

Friday 17th October 2025

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

The pupils of St John's started the week with a bang with an African Drumming Workshop! We were lucky enough to have received a grant from the Blackdown Community Choir, who were performing at last year's Christmas Light Switch On event. They were impressed with our school choir and contacted us to support the school. Each class enjoyed a workshop and then got together for a final assembly which was absolutely fantastic. Many of the children were dancing their way out of the assembly feeling the rhythm.

Year 5 have enjoyed a lantern workshop this week, with their work going to be part of the Garden of Light Festival on the 25th October. It was a wonderful day where the pupils thoroughly enjoyed working together to make their lanterns. Hopefully families can make their way to the event to see the finished work.

A letter will be sent out soon regarding the multiple events the choir will be performing in this Christmas. They are becoming very popular in the community with many requests for their attendance, which is a massive compliment to their good work and that of Miss Wordley and Mrs Cook. I am delighted as well that some children are taking up the option of the training with the Wellington Silver Band. It is a wonderful opportunity and will build on their efforts in Year 4. Music is thriving at St John's!

Kind Regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Attenborough - Tudor

Mandela - Margot

McCartney - Lordina

Simmonds - Tony

Hawking - Whole Class

Pankhurst—Isabel E

Rashford - Heather

Medal - Dexter

Attendance

Good attendance means...
being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



Safeguarding/Well being:

There have been a number of examples shared with the school where individual children are being named and discussed as part of parent WhatsApp groups and on social media. The school asks individuals to avoid this on the grounds of safeguarding and also to show empathy - all parents would be really hurt to hear that their own children are being discussed by others. If there are concerns then the school needs to be notified.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST ANDREW

Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival celebration in St John's Church at 1.30pm on Thursday 23rd October. We will once again be collecting for the Taunton Foodbank.

Each complete foodbank box contains items which are designed to fit together to provide 3 days nutritionally balanced meals. The items they are currently most in need of are:

- Pasta Sauces
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Meals (Meat & Vegetarian)
- Cup a Soup
- Savoury Snacks

Any other items can also be donated, please ensure they are unused and in date, thank you.

Dropping off and picking up children

Can we remind you once again that under no circumstances should you drive in to the school grounds at the beginning and end of the day to drop of or collect you child.

Also, when picking up or dropping off children at school:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or accessways.
- Do not pull up onto pavements as this will obstruct pedestrians.
- Do not pull up in the bus stop opposite the school.

This is for the safety of everyone.

Wellington Garden of Light

The Wellington Garden of Light festival, celebrating art and nature, will be held in Wellington Park from 6.30-9.00pm on Saturday 25th October.

This will include fire and light performances, music, dance, film projections and a light sculpture trail. Hawking Class have been busy making lanterns for the light trail.

Upcoming events:

23rd October	School photos
23rd October 1.30	Harvest Festival Service in Church
27th-31st October	Half Term
10th November	Parent Consultations-not Attenborough
11th November	Parent Consultations-all classes
12th November	Parent Consultations-Attenborough only
10th December	Christmas Lunch
18th December 1.30	Christmas Service in Church
19th December	Last day of Autumn Term
5th January	First day of Spring Term
16th-20th February	Half Term
26th March 1.30	Easter Service in Church
2nd April	Last day of Spring Term
20th April	First day of Summer Term
25th-29th May	Half Term
9th June	Sports Day
15th July 9.30	Y6 Leaver's Assembly in Church
17th July	Last day of Summer Day
20th-22nd July	School closed for staff training

Term dates and INSET days for the 2025-26 academic year are on the school website under the News and Events tab.



Wellington Garden of Light
Fuse Fire and Light
Saturday October 25th
Wellington Park
6.30pm to 9pm
Celebrating art and nature
Fuse Fire and Light performances,
Aerial Dance, Music, Digital Arts,
Film Projections, Light Sculpture Trail,
Take part in Lantern Workshops.

SAVE THE DATE





**Wellington
Sports Centre
Weds 29 Oct 25
11am - 12.45pm**

Wacky Wednesday Autumnal Extravaganza

Come & join us for our Wacky Wednesday Autumnal Extravaganza.

There will be lots of autumnal themed activities, crafts and refreshments. All for just £1 per person.

Booking is essential, so make sure to check out the WW FB page or scan the QR code to book your tickets!



LiveWest
A home for everyone

**everyone
ACTIVE**

Contact us

If you need any further information

Shona Stone - Community Officer
01934 526358 or 07921 387227
shona.stone@livewest.co.uk

Activity Calendar

Community Inclusion and Activity Team

Half term

Saturday 25-31 October 2025



For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs 'You DO NOT' have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

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ACTIVITY PACKS

Step4ward+4D+growth
Autism activity pack! Activity packs tailored to the group person's interests and abilities including sensory themed crafts and plant your own bulb bits. Hand delivered to door to Step4ward team or sent by Royal Mail. For ages 3-10th birthday. £2 per person.

To order, please contact Deby on 07737 321116 or email: Step4ward+4D+growth@nmail.com

For more inclusive activities, groups and organisations in your area, please visit the Local Offer: www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/send-events/ where you can search by (keyword) or (location).

Key for activities:

- Family Activity - for all members of the family to attend and enjoy
- Child/Young person can attend on their own under group supervision or with parent/carer if additional 1:1 support is required - please call the organisation to have a chat
- Child/young person must attend with a parent or carer
- Staff provided by the organisation to support the child/young person 1:1 if required - please call the organisation to see what they can provide as this may not include personal care
- Some parts of the activity are wheelchair accessible please call the organisation to find out more
- Accessible changing facilities are available please call the venue to find out more
- Activities aimed at young people/teenagers/young adults
- Autism friendly session with staff from the Virtual School (formerly CAOT) available for light support

MONDAY 27th OCT

Purple Elephant Support Group: Making music, videos, Chrome and Clavis, Action Lane, Frome, BA11 1BE.
Family holiday fun activities and a packed lunch. Join us making music videos from 10am. For ages 5-16 yrs. £2 suggested donation.

To book, please email: rebecca.harrison@purpleelephant.org.uk

TUESDAY 28th OCT

Ark at Egwood
Convent, Merton, Somerset, TA5 5DA
Ark Children Experience Day complete of outdoor activities including meeting our animals, accessible games including adventure games and sports, strength circuits, and social story reading materials around a campfire. A busy lunch and refreshments throughout the day are also provided. 10am-2pm. Over 10.00 per person.

To book, please email: Office@arksummers.com or call: 01460 397074

WEDNESDAY 29th OCT

Novo Sports: Bouldering
Try out the climbing wall at Prime Boulder Sharns. Supported by Instructors and Novo staff. 7-9pm. For 7-19 yrs. £20 per person.

To book, please email at: bookings@novosports.org.uk or call: 07606 743453

THURSDAY 30th OCT

Community Inclusion Activity Team: Young Person's Day
Central Arcade, 36-38 East Street, Taunton, TA1 3ES.
Enjoy exclusive use of our 40 machines, retro consoles, pool, shuffleboard, air hockey and more at Central Arcade!
Young people new to our service will need to attend with a parent/carer or if 1:1 support is required. 10-12:30pm. £8 per person.

To book, call 0777 421299 from 10am on Tuesday 7th October.

FRIDAY 31st OCT

Green Gobbling Games Club
Riverside Church, The Exchange, Hamilton Rd, Taunton, TA1 2EG.
Tabletop games including Board Games and D&D Roleplay Games 8-10:30pm. For ages 10+ unless 16+ may attend when accompanied by a parent/carer. £5 entry. Post free. Please contact Mike on 07772 666167 or email: enquiries@gobblinggamesclub.co.uk

SUNDAY 26th OCT

Purple Elephant Support Group: Making music, videos, Chrome and Clavis, Action Lane, Frome, BA11 1BE.
Family holiday fun activities and a packed lunch. Join us making music videos from 10am. For ages 5-16 yrs. £2 suggested donation.

To book, please email: rebecca.harrison@purpleelephant.org.uk

MONDAY 27th OCT

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Mixed Media Art Club. Join us for creative sessions in a beautiful rural setting! Each session includes a calming mindfulness activity followed by mixed media arts and crafts - perfect for children who love to explore their creativity and unwind. Booking essential. All materials provided.

10am-12:30pm Section One
For ages 5-12. Under 5s must attend with a parent/carer or if 1:1 support is needed. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email: hello@rainbowroots.uk

TUESDAY 28th OCT

Novo Sports: Hydrotherapy
Hartley Water, Clevedon School, Frome, BA11 4LB.
Hydrotherapy - Family water sessions in warm water for neurodivergent young people and those with physical disabilities. 10am-12pm. For all ages. £20 per family.

To book, please email at: bookings@novosports.org.uk or call: 07606 743453

WEDNESDAY 29th OCT

The Octagon Theatre & Westlands
Westlands Entertainment Venue, Newc, BA28 2DQ.
Join Bluewater. All Newton as they take you on a journey of discovery and creating online books as your imagination. Has worked on many projects including designing and logo for Job, Call Parent carers are welcome to join to read £20 per person.

10:30am-12pm: Workshop 1
For ages 9-12 yrs. Develop a book character and explore where it lives, narrative mood, its name, best friend, enemy!

1-3:30pm: Workshop 2
For ages 13-16 yrs. Explore different book covers, looking at ways illustrate draw you in to the story before looking at a go at creating your very own book cover. £2 suggested donation per person.

To book, please go to: www.westlandsvenue.co.uk or call: 01753 421264

THURSDAY 30th OCT

Shared Earth Learning
Vale St, Frome, BA11 3JG.
Nature based activities and play incorporating nature-studies, crafts, gardening, games, shelter-building and simple camping cooking. Child led games and activities to enhance environmental awareness and appreciation of the outdoors. 10am-12:30pm. For 5-16th birthday. £12 per person.

To book, please email: sharedearthbookings@gmail.com

FRIDAY 31st OCT

Minehead Eye
Minehead Eye Centre, 1A Main Road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5BL.
Purples will have exclusive access to the whole centre. Including use of the skopark and bookending carts. There will be a sensory area and therapists including kato play, sand tray activity area, emotional health and well-being support and a cafe for parents. 2-4pm. For ages 4+. £1 per family.

To book, please email: reception@minehead-ey.co.uk

THURSDAY 30th OCT

Purple Elephant: Making Spooky Crafts
Trinity Church Hall, Trinity St, Frome, BA11 1BE.
Family holiday fun - activities for the whole family with a free hot meal. 10am-1pm. For all ages. £2 suggested donation per child but free to those on free school meals.

To book, please email: rebecca.harrison@purpleelephant.org.uk

FRIDAY 31st OCT

Novo Sports: Football
Frome Town United, BA11 4LL.
Fun, inclusive football sessions with specialist Novo coaches! New regular club sessions available to join if you enjoy it. 12:30-2pm, 10-11th birthday. £70 per child.

To book, please email: bookings@novosports.org.uk or call: 07606 743453

TUESDAY 28th OCT

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Mixed Media Art Club. Join us for creative sessions in a beautiful rural setting! Each session includes a calming mindfulness activity followed by mixed media arts and crafts - perfect for children who love to explore their creativity and unwind. Booking essential. All materials provided.

10am-12:30pm Section One
For ages 5-12. Under 5s must attend with a parent/carer or if 1:1 support is needed. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email: hello@rainbowroots.uk

WEDNESDAY 29th OCT

Brookdale Academy, Street, BA16 0PR
A variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including arts & crafts, cooking, messy and sensory play, sports and more! There will be themed activities throughout the holiday. All our activities are fully inclusive, allowing us to meet all needs. We are a wheelchair accessible setting with changing facilities. For 4-13 yrs (must be school aged), 9am-3pm, £27pp. For 14-18th birthday, 9am-3pm, £30pp. Wrap around care available from 3-4pm. Cost £45.00pp.

For siblings:
For 4-13 years (must be school aged), 9am-3pm, £24pp. Wrap around care available 3-4pm. Cost £4.50pp.

To book, please email: extendedschools@brookdaleacademy.co.uk or call 01458 443340

THURSDAY 30th OCT

Neroche Woodlanders
Young Wood, Staple Pitzpaine TAS 2AZ.
Join us as we gather around the fire-circle, explore and play games, then walk into the woods. ID trees, birds, leaves and look for animal tracks. Return for a snack/lunch and seasonal craft and play options with child led activities. Purples to bring their own food, and there will be a small carpsic cooking activity followed by coming together for a final circle to review highlights and learning. Hot and cold drinks available. 11am-2pm For 2-10th birthday. £10 per family.

To book, please email: sarah@nerochewoodlanders.org or go to: www.nerochewoodlanders.org or call Sarah Holiday on 07704 060641

For more inclusive activities, groups and organisations in your area, please visit the Local Offer: www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/send-events/ where you can search by (keyword) or (location).

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