



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel



March

Monday 16th @ 3 to 5pm - Parent/Carer Drop-in Session with Mr Shillabeer

Monday 16th @ 7pm - PTA meeting at The Lamb.

Friday 20th - Red Nose Day

Wednesday 25th March @ 8.20am - Morning Mile Run

Wednesday 25th March - PTA Easter Crafternoon - 3:30 - 4:30pm.

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

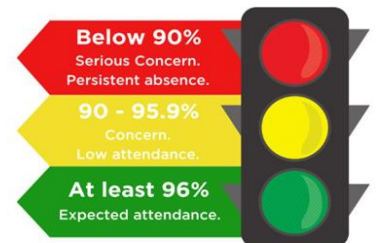
Monday 6th - Easter Monday

Monday 20th April - return to School

Wednesday 29th - Swimming lessons for Years 3 & 4

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

Well done to Reception Class who achieved 100% attendance last week!

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

John 10:10

Issue # 24

16th March 2026

Dear Families,

We have just enjoyed a fantastic Science Week at Axbridge, filled with curiosity, creativity and lots of brilliant thinking across the school!

One of the highlights was the incredible Space Buggy challenge, where every class designed and created their own imaginative vehicles ready for exploring new planets! It was wonderful to observe the wonderful teamwork, engineering ideas and problem-solving skills, as they built and tested their designs. Thank you to Mrs Hector, who helped organise, run and lead this event.

A special thank you to the many parents who joined us on Friday afternoon to view the buggies, skilfully presented by our Science Ambassadors. The children absolutely loved the opportunity to share their learning and talk confidently about their projects, experiments and displays. It was wonderful to see them explaining their ideas and answering questions about science, engineering and technology with such excitement!

A quick reminder to please log on to MCAS to book your Parents' Evening appointment if you have not already done so. These meetings are a really valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and celebrate their learning.

Finally, we will be celebrating Red Nose Day this Friday. Children are welcome to wear something red to school to help us mark the occasion and support this fantastic cause. If you would like to make a donation, please do so via our JustGiving page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-axbridge-church-of-england-first-school-academy-182aee2e-eeb9-4422-9539-28f7a8146009>

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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	Efelyn	Ruairi	Arthur R	Elsie	Rosie J
Christian Values	Rosie	Pippa	Jaxson	Isaac	Kip
Learning Skills	Dexter	Edith	Betty	Ella	Toby

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Annabel C Redwood	Christian Values	Mrs Emery and Mrs Crompton	Learning Skills	Ruairi L Hazel
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	232	115	200	203



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

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World Book Week Events



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!



EASTER CRAFTERNOON

25TH MARCH
3:20 - 4:30

£5 per child

To book please email
pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk with
Child's name and class

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



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



In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow Benefice & Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 15 March
Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday

Sunday 15 March

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

Taking place this week

Monday 16 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 17 March

1930	CP Homegroup, Crooklands, Old Coach Rd, Cross (ends 2100)
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Wednesday 18 March

1945	Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church
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Thursday 19 March

0900	Crook Peak online morning prayer https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-125BH/service-and-events/
1100	ASR Lent Course, 7 The Pennings (5/6)

Friday 20 March

1930	ASR Benefice Choir Practice (ends 2030)
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Next Sunday, 22 March, Passion Sunday

1000	COMPTON BISHOP	Holy Communion
1000	SHIPHAM	Holy Communion: see p.4
1800	AXBRIDGE	Evening Praise
1800	BADGWORTH	Evening Prayer

Photo: Pixabay



What's on March 2026

@ The Old Methodist Chapel
West Street, Axbridge

Scan me!
Or call 07933 879552

Axe Vale Arts
A Charitable Trust

Saturday 7th March Scarlett Stone  Join us for an evening that transports you back through the Golden Age of film and Broadway hits. Ticketed Event 7.30pm	Friday 13th March Holly Carter  Americana Music Association UK instrumentalist of the year 2023 and 2024. Don't miss on this amazing opportunity to see her perform in Axbridge! Ticketed Event 7.30pm
Wednesday 18th March Axe Vale Verse  An evening of poetry. Anyone can take part. Read your poem or a poem you love. Or simply listen and enjoy! Free Entry 7pm	Saturday 21st March Books, Bakes & Banter  Come along for our Big Book Sale! Have a browse, choose some books, enjoy a cuppa and some delicious cake. Free Entry 10.30am
Wednesday 25th March Axe Vale Acoustic  Come along and join us for an inclusive night of acoustic music! An open mic event. All welcome to play or listen. Free Entry 7pm	Sunday 29th March Local Talent Showcase  Featuring singer-songwriter and musicians Holly Gray and George Evans. Free Entry 3pm
Get Creative with our Workshops!  Keep an eye out for our new programme of art, photography and creative writing workshops! Dates for February and March to be confirmed.	About our Free Events  Axe Vale Arts aims to make arts events accessible to everyone and to this end, we have created a number of regular free events . Anyone can attend. You don't need a ticket to do so. We welcome donations (whatever you can afford to pay). Most of all, just come along and take part!

Coming to Axe Vale Arts in April

Wednesday 8th April	Walking River Trunk (music)
Sunday 12th April	Local Talent Showcase (music)
Wednesday 15th April	Axe Vale Verse (spoken word)
Friday 17th April (am)	Haiku Workshop (poetry)
Friday 17th April (pm)	The Lost Trades (music)
Wednesday 22nd April	Axe Vale Acoustic (music)
Friday 24th April	Last Wednesday's Work Shirt (theatre)
Sunday 26th April	Hickory Dickory (children's theatre)

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.