



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break and I would like to wish all our families and friends a Happy New Year. We would all also like to say an enormous Thank You on behalf of all the staff for the lovely gifts received – it was very kind of you.



King Arthur join Matt this term for guitar lessons in music!

The children are all looking very smart on their return and have settled back brilliantly in their first week of the Spring Term, enjoying their new topics. Class curriculum letters, outlining topics and learning in each subject, are now available [on the Curriculum webpage, via this link](#). Please do not forget that the yearly overview is also available for you to see on this webpage too.

We were delighted to be visited this week by Janet Montgomery, High Sheriff of Somerset. Children in Years 4,5 and 6 learnt about this ceremonial role and how it dates to the times of the Anglo-Saxons. Classes were interested to learn about how as a



The High Sheriff of Somerset Visits

representative of the monarchy, the High Sheriff will support High Court judges as well as supporting charitable causes, royal visits and rewarding acts of heroism across Somerset!

Although started before the Christmas break, the autumn survey is still open for all to complete.

[Autumn Parent Survey](#)

[Wrap Around Care Survey](#)

It will remain open until 10pm on Monday, January 12th 2026. The staff and I will continue to adapt the provision to best suit the needs of all children and we always welcome further feedback to continue to diversify these opportunities.

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.



Children in Merlin investigating this week's ice!

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 Olivia, you are Merlin's Star of the Week – for approaching every task with enthusiasm and confidence. You have blown Miss Morris away with your determination this week – what a way to start the new year, Olivia! Well done Archie, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week for using great descriptive language when describing a dinosaur during your writing lessons – keep it up, young man!

Pendragon – Congratulations Lyla-May, you are Pendragon's Star of the Week – for always being kind and helpful to your peers – lovely news, Lyla-May! Pendragon's Worker of the Week this week goes to Elif, for her neat handwriting and focus during her English work – well done, Elif!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Judah as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for his excellent participation and contributions during his new topic in R.E. – a brilliant way to start this term's learning, Jude! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Molly, for working hard in maths and improving her confidence when solving multiplication and division word problems – well done, young lady!

Excalibur – Riley is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for being a supportive peer and friend, helping others to understand the task in front of them – great to hear, Riley! Excalibur's Worker of the Week is awarded to Theo, for returning to the Spring Term with great focus and contributions to all lessons – let's try to keep it up for the Spring Term, Theo!

Lancelot – Erin has been recognised as Lancelot's Star of the Week for settling in to her new class with such ease; working hard in lessons as well as quickly making new friends – a great start at your new school Erin, welcome! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week goes to Seb, for his fantastic attitude in every lesson and demonstrating a passion for reading with this half-term's class book – Holes is always a favourite amongst Lancelot children!

It was clearly a remarkably busy (and successful!) Christmas period for our children with so many special mentions to celebrate upon our return!

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A special mention to William who took part in his swim squad's Christmas races, swimming in 6 events; he came away with 3 bronze medals plus gold in 100m butterfly. William has made it to the county championships happening at the end of January - we cannot wait to report back on his successes then!



Emily competed in her first schools showjumping competition at Kings Sedgemoor equestrian centre on the 20th December - she came 2nd in her first class, with a 40cm beautiful clear jump. Her second class was the 50cm jump, which is based on time rather than style as in the first jump. Riders do not know the time they should be aiming to achieve and so it was clearly another brilliant effort from Emily to place 2nd in this round too!



As a result of these successes, Emily has now qualified to represent her riding school at the next stage, later in January - we wish her the best of luck!

Following on the riding theme,



eagled-eyed parents will have spotted Mr Will Biddick, who this week featured in Wednesday's Daily Telegraph!

Congratulation to Sienna and Georgia, who were awarded their Level 1 Foundations in gymnastics recently. A special mention to Harriet in Excalibur, who has achieved her Level 3 award; the girls love their Orchard Gymnastics club and highly recommend it to others.

Finally, a special mention to Molly and Maisie, who attended their end of season presentation for Ilchester Gems Majorettes. Both girls received a participation medal and trophy for their efforts throughout the year, as well as Maisie winning the award for Best Peewee Baton and Molly winning Best Peewee Pom!



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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.

Circus Skills – please note that this is happening on
Tuesday 13th January (error in letter)
Merlin session – 1pm – 2.10pm
Pendragon session – 2.20pm – 3.20pm



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Every Friday	FRIDAY TUCKSHOP Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p
	
Monday 12 th January	Enrichment clubs start this week.
Tuesday 13 th January	Circus Skills Workshop for Merlin and Pendragon Class – see above.
Thursday 22 nd January	Mendip House Cake Sale
	 
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 4 Ansford Sports Festival – letter sent home this week.
Thursday 29 th January	Somerset Sustainable Futures Event at Yeovil Town Football Club – selected pupils only.
Tuesday 3 rd February	Lancelot Class Trip to Shepton Mallet Prison – letter sent home today.
Friday 6 th February	PTFA Film Night
	
Monday 9 th February	Cross Country Event @ Bucklers Mead

If you know of any families who are starting school in September 2025, please remind them that the application deadline is quickly approaching on January 15th; applications are made via the Somerset Council Website.



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Please support your House
and bring some cakes in.



Mendips Cake Sale



Thursday 22nd January 2026

50P A CAKE

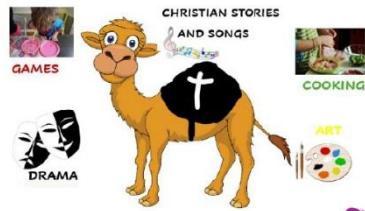
SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND BUY SOME DELICIOUS AND YUMMY CAKES

ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE SCHOOL

THANK YOU

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

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CAMEL CLUB

New Year, New Term

We are back on Monday

January 12th 3:30-4:30

In the school hall.

Come and join us for games, songs, stories, snacks and craft.

If you would like to join us please contact Caroline to book your place, all are welcome.

07765126355

carolinehwalker@btinternet.com

West Camel Theatre Group invite you to

A Night At The Musicals

Davis Hall, West Camel
7pm start, Doors at 6:30pm

Friday 30th January
£12pp to include a
selection of tasty nibbles

Saturday 31st January
£25pp to include curry
by Dorset Delights

To book a table, contact Rich Hooper on 07890 969313

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COUNTESS GYTHA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

20
26

UPCOMING EVENTS



FILM NIGHT

6TH
FEB

27 TH
MAR

EASTER BINGO



COLOUR RUN

15TH
MAY



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Netball Youth Camp

Westfield Academy – Yeovil



Calling all young netball enthusiasts!



Date: Monday 16th February 26



Location: Westfield Academy,

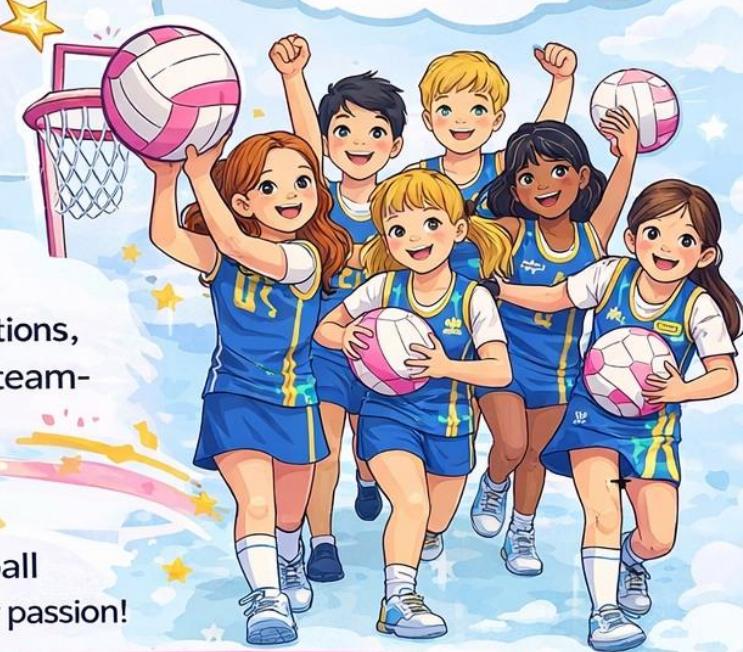


Time: 10am-3pm



Age Groups:
8-11 & 12-14

**Sharpen your skills,
boost your confidence &
make new friends!**



Fun & Games:

Enjoy friendly competitions, mini-tournaments, and team-building activities.



Make Friends:

Connect with fellow netball enthusiasts who share your passion!

Early Bird Discounts!

Book by Wednesday 31st December to secure your spot



£20 per participant

Only **£10** per sibling booking!

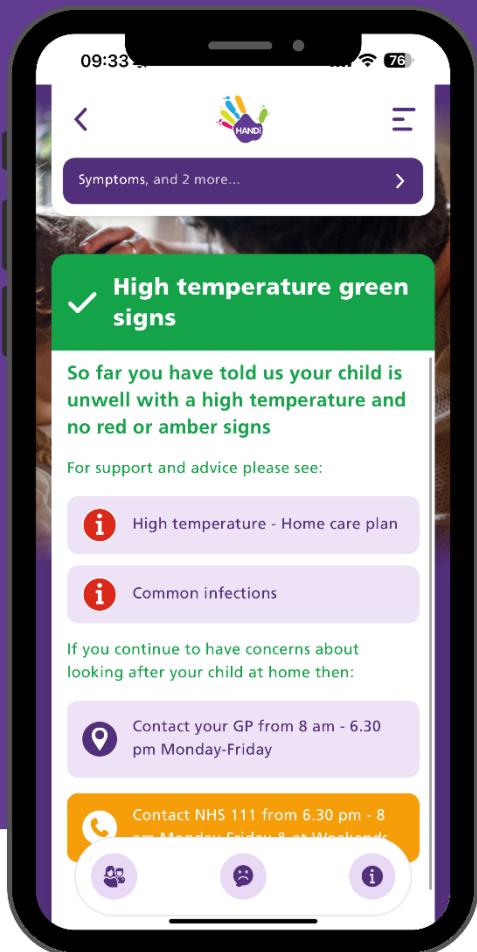
After 31st December: £25 per participant, £15 per sibling booking



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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.



FREE COURSE FOR SEPARATED PARENTS

Reducing the impact of separation on everyone

Two 5 week online courses start in January'26

To book scan codes below



Helping parents navigate separation, putting the well-being of their children at the centre.

'Really feel my relationship with my ex has improved since being on this course.' said mum after course

Course A starts Jan 14th Course B starts Jan 15th

7 PM-8:30 PM

9:30 AM-11 AM



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