



Dear families,

I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to the PTAF for organising the 'Sugar, Spice & Everything Nice' afternoon last Sunday. I know a lot of time and effort went into the event which has been enjoyed by lots of families in our community. Thank you to everyone who joined in and donated, we really appreciate your support.

It's beginning to look *and* sound wonderfully festive around school! Our beautiful Christmas tree—kindly donated by the Seager family—is now up and sparkling in the entrance, and rehearsals for our Christmas performances are well underway. The children are working incredibly hard, and we can't wait for you to see their efforts.

We are excited to be sharing the Christmas Performances with you all next week in the school hall. We believe this change will enhance the experience for both the children and families. After this year's performances, we will evaluate how it went and decide whether to return to the church for next year.

Last year, we encountered some challenges with the church venue, including chilly conditions during rehearsals and logistical difficulties in transporting the stage whilst still ensuring we didn't inconvenience the usual Church services. By hosting the performances in the school hall, we aim to provide a more comfortable environment and ensure that all parents have the best possible view of their child during the performances.

Following the Christmas performances, we would like to gather your feedback on this year's arrangements. Your insights will be invaluable as we consider our options for the future. We look forward to discussing this with you after the Christmas season.

Our travelling book fair has also been very well supported this week. We hope you've been able to pick up some lovely books, whether as Christmas gifts or as a special end-of-term treat.

Mrs Bradley and Mrs Cullen held the very first Forest School session, which was a huge success. The children had a fantastic time exploring, creating, and enjoying the outdoor learning space. We look forward to many more sessions ahead.

We still have plenty to look forward to over the next couple of weeks. This afternoon, we'll be heading over to the Memorial Hall with the children for a festive sing-along with the local community organised by The Laurels care home, the perfect opportunity for us to share our singing voices!

A Few Reminders:

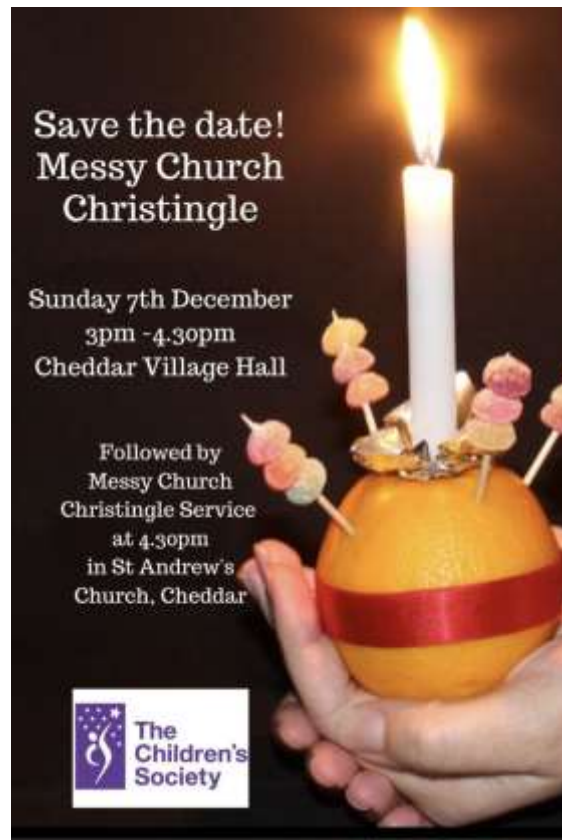
- **Uniform & Hair:** We currently have several reported cases of headlice. Please ensure long hair is tied back to help reduce the spread.
- **Booking hot lunches:** Please book for January 2026 by Tuesday 16th December so that we can place the order with Fairlands before school closes for Christmas.
- **Footwear:** Boots are absolutely fine, especially as the weather gets colder, but please make sure they are sensible, smart, and in line with our uniform policy.
- **Year 1 – 4 Parents Christmas Performance:** Please click on this link to let us know which day/s you would like to watch the performance <https://forms.office.com/e/FZw2k6wxUf>
- **Christmas Jumper Day:** On Thursday 11th December, children can pull on their most Christmassy jumper over school uniform, and if you'd like to donate to Save the Children and help children in the UK and

around the world stay safe, healthy and learning, please click on this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/draycott-first-school-jumperday>

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, whatever your plans may be!

Mrs Netto



Christian Values

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

"My God is my strength in whom I trust." (Psalm 18:2)

Assessment

We are aware that some parents have recently raised questions about our assessment processes, and we want to take this opportunity to offer reassurance. The welfare, happiness, and emotional wellbeing of our children will always remain at the heart of everything we do.

Assessment is a natural and essential part of teaching and learning. Our approach focuses mainly on formative assessment, which is carried out continuously and thoughtfully to help us understand each child's progress, identify their strengths, and plan the next steps in their learning. We also use assessments at the end of each big term to see how well children are able to recall learning from previous years, and terms, to identify any gaps in learning or misconceptions that we may need to address in future lessons. This process is not designed to be time-consuming, costly, or stressful for pupils.

We are committed to ensuring that assessments are age-appropriate, purposeful, and carried out in a way that minimises pressure on children. We regularly review our practices within the Wessex Learning Trust to ensure they remain both effective and supportive.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for sharing your concerns openly with us. Working together helps us maintain a positive, nurturing learning environment for all.

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PTAF Messages

The PTAF website is where the committee will be updating any information you need to know about events, fundraising and news.

<https://draycottandrodneystokesptaf.myshopify.com>

Book via the website for the Father Christmas visit at school on 19th Dec - £5 per child.

We are planning a BIG raffle, if you can help with a donation big or small please email drsptaf@gmail.com

BUY TICKETS ONLINE <https://draycottandrodneystokesptaf.myshopify.com/products/raffle-ticket?variant=56361688400245>



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 -

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 2	
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 (followed by We've Got Talent!)
Monday 15 th December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Performance to families 2pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Chestnut & Oak Christmas – Performance to families 2pm

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Wednesday 17 th December	Oak Class – Carol Singing at The Laurels
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas class parties
Friday 19 th December	PTAF Mufti Day and Father Christmas visit (1.30pm – 3pm) Carols around the tree in church 2pm

TERM 3	
Tuesday 6 th January	Year 4 Parents meeting regarding Kilve Court residential visit
Thursday 22 nd January	Forest School After School Club 3.15pm-5.30pm
Friday 30 th January	PTAF Wear What You Like Day – in exchange for raffle prizes
Friday 6 th February	Number Day

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 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





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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

Safeguarding Governor: Adrian Warman

WLT Safeguarding and Educational Welfare Lead: Dawn Tomkies

As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:

- NSPCC: 0808 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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