



Shipham Church of England First School

Turnpike Road, Shipham BS25 1TX

01934 843485 www.shiphamfirstschool.co.uk

Newsletter No. 20

Friday 6th February 2026

Dear families,

Stay and Read

We held another Stay and Read event this week. Thank you to all the families who joined us and supported this special time to share reading with your children. Your participation makes these moments even more meaningful! We are holding another one on **Tuesday 10th February**.

NSPCC Number Day – Celebrating Today!

Today we are joining schools nationwide for *NSPCC Number Day*. Thank you for your support! Donations can be made directly to the NSPCC via their website: [NSPCC website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).

Great Athletes Visit

Just a reminder that we will be holding an assembly with the children on **Monday 9th February**, followed by their sponsored event on **Friday 27th February**.

Safer Internet Day – Next Week

Next week we will be celebrating *Safer Internet Day* with the theme: **Smart Tech, Safe Choices – Exploring the Safe and Responsible Use of AI**. We will be helping children understand how to use technology safely and responsibly, with a focus on the exciting and evolving world of artificial intelligence.



Winning House Team Celebration

Congratulations to our winning house team- **St. Andrew**! To celebrate, we will be holding a *Wear What You Like Day* for their team on **Wednesday 11th February**. This date has been chosen to avoid other clashes in the school diary next week.

Chestnut Class Assembly – You're Invited!

As part of our ongoing efforts to create more opportunities to connect with families, we warmly invite all Chestnut Class families to their class assembly on **Thursday 12th February at 9:00am**. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing in the children's learning journey.

Children's Mental Health Week – Wear What You Like Day

On the same day, **Thursday 12th February**, we will also celebrate *Children's Mental Health Week* with another *Wear What You Like Day*. This is a fun way for children to express themselves and support positive mental health.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school community vibrant and connected.

Mrs Netto

Mother's Day Shop

On **Thursday 12th March**, FOSS will be running a **Mother's Day Shop**. All children will have the opportunity to visit the shop during the school day and purchase a gift for Mother's Day (£2). Gifts will be wrapped and sent home ready for the special day.

To help this event run, we kindly ask parents to donate **unwanted gifts, toiletries, or boxes of chocolates** to be sold at the shop. Please bring donations into school by **Friday 6th March**, either to the school office or to your child's teacher.

We will remind children closer to the time to bring their £2 into school on the day.
All proceeds raised will go directly to **FOSS**.

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	
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day Stay & Read 8.45am – 9.15am
Thursday 12 th February	Wear What You Like for Children's Mental Health Week
Thursday 12 th February	9am Chestnut Class Collective Worship – Chestnut families welcome
Friday 27 th February	Great Athletes sponsored event for children
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](#).

Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community

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

MONDAY 16TH - FRIDAY 20TH

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS

£25 PER DAY
C110 FOR THE WEEK

10% DISCOUNT
20% OFF OF 2025

All abilities welcome!
Free and professional sessions full of games, technical coaching and match play. Come and join in the fun, 9am-12pm each day at Wiscooke Tennis Club.

TOPSPIN TENNIS

Scan the QR code or contact Dennis at wiscooke@wiscookeclub.co.uk to book your slot

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 for support and help
7 Weeks of evening sessions
Parent Support
Coffee & Chat
Maximum 10 places
wiscooke@wiscookeclub.co.uk
to book your space
Monday 17th 6pm onwards
Wednesday 19th 6pm onwards

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

Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community





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 games, sports, going swimming, and doing 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!



*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively £28 and £35 if booked after this time frame





WEDMORE HOLIDAY CLUB

- ✓ For ages 5-13 years, from £23* per day, 9.00am-4.00pm, at Wedmore First School grounds
- ✓ In the winter, have fun doing outdoor adventure activities in the forest school grounds, and enjoy our outdoor swimming pool in the summer!**
- ✓ Enjoy a jam packed day of playing games, sports, and arts and crafts!
- ✓ Bring packed lunch, snacks, refillable drinks bottle, outdoor adventure clothing, and weather dependant items (sun cream, waterproofs etc).




Visit our Junior Activities Page here:

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



*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively £28 and £35 if booked after this time frame
**This is a seasonal, weather dependent activity



The Mid Somerset Consortium

BACK TO SCHOOL... AS A TEACHER

Train to Teach Primary 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.
- Earn while you learn with hands-on classroom experience.



Client Testimonials

'I couldn't have wished for a more supportive group of staff and fellow trainees... The MSC team have all been incredible and there is always someone there to talk to should you need it.'

— **Danni**

'The primary training course has been supportive and practical, allowing me to build confidence and develop invaluable classroom skills. Importantly, it has worked well around being a parent, allowing me to successfully balance training alongside a busy family life.'

— **Sarah**

'A real strength of the course is the opportunity for primary and secondary trainees to work together.'

— **Millie**

'Placement schools are varied and well chosen, including first schools, middle schools, and primary schools. Being placed locally has helped us build strong networks across the area, which feels invaluable for future job opportunities and professional connections.'

— **Millie**

Ready to take the next step?

JOIN MSC TEACHER TRAINING TODAY!

✉ office@mscitt.org.uk | 🌐 www.mscitt.org.uk | 📞 01458 449418

Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

- 1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS**

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.
- 2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION**

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake facts. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.
- 3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY**

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.
- 4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI**

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.
- 5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS**

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.
- 6 USE AI TOGETHER**

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.
- 7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE**

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.
- 8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE**

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.
- 9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY**

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.
- 10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED**

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

X @wake_up_weds **f** /wuw.thenationalcollege **@** @wake.up.wednesday **j** @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.02.2025

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