



‘Child centred learning in the heart of the community’

19th June 2026

Dear Parents and Family Members,

As we approach the final four weeks of the academic year, we reflect on what has been a truly fantastic year filled with learning, growth and many memorable moments across our school community. This half term our focus value is Bravery, with pupils exploring what it means to push ourselves, overcome fears and challenge ourselves to do hard things, while always remembering that it is okay to ask for help when we need it. This important message has been a key theme in our Monday assemblies, where children have been thoughtfully considering how bravery can be shown in everyday learning and life.

It has also been wonderful to welcome parents and family members into school recently, including for our exciting Sports Day, where the parents’ races were a particular highlight and thoroughly enjoyed by all. In addition, our parental workshops have been very well attended across the school, and we are extremely grateful for the engagement and support shown by our families. These events are a powerful reminder that school and home are a partnership, and we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping your child flourish.

Bernie Green OBE

We are delighted to celebrate the recognition of our Trust CEO, Bernie Green, in this year’s King’s Honours List for services to education a truly well-deserved achievement. Bernie has been instrumental in shaping education for children across Somerset for over 40 years, demonstrating unwavering dedication and passion throughout her career. Ten years ago, she founded what was then a single school academy, which has since grown into a thriving Multi-Academy Trust of 15 schools.

At the heart of Bernie's leadership is a clear commitment to maintaining each school's individual identity while championing the importance of community. Her message has always been simple yet powerful: we believe that every child can achieve, and we must do everything to ensure every child thrives. The children remain at the centre of all that we do living out the mission ***'To be the best we can be'***.

Under her guidance, PPAT is the 6th highest performing Primary Trust out of 1151 nationally for academic success, an achievement built not just on outcomes, but on a deep commitment to educating the whole child through strong relationships and diverse, meaningful enrichment.

We are incredibly proud to be part of this journey and to have Bernie as our mentor and leader. In true reflection of her character, she has been very humble about this honour and has chosen to accept it on behalf of the many colleagues she has worked alongside over the past four decades. This is a moment we are proud to celebrate together.



Early Years

What a wonderful few weeks Pre-School have had! The younger children in the Puddleducks and Nutkins have been exploring different habitats through lots of explorative play, dance and movement and listening and sounds. This has enabled them to become fully immersed in the environment they are learning about. Of course, there has also been lots of pretend-play of tall giraffes, waddling penguins and snuggling kittens. The children have been so lucky to help care for the Pre-School guinea pig, but they also helped to rescue a hedgehog and met Class 2's chicks.

Our Tiggywinkles are beginning to think more about the up-and-coming transition to school and what that means to them, with visits from teachers and story time in Class 1 and 2 as well as an absolutely fantastic sports day where they all got to experience a real taste of what to expect at school. This has linked nicely with

learning about those who can help us in our community, such as our new teachers, firemen and Rev. Bruce to name a few. This week, the children had a lovely visit from Rev. Bruce and learnt all about his role with in Ilchester, the children had lots of questions and are looking forward to more visitors very soon.



Class 1

In Class 1, we have been busy learning about all things living and growing. Not only is our growing garden in bloom, but we have watched our very own chicks incubate and hatch and have been on a wonderful trip to Gore Farm!

We started our adventure to Gore Farm on the coach, and when we got there we had our snack and learnt about some of the different animals on the farm. We visited sheep, turkeys, hens, pigs and calves. The lambs were so soft, and the pigs loved being given a good scratch! We fed the hungry hens some grass. We held baby chicks, and some bigger ones that were about three weeks old. The difference was amazing! We had our lunch, and then it was time for a tractor ride! We hopped into the trailer and went down to the pond, where we did some pond dipping. We found lots of beasties and creepy crawlies!

We had a wonderful time and thank you to our parent volunteers for coming with us!



Class 2

As usual, we have had a busy few weeks, particularly these last two! We have enjoyed a wide range of hands-on experiences with animals, both in school with our chicks hatching and on our school trip.

This week, the children have been able to observe the chicks hatching and watch them grow into very noisy, fluffy chicks. The children have all had the chance to cuddle them and gently stroke the tops of their heads. The class also helped to give them names: Oakley, Lily and Chicky.

On our trip, the children had the opportunity to experience an even wider variety of animals, including calves, lambs, pigs, turkeys, chickens and ducks. They were able to get up close to the animals and handle some of them carefully whilst feeding some of the others. In the afternoon, the children went on a tractor and trailer ride to the pond dipping and found a froglet, newtlet, freshwater shrimps, water boatman and lots of other creatures in the pond. We had the best day out!

Thank you to everyone who came to support the children at Sports Day and to those who were brave enough to take part in the grown-ups' race. The children had a fantastic time, and they were all thrilled with their achievements.



Class 3

Over the past couple of weeks, Class 3 has been very busy, as always! In English, the children have been working on a new text, *Please Mr. Magic Fish*. It is based on an old Brothers Grimm fairytale of *The Fisherman's Wife*. The children have enjoyed the repetitive nature of the story and noticed interesting patterns emerging subtly within the story language and illustrations. They have worked hard on adding interest to their writing by using wow words and adjectives, such as 'delicate', 'astounding' or 'shimmering'! Next week the children will begin writing their own version of the story using some beautiful story language.

Miss Bush worked with each child on their phonics screening and was incredibly proud of them! They are once again learning new alternative spellings in phonics, and their spellings will be getting trickier!

In Maths, the children have been multiplying and dividing, using objects and amounts, grouping and sharing equally. They moved on to developing the understanding that there is a link between the operations, that division is the inverse of multiplication. They have enjoyed challenging themselves to find links within numbers to 50 and are learning how to find 'the important information' in worded number problems.

The children finished their Art unit by creating their own piece of art inspired by Brianna McCarthy. They cut, glued, layered many different types of papers to compose wonderful collages of their own 'Paper Queen'. They are currently all on display in the classroom and look amazing!



The children were very lucky to be visited by a member of the RSPCA who talked to the children all about her role and the role of others looking after sick and injured animals, specifically hedgehogs. By the end of the session, the children were all hedgehog experts and had the opportunity to make their own little hoglet out of clay and spaghetti! They also had a visit from Better Planet Education which linked to our Geography unit on the Arctic and Antarctic.

In other news! Ilchester's Got Talent auditions and final took place and the children represented themselves and their classes amazingly. They sat through a long but very entertaining afternoon supporting each other and cheering friends on. We had our sports day too, which was really good fun, and it was lovely to see so many parents joining us to watch and cheer. Thank you to those parents who bravely decided to race for the entertainment of the children!

Class 4

In Maths, we have been consolidating the four operations and have been using them to solve problems. We have also looked at fractions, finding $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ of an amount as well as shapes.

In English, we have been working on our comprehension skills in reading and answering questions about a text. We have also been learning about homophones, words that sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings, such as blue and blew.

In Science, we are doing our second topic looking at animals. We had a super visit from the RSPCA who taught us all about hedgehogs. This week, we were looking at animal diets and classifying animals into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Next week we will be looking at food chains.

In Art, we completed our collage unit on Brianna McCarthy with the children all creating their own versions of a facial collage. We absolutely loved this topic and held a mini art exhibition in our classroom.



We enjoyed a great trip to Forest School and spent time hunting for minibeasts, seeing how many different things we could find, which also linked to our Science topic.



During the first week of this half term Class 4 had the opportunity to host the local community coffee morning at the town hall. Thank you to everyone who was able

to support us by donating cakes or prizes. Ten children went to the town hall, and they took on all the roles from selling refreshments, raffle and tombola tickets, lucky squares and, of course, washing up and clearing away. I was so proud of how the children conducted themselves and many people commented and praised them for how polite and helpful they were. They represented our school perfectly.

We raised an amazing £225.55 profit which will go to support the school with enrichment activities.

Well done, everyone and a huge thank you to Julie Stapleton at the Town Hall for allowing us to host.

Class 5

The children in Class 5 have made me exceptionally proud this week by doing a brilliant job of completing their Key Stage 1 assessments in English and Maths and I would like to start by saying a huge 'well done' to all of them!

In Science, we have begun a new unit of learning about 'animals' and have been classifying animals into different groups. In order to learn more about insects and their habitat we went to visit the Forest School Site where the children had great fun identifying woodlice, beetles, spiders and butterflies.

We were very fortunate to have a visitor from Better Planet Education to introduce our new Geography unit of work which is a study of the Arctic and Antarctic. We used maps and globes to identify these areas, label them on maps and learnt the names of the five oceans. This week, the children have been very excited to research these extreme environments and have compared them to the UK including comparing average daylight hours and temperatures. They have really enjoyed learning about the animals that live there and loved the videos of the penguins playing and sliding on the ice!

Last week, we finished our study of the artist Brianna McCarthy which ended with the children creating their own portraits in the style of the artist using collage. They applied their learning about our big ideas in art: line, colour, shape and texture to build up layers and create some wonderful pieces of art. They enjoyed sharing their artwork in a mini exhibition with children from other classes.

We all had a great time at Sports Day last week. Thank you to the parents that attended and joined in the fun!



Class 6

Class 6 has had a fantastic first three weeks of this half term. In English, we've started reading our new class book, *The Hodgeheg* by Dick King-Smith, which

the children are already thoroughly enjoying. Inspired by the story, they have been busy writing clear and thoughtful instructions to help hedgehogs cross the road safely, making sure to think carefully about every single step. More recently, we've begun creating newspaper articles all about the exciting "discovery" of zebra crossings. With any luck, our articles might just help a few hedgehogs along the way!

In Maths, the children have shown huge determination and resilience this half term. We've been learning formal methods for multiplication and division, which can feel a little tricky at first. However, despite some initial nerves, the class rose to the challenge brilliantly and have done amazingly well. I am very proud of all of them!

In Science, Class 6 transformed into geologists and explored the fascinating world of rocks. The children carried out a range of practical investigations, testing rocks for durability, buoyancy and permeability. They worked fantastically in their groups, showing great teamwork, curiosity and enthusiasm throughout.

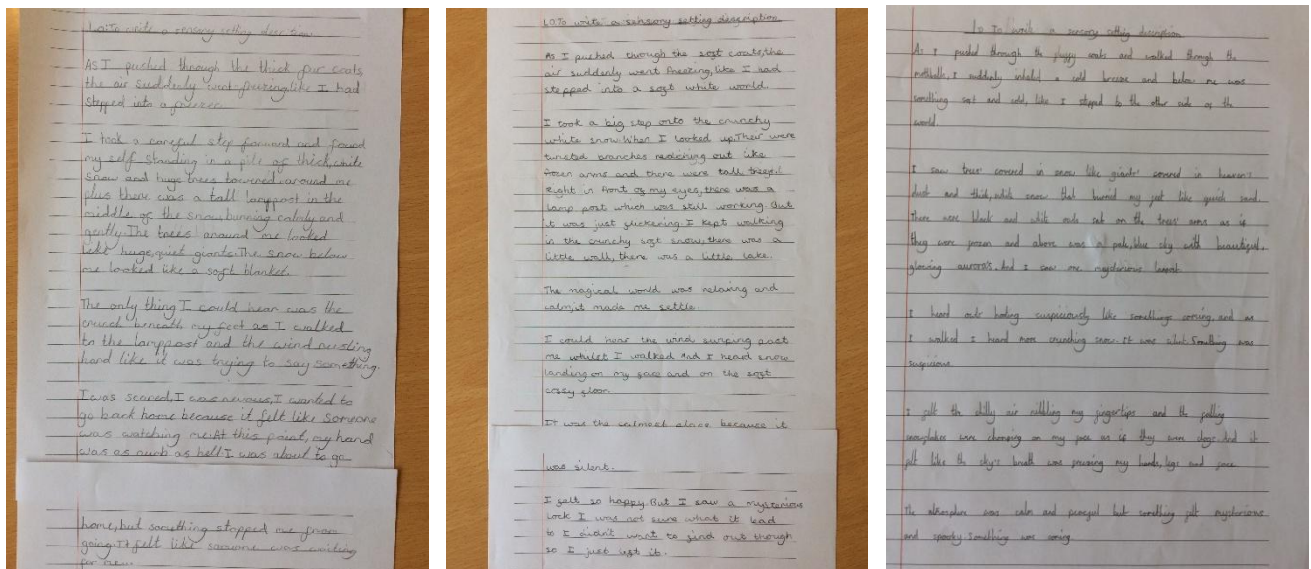
[Class 7](#)

What a busy few weeks it has been since we returned from the half term break. In their English work, the children have based their writing around the text *Fantastically Great Women who made History* by Kate Pankhurst and produced some lovely pieces. They have written an informative biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to gain a medical degree and who then championed the right for everyone to have fair access to medical care and a newspaper report about Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman to launch into space in 1963. In Maths, the class have revisited and extended some areas from earlier in the year; notably interpreting data from line and bar charts, locating position on a grid using co-ordinates and making the link between fractions and decimals. The Geography unit this term is focusing on the tropical rainforest biome and in particular the Amazon rainforest. On Tuesday, we welcomed Peter Littlewood from Better Planet Education into the class to teach the class about the various plants and animals found in the rainforest. On Wednesday, we delved even deeper into the rainforest to explore biodiversity further as we welcomed several of our parents and family members to our family workshop. We explored the biodiversity right here in our school using quadrat sampling techniques to discover what lives around us.



Class 8

Class 8 children have made such a lovely start to our new English unit and have really been swept up in the magic of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. So far, the children have written super setting descriptions of Narnia and have used imaginative similes and personification to bring the snowy world to life.



It is always rewarding as a teacher to be able to look back and see how far the children have come from the start of the year. During the autumn term, some of the children found understanding how the place value of digits gets changed when they are multiplied or divided by ten or a hundred. When revisiting recently, they had gained so much in confidence and in being able to explain what they were doing and why. Hard work certainly pays off! Well done Class 8!

There's a real sense of excitement in the air as we look ahead to our residential at Great Wood Camp next week—we're all really looking forward to it!

Class 9

Summer 2 in Class 9 has been busy from the get-go, starting with Ilchester's Got Talent. In the classroom rounds, we got to hear beautiful singing voices, super sports skills like football and martial arts, as well as natural talent in the arts. As a class, everyone was ready, respectful and safe, where Lilly and Elizabeth were voted to represent our class at the Ilchester's Got Talent Final. Well done to everyone who was brave and took part.

We have also had three workshops! First, we had our RSPCA workshop where children made their own dog and cat treats to support with eating habits. The children recycled materials to create healthy treats for their pets at home. Mr. Tostevin also delivered a thoughtful 'Respect for All' assembly where children explored why we are respectful, the impact of being respectful and the different types of respect (or disrespect). This was followed by a class workshop where children extended on that information to make it personal to themselves. Finally, we had our parent foundation workshop in Geography, making a start with our home learning projects of exploring and researching a Commonwealth country. I am excited to see what is produced as a result.

Sports Day was a great day, and all the children should be proud of their participation on the day. Everyone tried their best and got involved with all the activities, earning valuable points for their team. Everyone worked together as a team, showing great sportsmanship. More about sports day will also be in the sports day section of the newsletter. The children have also received two countries in a class sweepstake for the World Cup, and we have been following and tracking every morning. Good luck!

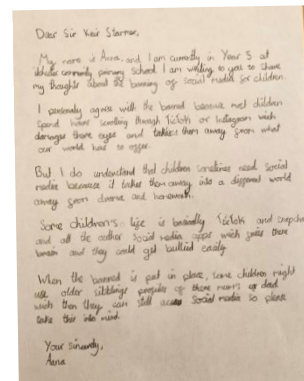
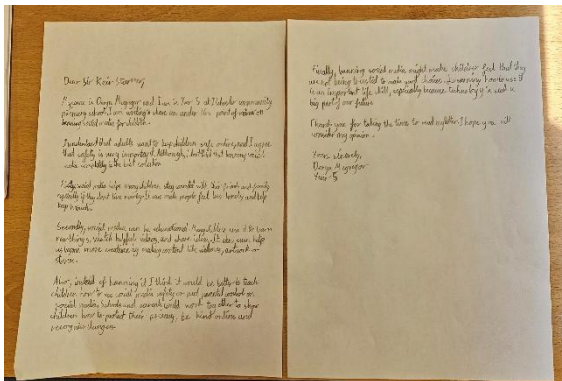
Class 10

We have had a busy three weeks in Class 10. We have completed our entries for the Exeter Maths School Competition. The children were tasked with creating eye-catching and engaging posters that explored polygons. All the entries have now been sent, and we look forward to hearing back from them.

In our English lessons, we have been exploring the text *Escape to the River Sea*. The children have been creating some excellent descriptive writing, fully immersing themselves in the Amazon Rainforest. However, this took a slight turn on Monday when Sir Keir Starmer announced a proposed social media ban for under 16s. Class 10 felt very passionately about this, and as a result, they have written some highly persuasive letters arguing why social media should be reinstated for under

16s. These have been sent to Number 10 Downing Street, and we are looking forward to any responses.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Curriculum Workshop on Thursday – we spent the session exploring our Geography unit 'The Commonwealth of Nations', children spent the session exploring and researching a country in the Commonwealth. We are hoping to continue these workshops next academic year.



Class 11

Class 11 have made a fantastic start to their final half term at primary school and have been working incredibly hard.

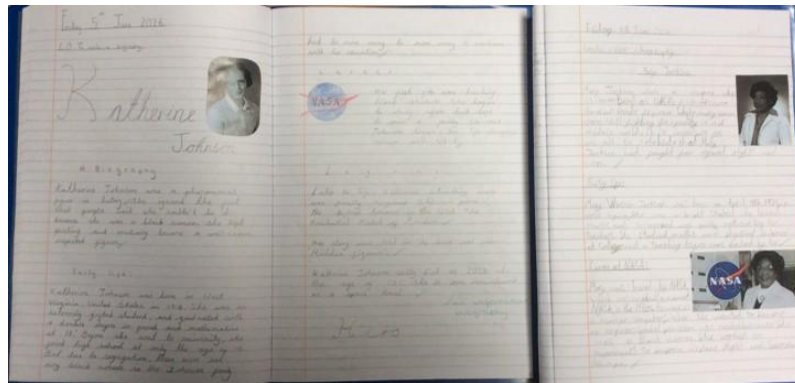
In English, we have been reading *Hidden Figures*, the inspiring true story of three African-American women at NASA whose mathematical brilliance played a pivotal role in the Space Race. The children have enjoyed learning about the achievements of Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan, and have written some excellent biographies. This week, we have also begun reading *The Final Year* by Matt Goodfellow, a moving and thought-provoking novel about a ten-year-old boy preparing for the transition to secondary school.

In Science, we have been learning about plants and their life cycles. We have explored how plants grow and reproduce, and next week we will be investigating the different parts of a flower and the important role each part plays.

The children have also been busy preparing for several exciting end-of-year events. The children have been developing their entrepreneurial skills through the Fiver Challenge and have enjoyed working together to plan and promote their business ideas. We have also begun rehearsing for our Year 6 production, *Gigglebox*, learning songs, practising lines, and building confidence on stage.

Thank you to all the family members who attended the geography curriculum workshop this week – it was lovely to see you all working together to learn about our current geography topic of the Commonwealth.

We are looking forward to the rest of an exciting and memorable final half term together.



Online Safety



As you will be aware the UK government has announced plans to ban social media for under 16s. Alongside this, certain harmful features on other online services like livestreaming and strangers contacting children will be restricted for under 18s.

The information below is taken from www.gov.uk/government/publications/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online

1. Why are these changes being made?

The government ran a national consultation from March to May 2026, one of the largest engagement exercises undertaken by this government. The results showed overwhelming public demand for action, with 9 in 10 parents backing a social media ban for under-16s, and two-thirds of young people agreeing under-16s should not be allowed to use at least some social media platforms. These changes reset the rules so that children are protected from the platforms and online features that create the most harm.

2. What is changing and what's banned?

We plan to use the same model for a social media ban as Australia. Their model included platforms like Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook and X. We do not intend for messaging services like WhatsApp and Signal to be included in the social media ban. High-risk features including livestreaming and strangers being able to contact children will also be restricted for under-16s on other online services like gaming. This will be backed up by stronger requirements for age checks on platforms.

3. When is this changing?

The first set of Regulations will be laid before the end of the year, and the changes should be implemented in Spring 2027.

4. Who will it affect?

Children and young people under 16. Crucially they will still be able to access the online world safely for learning, news, games and staying in touch with known friends and family on messaging services. 16- and 17-year-olds will still be able to access social media, but live streaming, and stranger communication including in gaming, will be switched off by default for these ages.

5. How will children be impacted?

From Spring 2027, under-16s will no longer be able to use certain social media. Children will still be able to go online safely, for learning, news, games and staying in touch with friends and family. This is about reducing harm, improving wellbeing and giving young people more time for a healthier childhood.

6. What do I need to do now?

Parents and children do not need to do anything right now. We will provide further detail to families and children ahead of the changes in 2027.

Forest School

Our Key Stage 1 children have been making the most of our Forest School Site this week to support their learning about 'animals' in an exciting, hands-on way. Through carefully supervised 'mini-beast hunts', pupils have explored the natural environment, searching for and identifying a variety of insects that live in our Forest School habitat. They have learned to recognise features of common creatures such as beetles, spiders, and woodlice, while developing important observation skills. These outdoor sessions not only deepen their understanding of habitats and living things but also encourage curiosity, teamwork, and respect for the natural world.



PPAT Conference and 10 Year Celebration



We are proud to be celebrating 10 years of PPAT and reflecting on what this has meant for our school. Although we formally joined the Trust a year ago, we have been working collaboratively with PPAT for the past two years, and the impact has been significant. During this time, our standards have risen, and the opportunities available to our children have grown enormously. There has never been so much going on; our enrichment offer is rich, varied and truly enhances the children's experience.

A real strength of being part of PPAT is the shared expertise across schools. Our teachers and wider staff team have benefited from ongoing collaboration, developing their skills and knowledge in a supportive and forward-thinking network. It is equally rewarding that we can now contribute, supporting other schools and paying forward the support we have received something we feel genuinely privileged to do.

We recently marked this special anniversary at the annual PPAT conference, held at Manor Court Primary in Chard, centred around the theme of equality and diversity. It was a humbling experience to hear members of the community speak about the strong sense of belonging they feel, and how they have been warmly embraced by the school community. The cohesion between Manor Court and its community was clear to see, reminding us all of the vital role schools play in bringing people together.

Sports Day

Last Friday, the school held its annual sports day and great fun was had by all. Many parents attended both events to support their children, and it was a lovely atmosphere of friendly yet strong competition. In the morning, the Infant children and Rising 5s held their event and were ably supported and encouraged by the Year 6 children. All of the pupils tried their very best in the multitude of races on offer and came away with their faces covered with big smiles and their t-shirts covered in stickers.

In the afternoon, it was the turn of Key Stage 2 to hold their event. Friendly rivalry between the houses had been building for several days and it resulted in a great afternoon of athletic competition that didn't disappoint. The afternoon culminated in the parents' races and the keenly awaited staff race. Amid great cheering, Miss Raison pipped the defending champion Mr Bowles to the post.

The final house standings were what everyone was really waiting for, however. Would Dragon retain their title? After the results were counted, Dragon had indeed won the Sports Cup for 2026, beating Unicorn into second place by twelve points. Well done, Dragon.

Sports day 2026 final standings:

1st place Dragon 110 points

2nd place Unicorn 98 points

3rd place Griffin 96 points

4th place Wyvern 90 points



Swimming

This year, each Junior class has in turn participated in a five-week sequence of swimming lessons at the nearby Huish Secondary School pool in Langport as part of their curriculum PE provision. Under the expert guidance of Mrs Iffy and Saffron, all the children really enjoyed themselves, tried really hard and made super progress with this important, potentially life-saving skill. Whether they were complete beginners who had barely put a toe in the water or those who have swum regularly for some time, they should be proud of themselves. Lessons will continue as this year when we return to school in September.

Uniform Reminder

A gentle reminder to parents and carers that children should only come to school wearing their PE kit and trainers on their designated class PE days. On all other

days, children are expected to wear full school uniform, including school shoes rather than trainers.

We have also noticed an increase in children wearing football shirts and football style shorts as part of their PE kit. Please remember that these items are not part of our school PE uniform. Children should wear the school's approved PE kit to ensure consistency and to support a smart and inclusive appearance across the school.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain our high standards of presentation and ensuring that all children are dressed appropriately for both learning and physical activity.

[MHST](#)

We are delighted to announce that our school has been selected to become a Mental Health Support Team (MHST) school. This is a significant and exciting development that will further strengthen the support we provide for the emotional wellbeing and mental health of our pupils. Through our partnership with the MHST, we will have access to specialist professionals who can work alongside school staff to provide early intervention and targeted support for children experiencing mild to moderate emotional or mental health difficulties.

Parents and carers will benefit from workshops, information sessions and practical guidance on supporting their children's wellbeing, helping to strengthen the vital partnership between home and school. The staff team will receive enhanced training and expert advice, enabling us to continue developing a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

As an MHST school, we will also be able to access evidence-based programmes and resources that promote resourcefulness, positive mental health and emotional literacy across our school community. We are incredibly excited about the opportunities this brings and the positive difference it will make for our pupils, families and staff as we continue to ensure that every child feels supported, valued and able to thrive.

Click for the [MHST Webinar booklet Summer 2026](#)



Stranger Danger

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of regularly discussing personal safety and stranger awareness with their children. Recently, we were made aware of an incident in the local area in which an unknown adult approached a group of children and offered them money. This was reported to the relevant authorities and serves as an important reminder for us all to reinforce key safety messages. Please take some time to talk with your child about what they should do if they are approached by someone they do not know, including moving away from the situation, not accepting gifts or money, and seeking help immediately from a trusted adult.

To support this important learning, we will be welcoming our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) into school to speak with the children about staying safe and making good choices when out in the community. By working together, we can help ensure that all children feel confident, informed and safe.

Safeguarding Update

As ever keeping the children safe remains our highest priority. With this in mind, next week the children will complete their NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Assemblies with Mrs Mordue and Mrs King. The assemblies will use age-appropriate materials and will be delivered in separate departments to help children understand:

- How to recognise dangers.
- That they have the right to feel safe at all times.
- How to identify trusted adults they can talk to if they are ever worried.

You can support this messaging at home by facilitating conversations around the assemblies or access further resources, advice, or tips on talking to your child about staying safe, via the NSPCC website.

If you have a concern for a child or young person you can anonymously report via Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

Midsummer Night's Dream

With the natural transition that comes with Summer Term 2, we were once again delighted to be invited to Stanchester Academy. Our Year 5 pupils had the

wonderful opportunity to watch a Key Stage 3 performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, brought to life by their talented drama students in a beautiful outdoor setting.

It was a truly special experience to see so many familiar faces on stage. Several of the performers were former Ilchester pupils, alongside older siblings of children currently in our school. There is something incredibly powerful about seeing our own alumni shine with such confidence and creativity; it offered our pupils a glimpse of what their own futures might hold, and I am sure many could already imagine themselves in those very roles in years to come.

We feel incredibly privileged to have been invited to share in this performance. Opportunities like this highlight the strength and importance of the partnership we have with our secondary schools. These connections help to ensure that transition is not only smooth, but also inspiring, allowing our children to feel excited and reassured about the next stage of their journey.

As always, our pupils represented Ilchester beautifully, demonstrating impeccable behaviour and enthusiasm throughout. It was a joyful and memorable experience, and one that we are very grateful to Stanchester Academy for providing.

IGT

Our recent Ilchester's Got Talent event was a fantastic celebration of the many talents and interests of our pupils. We were treated to a wonderful array of performances, including impressive scooter tricks, tumbling routines, singing, dancing and some truly epic comedians who had the audience laughing throughout. Every child who took part demonstrated our school values of Aspiration, Belief and Bravery, showing great courage as they stepped onto the stage and shared their talents with others.

While the performances themselves were outstanding, perhaps the most heartwarming aspect of the event was the way our pupils encouraged, supported and celebrated one another. The cheers, applause and genuine excitement for their friends' successes were a testament to the kindness of our children and the positive, inclusive culture we are so proud to have at our school.

Following an incredibly difficult judging process whereby all the children voted, our winners have now been announced Marina for her superb baton twirling and Mason and Alexander for their tremendous performance of 'Beat It' and will go on

to represent the school at the Trust-wide PPAT's Got Talent event. We wish them the very best of luck and know they will be wonderful ambassadors for our school. We would like to congratulate all of our amazing children for making the event such a memorable and enjoyable occasion.



New Parents' Evening

This week, we were delighted to welcome our 2026 Reception starter parents to Ilchester Community Primary School. It was a wonderful event, with a great turnout as we welcomed both new families and those already part of our wonderful school community. We are excited to begin this special partnership as your children embark on their very first year of school with us. During the session, we shared a recording of our current Reception children beautifully reciting the poem *Roots and Wings*, which perfectly captured the journey ahead. We cannot wait to see your children's roots grow strong and their wings develop over the coming year! We look forward to welcoming you again at our upcoming stay and play sessions: on Wednesday 24th June and on 1st July, where parents are also invited to attend a school readiness workshop with Mrs Boon and Mrs Dickinson.

Roots and Wings

If I had two wishes, I know what they would be
I'd wish for Roots to cling to, and Wings to set me free;
Roots of inner values, like rings within a tree,
And Wings of independence to seek my destiny.

Roots to hold forever to keep me safe and strong,
To let me know you love me, when I've done something wrong;
To show me by example, and help me learn to choose,
To take those actions every day to win instead of lose.

Just be there when I need you, to tell me it's all right,
To face my fear of falling when I test my wings in flight;
Don't make my life too easy, it's better if I try,
And fall and get back up myself, so I can learn to fly.

If I had two wishes, and the two to make me happy
And they could be granted, by school and family;
I wouldn't ask for money or any shop bought things,
The greatest gifts I'd ask for are simply Roots and Wings



Parent Workshops

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend our recent curriculum workshops across the school. It was wonderful to see so many of you engaging with your children's learning and finding out more about what happens in the classroom.

Across the workshops, we explored a range of subjects, including art and geography and shared some of the approaches and skills your children are developing. We hope you found these sessions informative and helpful in understanding how we teach these areas of the curriculum.

We are pleased to share that we will continue to run curriculum workshops throughout the next academic year. Further dates and details will be confirmed during the autumn term.

600 Years of Kindness

Many of you may not realise that this year marks something very special in Ilchester's history. Nearly 600 years ago, in 1426, a local man called Robert Veel chose to use his wealth to support others in the community. At a time when there was no government support for those who were elderly or unable to work, he founded an Almshouse in Ilchester to care for some of the most vulnerable people in the village. To make sure this support would continue, he also gave land to the charity so that the income from farming could fund it for generations to come.

We are incredibly proud that this legacy still lives on today through the Ilchester Relief in Need and Educational Charity (IRINEC). This charity continues to quietly make a real difference to many of our families, helping with a wide range of needs including educational expenses, university costs, residential trips and other support which helps children in Ilchester to thrive.

In recognition of 600 years of kindness, we will be holding a special celebration day in September. This will be an opportunity for our children to learn about this important part of our local history and to reflect on how small acts of kindness can have a lasting impact.

We are also very grateful to a member of our community who has kindly offered to mark this occasion by purchasing a commemorative pin badge for every child in the school. This is a thoughtful gesture which will help the children feel part of this shared history.

This celebration links closely to one of our core school values: kindness. Robert Veel's story is a powerful reminder that kindness matters, and that the choices we make to support others can echo across centuries. We look forward to celebrating this wonderful legacy together.

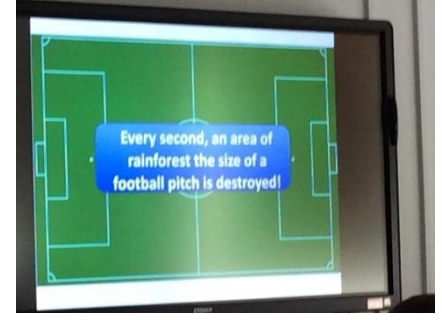
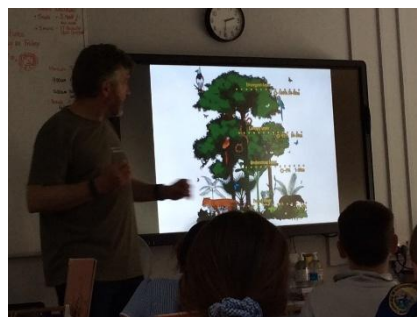
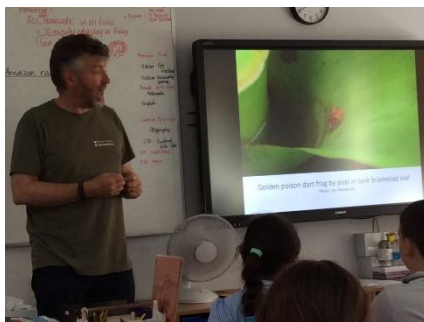


Rainforest Workshop

Years 3 and 4 were delighted to welcome Peter Littlewood from Better Planet Education into school this week, where he shared lots of interesting information

about tropical rainforests. The children learned where tropical rainforests are found and explored the wide range of plants and animals that live there. They were particularly surprised to hear how quickly tropical rainforests are being lost – around an area the size of a football pitch every second – and what this could mean for wildlife and for plants that are used to make medicines. There were thoughtful conversations about the impact humans are having, and the children were keen to hear about simple ways they can help, such as choosing Fairtrade products and being more aware of items that use palm oil.

The visit has really sparked interest in our topic, with the children asking lots of questions and showing great curiosity.



Arctic and Antarctic Workshop

Better Planet Education Peter visited our Key Stage 1 classes to teach us about Geography, focusing on the Arctic and Antarctic environments. He explained how these cold, icy places are home to amazing animals like polar bears in the Arctic and penguins in the Antarctic, and how the climates there are very different from where we live.

Peter also talked about sustainability, helping us understand why it is important to protect these fragile environments by reducing waste, saving energy, and looking after our planet. His visit very informative, and it helped us learn how even small actions can make a big difference to the world.



RSPCA Workshops



Infant Department – KS1 were delighted to recently welcome the RSPCA West Hatch Animal Centre to school.

During the session, the children learned about the importance of caring for local wildlife, with a particular focus on hedgehogs. They explored the challenges hedgehogs face in the wild, including habitat loss and injury, and discovered how the RSPCA rescues, rehabilitates, and releases these animals back into their natural environment.



The workshop was interactive and informative, and the children also learned simple ways they can help protect hedgehogs in their own gardens and local area. It was a fantastic opportunity to promote awareness of wildlife welfare and encourage a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

We are very proud of how engaged and thoughtful the children were throughout the session and hope they have enjoyed sharing their learning with you.

Junior Department - We were also delighted to welcome the RSPCA for an engaging and informative workshop. The children explored how to stay safe around pets and learned about the importance of caring for animals responsibly. As part of the session, the children also enjoyed making their own enrichment toy with treats inside, which they could take home for their own pets or gift to someone in the community. A big thank you to Alex and the RSPCA team for delivering such a fantastic and memorable workshop.



As we head towards the end of the school year, it's a great time to reflect on how far the children have come. We are super proud of their hard work and progress. We are also spending time helping everyone feel ready and confident for their next steps as part of transition.

Thank you so much for all your support; it really does make a difference for the children.

I wish you all a lovely, relaxing weekend!

Yours faithfully

Michelle Mordue

Headteacher



SUMMER TERM 2026 - Dates for your diary

Monday 22 nd June	Year 4 Great Wood Residential Trip. Return Wednesday 24 th June Pre-School to Forest School Class 6 Curriculum Workshop 9am
Wednesday 24 th June	Reception 2026 Stay and Play (with parents) 1530 – 1630 Gifted & Talented Maths Competition (Year 6). Further details to follow.
Thursday 25 th June	Weymouth Beach Day – Classes 3, 4 and 5
Monday 29 th June	Fiver Challenge Week (Year 6). Further details to follow. Year 1 to Forest School
Wednesday 1 st July	Secondary Transition Day Reception 2026 Stay and Play/Readiness Workshop 1530 – 1630
Friday 3 rd July	Pre-School to Forest School 0930
Tuesday 7 th July	Class 6 to Forest School Class 7 to Forest School Year 5's 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 Rising 5s (who are booked into Thursday session only). In school event. PPAT's Got Talent FINALS
Friday 10 th July	Waterfield Way KS1 Movie Night and Sleepover - TBC Pre-School to Forest School 0930
Monday 13 th July	Year 1 to Forest School Pre-School to Forest School UKS2 Production – Evening Performance at 6.00pm
Tuesday 14 th July	UKS2 Production – Matinee Performance at 2.00pm
Wednesday 15 th July	SEND Coffee Morning 0900 – Infant Department
Friday 17 th July	Bouncy Castles at both sites
Monday 20 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 4.30pm – Junior Department – followed by a meal for Year 6 pupils
22.07.26 (Inset Day - School Closed) 23.07.26 School closes for Summer Holidays 07.09.26 School Reopens for all pupils	

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Free swimming lessons

for children and young people of **serving & reservist**
Tri-service families

Scan to find out more
and book, or visit:
swim-free.org.uk



Follow [@SwimFreeCommunity](https://twitter.com/SwimFreeCommunity) for regular news & updates

Please note- this Tri-service offer is only available in Yeovil

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Delivered in partnership with



**ANDREW
SIMPSON
FOUNDATION**

SWIMFREE

swimming skills for life

Family Fun Swim

 **Goldenstones Leisure
Centre**

Saturday 4th July 3–4pm

**A FREE session for the family to jump
in and splash together!**

**Book your spaces now:
swim-free.org.uk**



 **ANDREW
SIMPSON
FOUNDATION**



**GREENWICH
HOSPITAL**

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694



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

LOVINGTON FESTIVAL

19TH SEPT

2PM - 10.30PM

BAR - MUSIC - FOOD - FUN

WWW.LOVINGTONFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Children attending PPAT schools will be free with an adult ticket (it can be one parent and 1+ child). A child's ticket gets a whole host of things included: Potentially - inflatable city, rides, silent disco, karaoke, science show, laser tag, guitar workshop, toddler tent, and more plus loads of entertainment.

Somerset Parent Carer Forum
Community Inclusion & Activity Team

Family Fun Day

Saturday 27th June
10am to 2pm

THE MENDIP SCHOOL, PRESTLEIGH,
EDMUND RACK ROAD,
SHEPTON MALLET, BA4 4FZ

FREE
ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

MEET PROVIDERS AND TRY OUT INCLUSIVE
ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS IN SOMERSET




FOOD STALLS, FACE PAINTING, INFLATABLE
ASSAULT COURSE, SPORTS, LEGO, ARTS &
CRAFTS, ANIMALS, SENSORY
TOYS, BOARD GAMES
AND MUCH MORE!




Somerset Parent Carer Forum C.I.C.



Somerset
Council

 *Ilchester Community Primary School*

WRAPAROUND

 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR



Book the session you need.


No need to block book.

Breakfast - 7.45-8.45am £3.50


After School - 3.15-4.30pm £4.50

- 3.15-5.30pm £8.50

WWW.TLESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK

 *Ilchester Community Primary School*

WRAPAROUND

 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR

*Activities will include some of
the following:*

*Football
Nerf Battles
Science Club
Gymnastics
Archery
Arts and crafts
Netball
Laser Tag
Dodgeball
Multi-sports
Handball*

*Team Games
Cricket
Axe Throwing
Basketball
Athletics
Tennis
Rounders
Building
Yoga
Tournaments*

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