



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

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

John 10:10

Issue # 1

11th September 2026

Dear Families,

What a wonderful first week back it has been! It has been so lovely to welcome everyone back to school and to see the children settling so quickly into their new classes, routines and learning. We have been particularly impressed with our new Reception children, who have made a fantastic start to life at Axbridge. They have very quickly become part of our school community and it has been a real pleasure to see their confidence growing day by day. A huge thank you to those parents too, who have supported their children so well during this transition...it's not easy, having been through it myself this week!

I hope families have found the class newsletters useful and that they have given you a clearer picture of the learning, topics and experiences your child will be enjoying in their classroom this term. We know how valuable it is for families to feel connected to what is happening in school and hope these updates help.

There has already been plenty happening across the school. Yesterday, Year 3 enjoyed a brilliant 'Rock Tour' of Axbridge, exploring our local area and even visiting the Hunting Lodge as part of their learning. Today, we celebrated the children's achievement in Celebration Assembly, with lots of awards handed out and Summer Reading Challenges completed. Also, many children whose parents had given consent received their flu nasal spray today. They were incredibly brave and took it all in their stride! Reception children whose parents give consent will have this later in the term.

Please do continue to send children into school with a coat, even if the morning looks promising, the Axbridge weather can change rather quickly! We like to get outside in most weathers if we can.

Finally, this week's Learning Conversation is focused on family time. We hope it provides an opportunity to enjoy some special time together, talk, reflect and have a little fun away from the usual rush of the week

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a such a positive start to the year and we are excited about what the future holds!

Warmest wishes,

Dominic



September

Monday 14th – Rev Sue to visit school for Collective Worship
Friday 18th @ 9am – Church Service
Monday 21st @ 2.50 to 3.20pm – Parents Phonics Workshop
Thursday 24th @ 2:45 – 3:10am – Year 3 and 4 Multiplication Workshop for parents/carers
Thursday 24th @ 3.20 to 4pm – Welcome to My Class (all families welcome to visit class and meet the staff)
Friday 25th – Wednesday 30th September – Book Fair visiting the school.
Friday 25th @ 9am – Church Service
Friday 25th – PTA MacMillan Coffee Afternoon Event
Wednesday 30th – KS1 Strawberry Line Walk

October

Monday 6th – Harvest Collective Workshop – Autumn colours and donations
Thursday 8th @ 9 to 9:45am and 2.15 to 3pm – EYFS Parent Curriculum Workshop
Thursday 15th – Yr 3 Quarry Trip

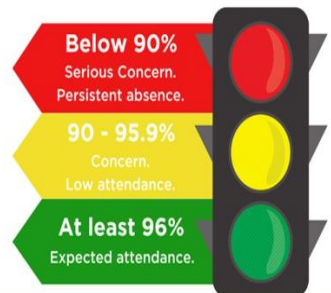
Thursday 23rd October - school closes for Half-Term at 3:20pm

Friday 24th is an INSET Day

Monday 3rd November we return to school

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



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



**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	Everybody is a star this week!	Paige	Dax	Indi	Theo
Christian Values		Laila	Pippa	Finnley	Elsie
Learning Skills		Alfie	Archie	Jesse	Annabel

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Finnley Redwood	Christian Values	George Chestnut	Learning Skills	Maia Chestnut
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	74	45	71	73



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Our Christian Value we are focussing on this term is

Community

At the heart of Christian teaching is the value of *community*, coming together, supporting one another, and recognising that we are stronger when we stand side by side. In the Bible, the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 shows us a powerful example of this: a crowd shared what they had, and with Jesus' blessing, there was more than enough for everyone. Community is about more than simply being in the same place, it's about **sharing**, **caring**, and **working together** for the good of all.

We see community in many of the Christian stories and teachings. In the book of Acts, we read how the early church gathered together, shared everything they had, and supported one another so that no one was left in need. In the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, everyone worked together, shoulder to shoulder, to achieve something greater than they could alone. The Bible reminds us again and again that God calls Christians to live in fellowship, to support each other, and to look out for those in need.

In our school, we see this value come to life every day. Children work together as teams, share ideas, and encourage one another. Teachers and staff support each child to thrive, while families and the wider community contribute their time, energy, and talents to help us grow as a school. When we live out community, we create a place where everyone belongs and feels valued.

Community reminds us that we are all connected. Each of us has a part to play, and together we can build a school, a local community and a world, filled with care, respect, and joy.



LOVE



COMMUNITY



COURAGE

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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CHEDDAR VALLEY HOCKEY CLUB



JUNIOR HOCKEY

KINGS FITNESS ASTRO - CHEDDAR, BS27 3AH

WE WELCOME PLAYERS OF ALL
ABILITIES, FROM COMPLETE
BEGINNERS TO THOSE TRAINING AT
COUNTY LEVEL

BOYS AND GIRLS - YEARS 1 UPWARDS

TRAINING STARTS
FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

EMAIL CVYHC@OUTLOOK.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



DEVELOP SKILLS,
MAKE FRIENDS,
STAY ACTIVE!



BACK TO HOCKEY



MENS TRAINING

FRIDAY NIGHTS
STARTING 4TH OF SEPTEMBER
8-9PM

LADIES TRAINING

MONDAY NIGHTS
STARTING 7TH OF SEPTEMBER
25 & 35 7-8PM
15 8-9PM

JUNIORS TRAINING

MONDAY NIGHTS
STARTING 14TH OF SEPTEMBER
6-6.50PM



KINGS FITNESS &
LEISURE CENTRE
BS27 3AH



  @CHEDDARHOCKEYCLUB

[HTTPS://WWW.CHEDDARHOCKEYCLUB.CO.UK/](https://www.cheddarhockeyclub.co.uk/)

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Wessex
Learning Trust
We Learn Together!



In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham &
Rowberrow Benefice
& Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 13 September
Trinity 15

Sunday 13 September

1000	WEARE	Parish Communion
1600	ROWBERROW	Holy Communion
1800	SHIPHAM	Evening Praise
1800	CHRISTON	Evening Prayer

Taking place this week

Monday 14 September

1100	Axbridge Warm Spot, Church Rooms (ends 1300)
1700	Crook Peak Choir Practice, Badsworth Church (ends 1830)

Wednesday 16 September

1945	Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church
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Thursday 17 September

0900	Crook Peak online morning prayer https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-1258H/service-and-events/
1030	Praying for the vacancy, Yvonne's, Axbridge

Friday 18 September

1930	ASR Benefice Choir Practice, Axbridge Church (ends 2030)
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Next Sunday, 20 September, Trinity 16

0800	BIDDISHAM	Holy Communion
1000	AXBRIDGE	Parish Communion
1000	LOXTON	Morning Worship
1100	SHIPHAM	Harvest Service & Lunch
1600	ROWBERROW	Evensong

Poetry Nights in Axbridge at Axe Vale Arts!

AXE VALE VERSE

Poetry nights at Axe Vale
Arts Centre in West Street
- the former Methodist
Chapel at 7pm on the third
Wednesday of the month



Axe Vale Arts Centre

West Street, Axbridge BS26 2AA

Come along and read your poetry (or poetry you admire)
or simply listen and enjoy the verse in a beautiful space,
with an appreciative group. The evening will be led by
Axbridge resident and published poet Simon Rennie. Hot
and cold non alcoholic drinks available.

More at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/axbridge/axe-vale-arts-centre>

AXBRIDGE BLACKBERRY CARNIVAL 2026

**SATURDAY
26TH SEPTEMBER**
PARADE [at] 2PM

**FREE
ENTRY**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
ENTER A WALKING
ENTRY, FLOAT OR
TRAILER IN THE PARADE
*TRADE ENTRIES WELCOME



FAIRGROUND RIDES

FOOD STALLS



WWW.BLACKBERRYCARNIVAL.COM/GET-INVOLVED

CRAFTERNOON

Bring along your crochet,
knitting, embroidery,
quilting, art or other craft
project
and spend some time
doing it in the company
of others

2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

1400-1600

Axbridge Church Rooms

Free

It can be really difficult to carve out
time for our craft projects so let's
make some!

All ages welcome: children
must be supervised by an
adult at all times

Tea & coffee will be provided but please
feel free to bring your own drinks & snacks



There will be a short
Thought of the Day
halfway through

11 Jul, 8 Aug
5 Sep: date change

Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

1 START EARLY

Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.

2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER

Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.

3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY

Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.

4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS

Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak to or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, 'buddy' systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.

5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION

Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day mealtimes, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.

6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. Anxiety around going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be common, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can all help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.

7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS

Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.

8 PRIORITISE SLEEP

Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.

9 PREPARE AHEAD

Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adapt to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.

WELCOME BACK!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, and a business development specialist for Minds Ahead, which works with schools to improve their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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