



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel



March

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th - Book Fair
3:20 - 4:00pm daily
Tuesday 3rd - Bedtime Stories
Thursday 5th - World Book Day
Thursday 5th - Friday 6th - Jane the Storyteller visiting
Friday 6th - Family Reading Event
2:30pm - 3:05pm
Monday 9th - Science Week
Sunday 15th @ 10am - Mothering Sunday Church service
Friday 20th - Red Nose Day
Wednesday 25th March - Morning Mile Run, 8:20am at school
Thursday 26th - World Maths Day
Friday 27th - PTA Uniform & Doughnut Sale
Monday 30th - Space Dome visit

April

Wednesday 1st @ 9am - Rocksteady Concert
Wednesday 1st @ 4 to 7pm - Parents Evening
Thursday 2nd @ 9.10am - Church Service
Thursday 2nd @ 4 to 7pm - Parents Evening

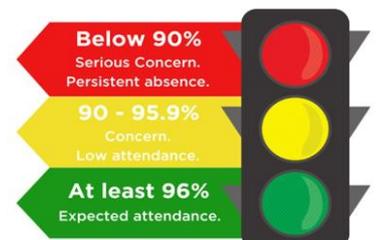
Friday 3rd April - school closes for Good Friday

Monday 6th - Easter Monday

Monday 20th April - return to School

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

School attendance is 96.5%

"I have come so that you may have life, life in all its fullness"

John 10:10

Issue # 22

2nd March 2026

Dear Families,

We're more than half way through the academic year and what a whirlwind of a first week back we enjoyed! The children have loved exploring their new inquiries, we joined together as a community in St Johns on Friday and Year 2 welcomed in the Space Detective team, where they ended up launching their handmade rockets into Axbridge air space! Things don't slow down there though, as we enter into Book Week, a week-long celebration of all things reading and books. We can't wait to share those bedtime stories, explore your children's favourite books and welcome you all to our book fair and reading event.

At this point, I'd like to take the opportunity, to thank you all for your engagement and support with these events. As a school we want to bring learning to life, provide rich opportunities and genuinely inspire a love of learning; this is rarely accomplished in isolation and it is your ongoing engagement that helps make this goal more of a reality. Thank you!

We recognise that events like these can sometimes feel challenging for families. To help, the PTA will be running a costume rail, where families can donate costumes or simply choose one for their child; no payment required.

As a school rooted in Christian values, it is important to us that you know our doors are always open. We are here to listen, discuss concerns, and support families with any challenges they may face. Our aim is to ensure that every child can take part fully and equally in all school events. Therefore, I will be holding a parent/carer drop-in session for anyone who would like to talk about barriers, concerns, or ideas for how we can continue to improve our practice. This will take place on Monday 16th March, 3:00 5:00pm.

Finally, Mrs Page recently shared via ClassDojo, that Parent's Evening booking will be going live as of today, via the My Child At School (MCAS) app. For Pine, Oak and Redwood class, there will be additional day sessions available, due to the larger class sizes. These sessions are a chance to celebrate and discuss your child's progress.

Dominic Shillabeer

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Our Christian Values are:
Community
Courage
Love

Our Christian Vision is;
"I have come so that you may have life, 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	Angus	Cara	Evie	Arthur	Ben
Christian Values	Efelyn	James	Leo	Amy	Max
Learning Skills	Olivia	Zephyr	Ellie-May	Reuben	Rosie P

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Reuben M Redwood	Christian Values	Annabel and Nelle Chestnut	Learning Skills	Zac Hazel
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	237	181	200	295



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Book Fair

 **Monday 2nd - Fri 6th March**

 **3.20pm - 4.00pm** (School Hall)

- All children will browse during the week, the fair is open to all after school.
- Every pound spent makes a huge difference for the books we are able to purchase for the children in school.
- **Card payments only**
- Children will receive a **£1 World Book Day book voucher**, which can be redeemed against any book priced £2.99 or more.

Parent/Carer Reading Guests

 **Monday - Thursday (end of day)**

 **2.55pm - 3.15pm**

Parents/carers are warmly invited to come in and share a favourite story.

 Please let your class teacher know if you'd like to take part.

Bedtime Stories Afternoon

 **Tuesday 3rd March**

 **1.20pm - 3.10pm**

Children can bring **pyjamas, dressing gown, slippers & a teddy** for a cosy afternoon of stories, plus hot chocolate and a cookie.

 Please inform staff of any dietary requirements.

World Book Day

 **Thursday 5th March - all day**

- Dress up as a **favourite book character**
- Bring a book to share
- Special visitor: **Storyteller Jane Flood**, sharing tales from around the world, returning on Friday morning too!

Family Reading Event

 **Friday 6th March**

 **2.30pm - 3.10pm**

Families are invited into school to read together in our library and school hall. (Grandparents and family members welcome too!)

Extra Challenges

- **Extreme Reading Challenge** - send a photo via ClassDojo
 - **60-Second Book Sell** - record a short pitch for your favourite book
-  **Deadline: Wednesday 4th March**
-  Prizes include certificates, badges and a **£10 book voucher**

WORLD BOOK DAY

Costume

Swap

BRING IN ANY UNWANTED COSTUMES TO SWAP OR DONATE TO THE RAIL DURING WORLD BOOK WEEK



In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow Benefice & Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 1 March
Lent 2

Sunday 1 March

0900	WEARE	Agape Meal
1000	WEARE	Praise & Worship
1000	AXBRIDGE	United Benefice Communion <small>Zoom Meeting ID: 893 5983 8684 Passcode: 294593</small>
1500	AXBRIDGE	Mayor's Civic Service

Taking place this week

Monday 2 March

1100	Axbridge Warm Spot, Church Rooms (ends 1300)
1700	Crook Peak Special Choir Practice, Badgworth (ends 1830)
1930	ASR Homegroup, Sue's, 29 Beech Road (ends 2100)

Tuesday 3 March

1930	CP Homegroup, Crooklands, Old Coach Rd, Cross (ends 2100)
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Wednesday 4 March

1200	Funeral of Janet Fox-Britton, Axbridge Church
1945	Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church

Thursday 5 March

0900	Crook Peak online morning prayer <small>https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-125BH/service-and-events/</small>
1100	ASR Lent Course, 7 The Pennings (2/6)

Friday 6 March

1930	ASR Benefice Choir Practice (ends 2030)
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Next Sunday, 8 March, Lent 3

1000	WEARE	Holy Communion
1600	ROWBERROW	Holy Communion
1800	SHIPHAM	Evening Praise

Photo: www.shutterstock.com

Join us at the

Axbridge Blackberry Carnival **AGM**



7.30pm Mon 9th March | Axbridge CHURCH ROOMS

DISCUSSION AGENDA

FREE TEA, COFFEE & CAKE

New Committee Members & volunteers required.
2026 Carnival is in danger of being cancelled!
Without growing our committee & volunteer base, it will just not be feasible for us to continue to organise this much loved community event.

Do something amazing - volunteer!

Axbridgecarnival@gmail.com



COME AND SEE OUR LATEST CREATION

“SOMERSET SCENES”

at
CHURCH ROOMS

SATURDAY MARCH 7th.
Farmers' Market Day
10-12 noon

Enjoy
COFFEE-TEA-CAKE

Buy
JEWELLERY & BOOKS

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Wessex
Learning Trust
We Learn Together!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

1 USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS



Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines such as meals, school drop-offs, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These interactions don't need to be lengthy to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and warmth show children they are important, making them feel seen, appreciated, and truly part of the home or classroom community.

2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING



Inviting children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When their voices are heard, they feel respected and included in the decision-making process. This empowers children, fosters cooperation, and reduces resistance. Whether at home or school, co-created expectations are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.

3 VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS



Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I can see that made you upset," or "That sounds really exciting," support emotional expression and connection. Children who feel emotionally safe are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and trust the adults around them - all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.

4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS



Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and take time to recognise a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humour. Noticing these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This boosts self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.

5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE



Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, family customs, or celebrations. These conversations create opportunities for children to share what matters to them and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or in school, valuing cultural experiences helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that they belong in a diverse, inclusive environment where every voice counts.

6 BELONGING BUDDIES



Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Assigning short projects, games, or shared responsibilities gives them a reason to interact. Buddy systems help quieter or less confident children feel included and supported. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community and inclusion.

7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS



Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others, as this can damage self-esteem and foster exclusion. Statements like "Why can't you be more like..." may unintentionally make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual progress and strengths. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for being themselves.

8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES



Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter on an individual level. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or chatting during a walk. Focused attention, free from distraction, builds trust and emotional connection. It lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for developing a strong sense of belonging.

9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS



Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, talk about their favourite books, or include their hobbies in family activities or lesson plans. Seeing their identity reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.

10 EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'



Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "Let's figure it out together," or "We all help each other here," promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children," or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language fosters environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

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See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

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