



February Newsletter 2026

Attendance - our school expectations

Pupil attendance and punctuality is a key focus and priority within our school. Individual attendance will be monitored and reviewed on a bi-weekly basis. We would like to kindly remind parents that the school's expectations on individual pupil attendance is 95% and above, with the aim of having 100% pupil attendance. Should your child fall behind the school's expectations a monitoring process is triggered, and we may ask you to come into school to discuss your child's attendance with us. Should you have any questions or concerns relating to your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact us. Our Somerset Council attendance officer will be coming into school on Wednesday 1st April, where they will be looking at attendance for all pupils below the expected 95%.

Cross Country Running

On a cold, wet and muddy February afternoon, a team of 13 runners took part in the cross country event at Bucklers Mead Academy. All the children excelled and showed resilience and great sportsmanship. Special mention to Millie-Rose who managed to come in 10th, competing against county runners and the Year 2/3 boys team who came 6th.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everybody. In terms of keeping children safe, please don't think 'What if I am wrong Think... 'What if I am right'. If you have any concerns about a pupil, you should report this to a member of staff immediately. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Cawley and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Firth. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Ryall.

Wet and cold weather

Should the school need to close for any reason, please look out for notifications on the school website and messages via the MCAS app.

More Writing Success

Congratulations to Bodhi, Declan, Flynn, Kayley, Keeleigh, Junior and Oliver from Oak Class who all get their stories published in a special book. They were winners in the Young Writers National competition.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

Children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Children should be able to explain the story that their character appears in. Reading is such an important part of children's development. We will be giving every child a free book on World Book Day. Please encourage your child to read it, or even better, read the book together.

Book Club

In addition to the free books for World Book Day we are sending home a Scholastic Book Club brochure where the children can buy books. Each child will get a £1 book token which can be used towards any purchase. Deadline for orders will be Friday 6th March.

Online Safety News

The PlayStation Family App came out in Sept 2025, and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's Gaming experience. Features include Manage playtime, activity report, visibility into what children are playing, approving playtime requests. You can find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more. Please find more information at: [Announcing PlayStation Family App for parental controls and family management – PlayStation.Blog](#)

Ofsted Parent view

Parent view is a way in which Ofsted surveys the parents of children within a school to find out their views of the school and how it can be improved further. These opinions become part of the overall judgment of the school. If you would like to pass on your opinions to Ofsted, please complete the survey on the parent view website. The website can be found at: [Welcome to Ofsted Parent View | Ofsted Parent View](#)

School Car Park

Please can we ask parents not to use the staff car park for dropping off or collecting children. Recently we have had staff and visitors unable to park in the staff car park, which upsets local residents, as staff and visitors end up congesting the road for hours at a time, as they are unable to access the car park when they arrive.

Reading expectations

At Barwick and Stoford Community Primary School, we seek to ensure that children are supported to be confident, life-long learners with a love of reading. Reading plays an especially important role in developing children culturally, emotionally and socially and we believe literature plays a key role in such development. Reading enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and build on what they already know. In school children in KS2 are heard reading on a 1:1 basis at least once a week by their class teacher and Learning Support staff and this is much more frequently in Foundation Stage and KS1. Those pupils not at an expected reading level are heard daily.



The EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading books follow a clear progression of banding, ensuring fluency is developed. This academic year, you may find your child has a book sent home that they have already read at school, and this is something that is now promoted in all schools. The more a child reads, the larger their vocabulary becomes. When a child reads or hears the same book multiple times, they become familiar and comfortable with a greater number of words. Fluency is the ability to read text “accurately, quickly, and with expression.” Repetitive reading allows a child to read without stumbling or stopping, and reading time becomes more pleasant for everyone. Once a child masters one book, it makes moving on to another more appealing.

Reading comprehension is the ability to understand all the components of a story — from plot to character development to symbolism. Comprehension is “the essence” of reading. Each

time your child reads or hears a book read to them; they learn more about the story itself. Each pass through the text or illustrations allows them to dive deeper into the story's meaning, preparing them for more complex narratives down the road. Children who progress from the banded scheme to 'free readers' are able to access the class library, and the school library, and can be supported to select appropriate books by staff. Pupils are encouraged to take home fiction and non-fiction texts.

Children are expected to read at home five times a week, ideally daily, as this helps to develop confident and fluent readers. We would recommend 20 minutes of reading a day.

Children's reading logs are checked to ensure this is taking place. Where children are not reading the required amount at home, they are invited to attend a lunchtime reading club.

Disco

Thank you to all the staff and parents who helped and supported the Valentines Disco. The children had a fun evening and we were able to raise funds for the school.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week has had a focus on children's mental health and the children have enjoyed some special assemblies from the charity Place2B. The children have been learning about ways to support their wellbeing.

We have some very interesting career assemblies coming up this term.

Dates for the calendar – more dates will be added as we finalise further activities!

Friday 13 th February -	Last day in school before the half term holiday
14 th to 22 nd February -	Half term holiday
Tuesday 24 th February -	Parent Information Meeting about the Residential – 3.15pm
Monday 2 nd March -	Cross Country Aldon Hill – Open to children in Years 2 to 6
Thursday 5 th March -	World Book Day – Dress up as your favourite character
Tuesday 10 th March -	Heights & Weights for Reception and Year 6 Children
Tuesday 10 th March -	Revd. Dan Assembly
11 th , 12 th and 13 th March -	Residential for Sycamore Class
16 th to 20 th March -	Science Week
Monday 16 th March -	Leonardo Science Workshop
Tuesday 17 th March -	Wessex Water Educational Workshop
Thursday 19 th March -	Preschool to attend the community Coffee Morning
Friday 20 th March -	Science Fair – From 2pm - All parents, carers and grandparents welcome
Monday 23 rd March -	Cross Country at Yeovil Recreation Ground – Open to children in Years 2 to 6
Tuesday 24 th March -	Trip to Cheddar Gorge (Oak pupils) to learn about rivers, mountains, erosion and rocks and soils and Wells (Chestnut pupils) learning about local landmarks.
Thursday 26 th March -	Assembly taken by Dan England
Thursday 2 nd April -	Last day in school before the Easter Holiday. 9.30am Easter Service and end of term awards in Church – everyone welcome.
	Easter Holiday
Monday 20 th April -	Children return to school
Tuesday 5 th May -	Revd. Dan assembly
Monday 11 th May to Friday 15 th May -	Key Stage 2 SATS

Thursday 21 st May -	Community Coffee Morning – Reception children
Thursday 21 st May -	Assembly taken by Dan England
Monday 25 th to 31 st May -	Half term holiday
Monday 1 st June -	Inset Day
2nd to 5 th June -	Arts Week
Tuesday 2 nd June -	Local Artist, Kate Lynch, working with Oak and Sycamore
	Classes doing a charcoal workshop
Friday 5 th June -	Art Exhibition – All parents, carers and grandparents welcome
Thursday 18 th June -	Community Coffee Morning – Year 1 pupils
Tuesday 30 th June -	Assembly taken by Dan England
29 th June to 3 rd July -	Healthy Living Week
Wednesday 1 st July -	Workshop with the school nurse
Thursday 2 nd July -	Dental nurse workshop
Thursday 2 nd July -	Sports Day
Thursday 2 nd July -	Preston Transition Day for Year 6
Thursday 16 th July -	Community Coffee Morning – Year 2
Tuesday 21 st July -	Last day of term