

# Shipham Church of England First School

Turnpike Road, Shipham BS25 1TX

01934 843485 [www.shiphamfirstschool.co.uk](http://www.shiphamfirstschool.co.uk)

Newsletter No. 28

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026



Dear families,

## New Starters

A very warm welcome to all the Reception children who will be joining us in September. The Willow team is already busy planning transition arrangements to ensure every child experiences a smooth and happy move from pre-school into school life. We are also excited to be welcoming new families and look forward to meeting them soon.

## Earth Day

On Wednesday, we placed a special focus on Earth Day. Mrs Leader organised a range of fun and engaging outdoor activities, encouraging children to think about how we can care for our environment and protect wildlife.

In preparation for Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, we also took part in a collective challenge to run 100km and created a time capsule to mark the occasion. Thank you Mrs Leader – it was a fabulous day!



## St. George's Day Celebrations

Today we are celebrating our patron saint, Saint George. The children will be learning about his story and its significance. To mark the occasion, St. George's team are also holding a bake sale—delicious treats will be available for 50p each. Thank you in advance for your support.



## Thank you FOSS!

We were delighted to return to school and discover a fantastic new addition to our playground, kindly provided by our wonderful FOSS team. The children have been thoroughly enjoying staying active and developing their skills using the new target practice equipment.



## School Environment Updates

We are pleased to share that, step by step, we are continuing to make meaningful improvements to our school environment. Over the Easter break, the KS2 girls' toilets were given a much-needed 'spruce-up', creating a fresher and more welcoming space for them. In addition, although slightly delayed, we are delighted to see the windows and new flooring in Oak classroom now being completed, further enhancing our learning spaces. These ongoing updates reflect our commitment to providing a positive and well-maintained environment for all members of our school community.

**Inspiring Growth Through Nature and Community**



Looking ahead to the summer, we are excited for work to begin on cladding the Willow classroom—an important larger-scale project. This development is being supported by the Wessex Learning Trust, and we are very grateful for their continued support, which enables us to further improve our facilities for the benefit of all our pupils and staff. We are hoping the improvements will look similar to those in the image below.



### Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility from September 2026

From September 2026 **all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for free school meals**. If this change applies to your child(ren) please complete the form shared via Class Dojo and return to the school office, or contact the school office if you would prefer a printed copy. This funding will follow your child beyond Key Stage 1 so is important even if at present they are having universal infant free school meals.

### Congratulations!

A reminder that our wonderful Miss Pool got married over the Easter break and is now Mrs Foote. The children have done really well remembering her new name!



### Acts of Kindness

Don't forget - to support our school value, we would love you to encourage the children to take part in acts of kindness. Dojo points will be awarded for every act completed! If you would like a paper copy of the challenges, please ask your class teacher.

Wishing you all a lovely, kindness-filled weekend.

Mrs Netto



## Christian Values

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

*“Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)*

## Dates for your diary

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	St George’s Team Bake Sale
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Oak Class Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May – 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Kilve Residential
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	“Stay & Read” 8.45am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	“Stay & Read” 8.45am
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	“Stay & Read” 8.45am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Willow Class Collective Worship – Families welcome
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	September 2026 Reception Parents Evening 6pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 4 Moving Up Celebration Wells Cathedral
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Transfer Day (all children move to their class / school for Sept 26)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	FOSS BBQ after school
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	School Choir and Music Concert in school
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Back up Sports Day (if wet / hot on 17 <sup>th</sup> June)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Back up FOSS BBQ (if wet / too hot on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Trip
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Leaver’s Service 2pm (Year 4 parents only)

## Somerset Term Dates – 2025 / 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

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

### Alternative Sports Club

This exciting club will be run by our fabulous Sports Masters and will include activities such as archery, frisbee, boccia, Nerf, and axe throwing!

🕒 **When:** Wednesdays, 3:15pm–4:15pm

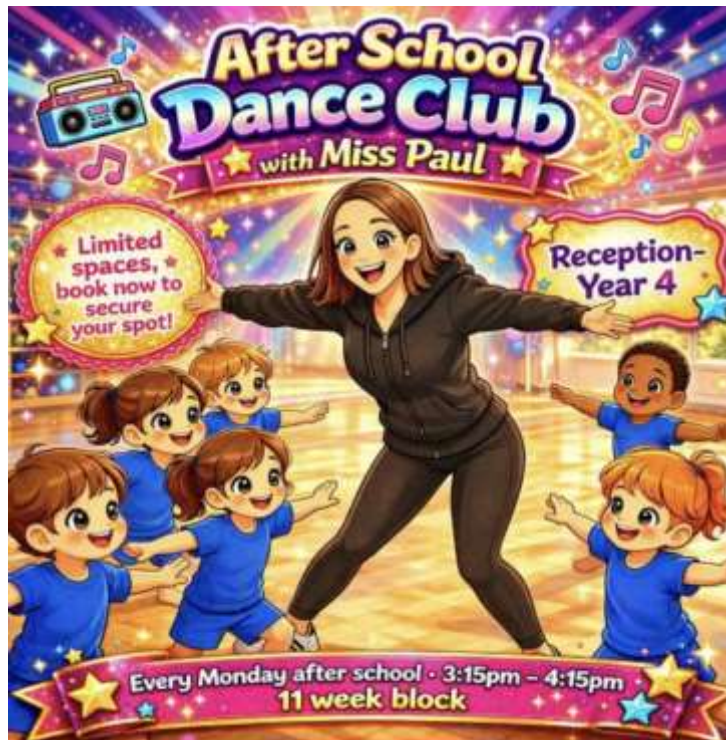
We expect this club to be very popular, and spaces are limited for safety reasons. Therefore:

- For the **first half of term**, the club is open to **Years R–2**
- After half term, it will be available for **Years 3–4**

After School Club will remain available for other year groups if childcare is needed.

### How to book:

Please book via **Afterschool Club on MCAS**. We will assume that all children who are booked (and are in the relevant age group) wish to take part. If this is not the case, please inform the school office.

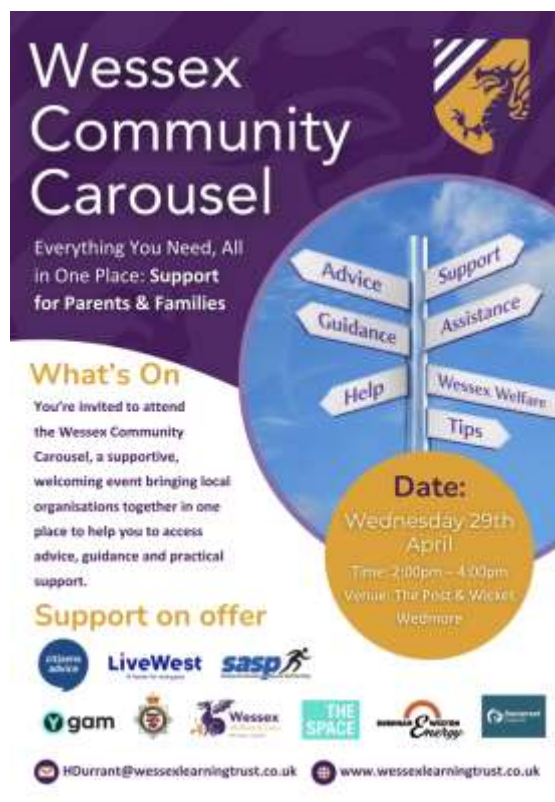


## Workshops for Families

[Wise up Calendar](#)

[Parenting Groups](#)

[NSPCWT](#)



**Wessex Community Carousel**

Everything You Need, All in One Place: **Support for Parents & Families**

**What's On**  
You're invited to attend the Wessex Community Carousel, a supportive, welcoming event bringing local organisations together in one place to help you to access advice, guidance and practical support.

**Support on offer**

**Date:**  
Wednesday 29th April  
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
Venue: The Post & Wicket, Wedmore

Logos: Citizens Advice, LiveWest, sasp, v gam, Wessex, THE SPACE, Somerset Energy, Somerset Council

Contact: HDurrant@wessexlearningtrust.co.uk | www.wessexlearningtrust.co.uk

## 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)