



## ***'Child centred learning in the heart of the community'***

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Family Members,

It has been a truly lovely start to this half term with the children working hard and enjoying the many enrichment activities on offer over the last three weeks. Over the past few weeks, we have been focusing on our value of equity in assemblies celebrating difference, recognising what makes each of us unique, and ensuring that everyone receives what they need to thrive. It has been inspiring to see pupils embracing this so thoughtfully alongside each other in their classrooms and around the school.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening. It was a pleasure to welcome the majority of our families into school and to share in so many warm, constructive conversations about the children's learning and progress.

Finally, thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback provided through our recent questionnaires. Your supportive comments mean a great deal to us, and we truly value the partnership we have with our school community.

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### **Classes 1 and 2**

In Class 1 we have been busy learning about Dinosaurs, Jungles and volcanoes. We created our own bicarbonate of soda erupting volcano and thought of some wonderful words to describe it. 'It's an abomination!', said Lillie. 'What a disaster', said Eli. We have done some wonderful writing in English, where we have been exploring jungle themed books like *Rumble in the Jungle*. This week we have been writing animal clues that we read to friends and tried to guess which animal they were describing!

In Science and Geography, we have been exploring jungles further and have been finding out what it is like to live in the jungles of Borneo. Together we have learnt which part of the jungle the varying animals live in. We then worked as a group to sort the animals, discussing if each one lives on the 'forest floor', 'canopy layer' or 'understorey'. Great sorting, everyone!



What a busy couple of weeks it has been in Class 2! We have enjoyed getting stuck in to learning all about dinosaurs and volcanoes. The children thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with making their own erupting volcano! We have also been learning about the jungle and the animals that live there. The children have been fantastic at naming the animals, identifying where they would live and also thinking of clues to describe an animal for their friends to guess.

Our focus story this week has been *Rumble in the Jungle*. The children have enjoyed pretending to go on a journey into the jungle and using their senses to describe what they can hear, feel, see and smell. They were able to write beautiful descriptive sentences!

In Maths, we have been challenging the children by working on doubling numbers and working on our number bonds including writing addition number sentences. The Year 1 children have extended their learning by identifying how many tens and ones are in a two-digit number. The children have taken this new learning in their stride, great work Class 2!



### Class 3

Class 3 have had a lovely week enjoying their learning as well as some well-deserved play activities. The children have been thinking about being good friends and made paper dolls and even gave them names! We had a military fitness session which was really fun and brought out the best in the children who were encouraging their friends to try their hardest and not to give up! The children have finished the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* and have produced some wonderful writing using fantastic vocabulary! Mrs Shire has felt very much welcomed back by the children and is looking forward to guiding their learning journey through the rest of the school year!

### Class 4

We have had a busy couple of weeks in Class 4. In English we have been looking at the book, 'Red in the City'. A twist on a traditional tale. The children used some incredible vocabulary to write descriptions of the menacing and tempting city. In Maths, this week we have been looking at multiplication, drawing arrays to solve problems and developing our recall of multiplication facts for x2, x5 and x10.



In Science, our topic is the human body. We have recapped animal groups and proved that we are an animal, a mammal. This week we put our five senses to the test! We also had our army boot camp this week looking at the importance and exercise and fitness.



The children all loved World Book Day last week. It was great to see everyone in their costumes, and we certainly got the morning commuters talking as they passed us. We enjoyed meeting up with Class 8 in the afternoon for some shared reading.



Thank you so much to everyone who brought in their home learning projects at the end of last half term. We have really enjoyed sharing your posters and recipes for healthy food.

Last week we had our forest school session. Linked to World Book Day we had a book hunt around the outdoor learning area. They had great fun looking for all the books and did better than the adults!



## Class 5

In Class 5, we have been learning about 'Animals' in our new Science unit. We began by looking at the different animal groups and their characteristics. We used new vocabulary such as warm-blooded, vertebrates and invertebrates to describe each group. The children sorted pictures of animals into their groups and matched statements to each group.

This week, we revised the five senses and how we use them. The children took part in a carousel of activities including, feely bags, smell pots and tasting crisps to guess the flavour.

Our text for the last three weeks has been a book called *Red and the City* and is similar to the traditional tale *Little Red Riding Hood*. The children created artwork to reflect the setting and mood of the story and wrote some fantastic setting descriptions including adjectives such as overcrowded, chaotic, gloomy and abandoned.

This week, we are going to create a story map to retell the story and the write our own version to share with the Year One classes.

For our Maths work, we have been looking at one and two step mathematical problems in which we ask the children to apply their calculation strategies to solve worded problems. For example – "If I buy two chocolate bars costing 35p each, how much change will I get from £1?". The children will need to carry out two calculations to answer this question correctly. Although this is challenging, the children have been very brave and have had the confidence to give it a try! Well done, Class 5!



## Class 6

We have had another busy and exciting couple of weeks in Class 6!

In English, we've been looking at letter writing using the story *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd. The children have loved exploring the characters and imagining what it would be like to have a dragon of their own! They have been practising how to write letters, thinking about how to start them, how to organise their ideas clearly, and how to finish them properly. There have been some fantastic ideas and lots of imaginative writing.

In Maths, our focus has been on time. We've been practising reading both analogue and digital clocks. Although this can be a tricky concept the children have been working super hard and have made amazing progress. They have also been thinking about time in their daily routines and solving simple problems involving time.

In Science, we have started learning about the human body. The children have loved our science enquiry where we investigated how different drinks can affect tooth enamel. We used eggs to represent teeth and placed them in a range of liquids such as water, vinegar and sugary drinks. Over time, the children observed what happened to the eggshells and discussed how the different liquids affected them. This links nicely with our PSHE topic, 'Healthy Me' where we have been talking about how we can look after our bodies by eating healthy foods, staying active, getting enough sleep and taking care of our wellbeing.

Outside of the classroom, we have been busy as well as preparing and practising our songs for the upcoming play *Hansel and Gretel*. We also loved visiting our Forest School Site this week and the children loved practising their den making skills. Everyone has worked really hard and it's been lovely to see their enthusiasm in and out of the classroom!

## Class 7

Wow, what a busy few weeks it has been with so many exciting things going on in Class 7. In their English work, the children have used their best persuasive powers to write an article (see below) attempting to convince someone to come and see their performance of *Hansel and Gretel* in a few weeks' time.

Subsequently, the class have begun to explore the classic children's novel *Charlotte's Web* which I'm sure will bring back memories for many of you. Their first task has been to write a detailed description of Zuckerman's farmyard using

a variety of descriptive language. Maths work in recent weeks has centred around the tricky concept of reading the time on a traditional analogue clock face which, in an increasingly digital world, the children have done very well. Humanities work has switched back to Geography this half term and a study of rivers, particularly the majestic river Danube flowing through central Europe. The children have looked at the physical landscapes that the river flows through as well as its interaction with human history.

Beyond the classroom, the children have begun their swimming lessons, and the staff are so proud of all of them for facing the challenge with a smile on their faces, even if there were a few nerves underneath. During a welcome break in the weather this week, the class visited our Forest School Site where they noticed the first signs of spring beginning to show themselves. They learnt some useful knot tying skills and how they can be applied when in the outdoors.

Reading has been a real theme in the last couple of weeks. World Book Day last week brought some fabulous book characters into school, and it was lovely to see the children spending some time with children at the Infants to share a story together. Many children came to the bedtime story evening where they were able to enjoy some short stories by the author, Dan Worsley, along with hot chocolate, biscuits and a roaring log fire. And to complete the reading theme, it was fantastic to have so many parents able to join us for our class reading workshop on Friday, thank you.

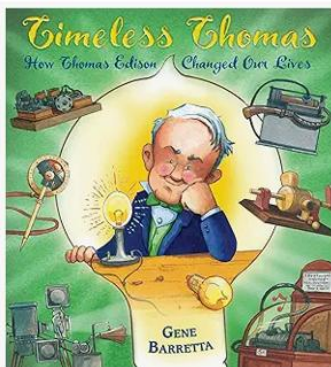
*'This term's spectacular, fun-packed, family show 'Hansel and Gretel' will be performed on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00pm and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2:00pm. Classes 6, 7 and 8 will return as part of an all-star cast in this enjoyable version of the fabulous story that promises everything that you know and love about an Ilchester Primary School production. Once again, this great show will be produced by the Year 3 and 4 wizard team, the same spectacular team that brought you the famous 'Puss in Boots' show last year. You can expect to see a brilliant cast, stunning costumes, breath-taking scenery and a very funny script. With many people wanting to see the show, you must make sure that you get tickets for the funniest and greatest show of the year before they run out.'*

*By Freddie*



## Class 8

How time is flying; it won't be long and Easter will be here! As always, the children have been working hard in Class 8 and have been enjoying all that has been on offer.



In English, we have been studying *Timeless Thomas*. The book has certainly inspired lots of curiosity and interesting questions about all of Thomas Edison's inventions. Did you know that he obtained over 1,000 patents for his inventions? The children were amazed by this! We have learnt all about Edison's phonograph and how it was really the start of music technology. They have written well-structured information reports about phonographs and biographies of Thomas Edison's life.

In Maths, the children have been adding and subtracting fractions. They have shown that they can do this starting with proper fractions, mixed numbers and whole numbers. I was impressed with how confident the children were with this by the end of the week.

In Geography, we have started studying the River Danube. We have identified where its source and mouth are in Europe and have located these and the countries it crosses on maps.

We have enjoyed our Outdoor Learning this half term! We have been looking at the different shapes and textures of objects in our environment and have used them to create different wildlife sculptures.



Science has been fun! We are learning about human dietary requirements, digestion and about how to look after our teeth. We have put eggs (their shells are like tooth enamel) into a variety of different solutions to see how they are affected over time. From this, we are going to be able to determine which drinks are healthier for our teeth. We have found it reassuring that water is safest as it doesn't cause any change in the enamel (eggshell) but were intrigued (and rather disgusted) at how fast vinegar completely removed the shell. We have been learning that plaque feeds on sugars on our teeth and produces acid which causes tooth damage and decay. Thankfully, we know that careful brushing will remove plaque and have learnt that the saliva in our mouths is an alkali which neutralises the damaging effects of the plaque acid.



Rehearsals for *Hansel and Gretel* and are underway and the children are excitedly anticipating our productions. We can't wait to perform for you all!

## Class 9

What wonderful first weeks back Class 9 have had! Well done and thank you to all those for taking time to create and share their amazing art sculptures with us. It was very interesting to see the different materials and ideas presented, as well

as any additional research done which has taught the whole class a few new facts! Well done and thank you parents for the support!

We also returned to our Hot Poets sessions where several children from Class 9 showcased our school value of bravery to perform their poems to an audience of parents. These poems were based on the environment, inspired by Michael Rosen's *Moon Moon* poem. Buzz around English continued with our bedtime stories and World Book Day, where we had a fantastic range of well-known book characters: Gangsta Granny, The Mad Hatter and Horrid Henry (just to name a few)! A full day off-timetable, children had an interactive workshop with Tamsin Mori, author of *Gargoyles* and *The Weather Weaver*. This was followed by a BBC live lesson to find their reading vibes as well as an art session to design applications for next year's book tokens, where we had some fantastic entries.



We were also extremely lucky to have the bright sunshine during Forest School, where we explored the elements of art through nature by creating lines, balance and filling.



In music, we are also using pitched and unpitched instruments to play different variations of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. We are so excited to develop these skills further and begin to get more creative after learning the basics.



## Class 10

We have had an exciting and very busy three weeks in Class 10, filled with a wide range of activities including World Book Day, Forest School sessions, Hot Poets, author visits and a special visit from Simon from the Fire Service.

Simon joined us to talk to the children about staying safe at home. He highlighted the importance of having a simple family escape plan, regularly checking smoke alarms and knowing what to do in an emergency. He also spoke about water safety, reminding the children how to stay safe around rivers, lakes and the coast. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and came away with lots of useful tips to share at home.



A big thank you to all the children for their fantastic home learning projects. We were so impressed by the creativity on display - there were so many unique ideas and a wonderful variety of materials used. The children were very proud to share their work with the class.



## Class 11

Class 11 have been enjoying a busy term packed with memorable experiences, from celebrating World Book Day and our final Hot Poets performance to an informative talk from the Fire Service.

In Maths, the children are becoming more confident and are applying their skills to tackle a wide range of problems. In English, after finishing *Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen, they created some brilliant survival guides on *How to Survive the Bluchers*.

In Science, the children have been investigating the properties of different materials and testing which makes the best thermal insulator. In Geography, we've been exploring Iceland, uncovering why the country experiences so many volcanoes and earthquakes.

We are so proud of all the children's hard work and achievements this term and can't wait to see what they will accomplish next!



## Online Safety

### Parental Controls

#### **What is appropriate?**

The online world gives us access to a huge amount of information and services, but the scale of information available also means that there is content that is inappropriate for children. What is or isn't appropriate is up to individual parents and carers to decide, and should be based on things like age, ability, beliefs and family values.

#### **What are parental controls?**

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- create content filters to block apps that may have [inappropriate content](#)
- manage the content different family members can see.

The link below offers guidance for parents wishing to set parental controls:

[www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/)

This covers:

- [Home broadband and WiFi](#)
- [Games consoles](#)
- [Mobiles, tablets and computers](#)
- [Apps and online services](#)
- [Search engines](#)
- [WiFi and being away from home](#)

### Forest School and World Book Day

The teachers in our school look for opportunities to use our wonderful Forest School Site to support children's learning across the curriculum as well as for team-building and focused outdoor learning tasks; so, last week, the Year Two pupils were busy taking part in a story book hunt as part of their World Book Day activities. Their challenge was to find the twenty-five story books hiding on the site. We ended the session with a story time and singing around the fire circle. What a fantastic afternoon!





Thank you to FIS for donating money and equipment for shelter building and campfire cooking! We are very excited to get those activities up and running next term.

### Attendance Matters

Attendance really does matter, and we would like to remind families that term time leave can only be authorised in truly unavoidable and exceptional circumstances. Even short periods of absence can have an impact on learning, routines, and children's confidence. We work closely with the attendance team at the Local Authority to ensure any barriers to attendance are identified and removed.

Punctuality is equally important, as arriving on time each morning helps children start the day calmly and ensures they don't miss vital teaching. We are here to work in partnership with our families, so if you are experiencing any difficulties with attendance or punctuality, please get in touch. We're always happy to offer support and work together to ensure every child has the best possible chance.

### Military Fitness Workshop

In Science and PSED this half term, Classes 3, 4 and 5 have been learning about health and fitness.

As part of our learning, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Army PT Lance Corporal Garner, Staff Sergeant Newton and Corporal Kendall who set up a fitness course for the children on the school field. They talked to us about the fitness training they must do at work and why it is important for their job that they keep fit and healthy.

We did a warm-up activity and then ran, crawled, jumped and rolled over obstacles! We even had a try at carrying the survival backpack!

Thank you so much to Staff Sergeant Newton and 1 Regiment Army Air Corps for taking the time to plan and set up such a great experience for our children.



## Mother's Day Shop

We would like to extend our thanks to FIS (Friends of Ilchester School) for organising this year's Mother's Day Shop. It was a wonderful opportunity for children to choose a special token gift for their mum, Mummy, Mam or special person, and the excitement in school was lovely to see. We are incredibly grateful to all the volunteers who generously gave their time to source the gifts, wrap them so beautifully and support the children as they made their choices. Every purchase made will help FIS continue funding additional enrichment for our pupils including playtime equipment, Junior playground markings and other valuable extras that enhance school life and learning for the children.

## Tamsin Mori Author Visit

We were delighted to welcome Tamsin Mori to our school on World Book Day. Tamsin, the author of the *Gargoyles* and *The Weather Weaver* series, led a whole school assembly and ran creative writing workshops for our Year 5 and Year 6 children. The children loved hearing about her stories and left feeling inspired to create their own. We are very grateful to Tamsin for such a special visit!



## Bedtime Stories

On Wednesday 4th March, children came to school in their pyjamas for our Bedtime Stories by Candlelight. They enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits while listening to stories read by their teachers. It was a magical evening, full of the fun and joy of bedtime reading.



## Eat to Energise Assemblies

This week each department had another thought provoking and informative assembly from James Tostevin, one of our Sports Coaches. It was on 'Eat to Energise' and James told us all about healthy eating and how it can impact your body and mind. James was able to explain the importance food has had on his journey to the body building world championships. This supported our Science topics on the human body and our PHSE topic on 'Healthy me'. We are very grateful to James for coming in to work with us.

## Hot Poets Finale

We were delighted to welcome parents to a special poetry performance by our Year 5 and 6 children. Over the past couple of months, Classes 9, 10, and 11 have been working with Hot Poets, a Somerset-based organisation that combines poetry and science to inspire young people about the natural world and climate change. The workshops encouraged pupils to explore nature, the environment, and stories of hope and imagination. The children created some fantastic poems and were excited to share their work with parents. It was wonderful to see them perform with confidence and creativity!



## Story Workshops

Over the past couple of weeks, each class has been hosting story workshops, inviting parents to join their children in the joy of reading. It's been wonderful to see so many families taking part, enjoying stories together, and joining in fun, book-themed activities. The workshops also highlight reading strategies like making predictions, talking about characters' feelings, and exploring new words - helping children get more from the stories they love.

## Safeguarding Update

Having conversations with your children about staying safe can be a minefield. The NSPCC website has practical advice for parents on how to broach subjects from staying safe online to understanding that their body belongs to them. For those of you who haven't seen it, the friendly dinosaur 'Pantsosaurus' has supported over six million parents to keep their children safe from sexual abuse. The pants talk video is a great way to start the conversation, follow this link for further details <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/>

As ever, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, if you are concerned about a child, please contact Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

## Cross Country

In pleasantly warm, spring-like conditions, the penultimate race of the season took place last week at Aldon Country Park near Yeovil. A slightly depleted team tackled the traditionally steep course and ran their hearts out, doing themselves and the school proud. Well done, team.

The final race of the season takes place on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** at **Mudford Rec in Yeovil**, and it would be fantastic to see as many of our runners as possible competing and to finish the season strongly.



Well done to all our pupils for their fantastic effort and enthusiasm so far this half term; they really have been busy! We now look forward to brighter, sunnier days ahead and all the exciting learning and adventures the coming weeks will bring.

Wishing all our children and families a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully  
**Michelle Mordue**  
Headteacher



## SPRING TERM 2026 - Dates for your diary

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Assessment week Spring Term Years 1-5
	Pre-School to Forest School
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 1 Story Workshop
	Class 2 Story Workshop
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 5 Story Workshop
	Pre-School Story Workshop
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 3 Story Workshop
	Swimming – Class 7
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 4 Story Workshop
	Red Nose Day 2026
	Height & Weight Checks – Reception and Year 6
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Pre-School to Forest School
	Class 3 and Y1 Class 2 to Forest School
	Cross Country Race Yeovil Rec Ground
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 7 Coffee Morning at The Town Hall
	Class 4 to Forest School
	Class 5 to Forest School
	Stanchester WOW Day Year 5s
	Phonics Screening Check Workshop 3.30pm – KS1 Parents by invitation – Infant Department
	MTC Meeting for Year 4 Parents 3.30 – 4.00pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Swimming – Class 7
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Dress Rehearsal for Hansel & Gretel – Years 3 and 4
	Performance of Hansel & Gretel Years 3 and 4 6.00pm
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Performance of Hansel & Gretel Years 3 and 4 2.00pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	FIS Easter Bingo at Infant Department
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Swimming (final session) – Class 7
	SSAFA Prizegiving Assembly at Infant Department
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Bank Holiday & Easter Holiday

NSPCC

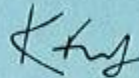
Number  
Day 2026

Thank you to everyone at  
ILCHESTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

for raising

£158.23

We are so grateful for your support and  
generosity. The money raised will help to change  
childhoods across the UK.



Katie Fudge  
School Fundraising Manager

THANK YOU!

#NumberDay



Number Day is supported by Maths Circle and Oxford University Press, led by NSPCC.

**EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership are working with Yeovil Town Football Club (YTFC) to create more opportunities for children and the community across our region. The first opportunity in this partnership is a ticketing offer for the last four home games of the season.

This offer is aimed at children and families and provides tickets to see YTFC at a heavily reduced rate.

This is a community-discounted rate, allowing children U16 in for £1 and anyone over the age of 16 for £10 each. The final 4 home games are:

vs Morecambe Saturday 21st March  
Vs Truro City Friday 3rd April  
Vs FC Halifax Saturday 11th April  
Vs Solihull Moors Saturday 25th April

## Instructions:

- The discount is valid for all of these games, whether you come to one or all four.
- Customers need to go to the YTFC website and select the tickets, then the relevant game - Schedule | MyProVenue™
- On the stadium map section, there is a box that asks if you have a Coupon Code – the code is SASPYEO
- Enter the code there, and it will open up the areas available in the Screwfix Community stand.
- Tickets will be £1 for U14/U16 and £10 for adults. This will allow customers to purchase 4 at a discounted rate, with any additional items purchased at the standard price. Select



SASP  
Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership

X

# GLOVERS

vs Morecambe | Saturday 21st March  
vs Truro City | Friday 3rd April  
vs FC Halifax | Saturday 11th April  
vs Solihull Moors | Saturday 25th April

ADULTS - £10  
U14/ U16 - £1



AVAILABLE TO ALL SASP FAMILIES WITH VOUCHER CODE : SASPYEO

SCAN FOR TICKETS



Somerset

# Armed Forces

## Outreach Service: **Ilchester**

Are you a veteran, serving member, family member, dependent or reservist?



Come and have an informal brew and banter and meet the NHS Somerset Armed Forces team and our dedicated Armed Forces Link Workers

Wed 11th Mar '26	13:45 to 15:15	Ilchester Community School
Wed 1st Apr '26	13:45 to 15:15	Infant site
Wed 22nd Apr '26	13:45 to 15:15	
Wed 13th May '26	13:45 to 15:15	Illustrious Crescent
Tues 2nd Jun '26	13:45 to 15:15	Ilchester
Tues 16th Jun '26	13:45 to 15:15	Somerset
Wed 1st July '26	13:45 to 15:15	BA22 8JX



<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/armed-forces/>

[facebook.com/groups/nhssomersetarmedforcescommunity](https://facebook.com/groups/nhssomersetarmedforcescommunity)

# Could you tell if your child was being exploited?



Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

**18 March** 7:00 - 8:30pm

**30 March** 10:30am - 12:00pm

Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

**18 March**



**30 March**

