



‘Child centred learning in the heart of the community’

10th July 2026

Dear Parents and Family Members,

As we reach the end of another academic year and share our final newsletter of 2025–2026, I find myself reflecting with immense pride on what has been a truly incredible year for our school community. Together, we have achieved so much, overcome challenges, embraced new opportunities and created countless memories that will stay with our children for years to come.

This term, we have focused on our school value of Bravery, particularly in relation to change and moving on. Last week, the children spent time with their new teachers and classmates, enjoying a morning getting to know one another and beginning to build the relationships that will support them in the year ahead. It was wonderful to see such positivity, excitement and confidence as they took these important next steps.

What a busy week of enrichment we have enjoyed. Our children have represented the school brilliantly at the Music Festival at Westlands, performed at Music on the Mound, showcased their talents at PPAT’s Got Talent and, for our Year 2 children, rounding off the week with a memorable school sleepover this evening. These experiences are such an important part of school life and help create the cultural capital, confidence and lifelong memories that every child deserves.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our incredible staff team, whose dedication, commitment and willingness to go far beyond the expectations of their roles make these opportunities possible. Their passion for providing children with the magic of childhood experiences, alongside an excellent education, is something I am immensely proud of.

Most importantly, I want to thank our children. They have been magnificent throughout the year and continue to embody the values and ethos of our school. They are a credit to themselves, their families and our community, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow, flourish and succeed.

Early Years

The Pre-School children have enjoyed many enriching activities this half term.

The Tiggywinkles have been learning all about who helps us in our community and enjoyed a visit from the local community policing team, Jacob and Owen. The children asked lots of wonderful questions and got to have an insight into what is inside a police car as well as hearing the siren which was very loud! They have also explored some real fire equipment.

Our Nutkins and Puddleducks have enjoyed learning all about different animals and the environments they may live in which was rounded off well with a Bugfest visit for our Nutkins where they got to hold some minibeasts and hear about their clever skills.

We have also continued our weekly Forest School visits when the hot weather has allowed and enjoyed making items such as journey sticks, collecting items that have fallen to showcase our journey through Forest School.

Our Rising 5s also took part in sports day. They worked really hard to practise for this event, and we think they showcased their teamwork and balancing skills fantastically on the day.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to all our Rising 5s who are heading off start school, we wish them all the best in the next step of their adventures.



Class 1

Class 1 has had a fantastic few weeks and the children have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm and hard work.

We have recently completed our end-of-year assessments and were incredibly proud of how well the children approached them, showing just how much progress they have made throughout the year.

In our English learning, we have enjoyed sharing a range of wonderful texts including Errol's Garden, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Yucky Worms. These stories have sparked lots of discussion and inspired some fantastic learning about plants, minibeasts and the natural world around us.

Our topic work has been full of exciting experiences. The children loved taking part in a bubble experiment, making predictions and exploring what helps bubbles to form. We have also been fascinated by observing real-life changes first-hand as we watched both our chicks and caterpillars grow. The children have shown great curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and eagerly checking on the different stages of development each day to fill out their diaries!

Despite the warm weather, the children have remained engaged and enthusiastic, and it has been wonderful to see their excitement!



Our Growing Garden

Over the Summer Term, the Reception children and Mrs Boon's Gardening Club have been busy planting and growing all sorts of fruit, vegetables and herbs as well as a beautiful wildflower garden!

This Tuesday was harvest day, where they worked together to gather up their crops of radish, spinach, spring onions, basil, thyme and rosemary. All of our

strawberries have been nibbled by the slugs!

We trimmed them, washed them, and cut them up so all the children could have a try of the different things.

'Oh. My. Gosh. This is the best morning ever!' Said Marina.

'Ooh the radish are a bit spicy!' Said Jack.

'I'm not sure if I like the spring onions, it's very strong!' Decided Evie.

'I want to try all of them!' Said Otis.

'Most of them taste quite similar.' Noticed Harriet.

'It smells like cooking' said Brody as he sniffed the thyme.

'I have loved watering the plants every day and watching them grow.' Said Bella.

'The flowers are bigger than us now Mrs Boon!' Noticed Zara.

'I think growing is actually really good. I think the gardening club have done a good job.' Said Koda.

'I didn't like the leaves!' Said Eli.



What an incredibly special morning Pre-School, Class One and Class Two had on Thursday!

Linked to our topic of minibeasts and habitats this term, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Nick at Bugfest. We had the most fascinating session with him, where we learnt all about many weird and wonderful mini-beasts. We got to hold millipedes, three varieties of stick insects, cockroaches, and some of the adults were even brave enough to hold a tarantula! We got to meet a deadly centipede too.

Here are some of the interesting facts the children remember...

"The blue death beetle can play dead if it is scared, it never drinks water and it's so strong you can squeeze it and it will be ok."

"The giant millipede had 320 legs and felt sticky."

"If a scorpion has big pincers, it will have a small sting and if it has small pincers it will have a big sting. They are also sick on their food before they eat it!"

It was an amazing hands-on experience for all the children and sparked lots of curiosity and excitement.

The children asked the most interesting questions and so many of them pushed themselves to be brave and have a go, even if they were a little nervous. What an incredible opportunity!





Class 2

It has been another busy (and very hot) couple of weeks in Class 2! The children have worked incredibly hard to continue to follow our school rules and stay calm when we haven't always been able to follow our normal routines.

In English, we have been learning about *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, remembering the sequence of the story and using it to help us spell the days of the week. The children were very excited to be joined by our own caterpillars! We have watched them grow into big caterpillars and very quickly after, they are now in the form of a chrysalis. The children have been keen to have a look each morning at what stage of the life cycle the caterpillars are now on. We are hoping that it won't be long before we see another change!

Our caterpillars, alongside our chicks and Mrs Boon's harvesting, have supported our learning in our topic sessions, which have been focused on 'living and growing'. Thank you for the baby photos that were sent in, the children loved looking at photos of themselves and how they have changed over time. Perhaps you could share photos of yourselves with the children so they can see how you have changed over time too!

The children have also thoroughly enjoyed our regular singing practices over the last couple of weeks. Thank you for attending Music on the Mound to cheer on the children and celebrate their fantastic achievements on a lovely sunny day!

Class 3

Despite the heat, the children in Class 3 have been working their socks off over the last couple of weeks! They were fortunate enough to be in an air-conditioned room but, nevertheless, were very sensible and understanding about the need to remain indoors.

In English, the children finished their work on *Please Mr Magic Fish* by writing the story in their own words. They thought about using 'wow' words and phrases to

make it interesting and fun to read and they were so proud when they completed full pages in their books! Amazing writing! This week they are discovering the features of a book review and will be writing their own.

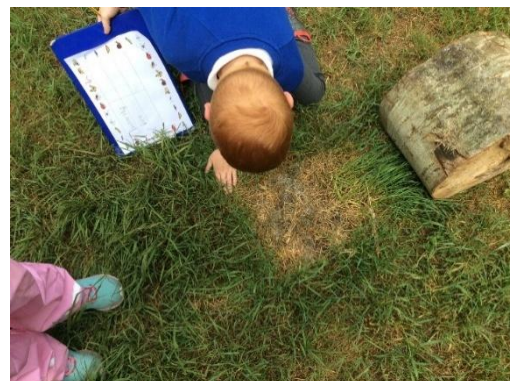
In Maths, the children worked hard on addition and subtraction, particularly problem solving using worded problems which became steadily more challenging. Most of them were able to rise to the challenge and surprised themselves with their abilities! They are now working on position and direction and enjoying the practical side of this learning experience. Left and right still can be confused but they are getting there!

Last week was a very busy week and the children coped remarkably well with all the to-ing and fro-ing! As well as two afternoons dedicated to supporting the Year 6 Fiver challenge (which they absolutely loved!), the children also had their transition morning where they got to go to their new classrooms and meet their new teacher and classmates. Everyone was very excited and the morning was a huge success!

The children also had their assessment week and were just amazing with all the demands for quiet and focus on their papers. Some even cheered knowing they would have another one that day! They had a well-deserved treat on Friday with lots of creative activities for them to enjoy!

In Science, the children are focusing on animals and have been classifying them into six categories: Mammals, Amphibians, Reptiles, Insects, Birds and Fish. They then went on to learn about Carnivores, Herbivores and Omnivores and played a run around game with animal cards! This week, they used Forest School as a perfect opportunity to explore the lives of minibeasts looking at different habitats and spotting as many as they could!

The children are very hot and tired, but we are so proud of how they are continuing to embrace what is in store each school day!





Class 4

In Maths, we have been looking at measures, temperature, mass volume and capacity. We have been reading a range of scales going up in different amounts, so we have been learning to interpret the divisions between the numbers. The children became quite fascinated measuring the temperature and we had to have a daily or even hourly update of temperature during the recent heatwave.

In English, we have been looking at biographies and learning how they are set out. We started off reading a range of biographies about famous people such as Ronaldo, Harry Kane and David Attenborough. We have then used our research skills to find out about Neil Armstrong. The children have been very engaged with their learning and have enjoyed finding out about not only the moon landing but his early life and career. They have used this research to write some wonderful biographies. Well done everybody.

In Geography, we are learning about the Arctic and Antarctic. Again, the children have been fascinated finding out about these polar regions; what it is like there, temperature, daylight hours, weather, human and animal life. Thinking about it being very cold made us a little jealous when we had the hottest weather - although we all agreed we would not like -50 in the Antarctic!

In DT, we have been designing our own cuddly toy fish. The children have made their own templates, cut out the felt and are now starting to join them together using. The children are working really hard on their sewing, not an easy task but they are showing great determination and perseverance. You will be able to see our final product at the end of term.



The children loved spending their pocket money at the Year 6 'Fiver Challenge' stalls. We had a great afternoon, and it was lovely to see the younger children

having fun on the games and being supported by our oldest children. School community in action.

Class 5

As the children in Class 5 took such an interest in Neil Armstrong and the moon landings, we have planned our English lessons based on their interest and have been learning about him through reading a variety of non-fiction texts, listening to radio broadcasts and watching videos. We have researched Neil Armstrong, including his early life and his years spent as a test pilot and have taken notes which the children have used to write some fantastic biographies of their own.

In Maths, we have been learning about measure including length, mass and capacity and reading scales with different increments. We have also been solving problems involving measuring and comparing amounts. For example, if beaker A contains 65ml of water and beaker B contains 25ml of water how much water is there in total? How much more water is there in beaker A than in beaker B?

As part of our learning in DT we are focusing on textiles this half term and the children are designing and making their own cuddly toy fish! They have designed their fish, experimented with different ways to join fabrics and been busy learning how to thread a needle and to sew using basic stitches.

In Science we have been continuing to learn about animals and the animal kingdom and carried out a survey of different types of insects that live in the different micro habitats around our school.

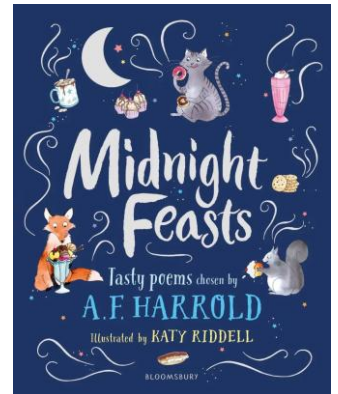




Class 6

Class 6 have been absolutely fantastic over the past few weeks! Despite the hot weather and a very warm classroom, the children have shown great resilience and enthusiasm and have been working really hard.

In English, we have started our final book of the half term, *Midnight Feasts* by A.F. Harrold. We have loved enjoyed reading, evaluating and performing a wide range of poems. From stranded pirates to bizarre shopping lists, the children have explored some wonderfully imaginative poems and even discovered some unusual food combinations along the way - crisps with custard, anyone?



In Maths, we have been focusing on developing our problem-solving skills, tackling a range of multi-step problems. The children have shown excellent perseverance and have worked hard to explain their mathematical thinking.

In Geography, we have continued our learning about the Amazon Rainforest, comparing the incredible biodiversity of the rainforest with that found around our own school environment. The children have enjoyed investigating similarities and differences and thinking about the importance of protecting natural habitats and enjoyed exploring more of our school! A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the parents' workshop. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, and we were incredibly impressed by the fantastic animal fact files that were created.

Class 7

The children have been working really hard over the last few weeks despite the hot weather.

In Maths, we have been looking at measures; particularly money. With so much of our expenditure done digitally these days, understanding and handling 'real money' can be a tricky concept. The children have done well with recognising and counting coins and notes, writing amounts in digital form and converting between pounds and pence.

In English, the children have been busy looking at non-chronological report texts and their associated features in readiness for writing one of their own based upon the Amazon rainforest. This aligns with our work in Geography recently where we have looked at the impact of human activity in the region and the issues around it.

A trip to Forest School on Tuesday was enjoyed by all and gave us an opportunity to continue our look at the biodiversity in our school, following on from the parents' workshop a few weeks ago. The children were amazed at the range of insects and particularly butterflies that were living there. Science work has focused on the study of rocks and recently the class looked at the fossilisation process in sedimentary rocks.

Home learning projects have been arriving in school this week and it is wonderful to see all the children's hard work that they have put in. We had a range of Viking artefacts from an archaeological dig, information texts about exotic Amazonian wildlife and our resident horticulturalist brought in their photo journal of a seed's development.



Class 8

Class 8 children have been working incredibly hard as we make our final push towards the summer holidays. In Science, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about rocks, and it has been wonderful to hear them confidently discussing sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks, using scientific vocabulary to describe their properties and explain how different rocks can be used in everyday life.



In Geography, our rainforest topic has led us to explore biodiversity closer to home, and the children loved investigating the plants and insects living in different areas of our Forest School. We were amazed by the variety of butterfly species found in the longer grass areas and concluded that the butterflies were particularly attracted to the nettles growing there.

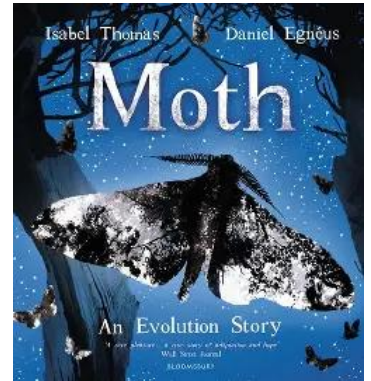
We also had a fantastic time on our recent residential to Great Wood. The children embraced new experiences, challenged themselves, and showed outstanding teamwork. Many special memories were made, and I could not be prouder of the resilience, enthusiasm and support they showed one another. Super teamwork, Year 4!



Class 9

As always, Class 9 have been working hard in the summer heat, showing resilience and perseverance with everything they do.

In English, children published their lovely haiku poems based on Isabel Thomas' *Moth: An Evolution Story* picture book, which will be on display around the school. A haiku consists of 3 lines, following a syllable scheme of 5-7-5. It was fantastic to see them create traditional haikus about nature, as well as an additional haiku about a subject of their choice. This has ranged from chocolate to the World Cup – showing great creativity and individual interest. If you would like to explore more from Isabel Thomas, her website (<https://isabelthomas.co.uk/>) has fantastic resources linked to *Moth: An Evolution Story* and other titles.



The children were also very excited this half term to engage with all the year 6 activities such as the Fiver Challenge where they were able to purchase several items and goodies to support their friends. The sugar rush from ice cream, cakes and even boba was undoubtedly felt in the classroom! We are also looking forward to watching their final production next week. We also had our final Forest School session of the year where we had a thorough exploration of the newly cut area, enabling them to explore hidden dens, trees and pathways. At the end, we played tag and traditional campfire games (without the fire), celebrating teamwork and togetherness. Every morning, we have also been watching the World Cup highlights to determine our class sweepstake winner. Whilst most of the children are eager England fans, we still have several wanting their sweepstake teams to win. May the best country win!

We are all looking forward to the final few weeks of school where we still have a lot planned! Rest well and see everyone on Monday.

Class 10

We recently received our replies from our pen pals from North Cadbury Primary School – the children were very happy to receive their letters, and we have sent off our final replies for them to receive just before the summer holidays. A huge thank to you all the Year 5/6 children from North Cadbury who have written to us throughout this year – we have loved it!

Staying on the theme of letter writing, the children also took part in a special letter-writing activity, creating messages of support for the England football team. As part of the “Cheer on Your Football Heroes” campaign, children were encouraged to write kind words, draw pictures and share messages of encouragement to show they are behind their teams. The children loved doing this!

The children had a great final Forest School session – the children were able to work together to create some nature-inspired artwork and finished the session by creating some impressive dens.



Class 11

It's been a very busy time for Class 11, and the children are enjoying their final weeks of primary school. One major event has been the Fiver Challenge, where the children created their own businesses and sold items to raise money for an end of year celebration. They should all be commended for their dedication and enthusiasm during the challenge.

Year 6 enjoyed their final Forest School session of the year, where they worked collaboratively in groups to build dens and explore the natural environment. The children showed great teamwork, creativity and enthusiasm throughout the session. Some pupils also chose to create beautiful nature-inspired artwork using materials they found around them, making the most of the outdoor setting and celebrating the wonders of nature.

Class 11 have thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons this half term and have made excellent progress in the pool. It has been wonderful to see the children embrace this opportunity with such enthusiasm, confidence and positivity. Their determination to develop new skills and challenge themselves has been fantastic, and we are very proud of the progress they have achieved throughout the term.

Finally, the Year 6s have been working incredibly hard to learn their lines and songs for their end of year performance, as well as creating fantastic props to enhance the show. We look forward to sharing the play with you next week! Well done, Class 11, keep up the fantastic enthusiasm and motivation for the last couple of weeks.



Online Safety

As technology continues to play an increasingly important role in children's lives, it is essential that we work together to help them stay safe online. The UK Safer Internet Centre offers a range of free, practical guides for parents and carers, covering topics such as social media, online gaming, screen time, privacy settings, cyberbullying and online scams. The resources provide clear advice and conversation starters to help families navigate the digital world with confidence and support children in developing safe and positive online habits. We encourage all parents to explore these valuable guides and use them to support online safety discussions at home.



Parents & Carers

Advice and top tips on the devices young people are using and the issues they may face.

www.saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers

Fiver Challenge

A huge well done to all of the children who have worked exceptionally hard to prepare and run a fantastic range of stalls. From organising a tombola and creating beautiful henna designs to serving delicious milkshakes and selling homemade cakes, the children have shown great creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout. They have put a tremendous amount of effort into planning, preparing and running their stalls, and we are incredibly proud of the responsibility and enterprise skills they have demonstrated. We hope everyone enjoyed supporting their hard work!



Curriculum Workshops

A huge thank you to all the parents who have joined us for our curriculum workshops this year. It has been great to see so many of you getting involved and showing an interest in your children's learning. The feedback we've received has been incredibly positive, and we're delighted that the sessions have been so well received. We're looking forward to running the workshops again next year, with dates to be confirmed in the autumn term. Thank you for your continued support!

Year 4 Residential Trip to Great Wood

A few weeks ago, our Year 4 children set off on their residential adventure. This year, the children ventured onto the Quantocks for the first time and the fabulous setting of Greatwood Camp where they were to spend the next three days having fun, learning new skills and challenging themselves across a range of different activities.

After settling into their cabins, the children excitedly got stuck into their first activities. A refreshing paddle in the shaded stream for duck racing and dam building was very welcome on such a hot day. We certainly have some budding civil engineers amongst us. After a delicious dinner, and the most breathtaking thunderstorm, the children used their detective skills to complete the jumbles challenge, seeking out and decoding a series of clues to reveal a series of woodland inhabitants. A great night's sleep was then had by all after a very busy day.

The next day, the children rotated through a variety of fun activities; including archery, the low ropes course, the blindfolded nightline trail and followed them up with a refreshing dip in the swimming pool. Despite the hot weather, the children remained in good spirits; persevering with the different challenges and supporting each other throughout the day. In the evening, we were entertained around the campfire by Patrick, one of the camp staff, who led a hilarious rendition of stories, games and songs. I shall never think of a banana in the same way again!

On the final morning, a series of water-based challenges and team games kept the group cool while the camp was packed up in preparation for the trip home. The children were incredible with their perseverance and resilience, in the face of some very warm weather, as they kept going right until the end. They created some wonderful memories over the three days, and their smiling faces being one of them. They are a credit to themselves, the school and to yourselves.



Forest School

Year Three had a brilliant afternoon down at our Forest School Site this week, making nature crowns to celebrate the arrival of summer. The children explored the space, gathering fallen leaves, long grasses and bright petals, then carefully weaving and sticking them into their crown bases. It was a joyful, creative session that encouraged teamwork, imagination and a real connection with the outdoors. The field was full of proud smiles as the children wore their finished crowns, enjoying the sunshine and the sense of celebration that comes from creating something beautiful with their own hands.



Music

Year 5 children were invited to sing at the South Somerset Singing Festival along with seven other schools in the local area. The children showed bravery and teamwork, performing 'Thread of Hope' and 'I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free/One' as a school. This was followed by an arrangement of 'Unwritten' and 'In Me I Trust' with all the other schools. We were very impressed with how quickly the children learned their lines, harmonies and cues on the big, professional stage, not to mention the shining lights and a huge audience! They all sang beautifully and should be extremely proud of their achievement. We would like to extend a huge thank you Mrs. Lovett who very kindly volunteered her evening to attend with us, as well as all the parents and family who have supported the children with rehearsing, attending and picking up.



Despite the warm weather leading to a change of venue and a new name, Music Under the Trees (Music on the Mound) was a wonderful celebration of music, talent and togetherness focusing on the theme of 'hope'. Each class gave a fantastic performance of their own song, showcasing their creativity, confidence and enthusiasm. The whole school came together to perform 'I Wish I Knew How

It Would Feel to Be Free/One' and 'Thread of Hope', creating a truly uplifting atmosphere. We were also treated to performances from our 'Ilchester's Got Talent' winners, who wowed the audience with a brilliant rendition of 'Beat It' and an impressive display of majorette skills. Our Country Dancing Club delighted everyone with their performance, and it was wonderful to see parents joining in the fun. The audience also enjoyed beautiful performances from our talented pianists and violinists, while a surprise staff song created a memorable and much-loved moment. Thank you to all the children, staff and families who helped make this such a special event.



Community Cream Tea

As a heartfelt thank you to the many community members who have supported our school coffee mornings at the Town Hall throughout the year, we were delighted to host a special cream tea celebration. The event was a wonderful opportunity for us to come together, enjoy an afternoon of refreshments and recognise the invaluable contribution of those who help make our coffee mornings such a success. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported these events, in particular to **Julie Stapleton** for her dedication, enthusiasm, and ongoing commitment. Her support, along with that of our wider community meant that the money raised this year has exceeded £1000 and this has provided the



children with experiences such as visitors, trips out and new playground equipment.

Visit from County EYFS Lead

We were delighted to welcome Gilly Notley who is the Early Years Foundation Stage Lead from Somerset Council's Inclusion and Curriculum Team to visit our outdoor learning environment recently. Gilly spent time exploring our outdoor areas and provision and talking with staff about how we use our outdoor space to support children's learning, development and wellbeing.

We are incredibly proud that our outdoor area has been recognised as an example of excellent practice, and Gilly will be using it as a model when recommending settings for other schools to visit. It is a wonderful achievement for the whole team and a lovely recognition of the hard work, creativity and dedication that goes into creating such a rich learning environment for our children.

We are thrilled that our provision has been acknowledged in this way and look forward to continuing to share and develop our practice.

Hot Poets Celebration

This week, our year 5 and 6 children took part in the Hot Poets Ignite Online Summer Celebration, joining schools from across the country for a fun-filled virtual event hosted by Michael Rosen and the Hot Poets team! Representing our school, Paige and Cyrah performed their poem, *Oh Litter, Oh Sea*, as part of the event, where children were able to share their work and listen to poems from other schools. We are incredibly proud of their performance, which impressed Michael Rosen and was praised for its creativity and delivery. The celebration was a fantastic way to end the term, showcasing the poetry and creative writing inspired by the Hot Poets Ignite programme and celebrating the achievements of all the children involved.



Silver Sports Games Award

In recent weeks the school has, rather excitingly, been awarded the School Games Mark Silver Award which is a national award given to schools in England that demonstrate a strong commitment to physical education (PE), school sport, physical activity, and competitive sport.

A school that earns the Silver Award demonstrates that it goes beyond the basic requirements by; increasing participation in sport and physical activity, providing opportunities for competitive sport and promoting inclusive activities for all pupils, including those with SEND.

Receiving a Silver School Games Mark is a positive achievement because it highlights our school values perfectly, most notably equity of opportunity for all.



RHS School Award

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that our school has been awarded Level 1 of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) School Gardening Awards. This achievement recognises the enthusiasm, hard work and commitment shown by our pupils in developing their gardening knowledge and caring for our outdoor spaces.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Bleasby and Miss Frost, whose dedication and passion have inspired so many children to develop a love of the outdoors. Through Gardening Club, pupils have enjoyed learning new skills, nurturing plants from seed to harvest, and growing an impressive range of produce. Their encouragement has helped create a thriving gardening environment where children can learn, explore and develop a deeper appreciation of nature.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and look forward to continuing our gardening journey together. Well done to everyone involved! 🌱 🥕 🌻 🍓

TLE Wraparound Care

We are pleased to remind parents that the TLE wraparound care booking system is now live, and places for September can be booked from now.

This exciting new provision will be based on our infant site (in the new hut), offering families convenient access to high-quality before and after-school care and activities. We are looking forward to welcoming TLE and seeing our children benefit from the opportunities and experiences they provide.

Please note that TLE Sports Coaching is an independent provider and manages its own wraparound care service, including bookings, administration and day-to-day operation. Should you require any further information about the provision, booking arrangements or availability, please contact Julie Stapleton or TLE Sports Coaching directly.

We are delighted that this provision will be available on site and look forward to working alongside TLE Sports Coaching to support our families from September.

Fond Farewells

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to share some staffing updates and thank those who will be leaving us.

Mr RQ and Miss Ryan will be leaving us at the end of the year. We thank them both for their dedication and support of our children over the past year and wish them every success in the future.

Today, Mrs Goodwin begins her maternity leave. We send her our very best wishes as she prepares to welcome her new arrival and look forward to hearing her happy news.

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Iffy as she returns to Greece with her family. We would like to thank her for the care, dedication and support she has shown to our children during her time with us. She has made a positive difference to many young lives, and we wish her and her family every happiness and success for the future.

We will also be saying goodbye to Miss Stone, who kindly agreed to support our school this year. We are very grateful for all she has contributed during her time with us. Miss Stone will be returning to supply teaching to spend more time with her own children, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Finally, Miss Raison will be leaving us after completing her first year of teaching. She will be joining another local school, and we thank her for all she has given our children through both learning and enrichment opportunities. We wish her every success in the next stage of her career.

Stranger Danger Workshops

We were pleased to welcome our local PCSO and his police colleague into school to deliver an engaging and informative Stranger Danger workshop for all pupils. Through age-appropriate discussions and practical scenarios, the children learned how to recognise unsafe situations, respond confidently if they feel worried, and identify trusted adults who can help them. The session reinforced important messages around personal safety, helping our children to develop the knowledge, confidence and bravery to make safe choices both in school and in the wider community.

PPAT's Got Talent

What a fantastic evening we had at this year's PPAT's Got Talent! It was a wonderful celebration of the incredible talents across our Trust, and we couldn't have been prouder of the five amazing acts who represented our school.

A huge well done to:

- Marina for her fantastic majorette routine
- Brooke for her beautiful singing
- Grace for her impressive gymnastics and tumbling
- Henry for his exciting scooter tricks
- Mason and Alexander for their wonderful singing performance

Each and every one of our performers represented our school brilliantly, sharing their talents with confidence, enthusiasm and big smiles. We are delighted that Marina was awarded 1st Place in the KS1 Performance category, and Brooke received the Runner-Up Award for Singing a fantastic achievement for them both. I couldn't be prouder of all of our performers. Not only did they amaze us with their talents, but they also had the courage to stand on stage, be wholeheartedly themselves and embrace every moment of the experience. Watching them support one another, enjoy the evening and shine in their own unique ways was truly special.

To make the evening even more memorable, we were absolutely thrilled to be announced as the overall winners of the competition! The trophy will take pride of

place in our school over the coming year, and we know it will remind us all of what can be achieved through courage, hard work and a willingness to give something a go.

It was also wonderful to see so many schools from across the Trust taking part. The evening was a real celebration of the amazing talents, creativity and confidence of our children, and we are so lucky to be part of such a talented and supportive Trust community. Well done to everyone who took part.



[Darrell Wakelam Strikes Again!](#)

We were thrilled to welcome Darrell Wakelam back to school for two fantastic days of creativity. Children worked alongside Darrell to design and create updated House shields for our House competitions, exploring a range of artistic techniques and media throughout the project.

The children fully embraced the experience and thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in art. Darrell commented that our pupils made him emotional as they spoke about how art and creative experiences make them feel. He said it is rare to visit a school where children feel confident to share their feelings so openly, without fear of being judged.

We are incredibly proud of the creativity, honesty and enthusiasm shown by all the children, and the new House shields are a wonderful reflection of their hard work.



Waterfield Way



What a year we have had following the 'Waterfield Way'. The 'Waterfield Way' is a selection of opportunities (one per half term in each year group) that we consider all children should experience before they leave Primary education, enrichment opportunities, key skills and community opportunities across the school. Some are experiences, life skills, chances to work collaboratively, support our community and some may solely be opportunities to 'simply have fun'!

We have certainly had fun! From splashing in muddy puddles in Pre-School to incubating chicks in Reception, to the movie night and Y2 sleepover in KS1, to the great conker fight in LKS2 to the final water fight in UKS2! It has been great to see the children involved in all the activities and creating memories.

Children have been taking part in the activities and have been having their 'Waterfield Way' passports stamped. If your child is at the end of a phase (Year 2, 4 or 6) they will bring their passports home, the rest will be passed up with the children to continue with Year B!

(This is what we have coming up in Year B)

EYFS - Preschool	
<u>Aut 1</u>	Make a leaf rubbing Build a den
<u>Aut 2</u>	Splash in muddy puddles Sing a song on a stage
<u>Spr 1</u>	Junk modelling Make a stick puppet
<u>Spr 2</u>	Make pancakes Go to the park
<u>Sum 1</u>	Hatch butterflies Grow something from seed
<u>Sum 2</u>	Bounce on a bouncy castle Have your face painted

EYFS - Reception	
<u>Aut 1</u>	Ride a balance bike Bake bread
<u>Aut 2</u>	Carve a pumpkin Make a Christmas decoration
<u>Spr 1</u>	Learn to play a board game Post a letter
<u>Spr 2</u>	Take part in a litter pick Pond dipping
<u>Sum 1</u>	Meet a baby animal Hold an insect
<u>Sum 2</u>	Picnic in the park Make a sandwich

KS1 - YEAR B	
<u>Aut 1</u>	Build a campfire Toast marshmallows
<u>Aut 2</u>	Night walk stargazing
<u>Spr 1</u>	Play a game with a person from the community
<u>Spr 2</u>	Art exhibition (whole school) Make a wild crown
<u>Sum 1</u>	What to do in an emergency
<u>Sum 2</u>	Bake bread and make own butter Water fight

Yr 3 / 4 - YEAR B	
<u>Aut 1</u>	Skip with a rope
<u>Aut 2</u>	Create a pizza
<u>Spr 1</u>	Paper aeroplane competition
<u>Spr 2</u>	Art exhibition (whole school) Arrange a scavenger hunt for younger children
<u>Sum 1</u>	Wacky science challenge
<u>Sum 2</u>	Folding clothes / polish shoes

Yr 5 / 6 - YEAR B	
<u>Aut 1</u>	Cook something from another country
<u>Aut 2</u>	Singing in the community
<u>Spr 1</u>	Theatre Trip
<u>Spr 2</u>	Art exhibition (whole school)
<u>Sum 1</u>	First Aid (CPR)
<u>Sum 2</u>	Tie a tie

Safeguarding

As your child gets older, it's likely that they will want a bit more independence or want to explore alone during the summer holidays, but it can be difficult to decide when it is appropriate to leave them. The NSPCC have a quiz to help you in making these difficult decisions. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/home-alone/>

As ever, please remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Should you have a concern about a child you can contact Somerset Direct anonymously on 0300 123 2224.

As we reach the final full week of the academic year, I would like to thank you for the continued support, trust and encouragement you have shown our school. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important, and by working together we give our children the very best chance to flourish academically, socially and pastorally. The successes we celebrate today are a reflection of what can be achieved when families and school work hand in hand.

I am immensely proud of all that we have accomplished together this year and very much look forward to seeing what comes next for Ilchester Community Primary School. There is so much to be excited about as we continue to grow and develop as a school community.

For now, I wish you all a wonderful summer break with your favourite people having adventures and making memories. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 7th September**, ready for another exciting year of learning, growth and opportunity. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

'We didn't know we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun'

(Winnie-the-Pooh)

Yours faithfully
Michelle Mordue
Headteacher



SUMMER TERM 2026 - Dates for your diary

Monday 13 th July	UKS2 Production – Evening Performance at 6.00pm
Tuesday 14 th July	UKS2 Production – Matinee Performance at 2.00pm
Wednesday 15 th July	Weymouth Beach Day for Classes 3, 4 and 5
Friday 17 th July	Bouncy Castles at both sites
	Pre-School to Forest School
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 AND INFORMATION



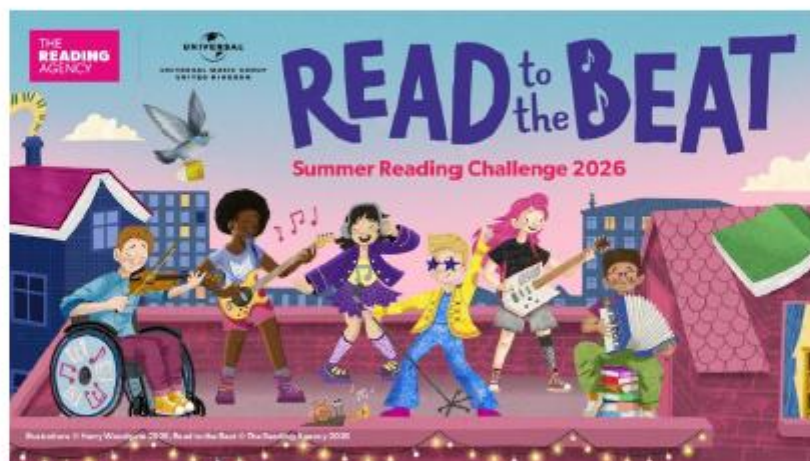
ILCHESTER
PARISH COUNCIL

Ilchester Parish Council currently has vacancies for councillors.

The commitment is only one hour per month, plus the occasional email to read / respond to. If you live or work in Ilchester, please consider the opportunity.

If you would like to join the council, please contact clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk

Are you looking for a free, fun activity to do over the summer holidays?



What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The aim of the Summer Reading Challenge is to encourage children to read for pleasure. The challenge is to read six books over the summer holidays and children can sign up for free at any library in Somerset.

What do I have to do?

1. Visit the library and sign up with your library card – you will receive your free poster pack! If you don't have a library card you can join for free at the same time.
2. Every time you read two books, go back to the library and they will give you two stickers for your poster.
3. After you've read six books, you will receive a certificate and a badge!

When does the challenge run?

This year's challenge runs from Saturday 4th July until Saturday 12th September.

The challenge is completely free and is open to children of all ages.



FREE WEBINARS FOR
PARENTS & CARERS

SURVIVING & THRIVING OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS



WHEN?

10:00-11:30 7th July 2026

18:00-19:30 16th July 2026

13:30-15:00 28th July 2026

REGISTER AT:

canva.link/mhstsummer2026

Type this into your
browser or

SCAN ME!



In this 90 minute workshop hosted by Somerset's
Mental Health Support Team, we will explore...

- ✓ Creating flexible routines and boundaries that actually work during the holidays
- ✓ Why sleep still matters (even without school) and how to keep it on track
- ✓ Simple ways to stay organised, reduce stress, and enjoy more quality time together
- ✓ Fun activities, local support, and what's happening for families across Somerset



M H S T
Mental Health Support Team



FREE WEBINARS FOR
PARENTS & CARERS

BOOSTING SELF-ESTEEM & RESILIENCE

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO
THRIVE



In this 90 minute workshop hosted by Somerset's Mental Health Support Team, we will explore...

- ✓ The everyday moments that build confidence and emotional strength
- ✓ Simple ways to encourage your child's strengths, talents and interests
- ✓ Helping children overcome negative self-talk and build a positive mindset
- ✓ Friendships and feelings: supporting your child to navigate relationships with confidence and resilience



WHEN?

13:00-14:30 30th July 2026

9:30-11:00 5th August 2026

18:00-19:30 13th August 2026

REGISTER AT:

canva.link/mhstsummer2026

Type this into your
browser or

SCAN ME!



M H S T

SOMERSET'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

FREE WEBINARS FOR
PARENTS & CARERS

BACK TO SCHOOL:

SUPPORTING YOUR
NEURODIVERGENT
CHILD



In this 90 minute workshop hosted by Somerset's
Mental Health Support Team, we will explore...

- ✓ Why it is more challenging for neurodivergent young people to return to school
- ✓ How misunderstanding of needs can impact mental wellbeing now and in the future
- ✓ A range of tools to help your child's return to school
- ✓ Where and how to get more support if needed



WHEN?

9:30-11:00 18th August 2026

18:00-19:30 20th August 2026

14:30-16:00 1st September 2026

REGISTER AT:


canva.link/mhstsummer2026

Type this into your
browser or


SCAN ME!



M H S T
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM
a partnership between Somerset & Taunton Mental Health Trust

 *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*

WWW.TLESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK



July/August/Sept 2026



Somerset Council

Somerset School Nurse Team Newsletter

Welcome to the Somerset School Nurse Team newsletter!

The school nurse team is made up of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses, and Assistant Practitioners. We specialise in promoting the health and wellbeing of children and young people aged 5–19 years and cover primary and secondary schools across Somerset.

This newsletter will be delivered termly, and is intended to keep you up-to-date on all the things we are doing as a service, and will include topics and links relevant to physical and mental health.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful but please do feedback anything you would like to be added.

[Somerset children & young people : Health & Wellbeing : Phn School Nursing](#)



Feedback QR code

Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start school.

How can I help my child get ready?

Who can I speak to for help?

What if my child has additional needs or SEND?

For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>

Are you concerned your child is not yet toilet trained for school?

If so, please see resource below for lots of helpful tips!



The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception

Prior to starting school support can be found from your Health Visitor Team:

Contact the Health Visitor team via their CHAT Health text line - 07480 635514

Helpful Tips for Bedtime

Advice for parents and carers from The Sleep Charity

Establishing routines to improve a getting a good night sleep. It has never been easier to find a good bedtime routine for your child.

Having a good bedtime routine for the night is important for both parents and children. It can help to support your child's sleep and help them to get a good night's sleep.

Here are some helpful tips to create a relaxing bedtime routine for your child:

- A bedtime routine should be established at a regular time and kept consistent. It should be the same every night, even on weekends and holidays.
- Start your bedtime routine 30 minutes before your child goes to bed. This gives you time to get ready for the night and your child time to get ready for bed.
- Use a bedtime routine to help your child get ready for bed. This can include things like reading a book, listening to music, or having a bath.
- Turn off all screens (TV, tablets, phones) at least 30 minutes before bedtime. This helps to reduce the amount of light and noise that can interfere with your child's sleep.
- Make sure your child's bedroom is a comfortable temperature. It should be cool but not too cold.
- Use a white noise machine or fan to help your child fall asleep. This can help to mask any sounds that might wake them up.
- If your child is having trouble falling asleep, try to stay calm. Your child can sense your anxiety and this can make it harder for them to fall asleep.
- If your child is having trouble staying asleep, try to get up and see what the problem is. It could be that they are thirsty, need to go to the toilet, or are too hot or cold.
- If your child is having trouble getting up in the morning, try to establish a consistent wake-up routine. This can include things like having a bath, brushing their teeth, and getting dressed.
- If your child is having trouble with their bedtime routine, try to be consistent. It can take time to establish a good routine, but it is worth the effort.
- If you are having trouble with your child's bedtime routine, try to be patient. It can take time to establish a good routine, but it is worth the effort.

For more info on sleep issues visit...

Home - The Sleep Charity



Click on the link below for FUN ACTIVITY IDEAS..

...to help your child get ready for school!

[Starting-Reception_Activity-ideas-for-parents.pdf](#)



The Sleep Charity is a registered charity. We are proud to be a part of the Somerset Community Foundation.



**Somerset
Council**

ChatHealth

Parent advice & support
Healthy lifestyles
School transitioning
Emotional health

is your child 5-19 and are you looking for confidential help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact your School Nursing Team

Just send a text
07480 635 515

improving LIVES

Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday 9am-5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of a safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may

Get Set for Secondary School

Be Organised
Use your new school's website to research the school layout, what lockers are available and whether water cards are needed in the canteen. Once you have your new timetable, print a copy for home. Get any books or equipment you might need ready the night before to save rushing in the morning.

Own Your Independence
Start showing your independence in the lead up to secondary school by packing your own school bag, laying the table for breakfast or putting dirty clothes in the laundry basket. Being able to rely on yourself is a great skill to have when it comes to starting a new school.

Get Talking
If you're not sure about anything, just ask! The teachers at your new school will all have to help you settle in. Talk to your parents or carer if you are worried or nervous about anything. They will be in your class before and will be able to offer support and advice.

Stay Positive
Embrace the change. Think about all the opportunities ahead of you - new subjects, new teachers, learning new sports and making new friends. Teachers won't expect you to get every answer right in class but they will be impressed with a positive, can-do attitude.

Practise
Before term starts, plan the route you're going to take to get to school. Carry out some practice runs, especially during the times when you would normally be travelling to and from school. Arrange to meet a friend at the entrance on the first day so you can walk in together.

Be a Good Friend
Be kind and helpful to others, even if you don't know them that well. Showing kindness and support to someone else might help boost their confidence as well as make you feel good too. Showing empathy and understanding is a great way to start building up positive friendships.

Look After Yourself
Eat healthily and get plenty of sleep. Look after your physical and mental health. Find time to relax after school by doing things you enjoy - take a walk in the park, meet up with a friend, listen to some music. Being able to 'switch off' may make you feel more relaxed and energised the next day as a result.

Be Yourself
There is no one else in the world like you. Don't try to be someone you are not. People will like you for who you are. Believe in yourself - you've got this!

SCREEN SMART

www.localparenttools.co.uk

GUIDE YOUR CHILD, PROTECT THEIR FUTURE.

WHY IT MATTERS
Too much screen time can affect sleep, focus, mood, creativity, and real-life connections.

RECOMMENDED LIMITS (AGE-DEPENDENT)
Under 2 years: Avoid screens (except video calls)
2 to 5 years: Max 1 hour/day of quality content
6+ years: Consider limit with balance

SET HEALTHY HABITS
Create screen-free zones (kitchen, bedrooms)
Watch and use content together
Set time limits and stick to them
Encourage outdoor play, books & hobbies

SIGNS OF TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME
Irritable or moody
Trouble sleeping
Poor focus or loss of interest
Difficulty stopping or meltdowns
Withdrawn from family & friends

TIPS THAT WORK
Be consistent
Use screen time as a reward
Lead your own screen time
Interact & engage
Talk & Listen
Phone Good Choices

SCREEN TIME CHECKLIST
Do we have screen-free times and zones?
Is the content age-appropriate and meaningful?
Are we talking to our child about screen time?
Do we talk about when they watch or play?
Do we have family time together?

WHAT KIDS NEED MOST
BE HEARD
BE PRESENT
CONNECTED
BE ACTIVE
BE YOU

SCREENS ARE TOOLS. YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S GUIDE.
DIGITAL BALANCE. DIGGING CONNECTION.

YOU'VE GOT THIS!
Small steps. Big impact.

Somerset School Nurse Team Contact Details:

Email: schoolnurseduty@somerset.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 790 9854

Did you know constipation can be a common cause of bedwetting?

Constipation can go unnoticed except for the bedwetting, so **ALWAYS** check the bowel out first.

A full bowel can put pressure on the bladder which can then cause bedwetting.

Your child should be passing at least 4 soft stools a week, anything less could indicate constipation and need treatment.

POO CHECKER
What's your poo telling you?

Advice for children with constipation - ERIC

eric
The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity

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.

BINGO

COURT ROOM , TOWN HALL , ILCHESTER



Wednesday 15TH JULY 2026

Doors open 6.30pm Eyes Down 7pm

8 games – flyer – Raffle



*This will be a fortnightly event
is to raise further monies for a
Defibrillator for the Wessex Scout Hall at The Mead.*





ILCHESTER PLAY PATCH



A FRIENDLY PARENT & TODDLER GROUP



EXCITING NEWS!

Ilchester Play Patch now has a brand new Facebook page!



FOLLOW OUR PAGE

Stay up to date with all the latest:

- News and updates
- Events and activities
- Group announcements
- Important information



LOTS MORE COMING SOON

We have plenty more to share and will be posting further details very soon. Keep an eye on our page for upcoming announcements and updates.



HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Every follow, like and share helps us reach more local families and build a supportive community for parents, carers and little ones.



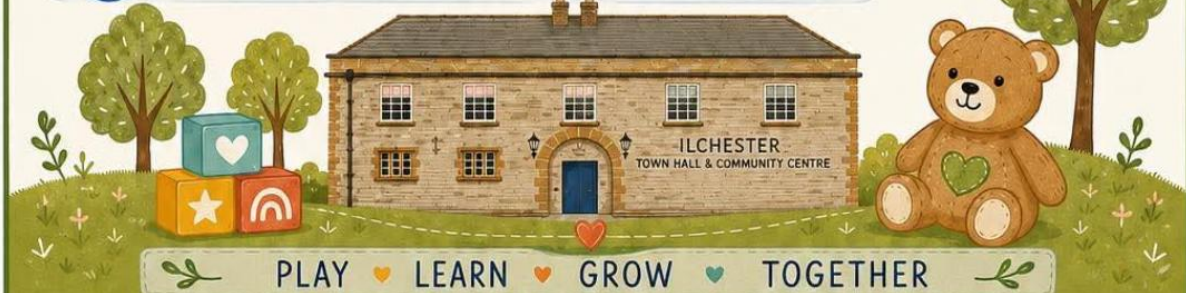
WATCH THIS SPACE!

More information will be coming soon.

Niamh



Follow us on Facebook for all the latest updates!



PLAY ♥ LEARN ♥ GROW ♥ TOGETHER



Ilchester Community Fete

In and around Ilchester Town Hall

Saturday 18th July

12pm - 3pm



Stalls
Games
Refreshments
Raffle
Tombola

Don't miss the Flower, Craft and Produce Show!!

Judging to take place Friday 17th July eve