COUNTESS GYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Diary Dates

PPAT EDUCATION

6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term, already proving itself as one of the busiest of the school year!



School Remembrance Display

Dressed in their house colours this week, children in Quantocks were celebrating last half-term's house point win! With less than 50 points separating some of the teams, the countdown to Christmas is becoming very competitive!



Poppies on sale from the School Council

Speaking of the countdown, in preparation for their performance later in the term, Reception through Year 2 have begun their rehearsals for their Nativity performance. All of the songs will shortly be available to practise at home – stay tuned for more information on this in the coming weeks.

Before then however, classes have already started the fresh season of learning by adorning the front of the school with our annual Remembrance display.



The school will be marking the silence on the 11th with a short service of remembrance (around 10 minutes) from 10:45am at the front of school, beneath the flagpole; a few children from the Gytha Troops will be visiting RNAS Yeovilton at this time.

Good Eggs Litter picking

Poppies will remain on sale before and after school from

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the school council.

Delayed due to the weather at the end of last half-term, the Good Eggs visited the recreation ground and park, collecting litter along the way and around the boundaries before enjoying some time in the park and a little treat courtesy of the pavilion – well done to all and we look forward to announcing our next set of Good Eggs at the end of term.

Next week, with our Run Pudsey event, children are welcome to bring in any Children in Need or Pudsey related accessories to wear alongside their school uniform. Classes will be participating in a daily run, with perhaps a special visitor on Monday (see email sent 05.11.26). Families are welcome to join their children on our final running event on Friday morning, from 9am for around 15 minutes on the school field – no sign up required, just trainers!

A reminder that Run Pudsey is an external sign up for those wanting to raise sponsorship and receive a medal. Sign ups are still welcome via https://www.runpudsey.co.uk/dmz/register-school code A4E1

Finally, although I have had to slightly reduce the amount of time on the gate before and after school due to cover commitments in Lancelot class, I am still available to all across the week should you have any comments or concerns – please do make an appointment at the school office to see me.



Quantocks house point winners enjoying their celebratory MUFTi day

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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 – Well done to Leona, Merlin Worker of the Week for working collaboratively to build a model of the streets of London in 1666 – it looks fabulous! Congratulations to Rose, who is Star of the Week, for her positive and kind attitude to all across the week – wonderful news, Rose!

Pendragon – Congratulations to Jack, Pendragon's Star of the Week – for his super commitment to learning and for setting a fantastic example to others – keep up the great attitude, Jack! Pendragon's Worker of the Week this week goes to Olivia, for writing a fantastic retelling of the gun powder plot – exciting stuff, Liv!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Milo as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for always trying his hardest and for his brilliant focus in lessons – well done, Milo! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Eliza, for her excellent understanding and use of conjunctions in her writing – I can't wait to see it on the Board of Brilliance, Eliza!

Excalibur – Reuben is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for demonstrating great independence when creating a classification key within his science – top work, Reuben! Excalibur's Worker of the Week is awarded to Rupert, for producing a super playscript in his extended write, which included great character dialogue and stage directions – a brilliant start to your first week back, young man!

Lancelot – Isabella has been recognised as Lancelot's Star of the Week for settling in well to her new class and showing great resilience when learning the expectations of her new school – a great start to your time with us! The Worker of the Week goes to Freddie W, for a fantastic poem written in the style of Benjamin Zephaniah, paired with showing confidence and technical skills in the new music sessions with Mr Male – top work, Freddie!

Bookman is absolutely delighted! 20 children wrote book reviews which will shortly be displayed in the school library – with some going as far as writing 3 reviews for others to enjoy!

A special mention this week goes to Charlie in Pendragon, for his great commitment as

part of his local football team! Well done to Emily in Lancelot, for competing in her latest swimming gala, hosted in Bristol last week – although she didn't return with the results she had hoped for, she was delighted to share about the experience all the same!

As part of this year's BBC 500 Word Challenge, Molly received her certificate and to top it, she smashed a Communifit 5k in Sherborne in half-term, receiving a great spooky medal!





Payment Reminders on ParentPay

Cineworld visit for Merlin Class and Pendragon Class £4.15

Strode Theatre visit for King Arthur, Excalibur and Lancelot Class £4.15

Swimming for Years 5 & 6

Swimming for Years 3 & 4

Pantomime £3.40



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Somerset's Area SEND inspection has now begun.

Message for families, children and young people, and staff

Ofsted and CQC Area SEND inspection: Share your experience

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are carrying out an inspection of services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in Somerset.

As part of the inspection, inspectors want to hear directly from **children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and practitioners**. They will use this feedback to help them understand people's experiences of SEND services and support across Somerset.

The relevant surveys can be found here:

- Children and Young People Survey
- Parent/Carer Survey
- Parent/Carer Survey (Easy Read)
- https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AreaSEND-Practitioner/10445129

The surveys are voluntary and responses will be treated confidentially by the inspection team.

The surveys will remain open from 2nd November until 9am on Tuesday 10 November 2026.

Please take this opportunity to share your experiences and views directly with inspectors.

More information

Ofsted and CQC have also published information explaining the Area SEND inspection and how children, young people, parents and carers can be involved. Information is available in a range of formats, including Easy Read and British Sign Language (BSL).

Area SEND inspections: information for families

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BBC Children in Need

Friday 13th November 2026

Please come dressed in non-school uniform, wearing something spotty, dotty or Pudsey themed.

Suggested donation 50p



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School Council

Children In Need Sale

Badges, Wristbands & Pens £1 each

(while stocks last)



Pudsey Cupcake Cake Sale

Friday 13th November

On the playground at 3.15pm



50p per cake

Please come and support this worthwhile cause.

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Christmas Lunch

Thursday 17th December 2026

Roast turkey,
roast potatoes, carrots,
Yorkshire pudding and gravy

Or

Vegetarian puff pastry bakes,
roast potatoes, carrots and gravy

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Chocolate cake & green custard
Yoghurt
Fruit pot

Bookable on ParentPay





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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



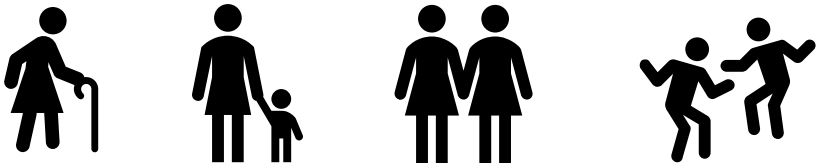
FRIDAY TUCKSHOP - Every Friday morning breaktime – 20p

Monday 9th November	Swimming for Year 4 Excalibur Class & Year 3 King Arthur Class – session 2
Monday 9th November – Friday 13th November	Run Pudsey Week Event
Tuesday 10th November	Year 5 Ansford Sports Festival – letter sent home 12.10.26
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Service at RNAS Yeovilton for selected pupils.
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day 2026 (in school event).
Wednesday 11th November	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 16th November 2026. Completed booking forms can be emailed to wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org
Friday 13th November	Pudsey Run on school field from 8:50am. Children in Need 2026 – wear Mufti for a suggested donation of 50p. Children in Need Cake Sale 3.15pm.
Monday 16th November	Swimming for Year 4 Excalibur Class & Year 3 King Arthur Class – session 3
Tuesday 17th November	Thales in STEM school visit
Wednesday 18th November	Thales in STEM school visit
Wednesday 18th November	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 23rd November. Completed booking forms can be emailed to wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org
Friday 20th November	PTFA Mufti Day for Christmas Fair Donations .. see poster above COUNTESS GYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL .
Monday 23rd November	Swimming for Year 4 Excalibur Class & Year 3 King Arthur Class – session 4
Tuesday 24th November	Cineworld visit for Merlin and Pendragon Classes
Wednesday 25th November	Strode Theatre visit for King Arthur, Excalibur and Lancelot Classes
Friday 27th November	Tulip Photogrpahy in school for individual and sibling photoraphs.

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Friday 4th December	PTFA Christmas Fair
Monday 7th December	Swimming for Year 4 Excalibur Class & Year 3 King Arthur Class – session 4
Tuesday 8th December	Countess Gytha Choir to perform at Village Café.
Tuesday 1st December	Christingle Making for all classes. All children to bring in an orange.
Wednesday 2nd December	Christingle Celebration – timings to be confirmed Christingle Service at St Barnabus Church (details to be sent out shortly)
Week Commencing Monday 14th December	*Please note that there will be no enrichment clubs this week*
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Carol Concert at St Barnabus Church. Details to follow.

Fore and Aft Church - *fun worship time.*



For **G**od and **A**ll **F**amily **T**ogether all ages welcome - tea and cake

Sunday November 8th 4pm at St. Barnabas, Queen Camel
A Roman Soldier,
the Sword of Truth, the Sandals of Peace,
the Shield of Faith.

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Yeovil Christian Support Trust
The Gateway
Addlewell Lane
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1QN
Tel. 01935 726576
Email:lordslarderyeovil@gmail.com
Web:www.ycstyeovil.org.uk
Charity no. 1092843

22nd October 2026

Mr David Gordon, Headteacher,
Countess Gytha Primary School,
West Camel Road, Queen Camel,
Somerset,
BA22 7FF

To all the students, parents and staff of Countess Gytha Primary School,

Thank you to all the students, parents and staff for your kind donation of **102 items of food** in support of the work of The Lord's Larder Food Bank in Yeovil. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

We have been working to help those in our community for 35 years now, having started in 1991. We know that the food bank is a vital lifeline for single people and families who run out of money for various reasons, and then require emergency food support, while in crisis.

Last year we were able to give out **154,550 items of food** which went into **3913 emergency food parcels** to help a total of **8272 local people** (this figure breaks down as 4947 adults and 3325 children in a total of 1826 families).

So far this year (to the end of August) we have already given out over **83,059 items of food**, to help **5,004 people (of which 1,872 were children).**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing to support the work of the Lord's Larder Food Bank, and to pass on the heart-felt gratitude from all those we were able to help each year, without your support this would not be possible.

Kindest regards,

Mat

Mat Callaghan Operations Manager Lord's Larder Food Bank & Lord's Larder Community Fund

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Countess Gytha
Primary and Preschool

Preschool Practitioner

Countess Gytha Primary School
West Camel Road
QUEEN CAMEL
Nr. Yeovil, BA22 7FF
Office@countessgytha.ppat365.org
Tel: 01935 850345

Starting salary: Grade 15, point 3-4
£13.28 - £13.48 per hour
Local Government Pension Scheme
Working 4 days per week: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Working 23 hours per week: 9.00 am – 3.15 pm, Term-time only
Fixed term contract until 31st August 2027 in the first instance

Details of the role

You will be working in our Preschool with a key group of children to encourage and support all aspects of the children's development with regards to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and to observe, record, plan and assess learning that has taken place in the child's individual learning journey. You will also be required to undertake duties associated with the day-to-day operation of the Preschool.

Key duties and responsibilities

This would suit an enthusiastic, energetic and caring person who enjoys working within a small team. The ideal candidate will have Childcare level 2 as a minimum along with experience of supporting and motivating 2–4 year-old children in a positive learning environment as well as working on a 1-1 basis when necessary. There may also be an opportunity for additional hours within our wrap around care department if this is of interest.

How to Apply:

Please apply in writing by completing the application form available on the Trust website.
This can be found at www.ppateducation.co.uk/vacancies

Completed application forms and a covering letter should be submitted to:
Wendy Flagg, Preschool Manager, Countess Gytha Preschool
Or emailed to: **office@countessgytha.ppat365.org**

Application Deadline: Wednesday 25th November 2026

PPAT Education reserves the right to remove a vacancy before the closing date.
Due to the volume of applications received if you have not heard from the school by 11th December unfortunately you have not been successful in securing an interview.

Visits to the Preschool or any queries regarding the role are welcome;
please telephone the Preschool directly on 01935 850564 to make an appointment.

PPAT Education is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
This position is subject to an enhanced DBS check and other pre-employment checks.

PPAT EDUCATION

PPAT Education
C/o Kingfisher Primary School, Kingfisher Drive, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8FJ
Tel: 01935 676350
Email: ppat@ppat365.org
Website: www.ppateducation.co.uk

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FLOC Community

Supporting the wellbeing of families raising children with additional needs.

FLOC meet-ups are for anyone caring for a child with any additional need, disability or sensitivity. No diagnosis required. All are welcome.

Meet other parents and carers, where you don't have to explain yourself. You're already understood. Come as you are.

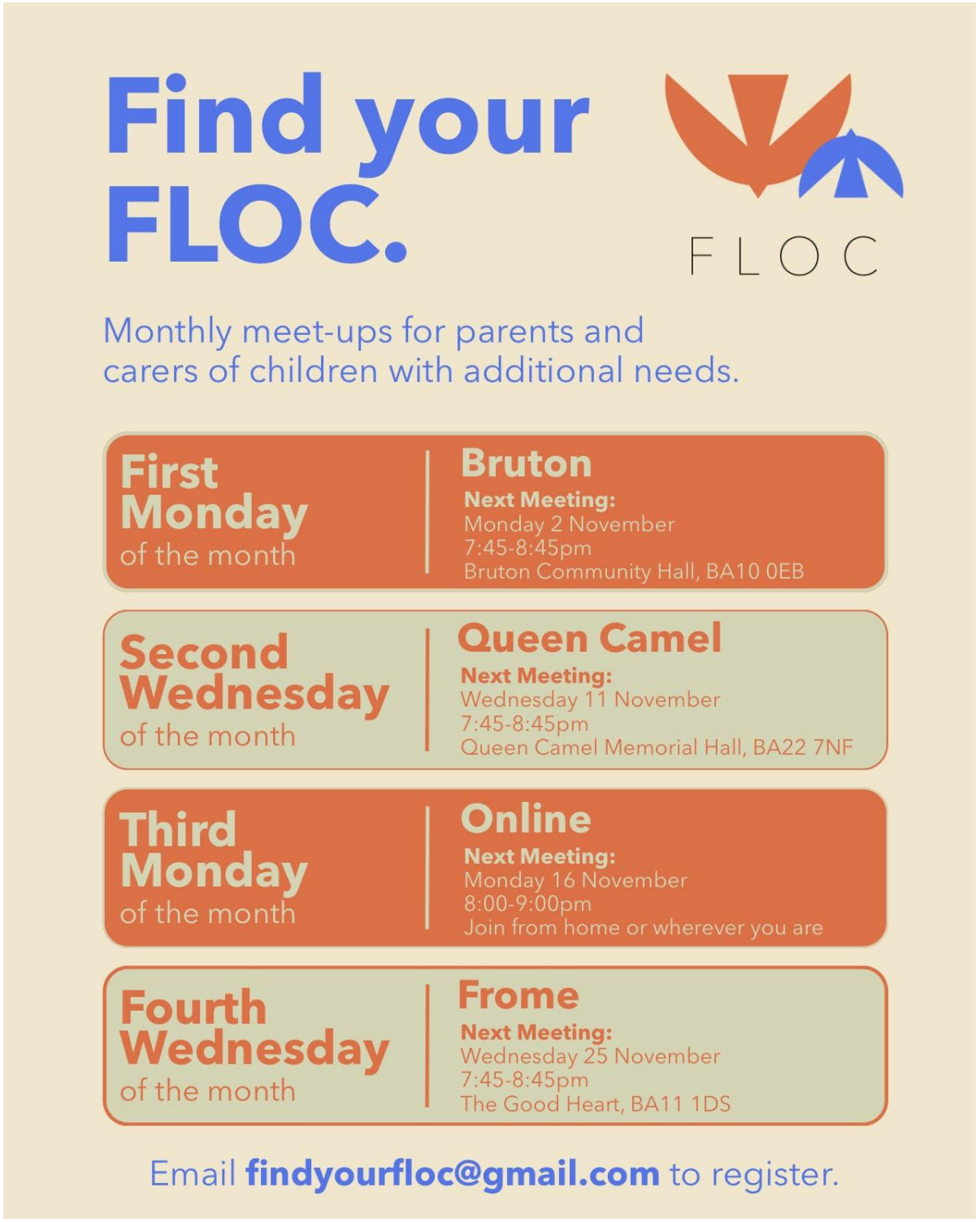
Connection changes everything.



Find your FLOC
Join a meet-up online or in a town near you.

Find out more: www.floc.org.uk or contact us: findyourfloc@gmail.com

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Shaftesbury Young Performers Festival

SHAFTESBURY & DISTRICT MUSIC SOCIETY

The SYPF is a competitive festival but the emphasis is on celebrating music making and encouraging young performers. A panel of adjudicators will give helpful and encouraging feed back to every performer and awards will be given for effort and achievement.







Dates & Categories

Each category will be broken down into age/ability groups

Nov Fri 13th

Schools
School Instrumental Groups
School Singing Groups

"It was a great opportunity for our children and they loved it!"

Nov Sat 14th

Instrumentalists
Woodwind
Brass
Strings
Percussion
Piano
Composition
Duets
Groups

"THANK YOU SO MUCH for this event! We are looking forward to taking part next year!"

"Great festival to boost confidence to perform in front of others"

Nov Sun 15th

Vocals
Soloists
Self Accompanied Singers
Duets
Groups

"Such a friendly, encouraging and inclusive festival. My daughter came away inspired!"

Nov Sat 21st

Festival Concert
(Featuring selected festival performers)

Entering

Entries can be made by visiting www.shaftesburymusic.org

Closing date: October 23rd

Entry to any catagory - £6
(Fees are per entry not per person)

If you have any questions please contact sypf@shaftesburymusic.org

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Frequently Asked Questions

What level do I need to be at to compete?
Any level at all! We want to encourage all young musicians from beginners to virtuosos.

How will adjudication work?
There will be a panel of around 3 adjudicators for each class including professional musicians and teachers. Our adjudicators will offer constructive criticism to each performer but their main aim is to encourage and inspire so don't be afraid!

What to do I do about accompaniment?
Performers are welcome to perform a capella or to bring along an accompanist or a pre-recorded backing track. A YouTube/ Spotify track on a phone is totally acceptable as long as there are no vocals on the track (we will provide a bluetooth speaker).

As a parent, do I need to stay with my child if they are performing?
Children aged 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Performers aged 12 and above can attend on their own, however, we would love to encourage family and friends to come along and support the performers.

What should I perform?
Every performer will be asked to perform one piece of their choosing. Our advice is to choose a piece that you are really comfortable with and that you can perform well. Lengths of pieces will vary greatly depending on age and skill of the performers but aim to keep your piece below 3-4 minutes.

Is there a dress code?
No. Wear whatever makes you feel comfortable.

Will I sing with a microphone?
No. It's all about projection!

Can I enter more than one category?
Absolutely!

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