

Friday 11th September 2026

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this term, and we are delighted with the positive start they have made. They have settled quickly into their routines and have approached their learning with enthusiasm and maturity. We would also like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of our new pupils and their families. We are very pleased that you have joined our school community and look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Thank you for your support regarding Benedict's Law and for ensuring that the school is informed of any allergies or medical needs your child may have. The safety and wellbeing of all our pupils is of the utmost importance, and your cooperation helps us to maintain a safe environment for everyone. As a reminder, all children will need to have their school meals ordered by parents in advance, or alternatively bring a packed lunch from home each day. Please ensure that lunch arrangements are in place so that there is no uncertainty at mealtimes.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another successful and rewarding year together.

Kind Regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Attenborough - Shindara
Mandela - Sylus
McCartney - Kojo, Arla and Ogomide
Pankhurst - Flo
Simmonds - Freddie S
Rashford - Emelia & James
Medal-Margot, McCartney

Congratulations

Baby news

Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Foster on the birth of their daughter, Primrose.

Wedding news

Congratulations also to Mrs Eddy, now Mrs Eddy-Murray, and Miss Brown, now Mrs Daniels on their summer weddings.

Safeguarding/Well being:

The term is a week old and the school has already had complaints from local residents regarding illegal parking around the school at drop off and pick up times. A reminder to all that illegal parking is a safeguarding matter, due to the potential of this causing an accident, with families unable to see clearly when crossing the road. Please take extra time in the morning to either walk to school or to park safely, even if it is further away from the setting than it had been hoped for. Thank you in advance.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST ANDREWS

Absence Reporting

Whenever your child is absent for any reason, you must let us know. Each day your child is absent please notify us either by leaving a message on the absence phone line, or by calling the school office by 9am. As a school the safeguarding of our students is absolutely paramount. Where students are absent from school we will follow the process below:

Day	School Follow Up
Day 1 of absence	A text message will be sent to you. We may also phone.
Day 2 of absence	A text message will be sent to you. We will also phone.
Day 3 of absence	A text message will be sent to you. A home visit may be made

We understand that sometimes medical appointments are needed during school hours. We encourage you to make appointments out of school hours if at all possible so that this does not impact on your child's attendance. However, if it is unavoidable, please give the school as much notice as possible as to the reason for your child's absence.

If your child is not unwell enough to see a doctor but is feeling under the weather, we encourage you to work with us in trying to get your child into school. Perhaps the administration of paracetamol, antihistamines or throat sweets might help. We do not expect children to attend if they are not medically fit to do so, but by taking this approach we may be able to avoid students having frequent short periods of absence, which can impact heavily on their overall attendance. If there has been vomiting or diarrhea children must be kept home until 48 hours after the last episode.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please ask for an appointment to speak to Mr Priestley, we are happy to help.

Forms sent home this week

There have been a number of forms sent home this week. Thank you to everyone who has already completed and returned them. If you have not already done so can we ask that they are returned by Friday 18th September. It is crucial that all the information we hold about your child is up-to-date.

Upcoming events:

Thursday 22nd October	Photos
Thursday 22nd October 1.30	Harvest Festival in Church
26th-30th October	Half Term
9th-11th November	Parent consultations-information to follow
Friday 30th November	School closed for staff training
Thursday 17th December 1.30	Christmas service in Church
Friday 18th December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 4th January	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 5th January	First day of Spring Term
15th-19th February	Half Term
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day
8th-10th March	Parent consultations-information to follow
18th March 1.30	Easter Service in Church
25th March	Last day of Spring Term
12th April	First day of Summer Term
26th/27 th April	Year 3 and 4 Residential Visit
3 rd May	Bank Holiday
31st May-4th June	Half term
Week beginning 10 th May	Y6 National Tests
8 th June	Sports Day
30th June/1st July	Y6 Transition day to Courtfields
1 st July	Move up day
2 nd July	School closed for staff training
5 th -7 th July	Y5 and 6 Residential Visit
23 rd July	Last day of Summer Term

Term dates and INSET days for the 2026-27 academic year are now on the school website under the News and Events tab.

FREE ✨ Sign • Smile • Connect ✨

Makaton Signing Choir

Join our fun, friendly and inclusive group where we bring music to life through **Makaton signing!**

- ✨ No experience needed
- ✨ Everyone welcome
- ✨ Relaxed, supportive environment
- ✨ Learn new skills & have fun
- ✨ Singing is optional!

WHEN? We meet fortnightly on Mondays from 5.30pm until 7pm. Come for as much of that time as you wish.

WHERE? Wellington Methodist Church hall
45 Waterloo Road, Wellington, TA21 8JQ

COST: Free

Email for more information:
Jennie: makatontutorjennie@gmail.com
Ruth: ruth@irvine.me.uk

For the next choir dates go to:
www.makatontutorjennie.co.uk
(see the 'local events' page)




TUNING INTO KIDS
@
IKB Primary

A **FREE** SIX-SESSION PROGRAMME FOR PARENTS & CARERS

WHEN?
12-2pm
3rd September
10th September
17th September
24th September
1st October
8th October

Would you like to be better at:

- ✓ Talking with your child
- ✓ Understanding your child
- ✓ Helping your child to manage their emotions
- ✓ Teaching your child to deal with conflict

TUNING INTO KIDS SHOWS YOU HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

REGISTER HERE!




FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Hosted by Somerset's Mental Health Support Team

MHST
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

COPING WITH EXAMS:

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

WHEN?
13:00-14:30
19th November 2026

REGISTER AT:
canva.link/mhstautumn2026

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

- ✓ Understand what exam stress can look like and why young people can feel overwhelmed.
- ✓ Learn what children and teenagers really need from parents before, during and after exams.
- ✓ Discover practical ways to reduce pressure and boost confidence, motivation and wellbeing.
- ✓ Take away simple strategies to help your child navigate exams feeling supported and resilient.





SCAN ME

FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Hosted by Somerset's
Mental Health
Support Team



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



WHEN?

18:00-19:30 8th October 2026
13:00-14:30 13th October 2026

REGISTER AT:

[canva.link/
mhstautumn
2026](https://canva.link/mhstautumn2026)

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

- ✓ Learn how positive mental health supports your child's happiness, confidence and success at school and beyond.
- ✓ Recognise the early signs that your child may be struggling and understand how to respond.
- ✓ Discover practical, everyday strategies to support your child's emotional wellbeing at home.
- ✓ Find out where to access help and support for your family when it is needed.



SCAN ME

FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Hosted by Somerset's
Mental Health
Support Team



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S BIG FEELINGS



WHEN?

AN EMOTION COACHING
APPROACH

13:00-14:30 20th October 2026
18:00-19:30 22nd October 2026

REGISTER AT:

[canva.link/
mhstautumn
2026](https://canva.link/mhstautumn2026)

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

- ✓ How to support your child's and teen's emotional resilience in the moment and for the future.
- ✓ Strategies that will help develop emotionally intelligent mindsets for all your family.
- ✓ A range of tools (including Emotion Coaching) to boost your child's, and your own, emotional resilience.



SCAN ME

FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Hosted by Somerset's
Mental Health
Support Team



BOOSTING SELF-ESTEEM & RESILIENCE

HELPING YOUR CHILD
TO THRIVE



WHEN?

13:00-14:30
21st October 2026

REGISTER AT:

[canva.link/
mhstautumn
2026](https://canva.link/mhstautumn2026)

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.



SCAN ME

FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Hosted by Somerset's
Mental Health
Support Team



HELPING YOUR CHILD & TEEN SLEEP:

TOOLS, TIPS &
TECHNIQUES



WHEN?

9:30-11:00 6th November 2026
18:00-19:30 12th November 2026

REGISTER AT:

[canva.link/
mhstautumn
2026](https://canva.link/mhstautumn2026)

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

- ✓ Learn why sleep is so important for wellbeing, mood and learning.
- ✓ Understand common sleep challenges and what gets in the way.
- ✓ Discover simple, evidence-based tips to improve sleep habits.
- ✓ Help your child feel happier, healthier and ready to reach their potential.



SCAN ME