



Dear families,

We have had another busy and exciting time in school, with lots of wonderful learning and activities taking place across all year groups.

Learning Inquiry

Our classes continue to engage enthusiastically in their current learning themes:

- **Oak Class** – *Gladiators, Gods and the Roman Empire*
Pupils have been exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Rome, learning about Roman life, mythology, and the legacy of the empire.
- **Chestnut Class** – *From Seed to Stem*
Children have been discovering how plants grow, investigating life cycles and the importance of caring for our natural environment.
- **Willow Class** – *How Does Your Garden Grow?*
Willow Class have been getting hands-on with gardening, learning about plants, habitats, and how to nurture growth.

Cake sale

All four houses have now held their bake sales, and each event was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who supported so generously. We have worked alongside the PTAF and used some of the funds raised to purchase plants from Warrens Farm Shop, helping to enhance our outdoor classroom spaces.



Kings Fitness Mile

On Monday, Kings Fitness visited us and got everyone moving with a fitness mile around the playground. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to be active and challenge themselves—well done to everyone for their effort and determination!



Fairland's Visit

On Tuesday, Mrs Bennett and Mr Passingham visited from Fairlands Middle School to talk all about the next stage for our Year 4 leavers. They shared helpful information about the transition process and what pupils can expect as they move on to middle school, helping to build excitement and confidence for this important next step. We also enjoyed a fabulous song about becoming a scientist, written and performed by Mrs Bennett herself.

Eco Council

Two of our Eco Council members, Charlotte and Reuben, recently had the pleasure of being invited to plant a tree in the community orchard. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to contribute to the local environment and learn more about sustainability. They represented the school brilliantly and should be very proud of their efforts in helping to make a positive difference in our community.



Christian Distinctiveness

Staff recently took part in a professional development meeting with Richard Coles, Director of Christian Distinctiveness for the Wessex Learning Trust. This was a valuable opportunity as we prepare for our SIAMS inspection, which is due to take place next academic year.

Swimming for Oak

I had the pleasure of accompanying Oak Class to their first swimming session last week. The children represented the school beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed their time in the pool. We look forward to seeing their confidence grow over the coming weeks.

Dojo Notices

Due to GDPR regulations we are reducing the number of posts on Dojo, we will promote village events and fundraising and of course keep you updated with school events and messages, but all marketing messages from external companies will put posters up in the hall window for your information.

Country Dancing

Sadly, due to a lack of participants able to commit this year, we have had to withdraw from the Country Dancing Festival at Brent Knoll School in June. We hope to be able to take part again in the future.

Kilve Residential

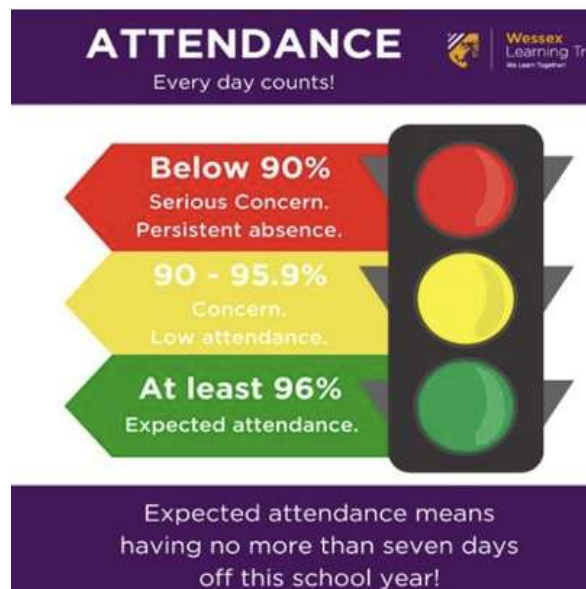
We are now very excited ahead of the visit to Kilve next week for our year 4 learners. Whilst away, the year 3s will have the opportunity to spend some time with the year 3s in Shipham, taking advantage of their lovely outdoor space. We are sure they will have lots of fun. On Tuesday and Wednesday next week, please could the year 3s come to school in clothing suitable for outdoor learning. Thank you! Wishing you a lovely, extended weekend,

Mrs Netto

Attendance

Our school attendance is currently one of the lowest in the Wessex Learning Trust. Please may I remind you about the importance of good school attendance.

You can track your attendance via MCAS.



Christian Values

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

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

PTAF Messages



<http://draycottandrodneystokesptaf.myshopify.com/>

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

Together, We Flourish and Grow

Wednesday	Sports Masters Coach	Mrs Major
Thursday	Mrs Cullen / Miss Kirk	Mrs Bradley
Friday	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>

Procedure for booking:

- Booking must be made 7 days in advance on MCAS app.
- £5 late collection fee for every 15 minutes late.
- Emergency bookings – please telephone the school.

Upcoming dates for your diary

Friday 24 th April – Friday 3 rd July	Oak Class Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 5 th – Wednesday 6 th May	Year 3 to Shipham First School for activities
Tuesday 5 th May – 7 th May	Year 4 Kilve Residential
Thursday 7 th May	“Stay & Read” 8.45am
Thursday 7 th May	10.30am – 11.30am Stay and Play in Willow Class for little learners
Monday 11 th May	Class Photos and Year 4 Photos
Thursday 14 th May	Forest School After School Club
Thursday 14 th May	“Stay & Read” 8.45am
Monday 18 th May	Book Swap – coffee & cake 3.15pm
Thursday 21 st May	Cricket Team – Winscombe Cricket Tournament
Thursday 21 st May	“Stay & Read” 8.45am
Friday 22 nd May	Willow Class Collective Worship – Families welcome
Tuesday 2 nd June	10.30am – 11.30am Stay and Play in Willow Class for little learners
Friday 5 th June	Country Dancing Festival Brent Knoll 4pm
Thursday 11 th June	September 2026 Reception Parents Evening 6pm
Tuesday 23 rd June	Year 4 Moving Up Celebration Wells Cathedral
Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day 1pm Draycott Playing Field
Wednesday 1 st July	Transfer Day (all children move to their class / school for Sept 26)
Wednesday 8 th July	Back up Sports Day (if wet / hot on 24 th June)
Thursday 9 th July	Swimming Gala Oak Class – CANCELLED
Tuesday 14 th July	Whole School Trip
Friday 17 th July	Year 4 Leaver’s Service 9.15am School Hall (Year 4 parents only)



Together, We Flourish and Grow

Somerset Term Dates – 2025 / 2026

Term 5	20 th April – 22 nd May 2026
Term 6	1 st June – 17 th July 2026

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

Future INSET Days

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.drfirstschool.co.uk/diary	Please note, holidays during term time cannot be authorised.

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>

Safeguarding is everybody's business

⚠️ If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger, please contact:

Children's Social Care on **0300 123 2224**

Email: childrens@somerset.gov.uk

Police: **101** or in an emergency **999**

