



Dear families,

As the winter season settles in around us, there's a real sense of excitement growing throughout the school. This week brings a wonderful mix of celebrations, opportunities, and community spirit.

We are delighted to welcome the Book Fair back to school. We hope it provides families with a fantastic chance to discover new stories and perhaps pick up a few thoughtful Christmas gifts. After all, the gift of a book is a gift of imagination, adventure, and cherished moments shared. We look forward to seeing our families exploring the shelves and finding new favourites.

And as if that wasn't enough excitement, today we celebrate the first of our Patron Saint Days—St Andrew's Day! We're set for a Scottish-themed day filled with tartan, traditions, and, of course, plenty of delicious shortbread and cakes. It promises to be a memorable celebration for everyone. We will sell the cakes to the children during the afternoon (please send in 50p if you would like your child to have an afternoon treat), and if we have any left they will be available to buy after school at the book fair.



We would also like to say a huge thank you to FOSS, especially Mrs Stead, for organising the wonderful film night last week. The event raised over £170, and we are incredibly grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm that goes into creating such enjoyable experiences for our children. Good luck to everyone attending the wreath making event this Sunday. Have lots of festive fun!

Wishing everyone a warm and joyful weekend ahead!

Mrs Netto

## FOSS Film Club

Following a recent poll, the next film to be shown will be - **The Nativity**.

**Date: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**Time: 3.15pm – 5pm**

**Year groups: Reception – Year 4 (sorry, no pre-school children)**

Please find the booking link [here](#).

## Christian Values

Each half term we focus on a Christian Value, this term it is **Trust**

*“My God is my strength in whom I trust.” (Psalm 18:2)*

## PE Uniform

Just a few reminders:

- long hair needs to be tied back in a hair band
- plain black/blue shorts OR plain black/blue trousers (leggings or tracksuit trousers)
- no tights under shorts
- white t-shirts

## Dates for your diary

TERM 2	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November (until 3 <sup>rd</sup> December)	Book Fair in School
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	FOSS Wreath making – SOLD OUT
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Willow Christmas – Dress rehearsal
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Willow Christmas – Performance to families 2pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Dress rehearsal
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Performance to families 6pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch and jumper day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	FOSS Film Club
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas class parties
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	FOSS Film Event in the Village Hall

Please also use the [school calendar](#) to keep up to date with all forthcoming events and activities

## Somerset Term Dates – 2025 / 2026

Term 1	4 <sup>th</sup> September – 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025
Term 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> November – 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Term 3	5 <sup>th</sup> January – 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Term 4	23 <sup>rd</sup> February – 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026
Term 5	20 <sup>th</sup> April – 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
Term 6	1 <sup>st</sup> June – 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

## Somerset Term Dates – 2025 / 2026

Please see the dates for next academic year on the WLT [website](#).

## Future INSET Days

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	INSET - School closed to learners
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July and Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026	INSET - School closed to learners – Time for the summer holidays!
Full term dates can be found on our <a href="#">WLT website</a> .	Please note, holidays during term time cannot be authorised.

## Other information that may be of interest

### NORTH POLE EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE



Father Christmas will be visiting Shipham, arriving at approx. 5:45pm at the school and then touring the main roads of the village before arriving back in the square. He will then deliver gifts to the village's children during the Christmas carols, mince pie and mulled wine on **Saturday 13th December 2025**. As Father Christmas passes through the roads on his sleigh, people are invited to join and follow along behind the procession, which will finish in The Square. Residents of all ages are then invited to come together to sing carols around the tree, accompanied by Shipham's own Lookdown Band. (Mulled wine and mince pie will be available to buy). Fundraising for Shipham Guides/Brownies/Scouts/ Youth Club and POPS (Friends of Shipham School).

Father Christmas will set off at **6pm at Shipham First School**, and pass through the main roads of Shipham. He hopes that everyone will meet him at school at 6pm to follow him around the village before their present is given out in the square following the procession.

**To order a gift from Father Christmas for your child(ren), complete and return this form to the School Office by Friday 5th December. (Please seal completed form and correct cash in an envelope).**

Adult name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren)'s name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children requiring gifts: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum donation **£8.50** per child, but feel free to donate more if you would like to and are able.

Total enclosed: £ \_\_\_\_\_

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**




## Shipham village hall

# Shipham Playgroup

9:45am- 11:30am every Monday in term time

**£3 entry includes snacks, squash and hot drinks for the adults.**



Friendly welcoming group with a massive car park.

Everyone is welcome





## BACK TO SCHOOL... AS A TEACHER

The Mid Somerset Consortium

Train to Teach with Mid Somerset Consortium - Inspire the Next Generation

- Flexible training designed for busy parents
- Make a real difference in children's lives
- Start a meaningful career in your community
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JOIN MISC TEACHER TRAINING TODAY!

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**Will your child start or transfer school in 2027?**

**Have your say**

**School Admission Arrangements 2027/2028 Consultation**

This consultation is taking place between: 24 November 2025 and 5 January 2026

The consultation allows parents, other schools, religious authorities, and the local community to make any comments on the proposed admission arrangements.

To view the arrangements and to comment, please scan the QR code or visit: [www.somerset.gov.uk/school-admission-consultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/school-admission-consultation)





**HOLIDAY CLUB**  
*At Kings Fitness & Leisure*

- For ages 5-13 years from £23\* per day 9.00am-4.00pm
- Extend the day with early drop-off and late pick-up from £4.50 per session
- Have fun playing Christmas games, sports, going swimming, and doing festive arts and crafts!
- Bring packed lunch, snacks, refillable drinks bottle, swimming kit, weather dependant items (sun cream, waterproofs etc).




Visit our Junior Activities Page here

Contact Kings Fitness & Leisure at 01934 744939 to sign up NOW!



\*2027 Budget 2 weeks of activities, alternatively £28 per day, 3 weeks after the first term starts.

## Workshops for Families

[Wise up Calendar](#)

[Parenting Groups](#)

[NSPCWT](#)

## Online Safety

[Internet Matters](#) and [Google Families](#) has lots of information, advice and support for all your concerns about your child and the internet. Why not take a look.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child and would like to talk to a member of staff in private, please make an appointment:

**Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Netto**

**Deputy Designated Leads: Mrs Brabbins & Mrs Mary Watt**

**Safeguarding Governor: Adrian Warman**

**WLT Safeguarding and Educational Welfare Lead: Dawn Tomkies**

As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224
- (North Somerset) Care Connect: 01275 888 808



For more information, along with regular safeguarding updates, you can also visit:

<https://somensetsafeguardingchildren.org.uk>

[care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk)



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