



Shipham Church of England First School

Turnpike Road, Shipham BS25 1TX

01934 843485 www.shiphamfirstschool.co.uk

Newsletter No. 21

Thursday 12th February 2026

Dear families,

House Event – Pancake Fun

We started the week with the next of our House Events. It brought all four teams together for lots of flippin' fun, teamwork, and friendly competition. The children (and staff!) enthusiastically took part in a variety of events, cheering each other on and showing great sportsmanship throughout. The energy and house spirit were incredible to see, and congratulations go to **St. David's**, who emerged as the overall winners after an exciting series of challenges. Well done to all houses for making the event such a success!

Safer Internet Day

We celebrated *Safer Internet Day* with the theme: **Smart Tech, Safe Choices – Exploring the Safe and Responsible Use of AI**. The children were helped to understand how to use technology safely and responsibly, with a focus on the exciting and evolving world of artificial intelligence.



Congratulations once again to our winning house team of the term - **St. Andrew**! They enjoyed their celebrations on Wednesday.

TODAY - Chestnut Class Assembly in the school hall– You're Invited!

We look forward to welcoming our Chestnut families at 9am today to share their incredible learning journey with you.

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

A reminder that will also celebrate *Children's Mental Health Week* today with another *Wear What You Like Day*.

INSET Day – Friday 13th February A reminder that school is closed to learners tomorrow as all the staff attend a Trust-wide training day.

We wish you all a wonderful half-term rest. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday 23rd February**.

Please do take a look at the diary dates below as we already have lots of exciting things planned for term 4.

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**.

FOSS Film Club

The final FOSS film club of this academic year is now open!

Showing Friday 27th February!

How to Train your Dragon 2 🐉

Tickets can be purchased here:



<https://buytickets.at/friendsofshiphamschools/1968729>

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
Tuesday 10 th March	Animal Encounters Visit
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



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
Bring your own

Having a coffee with us is complimentary

* 10 mins of every month from 9am-10.30am

Maximum of 10 members per session

Book your spot: space@kingsfitness.com

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

KINGS

FITNESS & LEISURE

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, otherwise £24 and £25 after this time frame

KINGS

FITNESS & LEISURE

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, otherwise £24 and £25 after this time frame
**This is a seasonal, weather dependant 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@mscst.org.uk | 🌐 www.mscst.org.uk | 📞 01458 449418

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.

Free Parent/Carer Session Around Online Grooming & Exploitation, the sessions will be Led by Prevention officer Andri Nicolaou from the dedicated Child Exploitation Team in Avon and Somerset Police.

This session will enable participants to learn how to keep the children in their care safe online and recognize the signs of grooming and exploitation. It will provide valuable insights and practical tips to help them navigate the digital world with their children and young people.

[Avon and Somerset Police Events - 2 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community

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 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

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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