



Dear families,

## **Welcome Back!**

We are delighted to welcome you all back after the summer break. It has been wonderful to see the children return looking so happy and enthusiastic, and we are pleased to say that everyone has settled in really well. The school has quickly returned to its familiar buzz, and it has been lovely to see friendships renewed, new routines established and lots of smiles around school.

A very special welcome goes to our new families who are joining us this year. We are so pleased to have you as part of our school community and hope that you and your children will feel very happy and settled with us.

## **Thank You for Your Patience**

A huge thank you to everyone who has remained patient and understanding while we have been dealing with the road closure and one-way system. We appreciate that this has not always been easy, particularly at busy drop-off and collection times.

Fingers crossed the work can be completed on time and we can soon resume normal service! In the meantime, thank you for continuing to follow the arrangements and for helping us to keep everyone safe.

## **Our School Value: RESPECT**

This term, our school value is RESPECT.

Over the coming weeks, we will be exploring what respect looks like in our classrooms, around school and within the wider community. We will be thinking about how we speak to one another, how we listen, how we care for our environment and how our words and actions can make a difference to those around us.

We encourage you to continue these conversations at home too. By working together, we can help our children grow into thoughtful, kind and respectful individuals who understand the importance of treating others with care and consideration.

## **Working with St. Peter's Church**

We are very much looking forward to continuing our close relationship with St. Peter's Church this year and working together as a school and church community.

Our Reverend Thea is due to have a long-awaited, routine operation, which unfortunately means that we are unlikely to see much of her until possibly Christmas. We would like to send her our very best wishes for a safe operation and a speedy and smooth recovery. We will certainly be thinking of her and look forward to welcoming her back when she is ready.

## **Meet the Team**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Team meetings on Tuesday. We hope you found the meetings helpful and informative and that they gave you an opportunity to meet the staff, find out a little more about the year ahead and ask any questions that you may have been pondering.

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As always, our doors are open, and we are committed to working closely with you to support your children.

At the start of a new term, however, it may be helpful to remind everyone about our preferred methods of communication. We kindly ask that general correspondence is sent through the main school office email, rather than directly to individual members of staff.

We do still have the Dojo messaging facility open at this moment in time, but may we politely request that this is used only for emergencies and during school working hours. Last year, we saw an increase in messages being sent late into the evening and over weekends. We completely understand that messages are sometimes thought of outside school hours, but staff also need time to switch off and enjoy their own family time.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us to maintain healthy boundaries for our staff team.

### **Facebook**

Over the summer, some IT upgrades were carried out which, unfortunately, resulted in us losing access to our Facebook page. This is why you may have noticed a distinct lack of posts from us recently! We're currently working closely with our central team to resolve the issue. We hope to be back sharing our latest news, updates and goings-on with you again very soon!

### **Allergies**

Please could you ensure that we are kept up to date with any allergies or dietary requirements your child may have. If your child has developed a new allergy, or if there have been any changes to their existing allergies, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can update our records and continue to keep your child safe and well.

### **Events Coming Up**

We are delighted that some of our popular school events are set to return this term!

#### **Stay and Read Events**

We look forward to welcoming you into school to enjoy some special reading time together with your children. These events are a lovely opportunity to share books, encourage a love of reading and spend some quality time together in the classroom.

#### **Class-led Worships**

Our class-led worships will also be returning this term, giving the children the opportunity to share their learning and reflections with our school community.

Our first Class-led Worship will be led by **Oak Class** on **Thursday 22nd October**, and all Oak Class family members are warmly invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating the children's learning together.

### **Looking Ahead**

It has been a lovely start to the new school year, and we are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled. There is already a wonderful sense of energy and excitement around school, and we are looking forward to all that the term ahead will bring.

As always, thank you for your continued support, kindness and partnership. Together, we can make this a happy, successful and memorable year for all our children.

Here's to a fantastic term ahead! Mrs Netto

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## 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)

## 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        |
| Wednesday | Sports Coach / Mrs Major | Sports Coach     |
| Thursday  | Mrs Cullen               | Mrs Bradley      |
| Friday    | Not available            | Not available    |

## Upcoming dates for your diary

|                                      |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September    | Flu immunisations                                        |
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September   | Phonics information session for new parents 3.15pm – 4pm |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October       | School photographs                                       |
| 5th - 9th October                    | Family 'Stay and Read' sessions 8.45am – 9am             |
| Monday 12th & Wednesday 14th October | Parents evening 3.30pm – 6pm                             |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October     | Harvest Service in church - tbc                          |
| Thursday 22nd October                | Oak class celebration worship 9am                        |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October    | SCHOOL BREAKS UP for half term                           |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October      | INSET day                                                |

Please also see our [website](#) for other key dates.

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## Somerset Term Dates – 2026 / 2027

|        |                                                                       |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Term 1 | Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October  |
| Term 2 | Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December |
| Term 3 | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February     |
| Term 4 | Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March   |
| Term 5 | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May           |
| Term 6 | Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July            |

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

## Future INSET Days

|                                                                                                                                     |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                                                                                                     | INSET - School closed to learners                            |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November                                                                         | INSET - School closed to learners                            |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February                                                                                                    | INSET - School closed to learners                            |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                        | INSET - School closed to learners                            |
| Full term dates can be found on our website at <a href="http://www.drfsfirstschool.co.uk/diary">www.drfsfirstschool.co.uk/diary</a> | 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 see

<https://somensetsafeguardingchildren.org.uk>

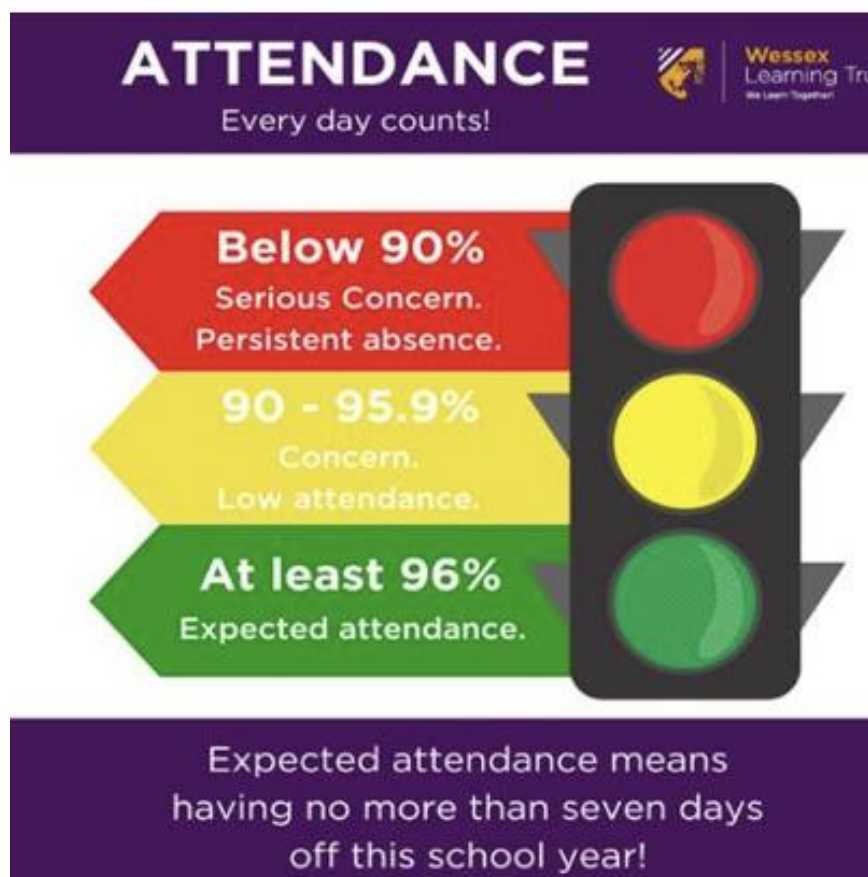
## Safeguarding is everybody's business

⚠ 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](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)

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



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