



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

7th September 2026

Welcome Back to Axbridge

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some special time together as families.

We genuinely cannot wait to welcome everyone back to Axbridge. The start of a new school year always brings a real sense of excitement; with familiar faces returning, new children and families joining us, and so many opportunities ahead of us.

A Busy Summer at School

It has certainly not been a quiet summer at Axbridge!

Across the school, we have had:

- Roofing completed in several areas.
- Carpets fitted in the entrance area, Hazel Class and Chestnut Class.
- Entrance area in the school reception upgraded
- Preparations underway to repurpose Willow Class as a new space for our oldest Nursery children, with new doors and a changing area installed.
- Raised beds installed in the outside area
- New tables and chairs arriving shortly for classrooms across the school.
- Investment in more Chromebooks for our learners.

These improvements will continue to enhance our learning environments and help us create spaces that are welcoming, purposeful and inspiring for our children.

Our PTA's fantastic 'Thrive Outside' community fundraiser has also enabled us to add another raised bed and new outdoor seating, both of which will be arriving shortly. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this initiative.

Welcome to New Staff

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the Axbridge team this year. Ms Bright will be working in Pine Class on Fridays, while Ms Trafford, an MSC Trainee

Axbridge C of E Academy

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Part of the
Wessex Learning Trust

Teacher, will begin the year in Chestnut Class. We know our children and families will give them both a very warm Axbridge welcome.

Our Christian Value: Community

Fittingly, our Christian Value this term is Community. This will run through many aspects of school life during the Autumn term, with families able to look forward to a number of events and opportunities that celebrate belonging, contribution and working together.

We are excited about strengthening the connections between our children, families, school and the wider Axbridge community.

Curriculum, Newsletters and the Year Ahead

On Wednesday 9th September, class newsletters will be sent home.

These will include:

- Key class routines.
- Important dates and events.
- PE days and other practical information.
- Most importantly, what your child will be learning this term.

We are very proud of the curriculum we have created at Axbridge and the opportunities that surround it. We want learning to be rich, purposeful and memorable, with experiences that help children deepen their knowledge and develop their interests.

At the end of the week, we will also share our whole-school yearly calendar to help families plan ahead.

Alongside this, each class will receive an Enrichment Overview, outlining curriculum-linked trips, visitors, experiences and events planned across the year, including estimated costs where appropriate.

Music at Axbridge

We are delighted that Rocksteady Music School will be returning this term. Rocksteady is open to children in all year groups, including Reception, and gives pupils the opportunity to learn and perform as part of a band.

Parents can find out more and sign up here:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents/>

We are also extremely fortunate to welcome back Mrs Susie Spanring, who offers piano, recorder and violin lessons to children of all ages.

Feedback from children and parents last year was extremely positive, and the end-of-year music showcase was a real highlight, with parents and staff in awe of the musical talent on display.

Further details about these lessons will be shared later this week.

After-School Clubs

Information about our Autumn term clubs will be sent out next week, with clubs beginning in the week commencing 21st September.

We always aim to offer a varied range of clubs that allow children to explore different hobbies, interests and passions beyond the classroom.

Uniform Reminder

School uniform can be purchased from Deanes of Cheddar.

Children are welcome to continue wearing uniform with the previous school logo during this year as we gradually move towards full adoption of our new branded uniform.

A few key reminders from our Uniform Policy:

- Please name all items of clothing.
- Jewellery should not be worn, including necklaces and rings.
- Stud earrings are permitted, but not hooped or dangling earrings.
- Watches are permitted, but not smartwatches capable of taking photographs, messaging or accessing mobile networks.
- A reminder that studs must be taken out for PE lessons, preferably not worn on PE days.
- Axbridge PE hoodies can be worn on PE days, but we ask that they are not worn on non-PE days.

Thank you for helping us maintain a smart, practical and consistent approach to uniform.

Communication

If your query is urgent or requires action on the same day – for example illness, lateness, lunches or a change staff need to know about immediately – please telephone the school office on:

01934 732391

For non-urgent communication, parents and carers are welcome to message class teachers via ClassDojo.

This may include:

- Sharing photographs of work or achievements outside school.
- Arranging a meeting.

- Discussing your child's progress.

Staff will respond as soon as they are able to around their teaching commitments and during their normal working hours.

Here's to a Wonderful Year Ahead

Buildings, carpets, furniture and equipment are only a small part of what makes Axbridge special. It is our children, staff and families who bring the school to life. We are truly ambitious for every child, but just as importantly, we want them to enjoy coming to school, feel that they belong and know that they are supported to thrive. In fact, the first week back places a heavy emphasis on re-connecting, building relationships and ensuring the children are settled, happy and ready to learn!

As ever, my staff and I look forward to working closely with you this year and to celebrating the achievements of all our children, no matter how big or small. Thank you in advance for your continued support in making Axbridge C of E Academy such a vibrant, caring and ambitious school community.

We cannot wait to see everyone and get started!

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dominic Shillabeer'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

Dominic Shillabeer
Head teacher