



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel



April

Monday 27th - After School Clubs start this week

Monday 27th - 8:00pm, Virtual PTA meeting

Wednesday 29th - Swimming lessons for Years 3 & 4 start

May

Tuesday 5th - Year 3 activity day at Mendip Outdoor

Tuesday 5th May - Fairlands staff to visit Year 4 pupils going to Fairlands

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

Monday 11th May - Year 1 Visit to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

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

Monday 18th -

Friday 22nd @ 9am - Church Service

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

Monday 1st June - return to school

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



Below 90%

Serious Concern.
Persistent absence.

90 - 95.9%

Concern.
Low attendance

At least 96%

Expected attendance.



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

Attendance was 96.7% last week, an excellent start to term!

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

John 10:10

Issue # 28

28th April 2026

Dear Families,

What a difference a little sunshine makes! It's been wonderful to see the children enjoying the better weather, and this also means we can use the furlong field for lunchtime more regularly too. We have another busy few weeks ahead at Axbridge, and I would like to share some updates for your information;

Future Me Week - We are looking forward to our upcoming Future Me Week (week beginning 8th June), where children will be thinking about aspirations, careers and skills for the future. If any parents, carers or family members are able to come in and share something about their job or experiences, please sign up using the form below: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/xZ2qEdzhSn>

PTA Ice Lolly sales - When the weather is good, the PTA will be running Friday ice lolly sales. These will be sold outside Chestnut/Hazel class and outside of Oak Class.

Year 3 Activity Day and Year 4 Residential - Next week, Year 3 will be taking part in their Activity Day at Mendip Outdoor Pursuits and Year 4 will be heading off on their residential to Kilve. We are sure they will have a fantastic time building confidence, independence and making memories together! Good luck all of you.

Year 4 Hoodies - Please return Year 4 hoodie responses as soon as possible, the links has been shared on ClassDojo. Once this information is submitted, we can place the order and the children can wear them as soon as they arrive.

Request for cable reels - We are looking for large wooden cable reels to support outdoor learning and play. If you can help, please contact the school office.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warmest wishes,

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	Rupert	Amelia	Ben	Seth	Jessica
Christian Values	Albie	Zachary	Finn	Henry	Rosie P
Learning Skills	Millie	Connie	Mollie	Ted	Remy

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	India Oak	Christian Values	Max Oak	Learning Skills	Dylan Redwood
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	198	206	155	219



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Tuning Into Parenting (TIPS)

Dear Parent

Having successfully run our pilot course we are now happy to announce we are planning our second round.

If you would like to know more then please join us on the evening of **Wednesday April 29th at 5pm** for a coffee and chat at 'Community at the Hub, Cheddar'.

You will be able to meet with participants who have completed the first workshop and The Space staff to ask any questions you may have.

These six weekly sessions are open to all parents with children attending a school within Wessex Learning Trust.

This evidence-based programme focuses on building emotional intelligence in children

by helping parents and carers learn how to better understand, connect with, and guide

their child through their emotions. The aim is to create a more holistic, whole-family approach to emotional development and wellbeing.

If this sounds like something that would benefit you and your family then please do contact us to express your interest.

www.thespacesomerset.org.uk or follow us on

Social Media www.instagram.com/thespacecheddarvalley or

www.facebook.com/thespacecheddarvalley





MAY MILES FOR MINDS



This May, we're inviting children and young people across the Cheddar Valley to take part in **Miles for Minds** - a fun, feel-good movement challenge raising money for **The Space**, our local children's mental health charity.

YOU CAN WALK, RUN, CYCLE, SCOOT OR MOVE IN ANY WAY YOU ENJOY - AND COLLECT SPONSORSHIP AS YOU GO.

Every **mile** helps raise awareness of positive mental wellbeing
Every **pound** raised supports counselling, play therapy and early-help services for young people across the Cheddar Valley.

Whether you complete a mile a day or set your own challenge, it's all about getting active, feeling good and helping other children in our community.



CHEDDAR TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING



WHEN
FRIDAY AFTERSCHOOL
& SATURDAY MORNING



FOR AGES
3-18



COST
£7.50
PER SESSION



RACKET'S
PROVIDED



TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN

EXPERIENCED
LTA QUALIFIED COACH



CONTACT
STEPHEN PEARCE
0790406130

FOR
DETAILS





In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham &
Rowberrow Benefice
& Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 26 April
Easter 4

Sunday 26 April

- 1000 SHIPHAM Parish Communion then prayer, followed by APCM
1000 CHRISTON Holy Communion
1800 BADGWORTH Evening Prayer
1800 AXBRIDGE Taizé Evening Prayer

Taking place this week

Monday 27 April

- 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 28 April

- 1930 CP Homegroup, Crooklands, Old Coach Rd, Cross (ends 2100)

Wednesday 29 April

No Christian Meditation Group this week

Thursday 30 April

- 0900 Crook Peak online morning prayer
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-1258H/service-and-events/>

Friday 1 May

- 1930 ASR Benefice Choir Practice (ends 2030)

Saturday 2 May

- 1300 Wedding of Elle Goodall and Jed Sheppard, Rowberrow Church

Next Sunday, 3 May, Easter 5

- 0900 WEARE Agape Meal
1000 WEARE Praise & Worship
1000 AXBRIDGE/ZOOM United Benefice Communion

Zoom Meeting ID: 893 5983 8684 Passcode: 294593

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 Authorly 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 PolyInno 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.