



‘Child centred learning in the heart of the community’

22nd May 2026

Dear Parents and Family Members,

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of what has been a very short half term. The weeks have flown by, yet in that time our children have once again shown just how much they can achieve. They have been incredibly busy, approaching their learning with enthusiasm, determination and a real sense of excitement, and I have been so impressed by the effort and commitment they have shown each day.

Alongside their hard work in the classroom, the enrichment opportunities this half term have been fantastic; external visits, coffee mornings, orchestra visits and much more. These activities add so much to the children’s experience and allowing them to explore, create and develop in different ways. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff team, who continue to go above and beyond to provide the very best for every child. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our volunteers, whose time, support and generosity make such a valuable difference to our school community.

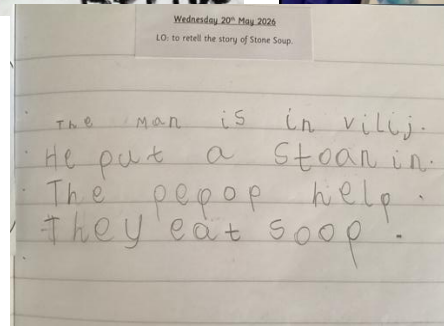
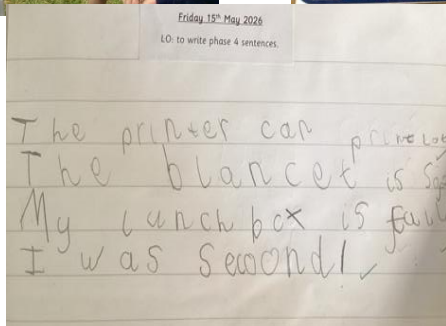
Early Years

This half term at Pre-School, the children have explored seasons and weather - and luckily for them the Great British weather showed up! Because of this, the children have explored the weather in real time, which has deepened their understanding and enabled them to really engage in their learning. They have measured the rain, discussed hot vs cold and the effect they have on each other. The children have explored the world around them through walks into the village visually seeing the changes that are taking place as well as learning about our community and cleaning up at Tall Trees Community Park as part of World Earth Day.

The children have been lucky enough to also experience Darrell Wakelam, a wonderful artist, who came and worked with all our children from aged two to four to create a beautiful piece of artwork which now hangs in our entrance hall, showing the true representation of 'We all belong here'. This artwork was also shared on social media by Michael Rosen the author of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. What a wonderful half term they have had!

Class 1

Class 1 has certainly made the most of this half term. The children have blown the teachers away with their progress in phonics and writing! Just take a look at the lovely examples of work below. We have also been busy meeting alpacas as part of our David Attenborough 100th birthday celebrations, being taught Cricket by Sean the Cricket Coach, and planting and growing our own wildflowers, strawberries, herbs and vegetables. We have been learning more about the Royal Family and even had a go at creating our own family trees. In Art, we have been learning about the artist Britney Lee, who created the animations of Elsa from Frozen. We created some incredible artwork in the same style. We couldn't be prouder of all the amazing work Class 1 has achieved!



Waterfield Way - As part of our Waterfield Way, we have been very busy! We have been learning about the environment and conservation. We brainstormed ideas of what we could do to help the environment we live in. One of our ideas earlier this week was a litter pick, so on Thursday we made ourselves a packed lunch with some yummy sandwiches and headed out into the village. We stopped at the park first to have our picnic lunch and then used our litter pickers to collect any rubbish we could spot. What super work!



Class 2

Class 2 children have had some awe and wonder moments over the last couple of weeks, especially when the heavy hailstorm arrived. The children were fascinated by the weather and were so excited to explore how the hail felt. They were also interested in how long it would take to melt. This inspired some mini science experiments, where the children timed how long it took for the hail to melt outside compared to inside. The children were very clear when explaining their ideas and reasons for why it melted more quickly indoors, and they also began to think about how they could keep the hailstones frozen for longer.

In Literacy, the children have been reading *Stone Soup* and have worked really hard on writing sentences to retell the story.

In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction and using our number bonds to help us.

Waterfield Way - Over the past few weeks, we have made some truly lovely memories together. This week was especially enjoyable, as the children took part in their Waterfield Way challenge by making their own sandwiches for a picnic lunch. We then visited the park and enjoyed a calm and peaceful picnic together under the trees.

After lunch, the children became “super spotters” and took part in a litter hunt around the park. Working wonderfully as a team, they used litter pickers to collect rubbish and carefully placed it into bin bags. This followed an important discussion linked to our topic about how we can help to make our environment a cleaner and nicer place for ourselves and for the animals we share it with.

The children showed fantastic teamwork, kindness, and care for the world around them, and we are very proud of their efforts.



Class 3

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have been very busy delving into poetry in our English. They thoroughly enjoyed the freedom of writing their 'Not a poem' poems which really brought out their creativity, e.g., A poem is not a chair because you can't sit on it, A poem is not a potato because there is no mash in

it... They moved onto rhyming words and filled in missing words in rhyming couplets. In Maths, the children worked on finding vertical lines of symmetry in shapes as well as drawing the other half of a symmetrical shape. They also revisited tens and ones and rose to the challenge of partitioning them into part whole models. They even had a go at partitioning 3-digit numbers too!

In RE, the children continued to find out about Jewish festivals and learned about Sukkot. It is an important 7-day long harvest festival and the children discovered that families build shelters in their gardens where they will eat their meals and pray. The children worked very hard in their Art sessions, trying continuous line drawings where they had to try and draw a face without removing their pencil from the paper. They then went on to creating a piece of art inspired by the Paper Queen portrait by Brianna McCarthy. Science continued the discoveries of the life of plants. The children planted their own beans and have observed how they have been growing over the last 10 days. After discovering that trees are just large plants, they went on a walk around the school grounds where they looked closely at leaf shapes to help identify the trees growing at school.

The children loved having their mums, dads and nanas visit school to share their enjoyment of the Explorer topic in History. Having had a lovely day celebrating David Attenborough's 100 birthday, he featured as the explorer in the animal hunt around the playground. The children loved making binoculars and inventing their own crazy animals as well as drawing maps of islands and the worlds they would like to discover. What a busy couple of weeks!



Class 4

In English, we have continued looking at *Peter Pan*. We have written book reviews giving our opinions and recommendations. This week we have been writing lovely descriptions of the story setting – Neverland. The children worked hard to choose interesting adjectives and extend their writing to help paint a picture in the reader's mind.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our multiplication and division skills and working on our recall of times table facts for x2, x5 and x10. We have been applying our skills to solving real problems including those with more than one step.



In Science, we have completed our topic on plants by looking at trees. We have been learning about evergreen and deciduous trees and even had a go at trying to identify the trees growing at school using a key. After 18 days we took home our runner bean plants. The children were mesmerised by how quickly they grew. Over the

last weekend one bean grew 21cm! Congratulations to Alex and Freya whose beans reached the tallest. I hope you continue to enjoy watching them grow at home.

In History, we have been finding out about explorers from the past. Last week, we thoroughly enjoyed our curriculum workshop with parents, and I think it is fair to say parents were amazed by the children's knowledge about the explorers we have already learnt about and were indeed teaching the parents! My thanks to the parents that were able to join us.



In Art, we have been looking at the wonderful facial collages of Brianna McCarthy, a Caribbean artist. We have tried to use her collage techniques to make our own pieces of art.



We also enjoyed our second visit to the Forest School Site this half term. We played a great 'hide and seek' game with coloured pegs. In pairs, one child had to hide the peg somewhere in Forest School, then the other partner could start looking for it but the only directions the hider could give was hotter or colder. We had great fun!



Last week we were fortunate to have a cricket workshop with Sean Fitzgerald, a coach from Somerset Cricket. We had great fun working on throwing skills and despite a quick dash inside to avoid the thunderstorm rain did not stop play! The children brought home cards

with details of local clubs that run Cricket All Stars if you are interested in joining.



Home Learning Projects

Thank you to everyone who took part in this terms home learning project we have really enjoyed sharing them within the class. Here a just a few.

Waterfield Way - This term for the Waterfield Way we were baking and icing cakes. The Infant Department turned into a bakery for the day. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activity, and their mouths were watering when they carried home their cakes proudly. We can't wait for our activities next term!



Class 5

In our English lessons this week, we have continued learning about our focus text *Peter Pan*. The children have written book reviews which they enjoyed sharing with the Year One children. We have also been busy writing setting descriptions using expanded noun phrases. We have talked a lot about our choice of words, and the children have generated list of adjectives to describe the setting. I particularly loved 'shimmering, turquoise ocean' and the 'eerie, shadowy caves'.

This week we have been practising division in Maths, and we have been solving calculations and worded problems by counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. We are still working hard on our independent problem-solving skills including two-step problems.

Thank you to all of you that managed to join us for our class History curriculum workshop. I hope you enjoyed taking part in the learning activities alongside the children. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about a variety of explorers from Ernest Shackleton to John Hanning-Speke who was born in Somerset and discovered the source of the Nile. They have been very busy creating news reports, maps, and fact sheets to share their knowledge.





Waterfield Way - The children enjoyed making fairy cakes for this half term's Waterfield Way activity.



Class 6

Class 6 have been working incredibly hard in the last few weeks of this half term. We have been thoroughly enjoying our English work based on *The Lost Book of Adventure*. The children have been inspired by its sense of exploration, discovery and we have read about some interesting ideas for dinner! The children have been focusing on writing persuasive letters, where they have worked hard to use powerful language, rhetorical questions and the power of three to convince Mrs Mordue to let us go on an adventure. We'll have to find out after half term if it has worked!

In Maths, the children have shown great determination and resilience as we continue to practise and strengthen our times tables knowledge. This has supported our learning in fractions and perimeter, where they have been applying their skills to solve increasingly challenging problems. Their hard work and perseverance have really paid off, and it has been fantastic to see their confidence increase.

We have continued our history learning about the Vikings, this time focusing on Viking runes. The children were fascinated to learn about this ancient form of

writing and enjoyed creating their own rune designs. This creativity extended into the playground as part of our Waterfield Way project for this half term, where the class worked collaboratively to produce some fantastic Viking-inspired artwork, bringing their learning to life in a fun and engaging way.

Beyond the classroom, we are incredibly proud of the children for successfully completing their swimming lessons. Many of them showed real bravery, especially when trying something new or overcoming initial nerves. Their positive attitudes and willingness to persevere have been amazing to see and the children even inspired Mrs Lovett and Mrs Kendall to take a dip!

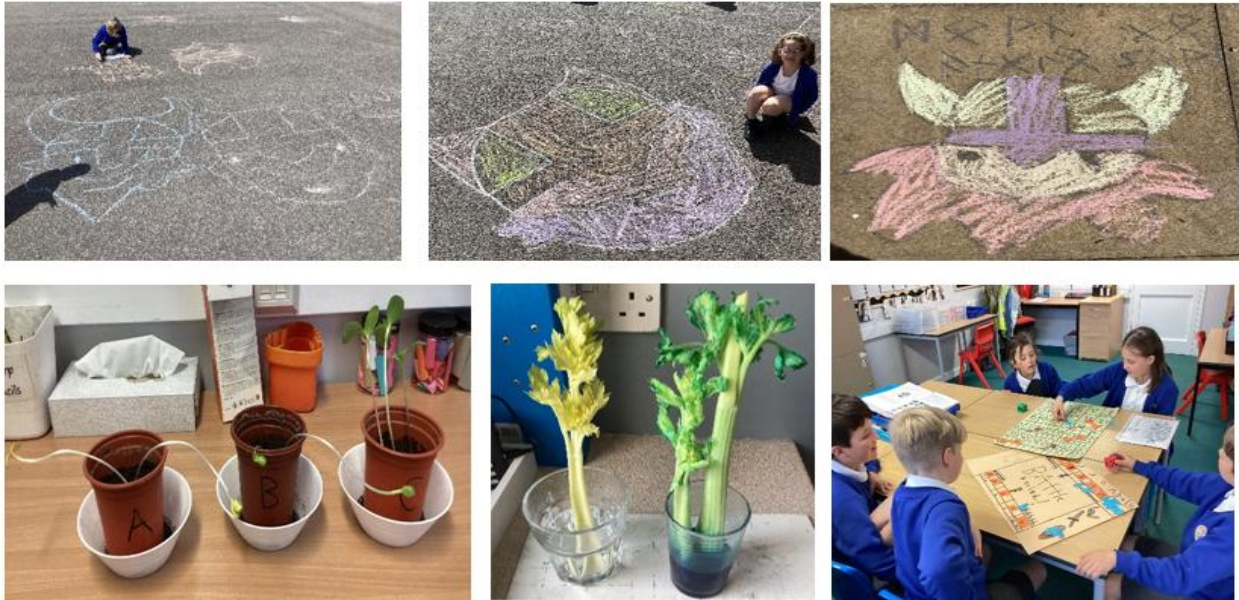
We also had the pleasure of running a recent coffee morning, and several of the children represented the school beautifully. I have received many compliments on their excellent behaviour, polite manners and confidence when speaking. It was a lovely event, and they should all feel very proud of themselves!

Class 7

Class 7 children have been busy bees over the last few weeks in their work across the curriculum. Written work in English has centred around instruction writing and the children have considered what makes a good set of instructions and why. They then put this knowledge into practice by writing a set of instructions for the Viking themed board games that they created whilst visiting the Infants last week. In Maths, the class revisited the crucial areas of addition and subtraction to reinforce and extend skills first visited earlier in the year, using a range of strategies efficiently. Times tables have also been high on the agenda recently ahead of the Multiplication Tables Check for Year 4 which will be taking place as soon as we come back after half term.

Across the foundation subjects, the class turned some celery blue and grown some very droopy looking sunflowers as part of our plants unit in science and studied how life in Viking Britain has influenced our lives today. Who knew that the Vikings gave us the words for window, egg, Thursday, cake and happy.

Waterfield Way - You may also have spotted some fierce looking Viking warriors appearing on the Junior playground last week, adorned with mysterious messages written in ancient Norse runes. Who knows, maybe Banksy is right here in Ilchester!



Class 8

We have thoroughly enjoyed our English work this term, with plenty of laughter coming from Class 8! We have loved exploring poems by Rachel Rooney, particularly *Mrs Von Pugh*, which the children found especially amusing. They were inspired by its humorous rhyming couplets and went on to create their own poems in a similar style, with fantastic results. The children have also been highly engaged with *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* as retold by Mac Barnett. They retold the story themselves from the perspective of the troll, producing some wonderfully imaginative writing. They first explored his emotions reactively, capturing his immediate feelings, and then reflectively, considering how he might feel after having time to calm down and rethink his actions. A fabulous job all round and it was wonderful to see how much the children were enjoying the process of writing!

In Art, we have been studying the work of local artist Jenny Graham, focusing particularly on her printmaking. The children have carefully analysed a range of her pieces, discussing her use of line, shape, colour, form and composition. They have shown great thought in considering the ideas and messages she may have been expressing through her work.

Inspired by her style, we have explored printing techniques ourselves. The children used polystyrene foam to design and create their own printing blocks, thinking carefully about how their designs would transfer onto paper. They showed great care in planning where the ink would be applied so that their final prints achieved the desired effect.

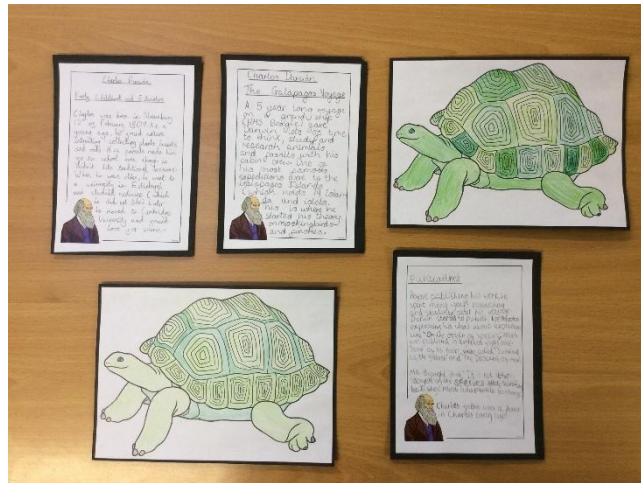


Class 9

Once again, we have had a few busy weeks in Class 9! Continuing with Cricket in PE, children have now developed their skill set to include being brilliant bowlers, super strikers, ferocious fielders and cool catchers, finishing with a final celebratory game of cricket. They have been ready, respectful and safe in all sessions and are a true credit to the school. In Music, we have focused on singing skills through Ame Sau Vala Tara Bal (an Indian piece which is now a class favourite)! This has prepared us well for next term, where we will be returning to incorporate dance moves and begin rehearsing for singing shows and festivals.

In our core subject of Maths, we did some tricky work on imperial measurement and rounding. I am so proud of all the hard work and perseverance that all children showed in these particular topics, especially as they got there in the end! In English, as we near the end of our class text, children have been proud of their work and have published beautiful short story openings or biographies for us all to read, based on Charles Darwin and his adventures to the Galapagos Islands.

Have a lovely and restful half term and see you all in Summer 2!



Class 10

Well done to all the children in Class 10 — we have had an extremely busy half term filled with lots of exciting and important events: Forest School, SATs, Year 6 Residential to name only a few. Well done to the Year 6 children, who rose to the challenge of SATs and will undoubtedly have shone very brightly. Well done also to the Year 5 children for supporting their friends and coping so well with the many changes to their timetables – they are all a complete asset to Class 10.

Amongst all the exciting events, we have combined mathematics and creativity in an engaging exploration called Creating Art with Angles. Using protractors, rulers and compasses, the children have designed colourful geometric artworks while developing their understanding of angles and measurement – there are some brilliant examples below (quite a hard challenge!). We are also going to be entering the Exeter Maths School Competition, which explores M. C. Escher tessellations.

Last week, we wrote back to pen pals from North Cadbury Primary School, and we are very excited to receive their responses and hear about all the fun things they have been doing during the summer term.

As part of the Waterfield Way, so far this year we have had a visit from the local Fire Station, visited Wells and the cathedral and met some famous authors! We are very much looking forward to having a Bush Craft Session at our Forest School site and having a water fight!



Class 11

It has been an incredibly busy half term for the children in Class 11, and we are all immensely proud of how well they have done. From smashing the SATs to thriving at their residential trip, the children have shown their resilience, positivity and belief throughout the last few weeks. On top of this, they have continued to push themselves and develop their skills in their lessons.

In Art, the children are continuing to explore the artist Luba Lukova and have been practising drawing in the style of her art, creating silhouettes and bold outlines. They have also linked art and maths together – learning about the artist Kandinsky and using skills of geometry to create pieces of art inspired by him. English lessons recently have been based around creating persuasive and informative brochures to share information about their exciting residential trip. Class 11 have also enjoyed getting the instruments out during our music lessons to create an accompaniment to a sporting video inspired by Chariots of Fire.

Well done to each and every one of you, you should be so proud of all that you have achieved and how you have presented yourselves over this half term. We look forward to coming back after a well-earned break to more exciting events including the Year 6 play and many other activities to supplement your learning for the last few weeks before the Summer.



Year 6 Residential

This week, our Year 6 children headed off to Barton Hall in Torquay for an unforgettable residential filled with adventure, teamwork and lots of laughter!

Despite the drizzly weather, the rain certainly did not stop the fun. The children threw themselves into a wide range of exciting activities including abseiling, fencing, micro scooters, disc golf and the vertical challenge. They also worked brilliantly together during orienteering and buggy building, showing fantastic teamwork and determination.

The children also enjoyed a swimming session and thoroughly enjoyed settling into their chalet rooms. Of course, Mrs Argent still carried out the very important room inspections!

It was wonderful to see the children encouraging one another, stepping outside their comfort zones and making so many happy memories together.



Photography Competition

Foundation Stage:

Winner - Marina (Class 1)



Runner up - Maeve (Class 2)

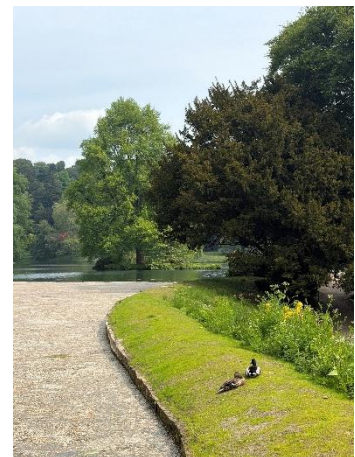


Key Stage 1

Winner – Phoebe (Class 3)



Runner up – Fergus (Class 5)



Key Stage 2

Winner – Arwyn (Class 6)



Runner up - Charlotte (Class 7)



Quote from Ben Pulletz:

'Fantastic images by all. We have natural photographers in our school. The images showed clever use of timing and habitat.'

Each of the winners and runners up have received a card and a prize generously donated by Friends of Ilchester School. Thank you so much to FIS for sponsoring the David Attenborough Celebration of which this competition was part.

[Year 3 Trip to Carymoor](#)

Today, the Year 3 children from Classes 6 and 7 visited the Carymoor Centre near Castle Cary to enhance their half-term's history learning around the Vikings.

Led by our guide, Gary, the children had great fun taking part in different practical activities and immersing themselves with life in Viking times. The children ground grain ready to make bread using quern stones, carried out a mock archaeological dig, wove willow plates, tackled the rune challenge and solved the clues to complete the Viking orienteering challenge.

A fabulous day was had by all. Thank you to Mrs Williams and Mrs Miller our parent volunteers for supporting us with the trip.



[‘Respect for All’ Assembly](#)

On Tuesday this week, James Tostevin from our sports partners TLE delivered a thoughtful and engaging assembly to our Year 3 and 4 children, focusing on the importance of respect and our school value of Equity. Through his work with the children, James highlighted how vital it is not only to celebrate and embrace our differences in race, ethnicity, gender, faith or even something as simple as a choice of football team, but also to challenge any form of disrespect that undermines this. He encouraged the children to feel confident in speaking up in a positive and constructive way if they witness unkindness or exclusion. At a time when it is more important than ever to model tolerance and understanding, this message strongly reinforced our collective responsibility as a school community to ensure that everyone feels valued, included and respected.



[Key Stage 1 Cricket Engagement Day](#)

Following his recent series of visits to the Juniors, Sean Fitzgerald from the Somerset Cricket Foundation popped into the Infants last week where he led an engaging assembly introducing the children to the sport of cricket. His assembly aimed to inspire the children to get up and get active through cricket and explored the core values that the sport holds central to its existence; namely teamwork, fair play, empathy, respect, encouragement and enjoyment. After the assembly and ably assisted by a team of Year 5 children, Sean led a workshop with each of the classes where the children had a great time further

developing some existing skills and trying out some new ones. Hopefully, the journey of the next Ben Stokes or Lauren Bell begins here.



Online Safety

Internet Matters has worked with Dr Linda Papadopoulou to create these unique Digital Resilience Toolkits which provide parents with valuable advice to help children become more resilient online.

Building digital resilience helps kids handle challenges online. These kits provide a variety of age-related resources written to help you get started. Below we have provided the toolkit for 6–10-year-olds.

Digital resilience toolkit taken

from: www.internetmatters.org/resources/digital-resilience-toolkit

Digital Resilience Toolkit

internet matters.org

Advice for parents of 6–10 year olds
Help children become more digitally savvy
and get the best out of their online world

What are they doing online?

- 44% of six-year-olds are going online in their bedrooms¹
- 28% of 10-year-olds have a social media profile²
- 8 in 10 aged 5 to 15 regularly use YouTube to watch short clips or programmes²

1. Internet Matters, Ofcom and Ipsos MORI 2016
2. Ofcom, Children's and Parents' Media Use and Attitudes 2017

What challenges can they face?

It's the first time they are using technology, many independently. For children between 6 and 10, they are going online to play games or watch videos. This activity can quickly become very addictive. As children get closer to 9 and 10, they are starting to engage online and socialise through games or through social media and they may come across potential risks when talking to others online such as cyberbullying.

[Class 6 Community Coffee Morning](#)

We are incredibly proud of Class 6 for the fantastic way they hosted their recent Community Coffee Morning. These events provide a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to step outside of their comfort zones and truly live out our school value of *Bravery*.

The children represented the school brilliantly, confidently serving teas and coffees, as well as enthusiastically running the raffle and tombola. They were warmly commended by visitors for their positive attitudes, politeness and excellent manners throughout the morning.

Thanks to their hard work and community support, they raised an amazing £235.80, which has gone towards supporting the cost of travel for their trip to Carymoor today.

What superstars!

[An Evening with Sarah Dyke MP](#)

It was a privilege to attend an evening discussion with our local MP, Sarah Dyke, focused on the ongoing consultation around the proposed SEND reforms. The session brought together a wide range of educational professionals, and it was both reassuring and inspiring to hear the shared commitment to ensuring the very best outcomes for children with additional needs. There was a genuine openness in the room, with colleagues generously sharing their experiences, challenges and examples of effective practice from their own settings.

We were pleased to be able to contribute to the discussion, sharing our own perspective as a school and highlighting the approaches and provision we are proud of. Opportunities such as this are invaluable, allowing us not only to reflect on our own practice but also to learn from others and consider how we can continue to improve.

Engaging proactively in conversations about national developments is incredibly important. It ensures that the voices of schools, children and families are represented and heard, and that we play an active role in shaping the future of SEND provision. We remain committed to working collaboratively at every level to support all of our pupils to thrive.



Forest School

Spring has now well and truly sprung in Forest School, and the children have been carefully observing the seasonal changes. The new growth has meant that plenty of exciting areas to build dens have been created and the children have enjoyed playing games of hide and seek!



This week, the Key Stage One children took the opportunity of using the outdoor area to practise communication skills and took turns in giving and receiving instructions to locate hidden objects on the site. To do this successfully, they had to listen carefully to their partner as well as give clear verbal instructions.

A big thank you to one of our children's Grandads who has very kindly made us a fabulous set of stools and a table for the site. This now has pride of position inside the children's favourite den!



Pride of Somerset Youth Awards-She's a Star!

Last night, I had the great privilege of attending the Pride of Somerset Youth Awards alongside Mrs King. It was a truly inspiring evening, filled with remarkable stories of bravery, resilience and passion from young people across our county. Hearing about the challenges so many have overcome, and the difference they are making in their communities, was both humbling and uplifting.

We were especially proud to have nominated one of our own incredible pupils, Polly Graham, for the *Outstanding Courage Award*. Polly's determination in the face of ongoing challenges is extraordinary. Since birth, she has been bravely managing several medical conditions, including regular trips to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. Despite this, Polly has shown immense strength and positivity, not only coping with her own journey but using it to inspire and support others.

Polly has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of her condition, helping others to better understand it, and has also raised an incredible amount of money for charity through her initiatives, *Polly's Plod* and her *Toddlerathon*. Her compassion and drive to help others truly set her apart.

We are absolutely delighted to share that Polly was named the winner for *Outstanding Courage*. She even brought home a very special balloon to mark the occasion! It was wonderful to celebrate her achievement in school today. Polly has been widely recognised in assembly and enjoyed a well-deserved class party with her friends. Polly is an inspiration to us all, and we could not be prouder of her achievements.



Music

Music has always been an integral part of Ilchester. Across the year, children have been eager to share their beautiful singing, dramatic dancing and performance playing, both in music lessons and throughout enrichment activities on offer. We believe that music maintains our sense of belonging and community with both Infant and Junior Sites, as well as showcase our values (such as creativity and belief).

The children are always eager to participate and have shown their hard work and passion towards musical activities. This term alone, we have already had plenty of musical activities, with many more to come:

- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Westlands Entertainment Venue
- Musical dance warm up for our mini marathon
- Live brass music tour
- Rise Up with Teachers Rock music video
- Ilchester's Got Talent
- PPAT's Got Talent
- Music On The Mound
- Somerset Singing Festival



Somerset Music Brass Concert Tour – Today, the children had a fantastic time when the Somerset School of Music visited, bringing with them a trombone, two

trumpets and a tenor horn. The band played a super selection of music styles including Trumpet Voluntary, Tijuana Taxi, Wallace and Gromit, Football Crazy and the Final Countdown! The children were intrigued by the different sounds the instruments could make and were especially delighted with the football world cup song! The lively performance created a fun and memorable experience for all. Needless to say, the children were positively inspired to take up playing an instrument.



As a result of the dedication and commitment from children and staff, we are pleased to share that we have been awarded with the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication and Improvement by Somerset Music!



We cannot wait for Summer 2, where the children will be representing Ilchester and showcasing their amazing talent further. Well done, everyone!

Safeguarding

As we approach the holiday period, we would like to take this opportunity to remind our families that safeguarding remains our highest priority, both in school and beyond the school gates. We are proud of the safe and supportive environment we've built together, and your ongoing partnership is essential in helping us maintain this.

During the holidays, children may spend more time online, socialising, or in unfamiliar settings. We encourage all families to take a few simple steps to help keep children safe:

- **Online Safety:** Please ensure appropriate parental controls are in place and talk regularly with your child about how to stay safe online. Encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if anything makes them feel uncomfortable.

- **Community Awareness:** Remind children of basic safety rules when out with friends, including staying in known areas, being aware of their surroundings, and knowing how to contact you if needed.
- **Wellbeing:** Unstructured time can be a wonderful opportunity to relax, but it's also important to check in with how your child is feeling. Open communication helps children feel secure and supported.

If at any time you have a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing during the holidays, please remember that support is available. You can contact Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

When we return, our safeguarding team will continue to be here to support all our pupils and families. If you have any worries or would like advice, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

As we look ahead, there is much to look forward to in our final half term, including; sports day, the ever-popular Ilchester's Got Talent and our own nod to Glastonbury Festival with *Music on the Mound* both wonderful opportunities to celebrate the creativity and spirit of our pupils and for the community to come together.

As always, thank you to all our parents and families for your continued partnership and support. It makes such a difference to the life of our school. For now, I wish you a relaxing half term holiday, with plenty of time to spend with your special ones creating lasting memories together.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Mordue
Headteacher



SUMMER TERM 2026 - Dates for your diary

Half-Term 25 th May – 29 th May	
Monday 1 st June	Whole Class Photography – Rising 5s, Reception and Year Six - Imago Photography
	Pre-School to Forest School
	Year 1 to Forest School
Tuesday 2 nd June	Ilchester's Got Talent Classroom Rounds. In-school event
	Armed Forces Outreach Service 1345 at Infant Department
Wednesday 3 rd June	Class 4 Coffee Morning Town Hall.
	RSPCA Workshop KS1. In-school event
Thursday 4 th June	RSPCA Workshop KS2. In-school event
Friday 5 th June	Sports Day (reserve date 12.06.26) Infants 10.30am Juniors 1.30pm
Monday 8 th June	Pre-School to Forest School
Tuesday 9 th June	Ilchester's Got Talent Finals. In-school event
Wednesday 10 th June	Better Planet Education Workshops KS1. In-school event
Thursday 11 th June	September 2026 Reception Parents' Welcome Evening 6.00 – 19.30pm
Friday 12 th June	Reserve Sports Day
Monday 15 th June	Class 9 Curriculum Workshop 9.00am
	Pre-School to Forest School
	Year 1 to Forest School
Tuesday 16 th June	Class 8 Curriculum workshop
	Somerset Children's Parliament 4 x Years 5 and 6. Further details to follow
	Rainforest talks and workshops. In-school event
Wednesday 17 th June	Class 7 Curriculum Workshop 9.00am
	Year 2 to Forest School
	Gore Farm Visit Class 1.
Thursday 18 th June	Class 10 Curriculum Workshop 9.00am
	Music On The Mound Provisional date. Further details to follow
	Gore Farm Visit Class 2.

Friday 19 th June	SEN Coffee Morning – Infant Department 9.00am
	Class 11 Curriculum Workshop 9.00am
Monday 22 nd June	Year 4 Great Wood Residential Trip. Return Wednesday 24 th June
	Pre-School to Forest School
	Class 6 Curriculum Workshop 9.00am
Wednesday 24 th June	Reception 2026 Stay and Play (with parents) 3.30 – 4.30pm
	Gifted & Talented Maths Competition (Year 6). Further details to follow
Thursday 25 th June	Classes 3, 4 and 5 Trip to Weymouth. Further details to follow
Monday 29 th June	Fiver Challenge Week (Year 6). Further details to follow
	Pre-School to Forest School
	Year 1 to Forest School
Wednesday 1 st July	Reception 2026 Stay and Play/Readiness Workshop 3.30 – 4.30pm
Monday 6 th July	Pre-School to Forest School
Tuesday 7 th July	Class 6 to Forest School
	Class 7 to Forest School
	Year 5s to Westlands for Singing Festival. Further details to follow
Wednesday 8 th July	Class 9 to Forest School
	Class 8 to Forest School
	Year 2 to Forest School
Thursday 9 th July	Class 10 to Forest School
	Class 11 to Forest School
	Bugfest - Classes 1, 2 and Pre-School. In-school event
	PPAT's Got Talent FINALS
Monday 13 th July	Year 1 to Forest School
	Pre-School to Forest School
Wednesday 22 nd July Inset Day – School Closed	
Thursday 23 rd July Summer Holiday Commences – School Closed	
Monday 7 th September 2026 School Re-opens for all pupils	

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Our sports providers TLE Coaching will be continuing with their very popular Breakfast Club at the Junior Department after half term. This Breakfast club is open to all pupils in Years 3-6 from 7.45am to 8.45am and is priced at £3.50 per session. This includes an optional breakfast if your child would like it. Bookings can be made via this link: <http://www.tlesportscoaching.co.uk/> - book now at the very top of the page, which will take you to Pebble and then you just need to scroll down until you find Ilchester Juniors. Places can be booked up to an hour before the session begins.



Bucklers Mead Leisure Centre

ACTIVE CAMPS

🕒 MAY 26TH TO 29TH 🕒 8.30AM TO 3.30PM

TUE 26 TH	Tournament Tuesday
WED 27 TH	Inflatable Day
THU 28 TH	Target Day
FRI 29 TH	Laser Tag and Nerf Battles

📧 WWW.TLESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK



*Extra Time available;
8-8.30am & 3.30-4pm*

£20 a day!

ILCHESTER SCHOOLS OUT



Holiday care

Based at Ilchester infants school.

Open 9.00 till 3.00

May 26 - 29th May

Come and join in all the fun with games, cooking, crafts, junk modelling, role play and outdoor play.

Only £5.40 per hour (just play for an hour and take all your makes home)

Contact: Julie 07980391037 or Micheala 07715371357



You are invited to a very special event as we celebrate 10 years of supporting families and shaping services for children and young people with SEND across Somerset. We would be incredibly grateful if you could share this invitation with your parent carers, particularly those supporting children and young people with additional needs. We would love for you to come along and be part of this celebration, a day filled with connection, inspiration, and valuable information.

✦ What to expect

The event will feature:

A range of information stands from local services and organisations
Inspiring speakers sharing knowledge and practical insights
Opportunities to connect with providers, services, and other families

🎤 Featured speakers include:

Catrina Lowri (Neuroteachers) – Executive Functioning & Reasonable Adjustments
Zoe (The Inclusion Service) – Building Strong SEN Partnerships with Schools
Cathrine Eveness (NeuroConnect) - Emotional Regulation
Alice Hoyle - Supporting SEND Children with Relationships & Sex Education

You'll also have the chance to meet a wide range of organisations, including: Somerset Local Offer, SENDIAS, Specialist Support Services, NeuroConnect CIC, Somerset Libraries, Somerset Public Health Nursing Team, Children & Young People's Neurodevelopmental Partnership Team, Ups and Downs Southwest, The National Deaf Children's Society, Escape Support Group, and many more.

📍 Event Details

- Venue: Haynes Motor Museum
- Date: Thursday 11th June 2026
- Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Ticket Fee: £5 (includes refreshments and a buffet lunch)

We want this event to be accessible to everyone. If cost is a barrier, please still book your place and let us know at events@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk

To book your ticket for the event : [Click Here](#)

Somerset Parent Carer Forum CIC
Telephone: 01458 259384 or 07543 680365 (office mobile)
admin@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk
www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk



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

Need support?

**ESCAPELINE PROVIDES
CONFIDENTIAL TELEPHONE
SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO
PARENTS AND CARERS WITHIN
THE SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND
AFFECTED BY CRIMINAL AND
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.**

WE'RE HERE IF YOU NEED US:

**Tuesday's &
Wednesday's
10am - 1pm**



0800 389 3899