



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel



Monday 9th - Science Week
 Wednesday 11th @ 3.20 to 5pm - PTA Film Night
 Sunday 15th @ 10am - Mothering Sunday Church service
 Monday 16th @ 3 to 5pm - Parent/Carer Drop-in Session with Mr Shillabeer
 Friday 20th - Red Nose Day
 Wednesday 25th March @ 8.20am - Morning Mile Run
 Thursday 26th - World Maths Day
 Friday 27th - PTA Uniform & Book Sale
 Monday 30th - Space Dome visit
 Monday 30th - Easter Experience at St John's Church.

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 last week was 98.3%, with the yearly attendance being 96.6%.

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

John 10:10

Issue # 23

9th March 2026

Dear Families,

I would like to start by celebrating another amazing book week at Axbridge, with Bedtime Stories, World Book Day, Book Fairs, sharing our favourite books and the extreme reading challenge! We were also delighted to welcome traditional storyteller Jane Flood, who spent time with every class sharing stories from around the world. Her storytelling was captivating and the children simply loved being part of this magical experience!

On top of this, we had a TOP SECRET surprise... we had a real fragment of the Moon in school! The children were fascinated to observe and learn about an actual piece of the Moon, as well as explore a collection of meteorites too. It certainly sparked curiosity and some brilliant questions about space, which leads on beautifully to our Space Dome visit on Monday 30th March.

Also, as part of Science Week, Mrs Hector would like to invite parents to come into school on **Friday 13th from 2:50pm** onwards to view the wonderful work the children have been completing in their classes.

We also have some PTA events to pencil in the diary, with the popular Film Night taking place this Wednesday 11th, a PTA meeting on Monday 16th at the Lamb Inn at 7pm, and a uniform and book sale on the Friday 27th March, after school.

A quick parent reminder to please remember to log onto MCAS to book your Parents' Evening appointments for April.

Finally, this Sunday, all families are invited to the Mothering Sunday service at St Johns, starting at 10am. It's always a really beautiful service, where the children share a song they have learnt, hand out posies and help you start Mother's Day in the best possible way. Everybody is welcome!

Dominic Shillabeer

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	Flora	Clover	Vika	Arthur W	Howie
Christian Values	Harlie	Kitty	Ziggy	Chloe	Cooper
Learning Skills	Chloe	Connie	Max	Delilah	Lola

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Ellie-May Chestnut	Christian Values	Pippa Hazel	Learning Skills	Delilah Redwood
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	105	124	183	105



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey



Axbridge
C of E Academy



Reading Champions



Axbridge Weekly Reading Champions

Following our hugely successful Book Week, we are delighted to continue celebrating the wonderful reading culture that thrives across Axbridge C of E Academy.

Each week we recognise our Reading Champions; children who demonstrate a genuine passion for books, a love of stories and a joy for reading that they happily share with others. These pupils show curiosity, enthusiasm and pride in their reading, and they remind us all of the magic that a great book can bring!

At Axbridge, we firmly believe that regular reading is one of the most powerful tools a child can have. Through reading, children grow in confidence, imagination and understanding of the world around them. The simple habit of picking up a book regularly builds self-esteem, resilience and independence, while also laying strong foundations for their future learning and opportunities in life.

Well done to our latest Reading Champions, we are incredibly proud of you!



World Book Day Celebrations!



Coste Theatre
ONE TICKET
ONE DAY
78456732

MOVIE NIGHT

[101 DALMATIANS]

3:20 - 5:00
11TH MARCH
£4 PER CHILD

ACCOUNT DETAILS TO TRANSFER ARE
NAME: AXBRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL PTA
SORT CODE: 30-91-84
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00284059

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL
PTA@AXBRIDGEFIRSTSCHOOL.CO.UK
WITH CHILD'S NAME AND CLASS

SECOND-HAND SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE

AXBRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH
15:20 - 16:20

- SWEATSHIRTS
- CARDIGANS
- GREY TROUSERS, SHORTS, SKIRTS, PINAFORES
- GINGHAM
- SUMMER DRESSES

CASH & CARDS ACCEPTED

15 March, 10am
You are invited to the
Axbridge Church
Mothering Sunday
Service
We'd love to see you there!
Posies will be given out by the children

In Touch
in Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow Benefice & Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 8 March
Lent 3

- Sunday 8 March**
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1000 WEARE | Holy Communion |
| 1600 ROWBERROW | Evensong |
| 1800 CHRISTON | Evening Prayer |
| 1800 SHIPHAM | Evening Praise |
- Taking place this week**
- Monday 9 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 10 March**
- 1930 CP Homegroup, Crooklands, Old Coach Rd, Cross (ends 2100)
- Wednesday 11 March**
- 1945 Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church
- Thursday 12 March**
- 0900 Crook Peak online morning prayer
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-125BH/service-and-events/>
 - 1100 ASR Lent Course, 7 The Pennings (4/6)
- Friday 13 March**
- 1100 Lenny's Community Café, Shipham Church (ends 1400)
 - 1930 ASR Benefice Choir Practice (ends 2030)
- Saturday 14 March**
- 1000 Prayer Hub, Shipham Church (ends 1100)
 - 1400 Crafternoon, Axbridge Church Rooms (ends 1600)
 - 1600 Posy-making, Axbridge Church – see p4
- Next Sunday, 15 March, Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday**
- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 0800 BIDDISHAM | Holy Communion |
| 1000 AXBRIDGE | Service for Mothering Sunday |
| 1000 LOXTON | Crook Peak Together for Mothering Sunday |
| 1000 SHIPHAM | Service for Mothering Sunday |
| 1600 ROWBERROW | Holy Communion |

New 3 week online “Reducing the impact of separation for recently separated parents”

If you are recently separated (i.e. in the last 12 months) developing a straightforward co-parenting relationship with your ex-partner can be fraught with difficulties. This is where we can help.

This evidence informed, 3-week online course is designed to give you practical tips on dealing with coparenting challenges **when you first separate, putting the well-being of your children at the centre.**

For information about the course and to book a place, please click on one of the links below:

Course A - Wednesdays 22, 28 April and 6 May 9:30AM-11AM	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1983968202300?aff=oddtcreator
Course B - Wednesdays 22, 28 April and 6 May 7PM-8:30PM	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1983971272483?aff=oddtcreator



FREE

COURSES FOR SEPARATED PARENTS

Reducing the impact of separation for recently separated parents: 3 week course

This shortened version of the 5 week course is for parents who have recently separated i.e. within last 12 months and want to ensure that they start their coparenting journey in the right way to reduce the impact on their children.

Course A: Wed 22, 28 April, 6 May 9:30 AM-11 AM

Course B: Wed 22, 28 April, 6 May 7 PM-8:30 PM

Reducing the impact of separation on everyone: 5 week course

A more in-depth course for any separated parent, particularly if struggling with a high conflict coparent relationship with a focus on supporting their children.

Course A: Tues 5, 12, 19 May 2,9 June 9:30 AM-11 AM

Course B: Mon 11, 18 May 1,8,15 June 7 PM-8:30 PM

More information:

Ruth James,
Reducing Parental Conflict Coordinator
ruth.james@somerset.gov.uk

For more
info & to
book:



Courses only for
Somerset parents



Somerset
Council

www.cypsomersethealth.org/?page=events__parenting_cafes_and_parenting_when_separated_courses

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authority and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.