



COUNTESS  
GYTHA  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

# Diary Dates

19<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The school has certainly returned to full swing now, with all of our weekly curriculum enrichment sessions up and running. Merlin are enjoying whole-class music sessions and Pendragon are enjoying environmental sessions with Mrs Feierabend and Mrs Hewlett, as well as yoga with Yeovil Town. Likewise, King Arthur, Excalibur and Lancelot are enjoying their additional art and swimming for Lancelot too!



Mr K. Musson – head of Ansford visits Countess Gytha pupils

Class letters, which include timetable information and curriculum enrichment activities have now been published, [copies of which can be found on the website here.](#)

Headteacher, Mr Musson was accompanied by Thomas and Daisy, a previous pupil of the school to meet with children in Year 5 and 6 today. With the deadline for secondary school applications fast approaching (October 31<sup>st</sup>), it provided a brilliant opportunity for our oldest learners to ask about what learning and life is like at Ansford. A flyer for Ansford's open evening event is posted below and Mr Musson is looking forward to welcoming lots of Year 5 and 6 families.



Bookman visit to assembly!

Another flying visitor today came in the form of Bookman! Speaking during Praise Assembly this morning, he was delighted to present Albie, Alfie W and Freddie W with books as their challenge rewards! He will be returning next week in case of any late hand-ins and we look forward to celebrating these children in assembly too!

Author, Luke Temple has visited the school on Tuesday and Wednesday. The children were enthralled with

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extracts of his work, particularly around the haunted mansions and enchanted snakes and ladders gameboard! Luke will be dropping the final set of books ordered into school early next week. Please contact the school office if you have not received these by Friday.



Author Visit from Luke Temple

In sporting news this week, the Year 5/6 netball team represented Countess Gytha in a tournament hosted by Preston Secondary School.



Netball team

year.

On Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime next week, we will begin to collate and create our ideas, which should look amazing alongside the willow structures Mrs Jacobsen has been making in Excalibur class.

If you think that you child would like to participate in either the construction or in the event (details to follow closer to the occasion), [please complete this brief Microsoft Form.](#)

Looking ahead, on Monday we look forward to welcoming our reception children in Merlin Class for their first full-time week – they have settled brilliantly and Miss Morris and the team are looking forward to a very exciting year ahead together.



Merlin Class 2025-26



Play Leaders

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Next Friday, classes have planned activities across the day to celebrate European Day of Language 2025. If possible, we would like all children to come to school dressed in the colour of the country flag selected by their class teacher. This country will also form the basis of the fun activities throughout the day. For those classes with food activities planned, class teachers will write to parents next week outlining these.

Preschool are representing the United Kingdom



Merlin Class are representing Italy

Pendragon Class are representing France

King Arthur Class are representing Spain

Excalibur Class are representing Greece

Lancelot Class are representing Germany



Reminder to return Data and GDPR consent forms as soon as possible.

Reminder emails to parents will be sent next week!

REMINDER FOR FLU VACCINATION CONSENT

Deadline midday on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

[Immunisation Consent \(somersetsaint.co.uk\)](https://somersetsaint.co.uk)

Unique code SM146446

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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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:

Merlin Class will be joining our Praise Assemblies in the second half of the Autumn term.

Pendragon – Congratulations to Jacob, Pendragon's Star of the Week – for brilliant listening and setting a great example to others – wonderful to hear, Jacob! Pendragon's Worker of the Week this week goes to Charlotte for writing fantastic factual sentences about alligators – well done, Charlotte.

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Freddie C as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for his excellent focus and determination to complete every task set – brilliant work, Freddie! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Hero, for his excellent understanding of place value in finding the correct hundreds, tens and ones values – well done, Hero!

Excalibur – Molly S is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for being a superb friend to new pupils at our school and supporting classroom peers with their work – high praise, Molly! Excalibur's Worker of the Week is awarded to Phoebe, for working hard to produce a well-structured information text on Greece alongside some brilliant mathematics – keep up the great work, Phoebe!

Lancelot – Olivia has been recognised as Lancelot's Star of the Week for participating excellent in all lessons by contributing to class discussions, being brave to put forward answers and supporting others – lovely news, Olivia! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week goes to Lily, for an excellent start at Countess Gytha, particularly impressing in tag rugby club and with her World War 2 knowledge – fantastic work, Lily!

A special mention this week goes to Maisie and Molly who last week danced the streets of South Petherton with Ilchester Gems Majorettes as part of the carnival on Saturday. This Saturday you will be able to see them in Frome.



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<b>Every Friday</b> 	<b>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</b> <b>Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p</b>	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Lancelot Class and Year 5 Excalibur Class swimming session 2	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Cross Country Race 1 at Yeovil Rugby Club – letters available from Mr Gallagher	
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2025. Completed booking forms can be emailed to <a href="mailto:wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org">wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org</a>	
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Deadline for consent forms and deposit payment for Year 6 residential.	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	School Nurses to give Flu immunisations (Nasal spray) to all children. Parents to complete online form to consent or to opt out. Details of link and unique code above. Email sent 12.9.25	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	European Day of Languages – letter sent home today	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	1.30pm School Tour for New Intake 2026 – please see office to book a place.	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Lancelot Class and Year 5 Excalibur Class swimming session 3	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher and Phonics Information for Reception and Year 1 parents in the school hall. 3-3.45pm.	
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	AIM High Writing event for selected pupils.	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Donations for Lords Larder to be brought into school for Harvest Festival.	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Harvest Festival – details to follow shortly	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Lancelot Class and Year 5 Excalibur Class swimming session 4	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	9.15am School Tour for New Intake 2026 – please see office to book a place.	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Yellow Hello Day – Details to follow	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Castle Cary Carnival Event	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Lancelot Class and Year 5 Excalibur Class swimming session 5	

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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 <i>Please note that there will be no enrichment clubs this week.</i>	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	PTFA UV Disco – details to follow shortly	
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 7 <sup>th</sup> November	School and Preschool Photography by Imago – Individual and sibling photographs.	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm School Tour for New Intake 2026 – please see office to book a place.	
	<p>If any children aged 9 and above are interested in the Autumn 2025 National Youth Choir – please speak to Mr Gordon or Mrs Sherry for further details or visit the <a href="#">National Youth Choir Webpage here.</a></p> <p> <b>NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR</b></p> <p>Joining the National Youth Choir is a wonderful opportunity for young singers to develop their voices and musicianship and expand their horizons in a wonderfully supportive environment.</p>	
November		
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	10am School Tour for New Intake 2026 – please see office to book a place.	

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Charles Harrison  
Composer, Sound Designer, Musician  
[tuition@charlesevanharrison.com](mailto:tuition@charlesevanharrison.com)



# 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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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**



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# 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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**A Community Owned Pub for Queen Camel**  
**Parish Questionnaire**

**An opportunity has arisen for the community of Queen Camel to buy out the ownership of The Mildmay Arms from the current owners, Ian and Debbie Woodward, who want to retire.**

**To date, Ian and Debbie have not received any acceptable commercial offers for the pub, and if no suitable buyer is found then the pub could just be closed.**

**This provides us the opportunity to create a community asset run for the benefit of the parish of Queen Camel.**

**We are seeking the views of the community and would be very grateful if you could complete the questionnaire which will be delivered to your home next week; it will also be made available online on the village WhatsApp group.**

**Deadline for return of questionnaires is Monday 22 September.**



*Boxes for return of questionnaires will be placed around the community,  
we have one in the school office reception area.*

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**Strictly Jive's**  
**Sparkford Inn Freestyle**

The Sparkford Inn,  
Nr Yeovil, Somerset,  
BA22 7JH

Theme gardening, summer  
or nature – optional dress



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**7:30-11:30pm**

**fully licensed Bar in hall**

**beautiful dance floor**

**free parking**

**raffle**

**£8**







Ministry  
of Defence

# Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding

## 2025 Service Pupil Premium

Get extra school funding to support your Service child!

- Are you a parent of a Service child in a state school, academy or free school in England?
- Is your child in Reception Class to Year 11?

If the answer is yes, your child may be eligible to bring in an extra £350 funding for their school with the Service Pupil Premium (SPP).

Simply inform your child's school of your Service status by 2 October 2025, otherwise they will miss out on extra funding.

How will the funding support my child?

The SPP is provided to fund mainly pastoral support to help Service children with their education and wellbeing. But it's for the school to decide how the money is spent.

Pupils attract SPP if they meet one of the following criteria:

- A parent is serving in the regular armed forces or is on full commitment Full-Time Reserve Service.
- A parent died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.
- They have been registered as a 'Service child' in the most recent DfE school census or in the census in the past 6 years.
- A parent is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England.

For general queries:

Email the MOD Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding team:

[People-AFFS-Education-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:People-AFFS-Education-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk)

For more guidance: Please scan the QR code:  
(GOV.UK Guidance Service Pupils in Schools:  
Non-statutory guidance)



Army Design Studio ADR013209

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## Wild Tots at Carymoor!



Five-week course for Parents/ Carers and their under 5s, funded by Somerset Council.

Starting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 and running for 5 Monday mornings 10.00-12.00 each session.

This course aims to help parents and carers feel more confident exploring and playing outdoors with their little ones, whilst also boosting wildlife knowledge and wellbeing too. Each themed around different native wild animals. As usual there will be lots of fun activities for you and your child to do together, including muddy play, natural crafts, wildlife exploration, imaginative play, songs and more!

Somerset Council funding means that many people can attend for FREE- you can check if this applies to you by looking at the criteria here:

<https://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk/community-learning/>

For more information and to enrol, head to Somerset Council's 'Step Up Somerset' website: <https://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk/find-courses/>

We hope you and your little ones can join us at Carymoor soon!



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Castle Cary Football Club invites new players & coaches to come & join us for the new football season.



We've had a busy summer providing football sessions for U7/U8 children – we're looking for coaches to come and join us and carry on with the great group of children who have been attending.

We will support any new coaches obtaining their qualifications – if you are interested, please get in touch

Our U11 team is on the look for new players. Children in years 5 & 6 are eligible to play in this age group so please reach out and come along to one of our training sessions

For more information  
please feel free to contact us



[castlecaryfc.juniors@gmail.com](mailto:castlecaryfc.juniors@gmail.com)



[castlecaryfc](#)



[Castle Cary FC](#)



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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)

### Singing Lessons

Available from September

- ★ Fun and engaging lessons!
- ★ Learn to sing your favourite songs with confidence
- ★ Work towards Rockschoool grades
- ★ Improve vocal & breathing techniques
- ★ Grow musicianship skills
- ★ Suitable for Year 3 and above

Free 15 minute session available before starting regular lessons (£18 per half hour thereafter)

Please contact  
[janebaileymusic@gmail.com](mailto:janebaileymusic@gmail.com) to book in!



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The  
Gryphon  
School

# YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING



**Thursday 2nd**  
**October 2025**  
**5 - 7.30pm**

Start or end your evening  
with a talk from our  
Headteacher.

Talks at **5.15pm** and **7pm**.

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# TRY RUGBYTOTS FREE\*

[rugbytots.co.uk](http://rugbytots.co.uk)  
The world's favourite rugby play programme



# TRY RUGBYTOTS FREE\*



**Rugbytots** is the world's favourite rugby play programme. Our dynamic weekly classes enable **boys and girls aged 2-7** to develop their social and physical skills in a fun, positive environment. To book a **FREE** taster session, email or call us, mention **NURSERYOFFER** and tell us your preferred class location (scan the QR code or visit [rugbytots.co.uk](http://rugbytots.co.uk) to find this, or just tell us your postcode).

**freetaster@rugbytots.co.uk**  
**0345 313 3242**

\* Subject to availability



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**2025** Somerset  
**YOUTH PARLIAMENT**  
[6 voluntary groups]  
**ELECTIONS**  
AND MAKE YOUR MARK

# **NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AMPLIFYING  
THE VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE?**

**DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN INFLUENCING CHANGE  
IN THE SERVICES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE USE?**

**ARE YOU AGED 11-18 YEARS?**

**HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD, INFLUENCE POSITIVE CHANGE AND  
HELP IMPROVE THINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOMERSET BY  
BECOMING A SOMERSET MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT.**

Nominations for the Youth Parliament Elections are now open to  
all young people who live in Somerset aged 11-18 years.

To nominate scan the QR code or visit

**[www.somersetyouthparliament.org.uk/elections](http://www.somersetyouthparliament.org.uk/elections)**



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# HELP RAISE THE POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOMERSET



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**2025** Somerset  
**YOUTH PARLIAMENT**  
[& advisory group]  
**ELECTIONS**  
**AND MAKE YOUR MARK**

# WHY GET INVOLVED?

**We think that you'd be a great Somerset Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), but why would anyone want to become and MYP? What's in it for you?**

- Have your voice heard, help improve things & influence positive change for young people
- Have fun & meet new, interesting people
- Represent others & raise awareness of issues important to young people
- Promote positive work of young people & their achievements
- Learn new skills, raise confidence & self esteem
- Take part in important consultations
- A chance to talk to MPs, councillors & decision makers
- Be respected, acknowledged & recognised for your voluntary work
- Exciting opportunities, challenges to stretch your potential
- interesting debates & discussion on topical issues

**HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD, INFLUENCE POSITIVE CHANGE AND HELP IMPROVE THINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOMERSET BY BECOMING A SOMERSET MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT.**

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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



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 *North Cadbury Primary*

# ACTIVE CAMP

➞ OCTOBER HALF TERM (27<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup>)

**MONDAY**

Nerf Battles and Laser Tag Day

**TUESDAY**

Target Day

**WEDNESDAY**

Tournament Day

**THURSDAY**

Inflatable Day

**FRIDAY**

Olympic and Paralympic Day



[WWW.TLESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK](http://WWW.TLESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK)

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 *Bucklers Mead Leisure Centre*

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Nerf Battles and Laser Tag Day

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Target Day

**THURSDAY**

Tournament Day

**FRIDAY**

Inflatable Day



[WWW.TLESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK](http://WWW.TLESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK)

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