



'Child centred learning in the heart of the community'

13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Family Members

As we find ourselves in the midst of dark days and what feels like never-ending rain, it would be easy for the gloom to seep into every day. However each time I walk into a classroom, I am reminded that there is sunshine here every single day. The children's pride in their work, the enthusiasm they bring to their learning, and the joy they take in sharing their achievements brighten our corridors far more effectively than any improvement in the weather could.

Our school rules, Ready, Respectful and Safe, continue to sit at the heart of everything we do. These simple principles shape our school culture and help ensure that everyone can learn and play happily together. We are grateful for the support families already give, and there are small but meaningful ways you can continue helping us reinforce these expectations. Talking with your child about what each rule looks like in different situations, encouraging them to arrive ready for the day ahead, modelling respectful behaviour, and offering gentle reminders about keeping themselves and others safe all make a real difference.

This week has also been Children's Mental Health Week, and Mrs Dickinson suggested we introduce a quiet five minutes in every class each day. It has been interesting to see how the children responded. Many found the stillness challenging at first, simply because moments of silence are not something they often get the chance to experience. As the week has gone on, though, they have begun to settle into the routine, and several classes now look forward to this peaceful pause in their day. It has reminded us of the value of taking time to breathe, reflect, and create space for our thoughts.

Despite the rain outside, it continues to be a bright, purposeful and positive time in school.

Classes 1 and 2

In Class 1, we have been very busy! We have been working hard on our phonics and have enjoyed looking at shape and pattern in Maths this week. We particularly enjoyed numbers day last week where we immersed ourselves in counting, number, shape and pattern. In our topic we have been learning about people who help us and have had fantastic visits from Rev Bruce, and Gemma and Danielle, who are nurses. We even got to try some of their kit! In PE, we have been doing gymnastics, learning how to travel, roll, jump and balance safely using the equipment.

We have also celebrated lots of different events over the last week, and we have enjoyed learning more about Lunar New Year, making valentines day crafts and writing cards for each other and the people that we love.

As the weather has been rather wet and windy, we traded our welly walk for a puddle hunt within the school grounds and had the best time filling our wellies full of water!



Class 2 children have been very busy in the last couple of weeks. Last week we read *Duck in a Truck* and wrote some sentences with rhyming words and this week we have been reading about *Burglar Bill* and thinking about how our actions impact other people.

In Maths, we have been revisiting 2D shapes and looking at 3D shapes, using the correct mathematical language to describe them. We found a lot of 3D shapes on our hunt around school!

We have also been on a muddy winter welly walk looking for signs of winter, but we also spotted some signs that spring is on the way which the children were very excited about.

Class 2 had some visitors join us this week talking about their jobs and what they do to help people. The children have loved getting involved in the activities including bandaging each other and listening to their heartbeats with stethoscopes.

Class 3

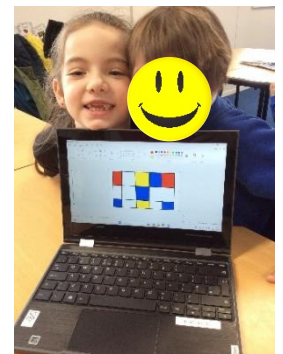
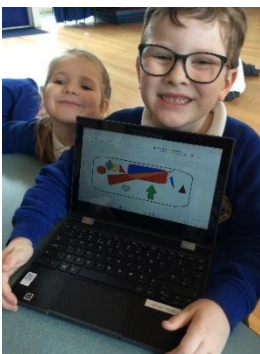
Class 3 children have been brilliant mathematicians, learning the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They have also been learning how to measure weight, capacity and length.

Our wintery walk inspired some lovely poetry writing. The children used their senses to 'collect' adjectives that they used in their writing. The livestream with author, Annemarie Anang, inspired more poetry writing, that celebrated ourselves as individuals.

In science, we investigated what would be the best material to use to make a coat to keep Jenny Cat dry. The children agreed that although many materials are waterproof, plastic would be the most comfortable to wear.

In computing, we have been learning how to use the Paint App to create pictures inspired by Piet Mondrian and Henri Matisse.

Our Design and Technology topic ended with making a delicious fruit salad. The children were very proud of their cutting skills and final product.



Class 4

We have been working really hard over the last few weeks. In History, we have been learning about the Great Fire of London in 1666; learning where and how it started, what caused it to spread quickly and the impact this had on London and future building. In English, we used our knowledge of the Great Fire to write amazing diary entries as if we were actually there when the fire happened, just like Samuel Pepys. Come and see them on display soon.

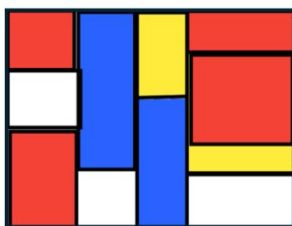


In Science we have continued our work on materials and their properties. We have been investigating materials to test absorbency and how reflective they are. From our investigations we were able to draw simple conclusions and answer our investigation questions.

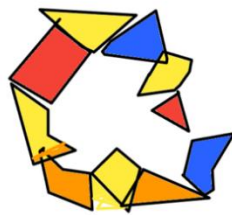
In DT we have researched fruit, practised skills such as chopping and peeling and have designed and made our own healthy fruit salads. The children thoroughly enjoyed this topic and, of course, eating them!



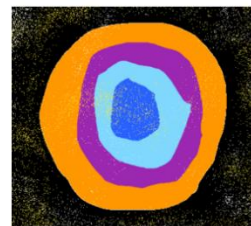
In computing we have been using the paint program 'Paintz' and exploring the tools to recreate famous art works. Can you guess which ones? (Answers at end).



Rosalie



Noah & Muhittin



Louise & Freya



We also enjoyed a super visit to the Forest School Site last week for our outdoor learning. In pairs, we had to use our teamwork skills we have been developing in PSHE to design and make a clay minibeast to live in the forest school area. It was lovely to see the children's imaginations run wild and being able to collaborate and work well

with a partner. We loved seeing and hearing about the new minibeasts created.

Computing answers – 1. Mondrian 2. Matisse's Snail 3. Kandinsky

Class 5

The children in Class 5 have been working hard over the last couple of weeks, and I am so proud of them for always trying their best.

In PSHE, we have been learning about being aspirational and setting ourselves goals. We talked about ways we could help and support our friends in reaching their goals too and practised working with a partner to achieve an outcome. The task the children were given was to work together to create a mystical bird to live in our garden of dreams and whilst we were in the Forest School Site they used clay to create a minibeast to join the garden. They did very well sharing ideas, taking turns and making sure everyone felt included. We learnt that it feels good to achieve your goals both independently and alongside other people!

As part of our learning in Science, we have carried out a variety of experiments including testing absorbency and reflectiveness of different materials. We made predictions and talked about fair testing. The children measured and recorded the results.

In English, we have been writing a diary as a person who was alive during the Great Fire of London. We wrote in the first person and learnt about using the past tense. We included details about how we felt, what we saw and what we heard during the fire. The children had lots of ideas and did a fantastic job. We are still working hard to form letters correctly and join our writing!



Class 6

Class 6 children have been working really hard over the past couple of weeks and have had an exciting end to the half term. In English we have been writing balanced arguments and debating lots of important questions, such as 'should children have homework?' (I think you can guess what conclusion we reached!). They have produced some fantastic pieces of writing, and I am very proud of their efforts.

In Science, we have been continuing our learning on material and matter, and the children have been loving learning all about the water cycle. We have explored how water moves through different stages including evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. The children created their own detailed diagrams of the water cycle and got to see this in action in the classroom.

This week, we were very lucky to be able to visit Ilchester Museum to support our history learning about Roman Britain. The children loved listening to a fascinating history talk where we got to ask lots of questions and have a look at some Roman artefacts. We also had the opportunity to draw some of these artefacts, examine them up close and even enjoy dressing up as Romans, which made the experience even more memorable!



Class 7

The children have been working hard over the last few weeks across all aspects of the curriculum. Their English work has centred around the journalistic genre where the children presented a TV news report about the Boudicca rebellion against the Romans in 60CE. This was followed by a written news report about the sacking of Camulodunum by the Iceni. Working with fractions has been the focus in Maths recently and the children have developed their skills in comparing fractions, calculating equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions.

History work on the Roman influence upon British history concluded with a visit to the Ilchester Museum where the children continued their chronological journey through Ilchester's past, picking up from the pre-historic period explored before Christmas. The children loved finding out what life was like in Roman Lendiniae nearly two thousand years ago. Many thanks to the parents who were able to help out with the visit.

PE this half term has looked at elements of fitness including strength, co-ordination, balance and speed amongst others. The children have learned how each are important in different activities and for good all-round health we need a balance of each. This week, we employed some of these different fitness components to take part in our own mini-Winter Olympics. The children competed in figure skating, ski jumping and curling which wasn't easy as snow has been in short supply in Somerset and there isn't a mountain in sight...

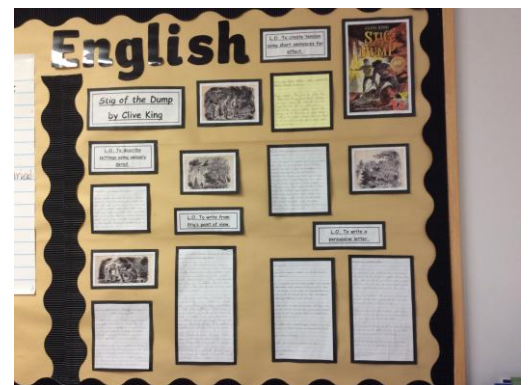




Class 8

Class 8 children have had a busy half term. We have been enjoying our swimming sessions, and it has been fabulous watching the children both grow in water-confidence and improve their stroke technique. Swimming is such a life-skill and important for all to master. Well done, Class 8!

In English, we have been thoroughly enjoying reading *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King. This text has inspired lots of exciting pieces of writing, such as diaries, writing from a character's point of view, letters of persuasion and setting descriptions. I have been blown away with the quality of writing – the children have certainly mastered the use of short sentences and rhetorical questions as tools for creating tension.

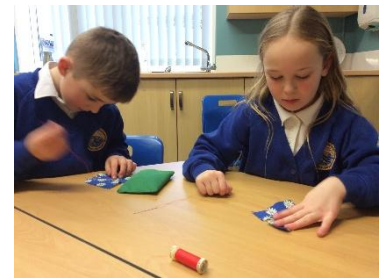


In Maths, we have just finished a sequence of lessons about money. The children have learnt to compare amounts of money, estimate with money as well as calculate and problem solve with money too. They are now experts when it comes to handling their pocket money!

In Art, we have been studying Alexander Calder. We have explored how his techniques as an artist developed and have been 'thinking like an artist' when expressing our opinions about a variety of his mobiles. We have been practising sculpting with wire and have carefully twisted it into face shapes. We are looking forward to developing our own wire sculptures later this week.



For our Waterfield Way task this half term, the children have been challenged to learn how to sew up a rip in a piece of fabric! They have had to focus carefully, but their needlework has been very neat and tidy! Mums and Dads – you can now ask your children to help at home with any accidental rips or tears to their clothing now!



This week, we have been fortunate to be able to visit Ilchester Museum to deepen our learning about Roman Britain. We really enjoyed listening to the fascinating history talk and were able to ask interesting questions and link our school learning into the discussions we had. We really appreciated being able to look at Roman artefacts and to be able to look for clues which told us more about how the objects had been used and what they were able to tell us about people and life in the past. We also had great fun dressing up as Romans too!



Class 9

We have had a very mysterious half term! Class 9 have been wondering where our books magically disappeared to and reappeared from, sparking a conversation about how news reports are developed. We have also begun exploring our new novel, *Floodland* by Marcus Sedgwick, and have developed our skills with debates to produce balanced arguments. We will complete this in the next half term, focusing on a newspaper report following the case of the missing books! In Maths, we have revisited fractions and the skill of multiplying by an integer. They have really impressed me and so we have begun attempting SATs style questions!

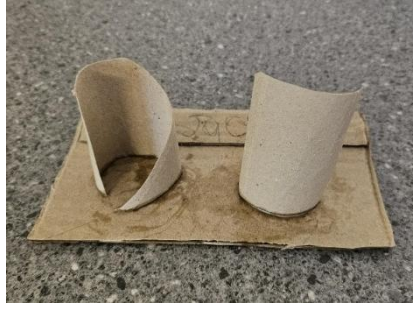
Alongside Peter from Better Planet Education and Johnny Flufferpunk from Hot Poets, we also welcomed a visit from the High Sheriff of Somerset where she spoke highly of loyalty, belonging and inclusivity. Online, we discovered how to turn words into rhyme and poetry and how to use AI safely as part of Safer Internet Day.

I hope everyone has a restful half term.



Class 10

The children in Class 10 have been working exceptionally hard over the last couple of weeks, particularly in their Art lessons. This half term, we have been exploring the work of the sculptor Barbara Hepworth, and the children have been replicating her abstract style while also designing their own imaginative sculptural forms. Here are some examples:



We also had a special visit from Peter at Better Planet Education, who delivered a workshop on the importance of renewable energy. The children explored how sources such as solar, wind and hydro power can help protect our planet, linking back to the Geography learning they completed during the autumn term. Peter's demonstrations and hands-on activities sparked excellent discussions about sustainability and how small changes can make a big difference to our environment.

In Writing, we have been diving into *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. The children have produced some excellent character descriptions of the three Baudelaire children and the villainous Count Olaf, showcasing their growing confidence in descriptive language and storytelling. Their ability to capture personality, mood and detail in their writing has been especially impressive.

[Class 11](#)

Class 11 have been having a fantastic time getting creative outdoors during their Forest School sessions! Using natural materials like leaves, sticks, stones and bark, the children have been designing and building their own works of art. It's been wonderful to see them experimenting with different shapes, patterns and textures while working together in the fresh air.

Back in the classroom, the children have been learning about the sculptor Barbara Hepworth. They explored her abstract style, especially her use of smooth curves and interesting spaces within her sculptures. Inspired by her work, Class 11 children are creating their own clay models, carefully shaping and refining their ideas just like real sculptors. They particularly enjoyed experimenting with hollow spaces and curved forms in their designs. We're so proud of the creativity and enthusiasm Class 11 have shown. It's been a joy to see their artistic progress and having lots of fun along the way!

We have also been really enjoying our book – *The Boy in the Tower*. The whole class has produced some brilliant writing exploring the characters and themes of Dystopian novels.



Attendance Matters

Attendance is essential for every child's learning, wellbeing, and success in school, and we are encouraging all pupils to strive for an attendance rate of 96% or above. We kindly ask parents and carers to report any absence first thing in the morning, which helps us avoid the need for follow-up calls and ensures that all children are accounted for safely and promptly. Our attendance team meets regularly to monitor patterns of attendance and lateness, and where attendance becomes irregular, this may lead to a referral to the Education Engagement Service.

We are, as ever, committed to working in partnership with families to remove any barriers to attendance and to ensure that every child is supported to access school confidently and consistently.



Online Safety

Safer Internet Day 2026 took place on the 10th of February 2026, with Key Stage 2 classes joining live lessons to learn about the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices: exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

Please see the link below to the Safer Internet Centre which provides tips for parents and carers on this theme. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

In Key Stage 1, pupils focused on staying safe online and learnt all about the

SMART Safety Rules.

In order to be as safe as possible when using devices connected to the internet, it's important to make sure to follow some SMART rules.

S is for Safe.

- Keep your own and other people's information safe.
- Don't share information such as your name, age, where you live or where you go to school.
- Only your safe adults should know your passwords.
- Look out for information that might be given away in photos too.



Safeguarding

We are receiving an increased volume of safeguarding reports from families about incidents happening outside of school. It is always appreciated when families share their concerns with school, however, please be reminded that contact should be made with Somerset Direct. Any concerns can be reported anonymously on 0300 123 2224.

Please be reminded that we have adopted a 'no phone zone' across the school. Phones must not to be used on site by volunteers, visitors, children or family members.

The same approach is being taken to smart watches across the school with children being asked to leave their smart watches and phones in the office during the school day.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping everybody safe.



High Sheriff Visit

Classes 9, 10 and 11 had the pleasure of welcoming the High Sheriff of Somerset into school this half term. During her visit, she spoke to the children about her role, its long history and the responsibilities she carries out within the county. Our Year 6 pupils were particularly excited to share details of their recent trip to Parliament. The High Sheriff also talked the children through the official emblem she wears, explaining its meaning and the traditions behind it. The pupils were thoroughly engaged and asked thoughtful questions throughout the session.



NSPCC Number Day

Our NSPCC Number Day was such a lovely celebration of all things maths! It was a joy to see some of our children arriving in their brilliant number-themed outfits. We also loved receiving all the entries for “numbers in the wild” photos; it was wonderful to see how many of you joined in and spotted numbers out in everyday life. A special well done to Anna and Tobias for their excellent entries. Throughout the day, classes came together to play board games and enjoy lots of fun, hands-on number activities. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day feel so special while supporting the NSPCC – we raised a total of £120.23



Curriculum Workshops

We are delighted to continue our **termly curriculum workshops** designed for both parents and children to take part in together.

During each workshop, a lesson will be taught by your child's class teacher giving you the opportunity to experience first-hand how we deliver learning in the classroom. You and your child will take part in the lesson together, allowing you to see the strategies we use and how you can support learning at home.

Each term, we will focus on a different area of the curriculum. This term is –

Reading: Discover how we develop children's reading

Each event will be held in the Infant Hall (Classes 1 – 5) and Junior Hall (Classes 6 – 11). All events will be held at 9am (straight after registration), apart from Class 2's workshops which will take place at 10.30. Each workshop will last for an hour.

Class 1	Tuesday 17th March
Class 2	Tuesday 17th March
Class 3	Thursday 19th March
Class 4	Friday 20th March
Class 5	Wednesday 18th March
Class 6	Thursday 12th March
Class 7	Friday 6th March
Class 8	Tuesday 3rd March
Class 9	Monday 9th March
Class 10	Tuesday 10 th March
Class 11	Monday 2 nd March

Cross Country

The Yeovil Schools cross country season resumed this week after the winter break. The fourth race of the season took place at a rainy and cold Bucklers Mead School in Yeovil in some of the most testing conditions in recent memory. After so much rain of late, the course was understandably very wet and slippery, but our runners were not to be deterred and turned in some of our best performances for some time, with four top ten finishes from our ten entrants. Well done, to all of our team, we are extremely proud of you.

The next race is after half term on Monday 2nd March at Aldon Hill and it would be fantastic to have even more runners representing our school at the event.



Forest School

Despite the never-ending rain, each class has managed to visit the Forest School Site at least once this half term to take part in outdoor learning activities with their class.

Activities included storytelling, building pirate ships, creating minibeasts, learning about habitats and team games. All of the children loved walking through the squishy mud!

I have received so much positive feedback from our children and parents regarding these Forest School sessions, and we are so pleased that the children are enjoying their time in the outdoors and coming together to work as a team.

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.



[Uniform Expectations](#)

As we reach halfway through the academic year, it feels important to remind everyone of our uniform expectations which can be found on our school website [Ilchester Community School - Policies](#). It has been lovely to see so many children coming in dressed smartly and adhering to the expectations.

We would like to maintain the children coming dressed for PE on their allocated PE days, but it is imperative that children wear the correct clothing. This is a white collared polo shirt, a school jumper/cardigan, black bottoms and trainers. Football shirts and branded clothing are not permitted.

[Coffee Morning](#)

Class 8 did an incredible job running this week's community coffee morning at the Town Hall. I received some lovely feedback informing me that the customers 'were blown away, yet again, by how polite, confident and chatty' our pupils were. The children support all aspects of the event, serving, washing up and even paying the rent for the hire of the hall! Another event where our mission statement and commitment to being a community school is lived out in action. Well done, Class 8!

[S.F. Said and Roving Bookshop Visit](#)

We were thrilled to welcome The Roving Bookshop and author S. F. Said to our school on Tuesday 27th January as part of the National Year of Reading. It was a truly wonderful day.

During the day, each class visited The Roving Bookshop in the Junior Library. The children loved looking at the wide range of books, sharing recommendations and choosing stories to take home. It was fantastic to see so much excitement around reading.

Our KS2 pupils also enjoyed an inspiring talk from S. F. Said. He explained that his books go through many drafts and that he has to keep improving them before they are published. He spoke about not giving up when writing feels difficult and about believing in your ideas. His message linked perfectly to our school values of Bravery and Belief.

After school, many families joined us for book signings, giving children the opportunity to meet the author and have their books signed. It was a brilliant way to end a special day. A big thank you to The Roving Bookshop and to S. F. Said for inspiring our children and helping us celebrate a love of reading together.



FIS Valentine Disco

Yesterday's Valentine Disco, organised by FIS, was a fabulously fun and friendly evening. We loved the music, the moves, the sparkle . . . and the hotdogs! Thank you to everyone who helped put together yet another successful and enjoyable fundraiser – we really do appreciate you.



Little Trooper of the Month



Polly has been honoured by the military charity Little Troopers and has received the Little Trooper of the Month Award for January. Polly has been bravely sharing her experience of living with a medical condition and helping to raise awareness and inspire others. Louise, founder of Little Troopers, said "Showing such incredible resilience and positivity while navigating both medical challenges and military life is truly inspirational. Well done, Polly – you really are amazing." We couldn't agree with Louise more - well done, Polly, everyone at Ilchester is really proud of you. For the full article click the link [Polly is a Little Trooper](#)



Mrs Dickinson – Pastoral Support

As Pastoral Support in school, we have been able embrace Children's Mental Health Week. Research and studies have proven the positive impact that short periods of quiet, distraction-free time starting and ending with a simple breathing technique can have on helping young minds to learn self-regulation and to recognise feelings within themselves.



We have had some very positive feedback from teachers and pupils saying how beneficial this has been in the classroom and I encourage you to try and schedule time for everyone *just to stop* at home, especially as times can be so very busy.

Please see this link [Breathing Exercise](#) for a simple breathing exercise, however there are many others you could find on the internet.

World Book Day takes place on 5th March this year. Please consider a costume swap with friends and/or neighbours. Did you know that Yeovil Library are offering a costume swap this year - and you don't even have to bring one to take one (although they would like you to!). Please have a look at Yeovil Library Facebook Page [Somerset Libraries](#) for further details. This has started already, so pop in over the half term if you can. You could also borrow the book of choice too!

As always, take care. Have a wonderful half term, and who knows, the sunshine might grace us with its presence as we look forward to Spring.

It has been a very busy half term with some fantastic opportunities both in and outside the classroom for the children. I would like to extend my thanks to all our families for their continue support and partnership in ensuring we work together to ensure the children flourish and thrive.

I wish you all a restful half term and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 23rd February**. Hopefully the rain will have dispersed, and the days will be warmer and brighter as we have some brilliant activities planned for the half term ahead.

Yours faithfully
Michelle Mordue
Headteacher



SPRING TERM 2026 - Dates for your diary

16 th - 20 th Feb	Half Term
Monday 23 rd February	World Thinking Day Girlguiding/Scouting uniform may be worn to school Pre-School to Forest School
Tuesday 24 th February	Fire Service Visit KS2
Wednesday 25 th February	Hot Poets Workshops and Performances (UKS2)
Thursday 26 th February	KS2 Dare to Dream Workshops
Monday 2 nd March	Class 11 Curriculum Workshop Pre-School to Forest School Class 3 and Y1 Class 2 to Forest School Cross Country Race Aldon Hill
Tuesday 3 rd March	Class 8 Curriculum Workshop KS1 Dare to Dream Workshops
Wednesday 4 th March	KS2 Eat to Energise Assembly KS1 Eat to Energise Assembly Class 4 to Forest School Class 5 to Forest School Bedtime Stories 5.30-6.15pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day & Tamsin Mori Author Visit
Monday 9 th March	Class 9 Curriculum workshop Pre-School to Forest School Parents' Evening 3.30-7pm
Tuesday 10 th March	KS1 Army Fitness Camp Class 6 to Forest School Class 7 to Forest School Class 10 Curriculum Workshop Parents' Evening 3.30-6pm
Wednesday 11 th March	Class 9 to Forest School Class 8 to Forest School
Thursday 12 th March	Class 6 Curriculum Workshop Author Visit- Emily Lloyd Gale Class 10 to Forest School Class 11 to Forest School
Monday 16 th March	Assessment week Spring Term Years 1-5 Pre-School to Forest School
Tuesday 17 th March	Class 1 Curriculum Workshop Class 2 Curriculum Workshop
Wednesday 18 th March	Class 5 Curriculum Workshop
Thursday 19 th March	Class 3 Curriculum Workshop
Friday 20 th March	Class 4 Curriculum Workshop Red Nose Day 2026 Height & Weight Checks Year R & 6

Monday 23 rd March	Pre-School to Forest School
	Class 3 and Y1 Class 2 to Forest School
	Assessment Week Spring (2) Year 6 only
	Cross Country Race Yeovil Rec Ground
	Stanchester Year 7s to visit Year 6 pupils
Wednesday 25 th March	Class 7 Coffee Morning Town Hall
	Class 4 to Forest School
	Class 5 to Forest School
Wednesday 25 th March	Stanchester WOW Day Year 5s
Friday 3 rd – Friday 17 th April	Bank Holiday & Easter Holiday

COMMUNITY EVENTS

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/send-events/>

<https://ramalife.co.uk/holidayclub/>

<https://www.westlandseyovil.co.uk/whats-on/all-shows/free-winter-playdays-yeovil-2026/10133>

Robin Hood

& the Babes in the Wood

The Pantomime

Somerton Parish Rooms
Fri 13th - Sat 21st Feb 2026
Evening & matinee shows
with new tiered seating!

Tickets on sale now

Available via QR code or visit

www.seaty.co.uk/sdsrobinhood

