



Dear families,

It's beginning to look and sound wonderfully festive around school! Our beautiful Christmas trees—kindly donated by Mr Elliott—are now up and sparkling in the classrooms, and rehearsals for our Christmas performances are well underway. The children are working incredibly hard, and we can't wait for you to see their efforts.

Our travelling book fair has also been very well supported this week. We hope you've been able to pick up some lovely books, whether as Christmas gifts or as a special end-of-term treat.

We do share the sad message from Bishop Michael:

It is with deepest sadness that I share the news of the death of the Revd Alistair Forster, Priest in Charge of Axbridge with Shipham and Rowberrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alistair's wife, Heather, and the family.

Alistair died on Advent Sunday, the 30th of November. His death comes after a long battle with cancer, which he undertook with great grace, dignity and faithfulness. We give thanks for Alistair's service, his life, and for all that he meant to so many people.

Alistair's faith in Jesus Christ shone through at all times. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy weekend.

Mrs Netto

FOSS Film Club

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

Date: Friday 12th 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)

Dates for your diary

TERM 2	
Monday 8 th December	Willow Christmas – Dress rehearsal
Tuesday 9 th December	Willow Christmas – Performance to families 2pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Dress rehearsal
Thursday 11 th December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Performance to families 6pm
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas lunch and jumper day
Friday 12 th December	FOSS Film Club
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas class parties
Friday 19 th December	Carols in church 1pm – families welcome
Sunday 11 th 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 th September – 23 rd October 2025
Term 2	3 rd November – 19 th December 2025
Term 3	5 th January – 12 th February 2026
Term 4	23 rd February – 2 nd April 2026
Term 5	20 th April – 22 nd May 2026
Term 6	1 st June – 17 th July 2026

Somerset Term Dates – 2025 / 2026

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

Future INSET Days

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

Other information that may be of interest

NORTH POLE EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE





ho! ho! ho!

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 15th 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 pies will be available to buy).

Fundraising for Shipham Guides/Brownies/Scouts/ Youth Club and POFB (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 **£2.50** per child, but feel free to donate more if you would like to and are able.

Total enclosed: £ _____

MERRY CHRISTMAS!





Shipham village hall
Shipham
 9:45am- 11:30am
 every Monday in
 term time **Playgroup**

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



Friendly welcoming group with a massive car park.

Everyone is welcome





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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





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



Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community