



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 # 2

18th September 2026

Dear Families,

We are 10 days in what a fantastic start the children have made to the term. It's been a genuine pleasure observing their learning, hearing about their games in the playground and watching their friendships grow. Already, there is a real buzz of excitement around the school. I'd like to say a big thank you too, for making sure your children have been arriving on time, looking smart and being ready for their day ahead.

As you will have noticed, our clubs begin next week, with an exciting new Art Club for our older children, plus many of the regular favourites. After the half-term, we will also introduce a new Singing and Wellbeing Club, run by Mrs Preece. We really do work hard to provide a rich and varied offer and it's wonderful to see these clubs continuing to be so popular.

A quick reminder to please make sure you have updated us with any new medical information for your child, as it's vitally important our records are up to date. Over the summer and following the roll out of Benedict's Law, all staff have undertaken additional allergy and anaphylaxis training, with additional Epi-pens being held on site in case of an emergency.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the newly formed school council on Thursday and they are full of great ideas, one of them involving a make-over for our school toilets! Watch this space, as I know we will be looking to hold a DIY SOS day in the coming weeks, with any help from parents/ carers and wider families greatly welcomed!

The PTA will be holding their AGM at 7pm on Monday 21st September, in the Lamb Inn in Axbridge. We warmly welcome all parents/carers to consider coming along and finding out a little more about the work the PTA and perhaps how you can become involved. I cannot state strongly enough how important the work the PTA carry out is to the school and your children. The PTA and I would love it if you could consider giving up an evening and consider how you might be able to squeeze a little time within your diaries to support their work. A plea from the PTA too, if you have an accountancy background or once used a calculator, they are in need of a new treasurer for this year!

Warmest wishes,

Mr Dominic Shillabeer



September

**** Clubs start this week ****

Monday 21st @ 2.50 to 3.20pm –

Parents Phonics Workshop

Monday 21st – PTA AGM, 7pm at the Lamb Inn

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

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

Monday 6th – Parent / carer drop in clinic with Mr Shillabeer 3:00pm onwards.

Thursday 8th @ 9 to 9:45am and 2.15 to 3pm - EYFS Parent Curriculum Workshop

Thursday 15th – Yr 3 Quarry Trip

Thursday 22nd October - school closes for Half-Term at 3:20pm

Friday 23rd is an INSET Day

Wednesday 4th November - 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!

**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	All Stars of the Week 	Rupert	Alfie	Jaxson	Mila-Rae
Christian Values		Albie	Zephyr	Bertie	Isla
Learning Skills		Millie	Mia	Anabelle	Leo

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Reggie Hazel	Christian Values	Aidan Oak	Learning Skills	Charlie Oak
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	195	164	208	138



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Digital and Online Safety

Over the next week, we will be talking with the children about staying safe online and developing healthy digital habits. As part of this, we will introduce a simple, child-friendly Digital Safety Agreement, which will also be sent home following their lesson around this. We ask that parents and carers take a few minutes to talk through the agreement with their child, sign it together and return it to school. Thank you in advance for helping us reinforce these important messages and build positive, safe habits around technology.



**Axbridge
C of E Academy**
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Our Safe Technology Promise

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

At Axbridge, we use iPads, computers and other technology to help us learn, create and explore. We want everyone to feel happy and safe when using technology.

1 Use it for learning



I will use websites, apps and games my grown-ups have chosen for me.

2 Ask before I click



If I am not sure what to do, I will ask an adult.

3 Keep private things private



I will not share my name, password, address or other personal information online.

4 Be kind



I will use kind words and treat other people respectfully.

5 Ask before taking photos or videos



I will only take photographs or recordings when my teacher says it is okay.

6 Stop and tell



If I see something that makes me feel worried, sad, confused or uncomfortable, I will stop and tell a trusted adult.

♥ STOP · CLOSE IT · TELL A TRUSTED ADULT ♥

We agree to follow this promise:

Child's name: _____ Parent/Carer name: _____ Parent/Carer signature: _____ Date: _____

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Be Safe
Be Kind
Be Responsible

Technology helps us learn, create, discover and connect.

My Digital Safety Agreement

Years 3 & 4

At Axbridge, we use technology to help us learn and be creative. With this opportunity comes responsibility. I agree to follow these promises:

1 I will use technology for the right reasons.



I will use school devices, websites and apps for learning and only use the ones my teacher has allowed.

2 I will keep my information private.



I will keep passwords private and will not share personal information such as my full name, address, phone number or other details online.

3 I will think before I search or click.



I know that not everything online is safe, suitable or true. If I am unsure, I will ask a trusted adult.

4 I will be kind online.



I will communicate respectfully and will not send or create anything that could upset, embarrass or hurt someone else.

5 I will respect other people's privacy.



I will not take, share or upload photos, videos or recordings of other people unless I have permission from a member of staff.

6 I will use digital tools honestly.



I will make sure I access my work and not others. I will follow my teacher's instructions and be honest about the work I do online.

7 I will look after our technology.



I will use school equipment carefully and will not try to change settings, download things or access blocked content.

8 I will tell someone if something isn't right.



If I see something online that worries, upsets or confuses me - or if someone contacts me in a way that makes me uncomfortable - I will...

Before I post, message or create, I will THINK...

T
Is it True?

H
Is it Helpful?

I
Is it Important?

N
Is it Necessary?

K
Is it Kind?

STOP
SAVE IT (IF NEEDED)
TELL A TRUSTED ADULT



Our Agreement

I have read and discussed this agreement with my parent/carers and understand how I am expected to use technology safely and responsibly at Axbridge C of E Academy.

Child

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent / Carer

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Community

Love

Courage



**Wessex
Learning Trust**
We Learn Together!



Wessex
Learning Trust

ONLINE SAFETY PARENT WORKSHOP

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO STAY SAFE, SMART AND CONFIDENT ONLINE



DATE & TIME
Oct 1, 2026



07:00 PM



Zoom

Here at the Wessex Learning Trust we are totally committed to the digital safety and wellbeing of their students. As part of this, we are running a workshop dedicated to helping parents understand the risks their children face in their online lives and the practical things parents can do to help.



Please join us for this hour-long workshop in which **Katherine Howard**, Head of Engagement and Education at **Smoothwall** will provide you with lots of valuable insights and tools. Including:

smoothwall®
by Qoria



Information on the latest apps and games your child may have access to.



The **harmful content** your child may be exposed to.



How you can help your child to **safely navigate** online risk.



How to access our brand new and **FREE Online Safety Hub** with dedicated guidance for parents.



An introduction to a **parental app** that allows you to control what your child sees online if they are at risk, plus other important features.



**TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP
CHILDREN THRIVE ONLINE.**

We hope to see you there!



SCAN HERE
to find out more
and reserve your
place



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.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

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