



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel



March

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

Friday 27th – Parent Drop-In
session with Headteacher

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**

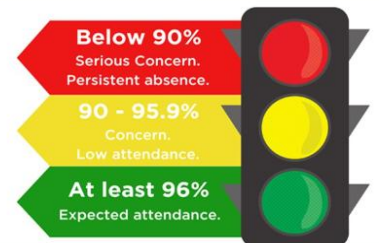
Monday 6th - Easter Monday

**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 Year 1 who
achieved 98.1% attendance last
week! The overall school
attendance was 96.6%.

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

John 10:10

Issue # 25

23rd March 2026

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to see some sunshine last week and what a difference it made; it certainly put smiles on faces and we can't wait for those longer, warmer days and the chance to take our learning outside more often!

Tomorrow, Wednesday 25th March, we have the amazing team from Kings Fitness and Leisure, running their popular Morning Mile Run on the school playground. Please arrive in PE Kit for 8:20am if your child would like to take part. They will then wear their kit for the remainder of the day.

The PTA have some fantastic events coming up too, with a 'Crafternoon' running tomorrow, a uniform and book sale on Friday, plus a newsletter from the team to follow, sharing all the great work they have undertaken and the projects they have planned!

In other news, we are delighted to share that Ms Hole, our fantastic trainee teacher, has been successful in her recent interview at Weare C of E Academy and will be starting her new role at the beginning of next week. She has been a valued member of our school community, building strong relationships with children and staff alike, and demonstrating real passion and commitment to teaching. We wish Millie every success in her career as a teacher.

Later this week, we will be sending out a letter regarding after school clubs for the Summer term. Please take note of the response dates and that all responses must go back through ppage@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk

I will also be running additional parent drop-in sessions on Friday 27th and Monday 30th, from 3:00-4:45pm. These are a great opportunity for parents and carers to share their thoughts, ask questions, and work in partnership with us to help shape and strengthen our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Dominic Shillabeer
Headteacher

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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	Albie	Bertie	Leo	Annabel	Cora
Christian Values	George	Clover	Arthur W-B	Finn	Teddy
Learning Skills	Millie	Dax	Jake	Isaac	Jesse

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Archie S Hazel	Christian Values	Albie A Pine	Learning Skills	Rosie P Oak
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	137	103	80	108



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!



Red Nose Day 2026

Axbridge C of E Academy

RED NOSE DAY - YOU WERE AMAZING!

Together, we made a difference...

£161.50 RAISED!

THANK YOU, AXBRIDGE FAMILY

Your kindness, generosity and community spirit truly showed our values of:

Love | Community | Courage

Every penny will help change lives
Be proud of what we have achieved together.

*Together We Inspire,
Thrive & Excel*





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

KING JOHN'S HUNTING LODGE OPENING



NIBBLES & DRINKS

CARNIVAL RAFFLE DRAW (1.1AM)

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 2026 10AM

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  Ticketed Event 7.30pm Join us for an evening that transports you back through the Golden Age of film and Broadway hits.	Friday 13th March Holly Carter  Ticketed Event 7.30pm Americana Music Association UK instrumentalist of the year 2023 and 2024. Don't miss on this amazing opportunity to see her perform in Axbridge!
Wednesday 18th March Axe Vale Verse  Free Entry 7pm An evening of poetry. Anyone can take part. Read your poem or a poem you love. Or simply listen and enjoy!	Saturday 21st March Books, Bakes & Banter  Free Entry 10.30am Come along for our Big Book Sale! Have a browse, choose some books, enjoy a cuppa and some delicious cake.
Wednesday 25th March Axe Vale Acoustic  Free Entry 7pm Come along and join us for an inclusive night of acoustic music! An open mic event. All welcome to play or listen.	Sunday 29th March Local Talent Showcase  Free Entry 3pm Featuring singer-songwriter and musicians Holly Gray and George Evans.

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)



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.