



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 # 7

24th October 2025

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of our first term, we should look back with great pride on a truly wonderful start to the school year. It's been a term full of togetherness and community, whether at our Harvest celebration, Stay and Read sessions, PTA events, or through the everyday moments of learning and laughter that make Axbridge the special place it is. Having said that, we still have events to look forward to, with Church and a PTA Cake Sale on Thursday, as well as PTA Crafternoon to look forward to on Wednesday. A final reminder to please return your parent's evening slips at your earliest convenience, as we look forward to celebrating your child's accomplishments at our November Parent's Evening sessions.

A heartfelt thank you to our staff, families, partners, and community for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we continue to Inspire, Thrive and Excel, living out our vision of "a life in all its fullness."

Warmest wishes,

Mr Dominic Shillabeer



EXCEL

We love celebrating our amazing staff, not just for the incredible work they do with our children every day, but for the ways they excel beyond school too! A huge congratulations to **Ms Page**, who took part in the Clevedon Regatta last week, and whose Gig team were the overall winners! What a fantastic achievement!

Also, a big shout out to **Mrs Bush**, who completed the 20km Keynsham Dandy, running through rivers, streams and mud, and even with a bruised foot, she prevailed and has kindly shared an action shot wading through the river!



October

Wednesday 22nd @ 3.20 to 4.30pm - PTA Crafternoon Session

Thursday 23rd @ 9am - Church Service

Thursday 23rd - PTA Cake Sale after school

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

Thursday 13th - Year 1 visit Axbridge Museum

Friday 14th - **Children in Need**

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

Tuesday 18th - Vision Screening Test for Reception pupils

Wednesday 19th - Year 3 trip to Cheddar Caves

Friday 21st - PTA Film Night

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

Attendance is **97.8%**
What an amazing start Axbridge, keep up the great work!

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	Aria	Kitty	Max	Billie	William
Christian Values	Maisie	Zephyr	Cobey	Robin	George
Learning Skills	Flora	Ruaíri	Nelle	Aidan	Anya

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Rupert C Pine	Christian Values	Ben C Oak	Learning Skills	Harlie B Pine
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	85	111	75	82



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



SMC



OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB

8AM-5PM

**27th -31st
October**

**Childcare
Vouchers accepted**

Crafts

Sports

Games

Fancy dress



**FROM
£24
PER DAY**



**Churchill
Primary
School**

Axbridge PTA presents....



Quiz Night

Friday 14th November
7.30pm start
School Hall
£5pp (max 8 in a team)
Ticket includes cheese & biscuits

BYO Booze & remember to takeaway your empties

A FUN, INTERACTIVE QUIZ THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE YOU TO BE A BRAIN OF BRITAIN!

Email pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk with team details



THE SPACE

CHEDDAR WOODS RESORT & SPA

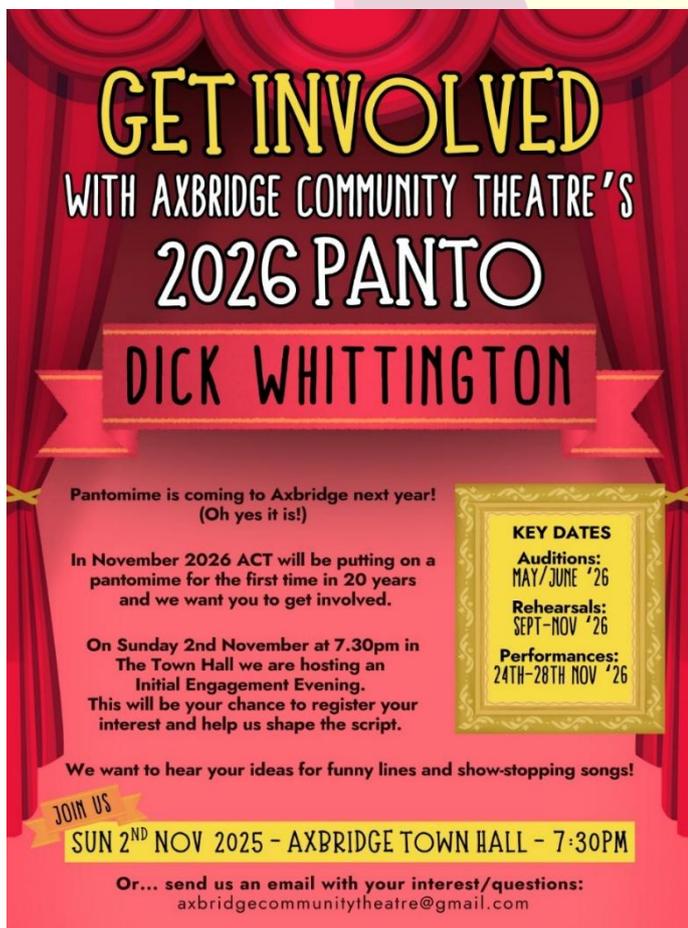
HALF TERM ACTIVITY

27.10.2025 **GOACTIVE** **£10 PP**

HALLOWEEN THEMED ACTIVITIES 12.30-2.30PM

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

THE SPACE EMPOWERING MINDS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES. INSPIRING CHANGE.



GET INVOLVED

WITH AXBRIDGE COMMUNITY THEATRE'S

2026 PANTO

DICK WHITTINGTON

Pantomime is coming to Axbridge next year! (Oh yes it is!)

In November 2026 ACT will be putting on a pantomime for the first time in 20 years and we want you to get involved.

On Sunday 2nd November at 7.30pm in The Town Hall we are hosting an Initial Engagement Evening. This will be your chance to register your interest and help us shape the script.

We want to hear your ideas for funny lines and show-stopping songs!

JOIN US
SUN 2ND NOV 2025 - AXBRIDGE TOWN HALL - 7:30PM

Or... send us an email with your interest/questions:
axbridgecommunitytheatre@gmail.com

KEY DATES
Auditions: MAY/JUNE '26
Rehearsals: SEPT-NOV '26
Performances: 24TH-28TH NOV '26

Where classroom meets countryside
Bringing the National Curriculum to life



ALLERTON ALPACAS

www.allertonalpacos.co.uk

QR Code: 

Logos:   

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!

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



STARTS
15
SEP

Contact Us

01934 732391

office@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk

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Wessex
Learning Trust
We Learn Together!



The Friends of Axbridge Church explain the history of the Parish Church from the early Medieval ear to its role today as a Grade I listed building. The Town Trust will reveal how the town's square has played a role in Axbridge's commercial and social past as well as the Town Hall.

Axbridge Heritage Evening

Saturday 1st November, 2025, Town Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm start. Pay bar.

Free evening of illustrated talks and films about the town's many historic buildings and the secrets they hold. Of war, of peace, poverty and wealth - their social history will be brought to life by a number of residents and expert speakers who have seen huge changes in the town as they celebrate Axbridge through memories, music, history and anecdotes featuring the Town Hall's state of the art laser projector and screen.

Contributions from The Friends of Axbridge Church - a non-religious group who help to maintain the fabric and monuments of the building for visitors to enjoy - the Trustees of Axe Vale Art Centre on their plans for the former Methodist Church - the local history society based at King John's Hunting Lodge Museum - and



The 15th Century King John's Hunting Lodge has been a pub, a piano shop and even housed soldiers in WW2 – now a museum. The 19th Century Methodist Chapel is now the Axe Vale Arts Centre with a varied programme of music, art, drama and more

the Town Trust who care for the Square and the Town Hall with notes on the long history of the town's centre piece.

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Wake Up Wednesday Guide for Parents

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



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