



COUNTESS
GYTHA
PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Diary Dates

27th February 2026



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the second half of the school year and as ever, we dive straight back into the learning and opportunities that school life brings at Countess Gytha!



World Thinking Day 2026

It was wonderful to see so many of our young people in their Scouting or Guiding movement uniforms, marking World Thinking Day on Monday. The day is an initiative led by the Scouting and Guiding movement for groups across the world to think about each other, the groups that they are a part of and any important topical issues.

King Arthur Class was transformed as they stepped back in time to the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt! Dressed in a variety of wonderful costumes, including pharaohs, magnificent gods and goddesses, mysterious mummies and not forgetting the hardworking Egyptian farmers. It was fantastic to see such creativity and enthusiasm on display!

Throughout the day, the class immersed themselves in hands-on learning – a firm-favourite being the “Crack the Hieroglyphic Code” activity – where groups raced around the school to solve clues and decipher ancient symbols. They also designed and played traditional Egyptian board games and followed a traditional Egyptian flatbread recipe, enjoying our freshly made bread dipped in delicious honey.

Children in Poldens were pleased to attend school on Thursday in their house MUFTi colour of yellow. Good luck to all of the teams this half-term – it was great to see Mendips house taking the lead early into this half-term, perhaps indicating a close rivalry to be contested up until Easter!



Ancient
Egyptian Day

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

Kicking off the sporting news of the half-term, a team of dodgeball enthusiasts travelled to Ansford for an exciting afternoon tournament. The children showed fantastic teamwork, resilience and determination throughout a very competitive event featuring eight schools.



Dodgeball Team

We started strongly with brilliant wins against Castle Cary B and Castle Cary A, setting the tone with sharp reactions and clever tactics. A tough match against Ditchat A followed, where we narrowly lost, but the team bounced back superbly to defeat North Cadbury A and Lovington with confident, controlled performances. Another challenging game against Ditchat B resulted in a second loss, and although North Cadbury B edged the final match, the team never stopped encouraging one another.

Finishing an impressive 3rd place out of 8 schools is a huge achievement and something the children should be very proud of. Well done to Jaxon, Rosie, Rupert, Henry, Freddie L, Freddie W, Alfie, Phoebe, Aurelia, Seb, Lily and Jenson for representing our school so brilliantly.



In other sporting news, we must not forget to mention Year 1 and 2, who this week began their swimming lessons together, with much fun had by all!

Rounding out the week, children in Year 5 and 6 travelled to London for a tour of the Houses of Parliament, as well as educational films and workshops. It has been a fantastic day, full of fun, learning and politics. We also enjoyed sitting together in the House of Commons, before a stroll down to the horse guards and Westminster Bridge.



Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

I would like you to join me in congratulating the following children who were recognised this week by their teachers for excellent hard work and dedication:

Congratulations Incah, you are Merlin's Star of the Week – for being very helpful around the classroom and for always being so polite – keep it up, Incah! Well done Poppy – you have been working really hard on your sentence writing this week! Sounds fantastic!

Pendragon – Congratulations Joe, you are Pendragon's Star of the Week – for his excellent effort in English, particularly for a fantastic newspaper report about the Scarecrow's Wedding! Pendragon's Worker of the Week this week goes to Bettsie-Mae, for her excellent effort in maths – passing her number bonds to 5 – huge congratulations, Bettsie!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Koby as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for his excellent effort and contributions during Ancient Egyptians Topic Day – top historian! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Charlotte, for her increasing confidence in maths and understanding of data and statistics – keep up the great work, young lady!

Excalibur – Henry is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for his amazing progress through the fraction clubs – passing his last 3 fraction clubs in a row – top marks, Henry! Excalibur's Worker of the Week is awarded to Isabelle, for working hard to produce an amazing and a well-considered piece of writing as part of her diary writing – a wonderful set of work to round out the first week of the half-term, well done!

Lancelot – Kai has been recognised as Lancelot's Star of the Week for completing all tasks asked of him this week, as well as an outstanding extended write in English – keep up the fantastic attitude, Kai! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week goes to Nevaeh, for always being an excellent role-model to others; for working incredibly hard in each and every lesson and for an excellent piece of writing to round out an exceptional week – great to hear, Nevaeh!

A special mention to Emily B, whose fantastic achievement at the Polden Hills Pony Club competition was met with great applause in assembly. Emily secured two first-place rosettes in her races. We are incredibly proud of her hard work, focus and sporting spirit. Well done, Emily – a truly outstanding performance! Also, well done to Sienna, Georgia and Charlie for achieving stage 2 and 3 respectively in swimming. A fantastic achievement – we are very proud of you. Congratulations to Jude for earning his Blue Peter badge with a wonderful

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

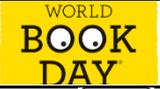
drawing of a giraffe. Finally, well done to Austin for winning player of the match in his recent rugby game for Yeovil Rugby Club.

Congratulations to all those who entered the recent writing competition – we are incredibly proud of Barnaby, Emelia, Lily, Emily, Henry, Alfie and Nevaeh, who have all won a Young Writers competition called The Adventures of... Thanks to their fantastic creativity and imagination, their stories have been chosen for publication (a wonderful achievement)! To become published authors is something very special, and we are thrilled that their hard work has been recognised in this way. Well done to all of you for this brilliant accomplishment – we can't wait to see your stories in print!



	<u>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</u>	
<p>Every Friday</p> 	<p>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p</p>	
<p>Monday 2nd March</p>	<p>Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Lesiure Centre.</p>	
<p>Monday 2nd March and Tuesday 3rd March</p>	<p>Bikeability for Year 6's – Group 1</p>	
<p>Wednesday 4th March and Thursday 5th March</p>	<p>Bikeability for Year 6's – Group 2</p>	
<p>Wednesday 4th March</p>	<p>Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 9th March 2026. Completed booking forms can be emailed to wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org</p>	

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

Friday 6 th March	World Book Day - letter attached	
Monday 9 th March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Lesiure Centre.	
Monday 9 th March - Friday 13 th March	British Science Week	
Monday 9 th March	Children to bring in empty 2 litre bottle to they wish to decorate their rocket in school.	
Tuesday 10 th March	Rocket Launching Day - bring in decorated rockets	
Wednesday 11 th March	Family science-based activities see letter sent home. Workshop 1 - 1.15pm-2pm or Workshop 2 2.15pm - 3pm	
Wednesday 11 th March	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 16 th March 2026.	
Thursday 12 th March	Step into the NHS Day 2026 - As part of British Science Week and the school's ongoing future careers project, Year 4,5,6 are gaining first hand insight into roles, skills and NHS job pathways by virtually meeting healthcare professionals; engaging in interactive activities and submitting a creative competition entry that captures the inspiration of the day. We can't wait to share these with you in that week's Diary Dates!	
Friday 13 th March	Visit from British Horse Society for Years 4,5 & 6	
Monday 16 th March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Lesiure Centre.	
Wednesday 18 th March	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 23 rd March 2026.	
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day 2026 Cake Sale from 3.15pm	 
Friday 20 th March	National Child measurement programme for Reception and Year 6.	
Monday 23 rd March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Lesiure Centre.	
Week commencing Monday 23 rd March		
Week commencing Monday 23 rd March	No enrichment clubs due to parent meetings.	
Monday 23 rd March	Parent Meetings in school	
Thursday 23 rd March	Parent Meetings in school	
Friday 27 th March	PTFA Easter Bingo - details to follow shortly.	

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

Monday 30 th March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Lesiure Centre.	
Tuesday 31 st March	Vision screening for Reception Class	

Please do not park on the hashed or yellow zig zags around the school entrances or in the surgery opposite, when collecting children from school. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

World Book Day – Friday 6th March 2026

This year, we are delighted to invite children to come dressed as their favourite book character for World Book Day on Friday 6th March. Characters may be chosen from fiction, non-fiction, comics or any other type of book your child enjoys. Where possible, we kindly ask that children bring their chosen book into school on the day so they can share it with others and show where their character appears in the story.

Throughout the day, children will take part in a range of exciting activities to celebrate reading. These will include a visit to the Reading Café, where they will enjoy treats while reading a selection of wonderful books chosen by their teacher. Children will also participate in live lessons, online author visits, a whole-school story chain and many other engaging activities.

We will be running our popular book swap again this year. Children may bring in books they no longer wish to read and exchange them for new ones. Books need to be brought into school before Monday 2nd March, to give us time to organise them into appropriate age categories. Children should show their books to their class teacher, who will then issue a token for each book donated. These tokens can be 'cashed in' on World Book Day for new books. This is a swapping event, so no money is required. Please also ensure that any books brought in are in good condition, as damaged books will not be accepted.

We are also pleased to announce the return of our 'Book in a Jar/Box' competition. Children are invited to represent their favourite book using a simple jar or shoebox. This might include quotes from the book, or creative representations of its characters, setting or key themes. All entries should be clearly labelled and brought into school by the morning of 6th March for judging.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

Miss Bridge

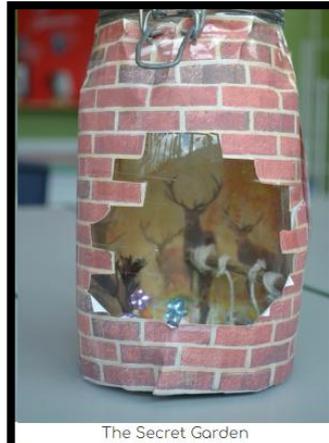
Book in a Jar/Box Inspiration:



Gangster Granny



The Diary of Anne Frank



The Secret Garden



Alice in Wonderland



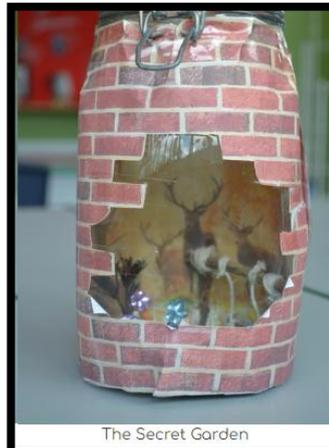
Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.



Gangster Granny



The Diary of Anne Frank



The Secret Garden



Alice in Wonderland



Costume Swap for World Book Day

Following the half-term break, I will be organising a Costume Swap in preparation for our upcoming World Book Day celebrations on Friday 6th March. This initiative is designed to support families, promote sustainability, and ensure that all children have the opportunity to participate fully in this special event.

If you have any pre-loved costumes at home that are no longer required, we would be very grateful for your donations. Costumes can be dropped off at the school office from the first week back after half term.

Each afternoon after school, the donated costumes will be displayed on a rail in the school hall. Families are warmly invited to browse the selection and borrow an item if they wish. There is no cost involved — this is simply an opportunity to share and reuse costumes within our school community.

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

<  Somerset Libraries UK · Follow
12h ·  ...

In need of a costume for World Book Day? Parents, we are here to help!

We think World Book Day should be all about enjoying books with your kids and not spent panicking that you've not got a costume sorted! Many of our libraries are hosting costume swaps this year. Simply drop off any old costumes that your kids have grown out of, and hopefully you'll find a bigger one to take away.

- You don't need to leave an old costume to take a new one.
- Please only leave clean costumes that are in good condition and that you'd be happy for your kid to wear
- Don't forget to borrow a book that matches the costume whilst you're here!

The swap is available at:

[Somerset Libraries Chard](#)
[Somerset Libraries Glastonbury](#)
[Somerset Libraries Ilminster](#)
[Somerset Libraries Langport](#)
[Somerset Libraries Minehead](#)
[Porlock Community Library](#)
[Somerset Libraries Shepton Mallet](#)
[Somerset Libraries Street](#)
[Somerset Libraries Watchet](#)
[Somerset Libraries Williton](#)
[Somerset Libraries Yeovil](#)

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

Not sure what to do when your child is unwell?

The HANDi app gives expert NHS advice for common childhood conditions - right at your fingertips. Get fast, trusted guidance and peace of mind.



- Expert local advice - created by Somerset's paediatric specialists.
- Built around Somerset pathways - the right care, first time.
- Always up to date - refreshed within 24 hours if guidance changes.
- Clear, complete care pathways - from home care to GP and hospital advice.

Download the HANDi app today.



Parents/Carers can access this **FREE** online session to

Families are often the first to notice their child is being exploited.

Scan me to book for the 18th March



- Learn about different types of exploitation.
- Understand the signs that a child may be at risk or being groomed.
- Discover how offenders groom and exploit children, both on and offline
- Know how to keep your child safe and what to do if you have concerns!

Led by Prevention Officer Andri Nicolau from the dedicated child exploitation team.



Scan me to book for the 30th March



Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.



COUNTESS GYTHA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

20
26

UPCOMING EVENTS

27 TH
MAR

EASTER BINGO



COLOUR RUN

15TH
MAY

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

**Live
Music
with...**

THE BRILLIANT BAZZs

AND

(POP)



(ROCK)

Queen Camel Memorial Hall

Sat' March 7th 7 pm

Bar Tickets £6*

from: Committee Members/QC Village Shop/or

tel: 01935 850135 Or 01935 851642

*** Book in advance to avoid disappointment ***

Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given safeguarding our children. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.