've generously donated to both the **Axbridge PTA** and the **Salvation Army**.

This thoughtful act is a wonderful example of our Christian values of **Love** and **Community** in action, showing how even small ideas can make a big difference. 🙌

Well done, Monty, Clover, Abby, and Rhys, you've truly inspired us all! 🌈 ✨

If your child or family has been involved in a special activity, community event, act of kindness, or achievement outside of school, we'd love to hear about it. Please send a short description and a photo (if you're happy for it to be shared) to the school office so we can feature more of our wonderful Axbridge children in future newsletters. 📩

Together, we continue to **Inspire, Thrive & Excel!** 🌱

Sat 11 October
Axbridge
Churchyard
Clear-up Day

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

Hot drinks and cakes will be available



THE SPACE
CHEDDAR WOODS RESORT & SPA
**HALF TERM
ACTIVITY**

27.10.2025 **GOACTIVE** **£10 PP**

**HALLOWEEN THEMED
ACTIVITIES 12.30-2.30PM**

TO BOOK: WWW.THESPACE SOMERSET.ORG.UK/OUR-SERVICES/YOUTH-ACTIVITIES/YOUTH-CLUB-APPLICATION-FORM/

THE SPACE EMPOWERING MINDS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES. INSPIRING CHANGE.

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 Grade1* listed building.

PRESERVE—PROTECT—ENHANCE

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





Axbridge C of E Academy PTA

Monday 6th October: Film Night

Weds 22nd October: Autumn craft session
after school (£5 a child)

Thurs 23rd Oct: Autumn Cake sale after
school in the hall

Friday 14th Nov: Quiz night

Fri 21st Nov: Film Night

Tues 9th Dec: Xmas film night

Friday 12th Dec: Xmas Fayre after school
(£5 a child)

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



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

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!

FREE PARENTING CAFE

Top tips for successful co-parenting for separated parents



Learn how you can reduce conflict and build a stronger co-parenting relationship with your ex-partner.



To book your place:



16 October
2025



1:30 PM to
3 PM



Coffee@TheHub,
Cheddar



Somerset
Council



Wake Up Wednesday Guide for Parents

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>