



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel



April

Monday 27th - After School Clubs start this week

Wednesday 29th - Swimming lessons for Years 3 & 4

May

Tuesday 5th - Year 3 activity day at Mendip Outdoor

Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th - Year 4 residential trip at Kilve Court

Tuesday 12th - NHS National Weight/Height Check for Reception children

Friday 22nd @ 9am - Church Service

Friday 22nd May - school closes for Half-Term at 3:20pm

Monday 1st June - return to school

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

John 10:10

Issue # 27

20th April 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break, with plenty of sunshine and quality time spent with family and friends.

It has been a real joy to welcome the children back into school this morning. It's been lovely to hear of the special memories made, as well as some of the Easter Wellbeing Challenges that have been undertaken! They have returned full of energy, curiosity and enthusiasm, and there is already a lovely buzz of excitement across the school as we begin the new term together. As always, we have a wide range of engaging learning planned, new inquiries to explore and special events planned, and we are very much looking forward to sharing these with you over the coming weeks.

Key Updates

- We are delighted to welcome Mrs Natalia Molina, who joins us this term as our new French teacher for Year 3 and 4.
- Swimming lessons for Year 3 & 4 will begin on Wednesday 29th April.
- We will be carrying out a lockdown drill next week as part of our ongoing safeguarding procedures. This will be conducted in a calm and age-appropriate way, and staff will support children throughout.
- Our new greenhouse has now been installed, which is an exciting addition to our outdoor learning provision. We would greatly appreciate any donations of grow bags or vegetable plants.
- We will be sharing an updated 'Key Dates' sheet for the summer term. As well as this, your child's class teacher will be sharing their termly newsletter on Wednesday this week, detailing key class information.
- A reminder that our Parent Survey is still open and found below on the newsletter.
- Our fundraising for School in a Bag continues, and we are pleased to share that we have raised £425 so far. Thank you for your generosity; further fundraising events will be taking place this term to try and get to our target of £600!

Please keep an eye on the calendar section for upcoming events and important dates. As always, class-specific updates will be shared regularly via ClassDojo.

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and all the incredible learning that will take place. Together, we will ensure this is a positive, enriching and successful term for every child.

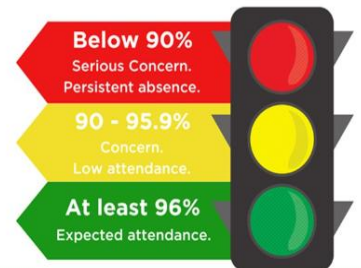
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ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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

Overall school attendance this term is 96.4%.



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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

Our Christian Value This Term: Courage

This term, we are focusing on our Christian value of **Courage**, a value that sits at the heart of living out a 'life in all its fullness' for everyone in our school community.

Courage is not simply about bold or heroic actions; it is found in the everyday moments where we choose to persevere, to speak up, to try something new, or to step beyond our comfort zone. Something we see every day in this school!

"Be strong and courageous; the Lord is with you."
– Joshua 1:9



Throughout the term, children will explore **Courage** through a rich range of stories, discussions, and experiences. In our collective worship, church services and classrooms, we will reflect on biblical narratives such as David and Goliath, where courage is shown in the face of overwhelming challenge, and Esther Saves Her People, where bravery is rooted in standing up for what is right.

We will also look beyond the Bible to real-life examples of courageous individuals. Figures such as Rosa Parks, who stood against injustice with quiet determination, and Malala Yousafzai, who bravely championed the right to education, will help children understand that **Courage** can change the world.

This value feels particularly meaningful at this point in the academic year. Our Year 4 children are preparing for their residential experience, which is such an important milestone that calls for independence, resilience, and bravery! On top of this, they will also be beginning to look ahead to their transition to middle school. At the same time, our youngest learners in Nursery are showing incredible **Courage** as they take their first steps towards 'big school', building confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging.

Across the school, we are already seeing **Courage** lived out in so many ways, in classrooms, on the playground, in friendships, and in learning. It is in these moments that our school community comes to life; where '...everyone is known, everyone is precious, and everyone has a voice.' (SIAMS, 2026)



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Help Shape Our School Axbridge Parent / Carer Voice

Scan the QR code below

Takes less than 3 minutes

Your views help us improve communication, strengthen learning, and ensure every child feels known, valued and supported.



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



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE

Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS

Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES

App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

SIDeloADED BANNED APPS

'Sideloaded' – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS

Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS

App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

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