

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It seems difficult to believe that parents' evening is just around the corner. Parents' Evening slots for children in Year 1 - 6 will be held in classrooms on week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October. You are invited to book an appointment using our online booking system; invitations to book your time slot will be sent out via email on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. If you would prefer, parents can also book through Mrs Annetts in the school office from Tuesday onwards. If you have any issues, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us. **Please note, there will be no enrichment clubs during this week – after school care will still be available.**

A selection of Year 5 and 6 pupils attended an AIM High Writing Workshop this week. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to gain skills and knowledge in writing creatively. The day was delivered by Jane Prowse – a published children's author who inspired the children with her exciting tales of Japanese martial arts through her Hattori Hachi books.



Elise Hayward – Motivational speaker visits Year 5 and 6



Harvest Celebrations

On Wednesday, we were delighted to be able to celebrate at St Barnabas after two consecutive years of being forced to stay in school due to the weather. On behalf of the Lord's Larder, thank you for all of the kind donations which were delivered to the Yeovil-based food bank.

Mr Gallagher is pleased to report back from this week's Boccia competition at Westfield. For some of the team, it was their first sporting competition and they all were fantastic! The team: Seb, Toby, Theo,

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Phoebe and Eyup should be incredibly proud of themselves.



AIM Writing Participants



Boccia Participants

Next week sees the school's recognition towards the importance of mental health with our Hello Yellow celebrations on Friday. More details are available from the poster below.

Following this on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, it is carnival time! An email was sent out this afternoon with more details regarding the event, but we are aiming to meet at Ansford for 6:30pm, before starting our procession at 7pm and finishing at the base of Churchfield Drive for 8pm. If your child is interested but not yet signed up to the carnival, [please complete this brief Microsoft Form.](#)



Carnival preparations well underway!



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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:

Pendragon – Congratulations to Alice, Pendragon's Star of the Week – for showing great kindness and patience towards others – keep it up, Alice! Pendragon's Worker of the Week this week goes to Joe, for his fantastic contributions in his maths lessons all week – great work, young man!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Bella as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for her confident reading of her poem at the Harvest Celebrations – a very brave step in front of the whole school and families! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Hattie, for her excellent understanding of adding hundreds, tens and ones to any number in maths – very impressive, Hattie!

Excalibur – Darcy is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for always being helpful and kind to others – wonderful news, Darcy! Excalibur's Worker of the Week is awarded to Violet, for always working hard in every lesson and contributing thoughtfully in discussions. A lovely addition to Excalibur class!

Lancelot – Aurelia has been recognised as Lancelot's Star of the Week for being an excellent shoulder partner; for being patient, kind and articulate in her explanations – lovely to hear, Aurelia! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week goes to Emily, for contributing excellently to class discussions and for being generous when helping adults – outstanding, Emily!



A special mention this week goes to Emily in Lancelot for representing Yeovil and District Swimming Club recently in her backstroke event – an awesome achievement!

Well done Poppy, we were delighted to celebrate your Summer Reading Challenge together today in assembly – congratulations!

Congratulations also to Freddie, Seb and Henry in Lancelot who competed at the 18th Supreme Box cart Championship for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Sparkford Scouting troop at Goodwood racecourse last weekend. Winning 11 out of 12 races against competition from across the UK, the boys were unlucky to be knocked out by this year's overall



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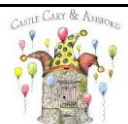





champions. Their standout determination and support for each other in their first championship is inspiring – well done team!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Every Friday 	<b>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</b> Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Lancelot Class and Year 5 Excalibur Class swimming session 4	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Cross Country Race 2 at Yeovil Showground. Letters given out 29.9.25 and are available from Mr Gallagher or the school office.	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	9.15am School Tour for New Intake 2026 – please see office to book a place.	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30pm Year 6 Parents meeting regarding SATs and residential	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Yellow Hello Day – see posters below.	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Castle Cary Carnival Event Letter emailed out today 3.10.25.	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Lancelot Class and Year 5 Excalibur Class swimming session 5	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Multi sports festival at Ansford Academy. Letters sent home 30.9.25.	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Scholastic Book Fair in hall	
Week commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening Events – Details to follow next week. <u>Please note that there will be no enrichment clubs this week.</u>	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	PTFA UV Disco. Slips sent home this week.	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	9.15am School Tour for New Intake 2026	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half Term – school closed	
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Deadline for Secondary school applications.</b>	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	School & Preschool Photography by Imago – Individual & sibling photographs.	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	1.30pm School Tour for New Intake 2026 – please see office to book a place.	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 & Year 2 Cinema Trip – letter sent out 1.10.25	

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Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need 2025 – details to follow.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	10am School Tour for New Intake 2026 – please see office to book a place.
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 & Year 4 Cinema Trip – letter sent out 1.10.25

## Have Your Say – Childcare Survey from Somerset Council

Somerset Council is seeking feedback from families around wraparound and holiday childcare needs across the county. The survey aims to collect information around current and future childcare needs, reasons why families may not use existing provision and any barriers or challenges families face. Where 10 or more responses are received, an anonymised summary will be shared with the school.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by midday on 14th November 2025: <https://forms.office.com/e/5wZtEjuYqP>



*For children with Medical, Health or Care Plans, please inform the office as soon as possible if there have been any updates or changes, which should be reflected in your child's plan.*

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# Cake Sale

**YOUNGMINDS**

**Hello  
Yellow**  
FRIDAY 10 OCT

**We are raising money for  
Youngminds as part of  
celebrating Hello Yellow day!**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**School playground at 3.20pm**

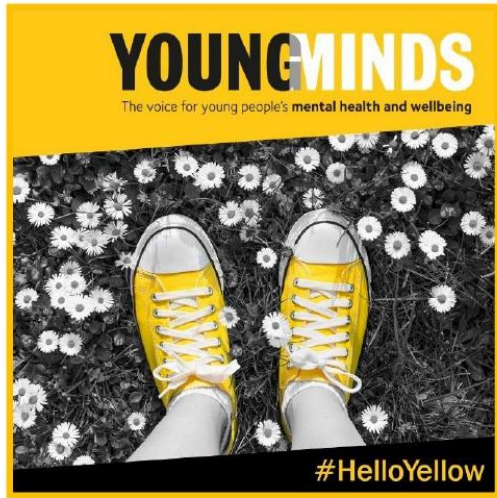


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Countess Gytha  
Primary and Preschool



**Wear your yellow with pride and help us raise vital funds for young people's mental health on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

## # Hello Yellow 2025

Throughout the day on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, all of our children will have the chance to focus on their own mental health and wellbeing through learning about different mindfulness techniques and discussing how sport can also improve wellbeing.



Our Wellbeing Champions will be holding a bake sale at the end of the day to help raise fund for YoungMinds.

**Wear yellow on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October and help raise vital funds for YoungMinds. We suggest a donation of 50p.**

**50p**

Yellow stickers will be given out at school. If you don't have something yellow at home, please don't feel pressurised into buying anything yellow – we will have plenty of props to take funny selfies with!

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# COUNTESS GYTHA PTFA UV DISCO

FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2  
3.30-4.45pm

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6  
5.00-6.15pm

£ 3.00 PER CHILD -  
INCLUDES DRINK, SNACK, GLOW STICKS & FACE PAINTING  
Pre payment & permission slips will be sent home with children.



COUNTESS GYTHA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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20  
25

# UPCOMING EVENTS



UV DISCO

17<sup>TH</sup>  
OCT

29<sup>TH</sup>  
NOV

XMAS WREATH  
WORKSHOP



COMING SOON-  
ORDER PORTAL FOR  
MY CHILD'S ART  
CHRISTMAS CARDS



NOV

5<sup>TH</sup>  
DEC

XMAS FAIR



**SCHOLASTIC**

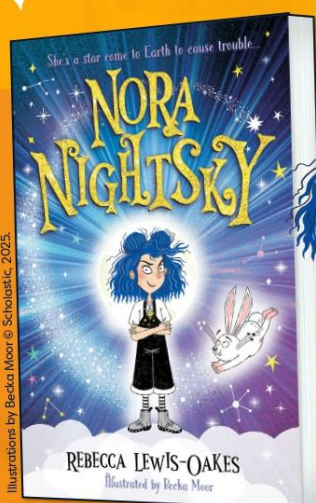
TRAVELLING BOOKS

Come to our

# BOOK FAIR

to spot the books you'll  
**LOVE** to read!

Every book  
you buy earns  
**FREE**  
**BOOKS**  
for our school\*



Illustrations by Becka Moor © Scholastic, 2023.



Come and  
find me!



My brand  
new book!



Art © Dav Pilkey. DOG MAN TM/© Dav Pilkey.

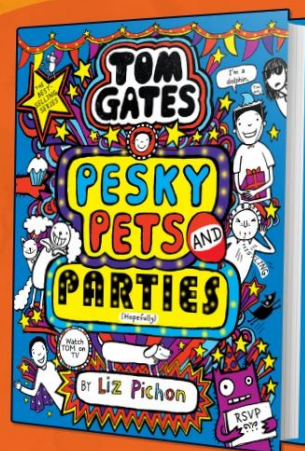
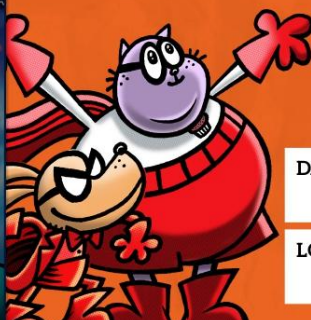


Illustration © Liz Pichon.

DATE:

TIME:

LOCATION:

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# MORE NEW BOOKS

to look out for!



Books from  
**£2.99**

**DISCOVER MORE BOOKS ONLINE!**

[www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases)



All books subject to availability.

## Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay) and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in **£5, £10, £15, £20** and **£25**. Go to [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers) to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List – please ask your school for details.

## HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.



\*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.  
All books subject to availability. Book range may vary. ⚠ Warning: Not suitable for children under 3. Small parts.

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# NEW TIME, NEW PLACE



**GAMES**

CHRISTIAN STORIES



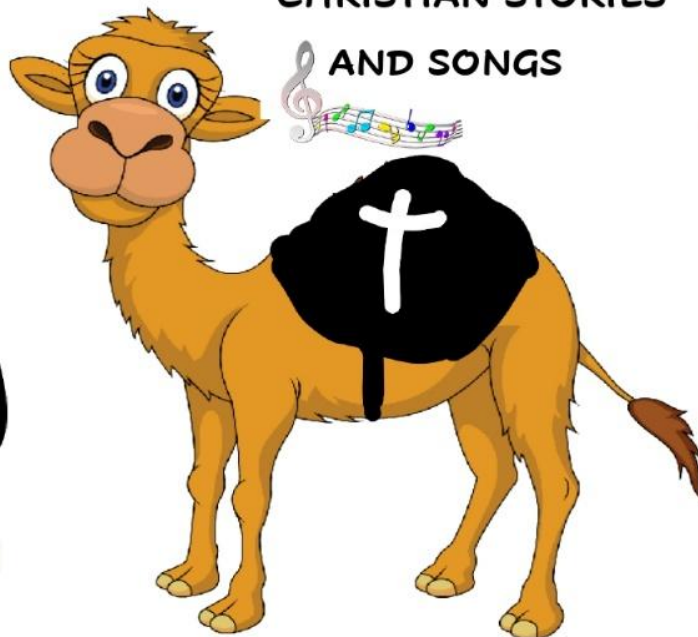
AND SONGS



**COOKING**



**DRAMA**



**ART**

## CAMEL CLUB

**WHERE?**

**COUNTESS GYTHA SCHOOL**

**WHEN?**

**EVERY MONDAY 3:30-4:30**

**FROM 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**WHY NOT COME AND GIVE IT A TRY?**

To book a place please contact...

Rev Caroline Walker...07765 126355

[carolinehwalker@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinehwalker@btinternet.com)

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# Children's eye health

**Your child's sight is precious. Good vision helps them learn, play and communicate with the world around them.**



Yet, there are more than a million children in the UK with undetected vision problems (source: Eye health UK)

Children's vision continues to develop until they reach the age of eight, so caring for a child's eyes in the early years can help lay the foundations for good vision that lasts a lifetime.

**There are lots of simple things that you can do to help keep children's eyes healthy.**

## Essential Eye Checks

Having regular sight tests as advised by your optician is a great place to start.

Sight tests will ensure any problems such as childhood conditions like squint and lazy eye (amblyopia), longsightedness (hypermetropia) or short sightedness (myopia) are picked up early.

The sooner problems are identified the better the treatment outcomes.

Remember sight tests are free on the NHS for all children under 16 years or 18 in education or training. If they require vision correction (glasses or contact lenses) you'll be entitled to an optical voucher towards the cost of this too!

**In Somerset there is access to reception aged vision screening at school.**

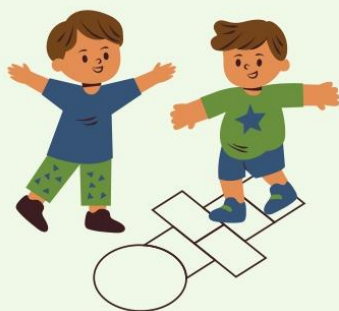


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## Eat a rainbow

Eating a rainbow of colourful fruit and vegetables helps ensure young eyes get the nutrients they need to grow healthily.

Food like tomatoes, grapes and blueberries as well as fish, eggs and whole grains are packed with eye-friendly nutrients.



## Spend time outside

There is evidence that spending two hours or more a day outdoors can reduce the risk of myopia or shortsightedness, even if there is a history of the condition, so time spent outside can benefit your children in many ways.

**Try walking to school, playing outside, sports, PE lessons or going for a bike or scooter ride.**

## Cover up

It's really important to protect your eyes from the sun. When you're young the lens at the front of the eye is really clear so can let even more of the damaging sunlight in.



Protect children's eyes whenever the UV Index rises to three or more even on cloudy days and check that their sunglasses have a CE; UV 400 or British Standard Mark to ensure they provide the right level of UV protection.



A hat with a wide brim can also help protect against damaging UV.

Visit the [Met Office](#) website for information on UV levels.

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## Limit use of screens

Children should be reminded to take regular breaks whenever they do any intense close work like using a screen or reading a book. There is some evidence that excess screen time can damage vision long term.



**A good rule to follow is the 20, 20, 20 rule which suggests taking a break of at least 20 seconds, every 20 minutes and to look 20 feet (6 metres) away.**

**Teenagers viewing smart phones should hold the screen at least 30cms away from their face to avoid eye strain.**

## Signs of reduced vision

It's often difficult to tell if your child is having problems with their eyes but some tell-tale signs that there could be something wrong include:

- **struggling to recognise colours and shapes**
- **not showing any interest in learning to read**
- **complaining about headaches**
- **sitting very close to the TV.**

If you recognise any of these symptoms you should arrange for your child to have a sight test.

**Developed by the Orthoptic Team at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and the Public Health Team at Somerset Council**



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## Save our Prickles Hedgehog Rescue Centre



By coming along to the Memorial  
Hall, Q C. on **Sat 4 October** to a

## Soup Lunch

12.00 – 2.30pm

Homemade Soups, Cakes, Refreshments  
Raffle, Bring & Buy, Cake Stall, Hedgehog  
information

Please come along and help our community to  
donate to a worthy cause





# ChatHealth



Somerset  
Council

Parent advice & support

Healthy lifestyles

School transitioning

Emotional health

**is your child  
5-19 and are you**  
looking for confidential  
help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact  
your School Nursing Team

Just send a text

**07480 635 515**

**Disclaimer:** This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.



Improving  
LIVES

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CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL, AND CAN I LODGE MORE THAN ONE APPEAL?

There aren't any places at my preferred school, what can I do now?

I'VE MOVED INTO THE AREA AND NEED HELP FINDING A SCHOOL FOR MY CHILD.

IS THERE ANYONE THAT CAN SUPPORT ME PREPARING FOR MY APPEAL?

# CHOICE ADVICE

Advice and support on school admissions and appeals



Call us on **01823 356 903**



Fill in our online form  
[www.somerset.gov.uk/choice-advice](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/choice-advice)



Contact us via email  
[choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk)  
or scan the QR code



**Somerset**  
Council



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# **Ansford Academy**



## **Open Evening and Open Morning**

*Year 6 and Year 5 families are warmly invited to attend our open events*

### **OPEN EVENING**

**Thursday 2nd October: 5.00pm until 7.30pm**

*Please join us to hear from our Head of School and take a tour around our school*

*Presentations will take place in PA2 at: 5.15pm and 6.00pm—no need to book in advance*

### **OPEN MORNING**

**Wednesday 8th October: 9.30am until 11.00am**

*You are invited to come and see our students in action*

*School Tours will take place during the morning — no need to book in advance*

*“At Ansford we  
are aiming high  
and dreaming  
big”— Year 11  
Head Students*

**We are celebrating our best GCSE results in recent years, marking a significant milestone in our school's academic journey. We are committed to creating a great place to learn, work and grow;**

***learning together to lead our lives***

**Ansford Academy, Maggs Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JJ - 01963 350895 - [admissions@ansford.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:admissions@ansford.mnsp.org.uk) - [www.ansford.org.uk](http://www.ansford.org.uk)**

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