



## March 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 1<sup>st</sup> April, where they will be looking at attendance for all pupils below the expected 95%.

### **Ofsted**

Last week two inspectors visited our school to carry out an Ofsted inspection. The school is not allowed to share the results of the inspection until the final report is published, which will be in the summer term. However, to give you a flavour of the likely outcomes, we will have areas to improve and successes to celebrate, so we expect a spiky profile. Verbally, the inspectors commented on the children's good behaviour and how much the children enjoy coming to school. They were impressed with the range of extra-curricular activities including trips, clubs and other opportunities beyond the classroom. Thank you to all the parents who kindly spoke to the inspectors or completed the online parent view. Thank you to the wonderful children who shone and the staff and governors who always work so hard, but the especially long hours last week.

### **Competition from Barwick and Stoford Parish Council**

The children are invited to Design a picture or pattern to be painted onto the tyre planters in the park. Letters have gone home with all the children.

#### **How to enter:**

Draw your design on a sheet of A4 paper  
Make it bold, colourful and eye-catching  
Write your full name and age clearly on your entry  
Hand your entry into the school office by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The winning artwork will be painted onto the real tyre planters in the park for everyone to enjoy.

**Thank you to Beckie Kilburn from Barwick and Stoford Parish Council for sharing the competition during an assembly last week.**

### **Please join us for the Science Fair on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Parents, Grandparents, governors and friends of the school are invited to come into school from 2.15pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to see what the children have been learning in their science. Children will need to stay on their science stations until at least 3pm. **We encourage our visitors to go around all the classes, not just to your own child's science experiment.** Some parents are unable to attend, so if visitors could go around all the rooms then all the children get to show off their learning and it makes it a more inclusive event.

### **Red Nose Day – ALSO FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

The Junior Governors invite children to come to school in their own clothes in return for a donation to the Red Nose Day charity, which supports children. They can embrace the theme by wearing something red. The Junior Governors also have a limited supply of red noses to sell, which will be available during next week.

### **World Book Day**

Despite our important visitors, we still managed to thoroughly enjoy World Book Day. The sharing of books and love of reading was a joy to be part of.



### **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.

### **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.

### **Careers Week**

The older children enjoyed a number of workshops and assemblies to introduce them to a range of careers from more traditional jobs to working in the environment and more unusual occupations.

### **Congratulations**



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March Millie-Rose Travers took part in the SW Schools Competition, Tumbling Category and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Millie-Rose will now be representing our School at the National Finals on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026. Well done Millie-Rose we are all very proud of you.

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

11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> March -	Residential for Sycamore Class
16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> March -	Science Week
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March -	Leonardo Science Workshop
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March -	Wessex Water Educational Workshop
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March -	Preschool to attend the community Coffee Morning
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March -	Science Fair – From 2:15pm - All parents, carers, governors and grandparents welcome
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March -	Cross Country at Yeovil Recreation Ground – Open to children in Years 2 to 6
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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.
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March -	Movie Night – 5pm to 7pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March -	Assembly taken by Dan England
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March -	Wear Green Eco Day - £1 donation towards improving the school environment.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April -	Last day in school before the Easter Holiday. 9.30am Easter Service and end of term awards in Church – everyone welcome.
	<b>Easter Holiday</b>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April -	Children return to school
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May -	Rev. Dan assembly
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May -	Key Stage 2 SATS
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May -	Community Coffee Morning – Reception children
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May -	Assembly taken by Dan England
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May -	<b>Half term holiday</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June -	Inset Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> June -	Arts Week
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June -	Local Artist, Kate Lynch, working with Oak and Sycamore Classes doing a charcoal workshop
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June -	Art Exhibition – All parents, carers and grandparents welcome
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June -	Community Coffee Morning – Year 1 pupils
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June -	Assembly taken by Dan England
29 <sup>th</sup> June to 3 <sup>rd</sup> July -	Healthy Living Week
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July -	Workshop with the school nurse
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July -	Dental nurse workshop
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July -	Sports Day
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July -	Preston Transition Day for Year 6
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July -	Community Coffee Morning – Year 2
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July -	Last day of term