



Shipham Church of England First School

Turnpike Road, Shipham BS25 1TX

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Newsletter No. 16

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear families,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you had a wonderful festive break with family and friends.



Thank you also for the kind Christmas wishes and gifts we have received – they are very much appreciated by all of the staff.

We would like to say how lovely it has been to see such a smart return to school. Thank you to everyone who has invested in a new logo jumper or cardigan; the children look very smart. It would be great to begin phasing out the very old logo over time. However, for sustainability reasons, we will continue to accept the version of uniform prior to our current logo for a while longer.

We recently held a successful meeting for our Year 4 parents, and it was wonderful to see such positive engagement. We are very excited to be looking ahead to the Year 4 residential visit to Kilve Court in May and will share further details as plans continue to develop.

This week, the school has also successfully completed both a lockdown drill and a fire drill. These are important procedures to practise, and the children responded sensibly and maturely throughout.

Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward to starting new inquiry topics across the school and are excited about the learning and exploration these will bring.

As temperatures are forecast to drop over the next few days, we kindly ask that you ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for cold weather. We will continue to access outdoor spaces for play, unless conditions become severely cold. Please make sure your child has a jumper, a warm coat, a hat and gloves, and sensible footwear.

Emergency Weather Plan

In the weeks ahead, there is always a possibility of significant weather changes. We will make every effort to keep the school open and safe in the event of ice or snow; however, in exceptional circumstances, we may need to make the difficult decision to close the school.

If conditions worsen overnight or into the morning, we will carry out a risk assessment of the school site. Should we need to close, we will inform you via MCAS and Class Dojo. The same procedures will apply if conditions deteriorate during the school day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Netto

FOSS New Year Film Event!

Sunday 11th January - 'How to Train a Dragon'

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofshiphamschools/1968733>



FOSS New Year DISCO!

Our wonderful FOSS are putting on another disco on Friday 23rd January. You can buy tickets here:

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofshiphamschools/1945714>

Christian Values

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

'Be strong and courageous' (Joshua 1.9)

Dates for your diary

Term 3	
Sunday 11 th January	FOSS Film Event in the Village Hall
Friday 23 rd January	FOSS Disco
Tuesday 27 th January	Stay and read 8.45am-9.15am
Tuesday 3 rd February	Stay and read 8.45am-9.15am
Friday 6 th February	Number Day Mufti day / clothes with numbers / dots
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 4 th March	St David's Team Bake Sale 3.15pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Whole School Trip We The Curious
Monday 9 th – 13 th March	Science Week in school
Friday 20 th – Wednesday 25 th March	Book Fair in hall
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 20 th March	St Patrick's Team Bake Sale 3.15pm
Tuesday 31 st March and Wednesday 1 st April	Parent meetings
Thursday 2 nd April	Easter Service 2pm St. Leonard's Church

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

Wessex Learning Trust Admission Arrangements for Somerset Schools (2027/28) Consultation

The Wessex Learning Trust are consulting on their 2027/28 admission arrangements. It is statutory to consult every 7 years or when a change is made. To view and comment on the arrangements please click here

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/2027-arrangements>

Our consultation will start on 1 December 2025 and end on 19 January 2026 and the final determined arrangements will be published on the Trust and our School website by 15 March 2026.

THE SPACE

Parent Club

Being a parent is HARD! Do you sometimes just want to talk to like-minded people without judgement?

Does your child experience school avoidance or have SEN? Or maybe you just need a gentle chat with someone Attachment stands?

We are here for YOU!

Parent Club offers a safe, welcoming space with:

- ☕ Hot coffee
- 😊 Friendly faces
- 👂 Support, advice & signposting

Every Wednesday 9am-10:30am

No need to book — just drop in!

Prefer to reserve a spot? Text 07940 177399

We also have activities to keep little ones occupied!

New Evening Sessions

Evening sessions available by appointment only

1st Monday of every month
From 8pm
Coffee @ The Hub

Please email Victoria Whitman@thespacesomerset.org.uk to book your space

Monday 17th January available for booking now

COFFEE @ THE HUB, 1-2 LOWER NORTH STREET, CHEDDAR, BS27 3HA (OPPOSITE TESCO EXPRESS)

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.

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. This weeks [#WakeUpWednesday](#) provides clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

Download your FREE copy [here](#).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**
Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and avoid topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, as children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**
Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Discuss how and what personal messages or group chats can be shared and if missed, talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.
- 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**
Early apps and games are designed to make users engaged through rewards, likes, or virtual currency. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these features work, what helps children disengage when it's time to take a break, and how to reach for balanced supports to build their resilience and awareness of their screen time.
- 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS**
When a child or young person comes to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues. It means showing that you're there to help. When a child or young person can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.
- 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**
With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead on any topics that arise. This opens up valuable conversations that help you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.
- 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**
Help to understand about how to recognise untrusted information or secure online. With all-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, have children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Establish limits on screen time, including about device usage as they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-free zones, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to limit or filter harmful content and explore stop apps on these to provide and support them, not to spoil their fun.
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Children often mirror the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what respectful, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as not checking anything during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.
- 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features can help to help them stay safe online.
- 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**
Establish yourself with local and national helpline and support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars about privacy tips on sharing info. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. When children have to report or block users, and when to get help from parents. Make sure they know how to get help to report the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert
Join us at the world's largest UK library for educators. The National College has introduced the way education establishments go about developing their workforce and managing compliance. Our three masterclasses help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

See full infographic [here](#)

[@wake_up_weds](#) [www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

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Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community

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://sometersafeguardingchildren.org.uk>



care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk