



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Happy Easter



Issue # 26

30th March 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the Spring term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been another truly wonderful period of learning, growth and community at Axbridge. It has been a term full of energy, purpose and pride, where our children have continued to flourish in so many aspects of school life. From what I observe in the classroom, where children are clearly knowing and remembering more, to the richness of our wider opportunities, clubs, events and visitors, this has been a term that genuinely reflects our vision of enabling every child to live "life in all its fullness." I know that the team look forward to sharing more examples of this during the parent's evening sessions, being held throughout this week.

A particular highlight this term has been our recent SIAMS inspection, which recognised so much of what makes our school special. The report captured our ethos beautifully, stating that "everybody is known, everybody is precious and everybody has a voice." This is something we see lived out every day in our classrooms, on the playground, and through the relationships that underpin our school. Coupled with our consistently high attendance, strong behaviour rooted in our values of Community, Love and Courage, and the inclusive culture we strive to build, it is clear that Axbridge continues to be a place where everyone belongs.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Whether through attending events, supporting learning at home, or simply being part of our community, you play a vital role in making this school what it is. To that end, it would be wonderful if you are able to join us at church this Thursday morning at 9am, to sign off the term in style, as we look to celebrate the successes of our learners and join together as a community once more!

We wish you all a restful and joyful Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term ahead, hopefully with some sunshine too!

Dominic Shillabeer



March

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

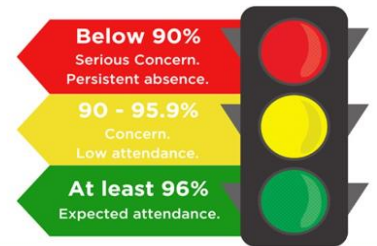
Friday 3rd April - school closes for Good Friday
Monday 6th - Easter Monday

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!

Overall school attendance this term is 96.4%.

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 | Alfie | Otilie | George | Charlie | Ollie & Shaniya |
| Christian Values | Angus | Edith | Ethan | Billie | Monty & Evelyn |
| Learning Skills | Isabella | Archie | Saxon | Isla | Oak Class |

House Points

| | Black Rock | Crook Peak | King's Wood | Strawberry Line |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| This week | 198 | 83 | 149 | 197 |



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Gracie's Running Challenge

One of our wonderful Year 4 pupils, Gracie, is running 10k over the course of 2 days, later in April. She is hoping to raise money for Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal, supporting Bristol Children's Hospital. If you would like to support her, the link to the JustGiving page can be found here - https://www.justgiving.com/page/gracie-gracie?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=WA



Easter Holiday Food Offers for Families

Where kids can eat free or for £1 this Easter

- **ASK Italian** - Kids eat free from 27 March to 19 April.
- **Angus Steakhouse** - Kids aged 8 and under eat free daily from 12pm-5pm with every full-paying adult main.
- **Banana Tree** - Kids get a free main, drink and dessert every Sunday with an adult main.
- **Bella Italia** - Kids eat free Sunday-Thursday with an adult main.
- **Bill's** - Up to two kids eat free with one adult main (30 March-10 April, weekdays only).
- **Brewdog** - One free kids' meal with adult meal purchase, including burger, pizza, salad, or regular wings. Must use booking type 'KIDS EAT FREE'.
- **Café Rouge** - Kids eat free daily from 12-4pm with an adult main (dates vary by location).
- **Chiquito** - One free kids' main meal with the purchase of an adult main, 30th March to 10th April 2026 inclusive.
- **Côte Brasserie** - Children can enjoy two courses for £1 when an adult orders a main course, or breakfast for £1 when an adult orders a breakfast dish. Offer available via their app.
- **Franco Manca** - Free kids' pizza for under-12s with any full-priced adult main, Monday-Thursday, at selected locations.
- **Frankie & Benny's** - Kids Eat Free 30 March-17 April (dates vary by region).
- **Gordon Ramsay Restaurants** - Kids eat free when an adult orders two à la carte courses.
- **Las Iguanas** - Free kids' main, dessert, drink with an adult main, Sunday to Thursday between 29th March - 9th April.
- **Pizza Hut** - One free kids' buffet per £9.99 adult spend until 3pm daily.
- **Preto** - Kids eat free at weekends and weekdays from 4pm with a paying adult rodizio.
- **Yo! Sushi** - Kids eat free with every £10 adult spend (Mon-Fri during school holidays).
- **Zizzi** - Sign up to the Zillionaires' Club App for a Kid's Eat Free Offer Code. Show your code and the kids' meals are free when you buy another adult main.

Cafés and garden centres

- **Asda Café** - Hot kids' meals for £1 (with free fruit), plus a £1 cold pick-and-mix lunchbox.
- **Morrisons Café** - Kids eat free all day, every day, with an adult main costing £5+.
- **Sainsbury's Café** - Kids eat for £1 with any adult hot main.
- **Dunelm Pausa Café** - Kids eat free with every £4 spent after 3pm.
- **Dobbies Garden Centres** - Kids' meals (breakfast or lunch) only £1 with any adult breakfast or main. Includes a child's drink.
- **IKEA** - Kids' meals start from just 95p, available daily from 11am.

Pubs and family-friendly chains

- **Brewers Fayre** - Two kids under 16 eat free with every adult unlimited breakfast.
- **Farmhouse Inns** - Two kids eat free with each paying adult from 30 March-17 April.
- **Future Inns** - Under 5s eat free with any adult meal.
- **Flaming Grill** - Kids eat free all day Monday-Friday, between 30 March-17 April (dessert included).
- **Hungry Horse** - £1 kids' meals with adult main meals. Available Mondays to Fridays between 30th March - 17th April.
- **Marston's Pubs** - Kids eat for £1 at 353 Marston's pubs across the UK during the Easter holidays, with the purchase of one full-priced adult's meal.
- **Sizzling Pubs** - Kids eat for £1 from 12pm when you purchase an adult main.
- **Table Table** - Two kids under 16 eat free breakfast with every adult breakfast.
- **TGI Fridays** - Kids eat free when Stripes Rewards members purchase an adult meal via the app between 23rd March and 19th April.
- **Whitbread Inns** - Two kids under 16 eat free breakfast with every adult breakfast.

Can you help The Space Charity with their ongoing fundraising?

WE NEED YOUR...TEDDIES!!



IF YOU ARE HAVING A CLEAR OUT AND FIND ANY GENTLY LOVED TEDDIES OR SOFT TOYS YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE - WE'D LOVE THEM!



**THANK YOU
IN ADVANCE**



CHARITY NUMBER: 1188929 | PLEASE EITHER DROP OFF AT THE HUB (ABOVE COFFEE [A7] THE HUB) IN CHEDDAR OR EMAIL SAPPLETON@THESPACEOMERSET.ORG.UK FOR US TO ARRANGE COLLECTION

KING JOHN'S HUNTING LODGE OPENING



NIBBLES & DRINKS

CARNIVAL RAFFLE DRAW (11AM)

**SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
2026 10AM**



What's on March 2026

@ The Old Methodist Chapel
West Street, Axbridge

Scan me!
Or call 07933 879552



**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

Free Entry

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
Sunday 12th April
Wednesday 15th April
Friday 17th April (am)
Friday 17th April (pm)
Wednesday 22nd April
Friday 24th April
Sunday 26th April

Walking River Trunk (music)
Local Talent Showcase (music)
Axe Vale Verse (spoken word)
Haiku Workshop (poetry)
The Lost Trades (music)
Axe Vale Acoustic (music)
Last Wednesday's Work Shirt (theatre)
Hickory Dickory (children's theatre)



FREE DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

12TH APRIL | 5.30PM - 7.30PM
Coffee at The Hub
Cheddar

- ✓ Learn to use a defibrillator with confidence
- ✓ No experience needed
- ✓ Everyone welcome!

First Aid
Training Ltd

with



EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

- 7th -17th April @ Churchill Primary School
- 15th April @ Mendip Activity Centre

Childcare vouchers & tax free childcare accepted

Spaces fill quickly -for more information head over to our website.



www.sportsmasterscoaching.com



HOLIDAY CLUBS

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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.