



Dear families,

As we move into October, there is much to celebrate and look forward to across our school community. It has been another busy week filled with wonderful learning experiences.

A visit from our Local Partners

This week, we were delighted to welcome our Local Partners to school as part of our preparations for the SIAMS inspection, which is due to take place during this academic year.

During their visit, the partners met with staff and children and spent time looking around the school to see how we embed our Christian distinctiveness throughout school life. They explored how our values are lived out each day, how collective worship supports our community and how our Christian vision influences teaching, learning and relationships across the school.

It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase all that makes our school special, and we are grateful to our Local Partners for their ongoing support and commitment to our school community. We look forward to continuing our preparations and celebrating the many ways our Christian ethos is reflected in the life of our school.

National Poetry Day – Thursday 1st October

On Thursday, we joined schools across the country in celebrating National Poetry Day. Throughout the day, children had opportunities to explore, perform and create poetry, helping to develop their creativity and confidence with language. Many also got to enjoy the free lunch offered by our new catering company, Aspens, too.

Stay and Read

A reminder that, by popular demand, our family Stay and Read sessions return next week. You are welcome to pop in on any day, or all days, from Monday 5th – Friday 8th, 8.45am until 9am. We hope to see some of you there.

As a special request from the children, they would also like a pyjama and book day in school. So, Friday 16th October will now be a 'Wear your PJs to school' day!

Hello Yellow – Friday 9th October

Next Friday, we will be taking part in Hello Yellow, a national campaign organised by YoungMinds to raise awareness of children's mental health.

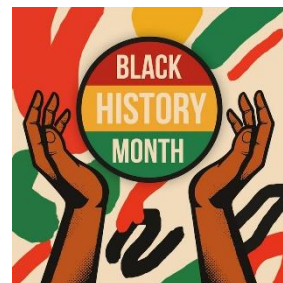
Children are invited to come to school wearing something yellow to show their support and to help start important conversations about mental wellbeing. Whether it's a yellow jumper, socks, hair accessory or ribbon, we'd love to see our school brightened by a splash of yellow.



Together, we can help children understand the importance of looking after their mental health and supporting one another.

Moving into Black History Month

October marks the beginning of Black History Month, an important opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions and experiences of Black people throughout history and in our society today.



Throughout the month, children will take part in age-appropriate learning activities that help them develop a deeper understanding of diversity, equality and inclusion. We look forward to sharing some of the fantastic learning that takes place as we recognise and celebrate the richness of different cultures and communities.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish everyone a wonderful week ahead.

Mrs Netto

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

Together, We Flourish and Grow

Upcoming dates for your diary

5th - 9th October	Family 'Stay and Read' sessions 8.45am – 9am
Friday 9 th October	Hello Yellow (wearing yellow in support of young people's mental health and wellbeing)
Monday 12 th & Wednesday 14 th October	Parents evening 3.30pm – 6pm
Friday 16 th October	'Wear your PJs to school' day
Tuesday 20 th October	Harvest Service in church
Thursday 22 nd October	Oak class celebration worship 9am
Thursday 22 nd October	SCHOOL BREAKS UP for half term
Friday 23 rd October	INSET day

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

Somerset Term Dates – 2026 / 2027

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

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

Future INSET Days

Friday 23 rd October	INSET - School closed to learners
Monday 2 nd and Tuesday 3 rd November	INSET - School closed to learners
Monday 22 nd February	INSET - School closed to learners
Friday 25 th June	INSET - School closed to learners
Full term dates can be found on our website at www.drsfirstschool.co.uk/diary	Please note, holidays during term time cannot be authorised.

YOU'RE INVITED!

GRAND OPENING

RODNEY STOKES & DRAYCOTT
Community Orchard

APPLE DAY

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026
2PM - 4PM

Come and celebrate the official opening of our new
Community Orchard

A NEW COMMUNITY SPACE CREATED FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

 REFRESHMENTS INCLUDE APPLE CAKE, CIDER AND JUICE	 APPLE BOBBING FOR CHILDREN	 LIVE MUSIC LOCAL CHOIR JOYFUL VOICES	 QUIZ TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN	 A SPACE FOR ALL AGES TO GATHER, LEARN, RELAX & ENJOY NATURE TOGETHER
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A PLACE TO GROW, CONNECT & THRIVE TOGETHER

WHERE TO FIND US
Next to Memorial Hall Car Park, Draycott
BS27 3TD

EVERYONE WELCOME

PLANTING FOR TODAY, GROWING FOR TOMORROW

COME ALONG • BRING FRIENDS • CELEBRATE APPLE DAY!

WITH THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

 COMMUNITY FUND The National Lottery Community Fund	 Somerset Community Foundation	 MENDIP HILLS National Landscape	 The Charity of John and Joseph Card	 THATCHERS	 Supporting our community
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RODNEY STOKES & DRAYCOTT COMMUNITY ORCHARD
Draycott, Somerset



Did you know we're part of the Wessex Learning Trust?

Teacher training, right here in our Trust.

The Mid Somerset Consortium (MSC) is the Wessex Learning Trust's teacher training provider, based at Crispin School in Street.

So, what is the MSC?



SCHOOL-BASED

Real school experience from the start.



SUPPORTED

Experienced tutors, mentors and subject specialists.



QUALIFIED

Work towards QTS, with the options of a PGCE.



Know someone who would make a great teacher?

You might already know them.....

- A colleague
- A teaching assistant
- A graduate
- A career changer
- Maybe even you!

Tell them about the MSC!



office@mscitt.org.uk
01458 449418
Crispin School, Street



Proud to be part of
Wessex
Learning Trust

Together, We Flourish and Grow

Parent Carer Drop-In Cheddar

Coffee @ The Hub , 9:30 -11:30
No need to book.



We are delighted to be partnering with The SPACE and Wessex Learning Trust to offer a welcoming and supportive SEND Navigator Drop-In Session for parent carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

Come and meet Ellen, our SEND Navigator, alongside Hollie from The SPACE, and find out how we can help you access the right support, information, and services for your family.

Ellen can help you to:

- Access reliable and up-to-date information
- Find the right people and services to support your family
- Prepare for meetings, reviews, and appointments
- Understand the support and options available to your child
- Complete forms such as DLA, PIP, and grant applications
- Help parent carers build confidence in understanding and supporting their child's needs.

Whether you have a specific question, need guidance, want to meet other parent carers, or simply need a friendly and understanding space to talk, you are very welcome to join us.

2026/27 Dates

- Wednesday 16th Sep
- Wednesday 21st Oct
- Wednesday 18th Nov
- Wednesday 16th Dec
- Wednesday 20th Jan
- Wednesday 17th Feb



NEW Parent Hub

PLEASE JOIN US – NO NEED TO BOOK!

A welcoming space for parents, carers & little ones

Every Wednesday

9-11am

Coffee @ The Hub (back room)

with the lovely Holly

Once a month (3rd of the month), Ellen, a fabulous navigator from Somerset Parent Carer Forum (SPCF), will be in to give advice and information – or just share a hot cup of coffee and a chat.

THE SPACE

Wessex Learning Trust

Connect Somerset

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://somersetsafeguardingchildren.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**

