



Dear families,

As we step into October, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on a lovely start to the month and share some exciting updates with you all.

Thank You – Harvest Service & Stay and Read

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Service on Monday. It was wonderful to come together as a school community to celebrate and give thanks. We'd also like to thank those who attended our Stay and Read session this morning – it was a joy to see so many families enjoying books together and supporting reading for pleasure.

PTAF AGM – Looking Ahead

Our PTAF Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday at the Strawberry Special, was both productive and full of promise for the year ahead. We'd like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Jenkinson for his dedicated leadership over the past year, and a warm welcome to Miss Willcox, who has kindly taken on the role of Chair this year. With a calendar of exciting events and initiatives planned, we're all looking forward to supporting the school through community fundraising.

Eco Council in Action

Our **Eco Council** has been busy this week, supporting a special worship focused on the importance of recycling and taking care of our planet. It's inspiring to see our pupils leading the way in environmental awareness.

Pupil Voice Matters

This week also saw some excellent meetings with our various school councils. It's always a pleasure to hear the thoughtful ideas and suggestions from our pupils, and we're excited to see the positive impact they'll continue to make across the school.

My Child At School

Please can we ask that one Parent/Carer has an active account with the app, My Child At School. If you have not been able to set up an account for your child, please pop in and see Mrs Charlton. Thank you for continuing to book 7 days in advance for clubs and for booking lunches by Tuesday for the following week.

Photographs

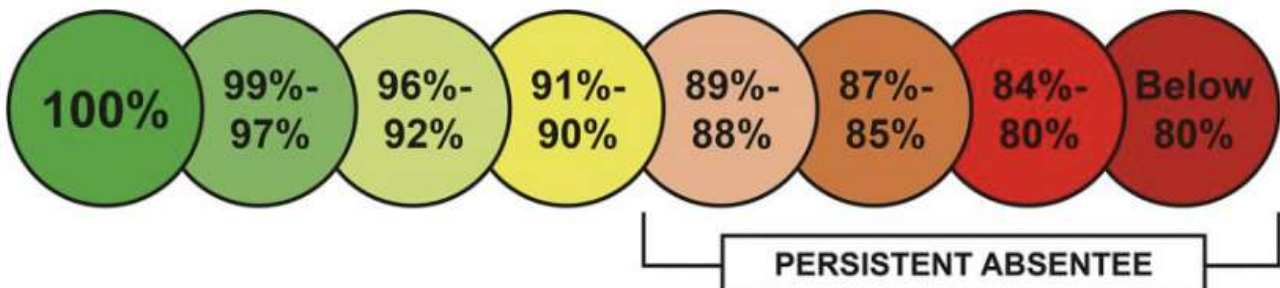
Tulip Photography came into school on Monday and took individual photographs of every child. QR slips were sent home with your child with details how to order online. If you are missing the QR code, please contact the office.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. We look forward to sharing more updates with you soon!

Warm wishes, Mrs Netto

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



Parents: 07480 635 515

Young People age 11-19: 07840 635 516

'Welcome to the Somerset School Nurse Service!

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and the School Nursing Service to all families—whether your child is starting school or returning after the summer break. As part of Somerset's commitment to supporting children's health and wellbeing, our School Nurse Service is here to help your child thrive—both in and out of the classroom. School nurses are qualified nurses and public health professionals who work with families of children aged 5 to 19, offering confidential advice, care, and support on a wide range of health topics. Whether it's guidance on sleep, healthy lifestyles, emotional wellbeing or continence, our team is here to support you and your child. We work closely with schools, families, and other professionals to ensure every child gets the help they need to stay healthy, happy, and safe

ChatHealth – Easy, Confidential Support via Text message.

ChatHealth is a confidential text messaging service for parents and carers of children aged 5–19. You can text a qualified school nurse for advice. Just send a message to **07480 635515**—available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays)'

Together, We Flourish and Grow

Parents Consultation Meetings

The sign up forms for our upcoming parent meeting slots will be circulating very soon. Please do make sure you sign up with your child's class teacher.

Christian Values

Each half term we focus on a Christian Value, this term it is **Respect**.






'Do to others as you would have them do to you.' (Matthew 7.12)

Come and Inspire Our Pupils!

At Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School, we love helping children learn about the world around them — and we know the best way to do that is to hear from the people who live and work in our community!

We're looking for parents, carers, grandparents, and local friends who would be happy to come in and talk to the children about their jobs, skills, or experiences.

We would *especially love* to hear from anyone involved in:

-  **Farming or agriculture**
-  **Practical trades** (e.g. builders, electricians, plumbers, mechanics)
-  **Outdoor work**
-  **Food or hospitality**
-  **Any job you're passionate about!**

It doesn't need to be a formal presentation — just a short visit, a friendly chat, or even a practical demonstration would be fantastic!

If you can help, please get in touch with the school office — we'd love to welcome you in!

Could You Be Our New School Governor (Local Partner)?

As Headteacher of Shipham First School and Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School, I'd like to share an exciting opportunity to become more involved in the life and leadership of our schools. We currently have a vacancy for a new governor—known within the Wessex Learning Trust as a *Local Partner*—to join our supportive and dedicated local board.

This is a co-opted (voluntary) role, open to members of the wider community who are passionate about education and helping children thrive. We would especially welcome interest from anyone with experience in **premises management, legal work, or HR**, but most importantly, we are looking for someone who is committed to supporting our schools and making a positive impact.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in this rewarding opportunity, please do get in touch with me via the school office. We'd love to hear from you.

Wrap Around Care

Breakfast Club will be run by Mrs Bradley and Mrs Major every morning. If you would like your child to receive breakfast, they must arrive by 8.15am to allow them time to eat.

After School Club - Please note the new timings

Day	3.15pm - 4.15pm	3. 15pm - 5.30pm
Monday	Mrs Major	Miss Kirk
Tuesday	Mrs Head	Miss Kirk
Wednesday	Mrs Major	Miss Kirk
Thursday	Mrs Cullen / Miss Kirk	Mrs Bradley
Friday	N/A	N/A

Thank you to everyone who is booking 7 days in advance. It is really helping with the admin and arranging the correct level of staffing. We appreciate your support. Please do come in and speak to us in the case of an emergency booking.

Upcoming dates for your diary

TERM 1	
Wednesday 8 th October	Tessa Munt MP Assembly for children (Parliament week)
Friday 10 th October	Parents 'Stay & Read' 8.45am – 9.15am
Tuesday 14 th October	Parent consultation meetings 3.30pm – 6pm (all classes)
Thursday 16 th October	Parent consultation meetings 3.30pm – 6pm (all classes)
Friday 17 th October	Parents 'Stay & Read' 8.45am – 9.15am
Friday 17 th October	Oak Worship Assembly 1pm (Oak family members welcome)
Monday 20 th November	House Event afternoon for children 1pm-3pm
Wednesday 22 nd October	Flu Vaccinations R-Y4 (not pre-school)
TERM 2	
Thursday 6 th November	Open day for prospective new families 1.30pm – 3pm
Monday 10 th November (for 2 weeks)	School-based curriculum assessments taking place
Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day (to kickstart Anti-Bullying Week)
Monday 10 th November	Emily Lloyd-Gale Author Visit
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need ('wear what you like' day)
Friday 28 th November (until 3 rd December)	Book Fair in School
Tuesday 9 th December	Willow Christmas – Dress rehearsal (grandparents & the Laurels)
Wednesday 10 th December	Willow Christmas – Performance to families 2pm
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas lunch and jumper day
Monday 15 th December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Performance to families 2pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Performance to families 2pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Oak Class – Carol Singing at The Laurels
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas class parties

Somerset Term Dates – 2025 / 2026

Term 1	4 th September – 23 rd October 2025
Term 2	3 rd November – 19 th December 2025
Term 3	5 th January – 12 th February 2026
Term 4	23 rd February – 2 nd April 2026
Term 5	20 th April – 22 nd May 2026
Term 6	1 st June – 17 th July 2026

Somerset Term Dates – 2025 / 2026

Please see the dates for next academic year on our [website](#).

Future INSET Days

Friday 24 th October 2025	INSET - School closed to learners
Friday 13 th February 2026	INSET - School closed to learners
Monday 20 th July, Tuesday 21 st July and Wednesday 22 nd July 2026	INSET - School closed to learners – Time for the summer holidays!
Full term dates can be found on our website at www.drsfirstschool.co.uk/diary	Please note, holidays during term time cannot be authorised.

Other information that may be of interest



All welcome!



OPEN EVENING

**WEDNESDAY
8TH OCTOBER 2025**

★ **6pm** for families from Axbridge, Shipham, Draycott & Rodney Stoke, First Schools
6.30pm for families from Cheddar 1st First School & any other families who are thinking of joining us
**Come along and meet our fantastic team and hear about our passion for learning.
Our staff and pupils look forward to welcoming you.** ★



Parent Support Sessions

[WISE Up Workshops](#)

[NSPCWT](#)

Online Safety

[Internet Matters](#) and [Google Families](#) has lots of information, advice and support for all your concerns about your child and the internet. Why not take a look.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child and would like to talk to a member of staff in private, please make an appointment with one of the team.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Netto

Deputy Designated Leads: Mrs Brabbins & Mrs Bradley

Safeguarding Governor: Adrian Warman

WLT Safeguarding and Educational Welfare Lead: Dawn Tomkies

As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:

- NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
- Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224
- NSPCC: Keeping children safe online

For more information, along with regular safeguarding updates, you can also visit:

<https://somensetsafeguardingchildren.org.uk>



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