



'Child centred learning in the heart of the community'

19th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic start we've had to the new school year! It has been a joy to see the children return with big smiles, smart uniforms, and such a positive attitude to their learning. The school has been full of enthusiasm, fun, and a real sense of togetherness from day one.

A very special welcome goes to our new Reception pupils, who have joined us for their very first days of school. They have settled in beautifully exploring their new classrooms, making new friends, and beginning their learning journey with confidence and curiosity. We are incredibly proud of how well they have adjusted and how warmly the whole school has welcomed them.

Across all year groups, children are showing great pride in their behaviour. We have been impressed by their manners, their kindness towards one another, and the respectful way they have approached school.

As always, our school rules, Ready, Respectful, Safe are integral to everything we do, helping to create a calm, purposeful, and caring learning environment for all. This half term, we are also placing a special focus on our school value of Kindness. Whether it's holding the door open, sharing a smile, or offering a helping hand, we are encouraging all pupils to look for opportunities to show kindness every day.

You can read about the learning experiences that have been happening for the children in the sections below. As always, Reception and Pre-School will communicate independently in their separate Newsletters.

Class 2

In Class 2 we have been working hard this week to settle into our daily routines and expectations. We have been remembering our school rules of being Ready, Respectful and Safe in our classroom and helping reception to follow these rules as well. We have enjoyed learning about why we are special and made self-portraits out of natural materials. This week, the children are also conducting a science experiment to see which material would be best to wrap Humpty Dumpty in to stop him breaking when he falls of the wall.



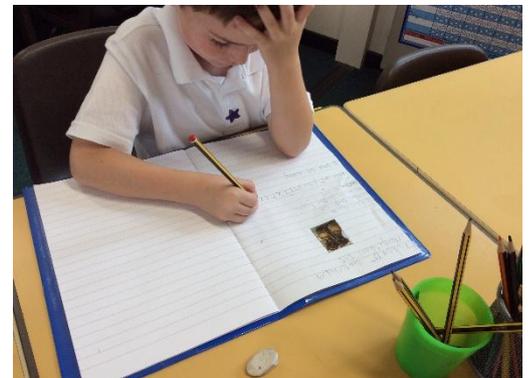
During our Maths lessons the children have been counting to 100 and have been working out what the missing numbers are on the number lines. They have enjoyed the challenge of working with bigger numbers and have been learning that numbers between 10-99 are made up of tens and ones.

In English, we have been working on writing traditional rhymes focusing on writing sentences independently using the graphemes we learnt last year.

A brilliant start to the year, keep going Class 2.

Class 3

Class 3 children have settled into their new classroom routine really well. They come in well in the morning and have learnt quickly where all their things need to go. The children have enjoyed having a table space and we have been working on our Ready, Respectful and Safe rule. The children have enjoyed learning outside, especially in English when we went on a hunt for Autumn. We collected leaves and wrote some poems. The class really enjoyed the *Chocolate Cake* poem by Michael Rosen. We have listened to lots of poems and performed them too.



In Maths, we have been practising counting to 100; we enjoyed a Jack Hartman workout! The children have been counting and been on a number hunt in our outside area. It was fun to work with a partner find and count numbers and put them in order. The children have been taking pride in their work and working hard to layout each piece of work neatly!

In RE, we have begun our unit on Christianity, talking about Jesus and looking at Bibles.

In DT, we have been looking at moving parts in books and explored levers and sliders. The children will investigate how these are put together this week.

Well done Class 3, a great start to the term.



Class 4



All the children have got off to a great start in Class 4. It has been lovely to see them coming into Year 2 confident and ready to learn. We are working together as a team.

In English, we have been looking at traditional tales and in particular the story of *Hansel and Gretel*, as told by Anthony Browne. The children have been learning about adjectives and noun phrases and have used these to good effect to describe characters from the story and the setting of the forest.

In Maths, we have been looking at place value of digits in two-digit numbers and have been comparing and ordering them. We have also been adding and subtracting multiples of ten to and from any number using our place value to help us.

In History, we have started thinking about the history of the car and are looking forward to our trip to Haynes Motor Museum next week.



In Science, we have been learning about sources of light. Next week we will be investigating how best to block out the light.

In DT, we have been exploring moving pictures and seeing how they move with sliders, levers and pins.

Class 5

We have had a great start back to school, and the children have settled well into class. They have been working hard to follow our school rules of being Ready, Respectful and Safe; setting a good example for the younger classes now that they are grown up Year Twos!

This half term in English, we have been learning about traditional tales. The children have read a selection of stories and looked at the features of the texts such as story language and use of adjectives to make stories exciting to read! We had great fun following a breadcrumb trail to find clues about what might happen in the book and acting out the character of the wicked witch.

In Maths, we have been looking at place value (tens and ones) in two-digit numbers and representing the numbers in different ways. We have been ordering numbers to 100 and using more than or less than symbols to order numbers. The children have done very well and some of us are now moving on to work with three-digit numbers. We have sent out a log-in for Numbots this week which is an app designed to support children with mental maths and number facts. It's great fun as well as excellent for supporting learning so please do have a go with the children.

In Design Technology, we have begun to look at moving pictures in books and will be designing and creating our own this half term. If you have any books at home with moving pictures inside (levers or sliding tabs) we would love to see them!



Class 6

It has been an amazing start to Year 3 from Class 6 and the children should be so proud of how they have settled back into school after moving to the Junior Department.

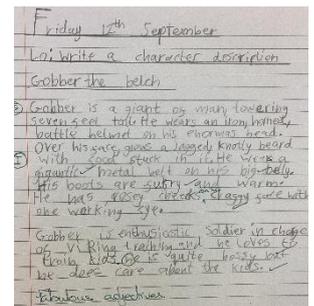
In English, Class 6 have been engaged with our wonderful new book *Werewolf Club Rules* by Josep Coelho and have had the amazing opportunity to write and perform their own poems! We have also started looking at writing biographies and will be writing our very own biography about Josep Coelho.

Place value knowledge has been the focus in our Maths work and these key ideas will help underpin our work through the rest of the year including our current focus on formal methods of addition and subtraction.

Well done Class 6; a fantastic start to the year!

Class 7

Class 7 have made a fabulous start to the term, coming in each morning with a smile on their faces and an enthusiasm to get stuck into the challenges of the day. Our written work in English has centred around the popular Cressida Cowell book *How to Train Your Dragon* and the children have written some wonderfully descriptive character descriptions of Gobber the Belch, the soldier in charge of Viking training. This week we have moved on to look at the author herself and then write an informative biography of her life.



Maths has centred around the core skill of understanding the place value of a number and what each digit represents. The children have also got stuck into their times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars and it has been so pleasing to see so many of the children logging on at home to further develop their knowledge.

In History, we are looking at prehistoric Britain and the journey of man from the stone age to the iron age, studying how life changed for early man and how it compares to life today.

Music lessons for the Year 4 children with Mr Male from Somerset Music have begun and first signs indicate we have some talented musicians in our midst. A ukulele could be on some Christmas lists...



Class 8

Class 8 has had a fabulous start to the new school year! We have settled into our new routines well and the children have made me feel very welcome as their new teacher.

So far this term, in Maths we have mainly focused on number and understanding the place value of digits up to thousands. We have been using manipulatives to help us to learn how digits exchange value and have found this particularly useful when multiplying a number by ten or a hundred.

In English, we have enjoyed delving the delights that poetry has to offer! We have read a selection of poems from the anthology *Dark Sky Park* and have written our own versions of the poem *The Snow Leopard*. The children have shown how creative they are with their fabulous range of similes and personification. Some children have used metaphors too!

We are also excited to start learning about the history of the Stone Age to Iron Age. We have constructed a human timeline on the playground and were astounded to see how far back the Stone Age was! In fact, if the present day was started on the edge of the playground, we would have had to stand 1km away to represent where the Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic Period) started!



What a great start to the term Class 8!

Class 9

Class 9 children have been having a fantastic start to the new academic year, with everyone settling in unbelievably well.

We have begun the autumn term exploring the theme of 'conflict through time' within our History and English lessons, exploring Emma Carroll's *Letters from the Lighthouse*. So far, the children have written brilliant setting descriptions and an informal letter as the main character, Olive.

In Maths, Class 9 is working well exploring place value, including tenths, hundredths and thousandths. The children have also applied this knowledge to be able to explore more reasoning and problem solving questions!

Class 9 wraps up its week with music and art on a Friday. This half term, we are exploring shading, following the work of artist Caravaggio, and singing performance as a whole class. This seems to be something that Class 9 children are particularly enjoying at the moment.

We can't wait for the upcoming year, and to see what incredible pieces of work we can produce. Well done, Class 9!

Class 10

The children have settled into Class 10 beautifully, showing great enthusiasm and positivity for the year ahead. It has been lovely to get to know each of your children individually and as a whole class, they have gelled really well.

In English, we have been exploring the epic tale of *Beowulf*, the children have impressed me with their use of rich language and have produced some impressive descriptive pieces; we have some authors in the making.



It was a real pleasure to meet so many of you at our recent Meet the Teacher evenings. Thank you for taking the time to come along – your support makes a big difference as we work together to help your children thrive. We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead, filled with learning, creativity, and plenty of exciting opportunities. If you were not able to make the meeting, your child will come home next week with a curriculum map which includes an optional home learning project.



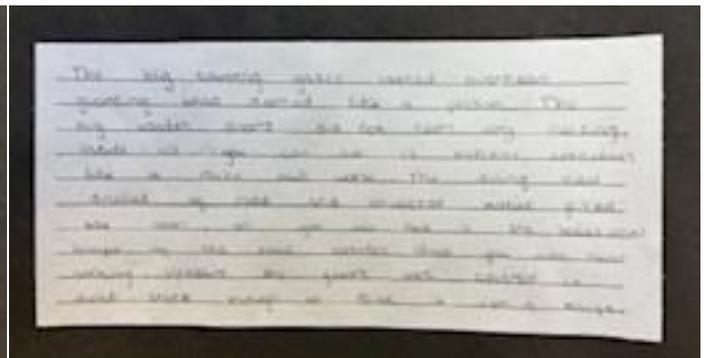
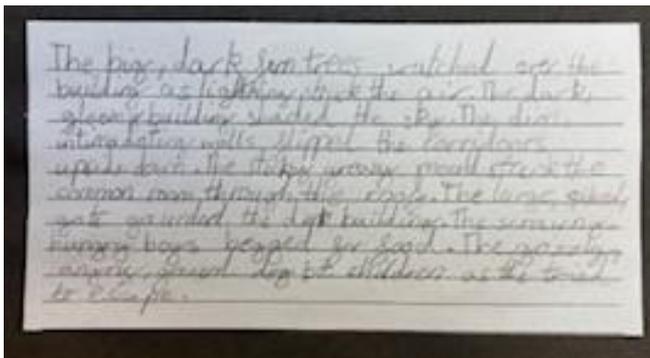
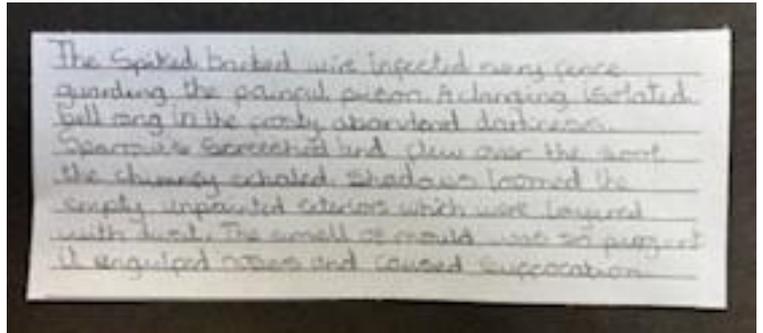
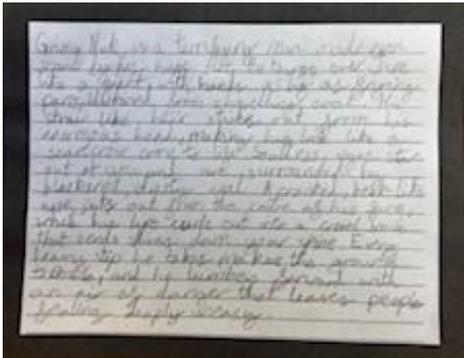
Class 11

In Class 11, Year 6 have made a fantastic start to their final year of primary school! The children have thrown themselves into their new topics, exploring different conflicts in History and investigating forces in Science. In English, we have been delving into our class text *Street Child*, producing some brilliant setting

descriptions of the workhouse and detailed character writing about 'Grimy Nick'. We can't wait to discover what happens next in the story! Spanish has also been a real highlight, with the children confidently practising their numbers up to 21.

This week, many of our pupils have also been busy preparing their House Captain posters and campaigns. We are looking forward to hearing their speeches on election day!

It has been a wonderful start to the term, and we are excited to see what the coming weeks will bring!



[The Importance of Good Attendance and Punctuality](#)

We'd like to take a moment to highlight just how important regular school attendance is for every child. Being in school every day helps children build strong friendships, develop good learning habits, and make the most of all the exciting opportunities school has to offer. Even missing a day here and there can add up quickly and impact progress both academically and socially.

Punctuality is just as important. Arriving on time helps children to start the day calmly, settle into routines, and not miss out on valuable learning at the very beginning of lessons. A prompt start sets a positive tone for the whole day.

We're really proud of the positive start many of our pupils have made with their attendance and punctuality this term. Thank you for your continued support in making sure your child is in school, on time, and ready to learn every day it does make a difference! If you need support, please contact Mrs Dickinson, our family link worker, via the school office.

Football

The Year 5-6 boys' football team took part in their first tournament of the season at Bucklers Mead School in Yeovil this week. In some very breezy conditions, the boys all did themselves proud with fantastic performances; battling hard in defence, pushing hard in attack and supporting each other throughout.



The team can be extremely proud of their performances with a single defeat to St Michaels, three draws against Huish, Birchfield and Holy Trinity and a win against Chilthorne Domer.

Well done boys.

Author/Illustrator Sam Usher

Last week, we were lucky enough to have a visit from renowned children's author and illustrator, Sam Usher, who led an assembly for our Key Stage One children. He demonstrated how he creates his illustrations and created some funny characters for the children using ink and paint. The children were fascinated by this and surprised by how quickly and perfectly he could create the amazing pieces of art. He then treated us to a first reading of his new book *Whoosh* and stayed behind to sign and illustrate some books for the children who purchased them. What a wonderful experience for our children!



Online Safety

As the children return to school, online safety remains at the forefront of our minds. As part of the children's education, we will be highlighting the importance of understanding the risks they may encounter including harmful content, unsafe contact and scams. With the rise of AI tools and smart tech we will be encouraging our children to think critically about what they may face online and how to manage it. This will be taught at an age-appropriate level across the school beginning with Smarty the Penguin's 'think before you click' in Key Stage

One up to understanding the use of AI in Year Six. Please support us at home by checking app age ratings, setting screen time limits and talking regularly with your children about their online experiences.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

It was lovely to welcome parents and families into school this week for our *Meet the Teacher* sessions. These events are such a valuable way for you to get to know the adults working with your children, hear about the year ahead, and see the classrooms where your child's learning takes place.

For those who couldn't attend, each class will be sending home an information sheet that outlines key routines and expectations, as well as a copy of the curriculum map so you can see what your child will be learning this term. If you have any questions after reading through the information, class teachers will be more than happy to help.

Thank you again for taking the time to support your child during this transition.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – A Message from Miss Hamm



Get together with Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year, we will be hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 3rd October in honour of our much loved friend and colleague, Teresa Waterfield, who sadly passed away from cancer a year ago having been a pivotal member of our school for 26 years.

We would like to bring everyone together to raise money for this great charity and remember our friend. Cancer sadly touches the lives of so many, and we would love as many people as possible to come along and support the coffee morning in any way you can.

We would like to kindly ask if you can donate cakes for the coffee morning. Please bring cakes into school on Thursday 2nd October. These can be home baked, or store bought. The more cakes, the more money we can raise for Macmillan.

We are also looking for some parent helpers who could help serve tea/coffee and cakes on the morning.

Coffee Morning – Friday 3rd October at 9.30am in the Infant Hall

Children to bring 50p for a cake in class.

Any remaining cakes will be sold after school.

[Exciting News – Our New Classroom!](#)

After a long 10 month wait to follow the storm damage to our infant huts last November, we are absolutely delighted to share that our brand-new Portakabin classroom is almost complete! It has been a long journey, but the end is now in sight, and we could not be more excited to see the finishing touches going in. The new space will provide a fresh, modern learning environment for our pupils, and we know they are going to love it!

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding during this time; it has been worth the wait, and we cannot wait to welcome our children and families to see it very soon.

[Free School Meals/Pupil Premium Entitlement](#)

Who can apply? Click [Free school meals](#) for Somerset Council's current information and online application form.

Children eligible for free school meals must be in school all day. They will be provided with a meal at lunchtime which is paid for by the school. It is the responsibility of parents or carers to register their entitlement and request free school meals for their children. *FSM is not to be confused with UIFSM (Universal Infants Free School Meal) which all our infant children are automatically entitled to.*

Children in pre-school do not qualify for a free meal until they start school. But applications will be processed so that when your child starts school, you will already be notified whether they qualify for a free school meal or not.

Pupil Premium funding is available to early years providers and schools for eligible pupils. Pupil Premium provides money based on the number of pupils eligible for free school meals (this will soon be based on Universal Credit).

There is also Pupil Premium available to schools for pupils from service families, and for those in care to the local authority and those who have been adopted from care.

The funding can be spent how the school likes to support pupils from low-income families, service families and children in care to close the attainment gap between them and their peers. Click [Ilchester Community School - Pupil and Sports Premium](#) for our Pupil and Sports Premium information.

[A message from Mrs Dickinson, Family Link Worker](#)



Seasonal transitions are periods when one season gradually shifts into the next and can bring about many changes. Changes that can subtly affect people physically and mentally.

We can feel these changes in increased fatigue and mood, and can mean adjustments to our daily lives, such as altering routines, what we wear, and what we eat. Children are likely to be indoors more as the nights draw in darker, there may be travel restrictions impacting family visits and days out. How do the changes impact your children?

Along with general transitions in life, schooling, work life, military deployments, family changes etc and we can all feel an impact.

As usual, I encourage you all to take good care of yourselves and be aware of the impact transitions of any kind can have on you and your family.

Of course, some people would welcome a social media worthy cosy, autumnal evening, but this shouldn't be what we strive for, nor is it achievable!

If you do find you are struggling with the changes and impact on your children, please do reach out to us.

Parenting is not easy and many of you are experiencing a partner away currently on lengthy military deployments. Finding support can be tricky. If this is you, we would like to invite you to join us for a Deployment Session in school. As previously, we will have an activity that you can do alongside your children, while chatting to other parents who are in the same position. Sometimes someone else making the coffee and preparing the activity can go a long way in self-care, while sharing information with each other.

We will hold one Deployment Session at the Infant Site and another at the Junior Site:

1st October Infants

2nd October Juniors

Both at 9am - 10am

We would also like to offer all our parents to contact school if you are struggling or need some advice and we can work together to ensure you are being supported.

As always take good care, stay warm and safe,

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead, with lots of exciting learning and enrichment experiences to come. Thank you for your continued support in helping make our school such a happy and successful place for all.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Mordue
Headteacher



AUTUMN TERM 2025

Dates for your diary

Monday 22 nd September	House Captains Election Week at the Juniors
	Reception Meet the Teacher Drop-In Session 3.20 – 4.00 pm
Thursday 25 th September	KS1 Visit to Haynes Motor Museum
Friday 26 th September	Election Results
	Reception Meet the Teacher Drop-In Session 3.20 – 4.00 pm
Tuesday 30 th September	Harvest Festival
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 6s delivering Harvest Donations to Lords Larder
	Deployment Session for parents and children at the Infant Department 9.00 – 10.00 am
Thursday 2 nd October	Deployment Session for parents and children at the Junior Department 9.00 – 10.00 am
Friday 3 rd October	Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Infant Department 9.00 am
Friday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day <i>Wear something yellow; there will be a special assembly</i>
Tuesday 14 th October	September 2026 Intake Open Morning Tours for parents
Thursday 16 th October	FIS Halloween DISCO 5.15 – 6.00 Infants and Pre-Schoolers (parents to accompany) 6.15 - 7.00 Juniors
Wednesday 22 nd October	EYFS Visit to Burrow Hill Cider Farm
Friday 24 th October	INSET Day
Half-Term Holiday Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October inclusive	
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day



HALLOWEEN DISCO

16TH OCTOBER

@ Junior Department

Infants and Preschool

5.15PM-6PM

Juniors

6.15PM TO 7PM

**Tickets will go on sale from
29TH SEPTEMBER**

ON THE NIGHT:

FACEPAINT – 50P

POPCORN – £1

GLOW STICKS – 20P

EACH OR 6 FOR £1



Sponsored by



Community News and Events

Ilchester History Group presents

Magnificent Women and Flying Machines

An illustrated talk by
Sally Smith

Journalist and author, British women's freefall champion, British Parachute Team member, founder of the world's only all-girl parachute display team. She was also second overall female at the world ballooning championships, and was awarded the Royal Aeronautical Society's Women In Aviation award in December 2024.

All about the history and the lives of the British women who achieved real firsts in aviation, from the very first British woman to go up in a balloon in 1785 to the first woman who gained her pilots' licence and from the first woman to make a parachute descent in 1889, right up to the fabulous women of the ATA in the second world war, to Diana Barnato who was the first British woman to go through the sound barrier and finally Helen Sharman, the first British woman in space.

Ilchester Town Hall Court Room
2pm Wednesday 24th September

Entry £2 – pay at the door
(includes tea and biscuits)