



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 # 8

3rd November 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back to school today; they've been so full of smiles, stories, and a positive energy that fills this school with joy!

This half-term is always a special one, filled with rich learning opportunities, festive preparations, and plenty of moments to reflect on how far each child has come. We're especially looking forward to celebrating your child's progress and achievements with you at Parents' Evening this week.

On Wednesday, we welcome the School In A Bag charity to school, a cause chosen by our school council, following a meeting we held earlier in the year. Shortly, we will be sharing our fundraising ideas and how we can make a genuine impact for children around the world less fortunate than ours. We hope that by supporting the charity it gives our children a chance to be part of something bigger than themselves. It helps them grow into active, thoughtful citizens who understand their role in a global community.

Please keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and class communications for key dates and updates. Later this week, class teachers will be sending out curriculum and learning updates for each class. As always, if you have any questions or need to get in touch, our doors are always open.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

THRIVE

Today, we delivered the *Speak Out, Stay Safe* assembly across the school. This important session helps empower children with the knowledge and confidence to recognise unsafe situations and know how to seek help. It's a vital part of helping our children feel safe, valued, and supported, so they can continue to thrive both in school and beyond.

Speak out. Stay safe.

with
Buddy



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 - The Greatest Robot Ever Theatre Performance, 1:45pm

Friday 21st - PTA Film Night

Monday 24th - Year 1 visit the Church

Friday 28th @ 9am - Church Service - everyone is welcome

December

Wednesday 3rd @ 2pm - Early Years Nativity

Thursday 4th @ 10.15am - Early Years Nativity

Tuesday 9th - PTA Film Night

Friday 12th @ 3.30 to 5pm - PTA Xmas Fair

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

Attendance was **96.6%** for Term 1.



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	Bree	Eadie	Max	Billie	William
Christian Values	Merri	Gracie	Cobey	Robin	George
Learning Skills	Paige	James	Nelle	Aidan	Anya

Termly House Point Winners

We are happy to announce that the House Point Champions for Term 1 are.....STRAWBERRY LINE!
 Congratulations to you all - the school council and House Captains will be meeting this week to decide upon your reward.

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

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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!

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



Axbridge PTA presents....

Quiz Night

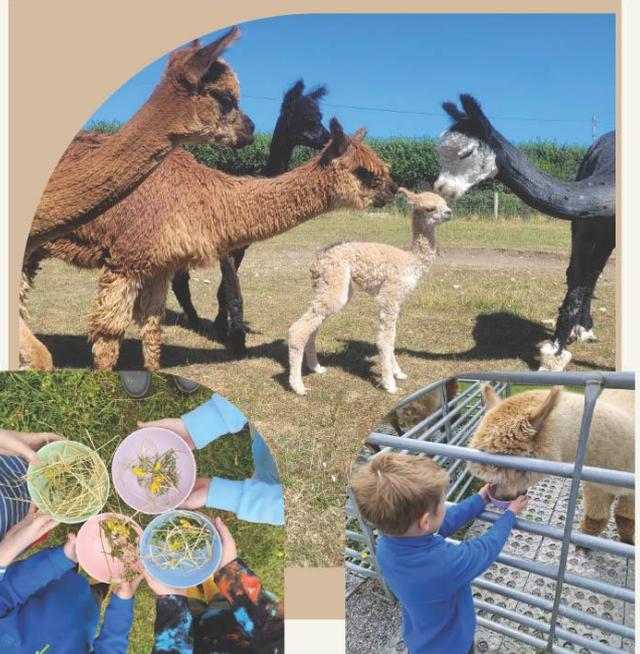
Friday 14th November
7.30pm start
School Hall
£5pp (max 8 in a team)
Ticket includes cheese & biscuits

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

Where classroom meets countryside
Bringing the National Curriculum to life



**ALLERTON
ALPACAS**



www.allertonalpacos.co.uk



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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College