COUNTESS GYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Diary Dates

PPAT EDUCATION

13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,



Marking the 11th November, the school and preschool observed the two-minute silence following readings and recitals from members of Lancelot class.

Representatives of the Gytha Troops were proud to embody the school at RNAS Yeovilton, alongside family members and serving personnel at the base.

In preparation for this important occasion, all of our Gytha Troop children contributed towards creating a beautiful remembrance wreath, which was respectfully laid at the memorial during the service.



RNAS Remembrance at Yeovilton



Year 5 had a fantastic time visiting Ansford Secondary School to take part in a dance workshop. The workshop was led by Ansford pupils, who had choreographed a dance for each visiting school to learn and perform.



Y5 Dance Workshop

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, throwing themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm. Some children particularly impressed us with their natural dance ability, confidence and skill.



It was a wonderful opportunity to develop their dancing skills, work together and enjoy a new experience. Well done, Year 5!

The Year 5 and 6 football team was also in action on Wednesday, visting Ilchester to play against them as well

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as another of the PPAT schools, North Cadbury. With rolling substituions across both games, everybody made their contribution count with excellent last-gasp defending, incredible saves from both keepers and strong team work in the midfield and attack meant that we competed well. We lost both games but look forward to future rematches as well as the girls' event that we are hosting next week!



Y5/6 Football at Ilchester

Rehearsals for the nativity have also punctuated the week – please don't forget that scripts should be in school every day and that all of the songs are available to practise at home [via this link on the school website.]



"Lawrence the Horse" assembly

Year 4,5 and 6 children enjoyed a special assembly led by the Horse Society, focusing on how to stay safe around horses, particularly when sharing the road. The assembly highlighted the importance of being considerate and responsible road users, whether travelling by bicycle, scooter or in a car. The key message was "Pass wide and slow" and to always remember that horses are living animals that can be frightened unexpectedly.

The main news of the week has to have been Pudsey visiting on Monday and the children's incredible fundraising efforts however!





As of this morning, our families have raised over £2000 for Children in Need with sponsorship of children as part of their "Run Pudsey" challenges. The main-bear themselves visited on Monday with all children able to meet Pudsey and some running with Charlie from BBC Radio Somerset, who also interviewed our senior school councilors for the breakfast show!

Topping off the week's challenges, parents joined their children on a final chilly run around the field together. Dodging the cones

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and skating across the frost, classes had a brilliant time leading their parents before celebrating with their classes in front of a giant chalked Pudsey face with all of the day's donations!

We were very sorry to have missed a number of children's permissions but hope that a re-visit later this half-term will go a long way to putting this right. Our visitor will be returning to say a great big thank you to the school and we will ensure all children get to stretch their legs alongside the yellow legend!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their support and generosity.

Classes were delighted to receive their share of over 70 books the school has been able to purchase as part of the Scholastic Book Fair this year! The librarians have been busy barcoding them and adding them to the school library in the hope that all can enjoy them from next week!



Scholastic Book Fair Purchases

Finally, we welcome parents and families to join us at 11 am on Wednesday 2nd December for our Christingle celebration. Please can each child have an orange in school on Monday 30th or Tuesday 1st December, ready to decorate with school-provided resources.



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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:

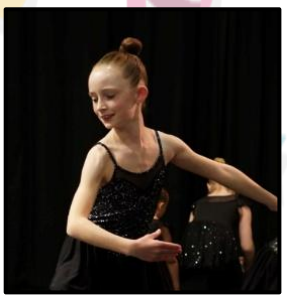
Merlin – Well done to Finn, Merlin Worker of the Week for your great focus on your handwriting – a superb effort, young man! Congratulations to Theo, who is Star of the Week in Merlin, for his fantastic efforts in his nativity rehearsals – we can't wait for the show in a few weeks, Theo!

Pendragon – Congratulations to Keira, Pendragon's Star of the Week – for her dedication to learning all of her lines in readiness for this year's nativity – the excitement is already starting to build! Pendragon's Worker of the Week this week goes to Ashton, for writing his postcard from Stickman, all about his feelings. You did a brilliant job talking about how lonely he felt, well done Ashton!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Joseph as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for his dedication to learning all of his times-tables – a key skill that remains vital to master Joe, well done! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Jacob, for writing a superb description of the disgusting Mr Twit – you really went to town on his eyebrows Jacob, a brilliant piece!

Excalibur – William is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for making greater effort in his handwriting and to complete all work, particularly in maths – great to hear, William! Excalibur's Worker of the week goes to Holly De Lange for some great writing in her diary entry, using some amazing features to enhance her writing – keep up the hard work, young lady!

Lancelot – The Worker of the Week goes to Emelia, for always giving 100% in everything she does, consistently showing enthusiasm, dedication, and a fantastic attitude – I can second that, well done Emelia! Emily has been recognised as Lancelot's Star of the Week for an outstanding reading during the Remembrance Service, speaking clearly, confidently and with expression as well as an ongoing outstanding work ethic – amazing news, Emily!

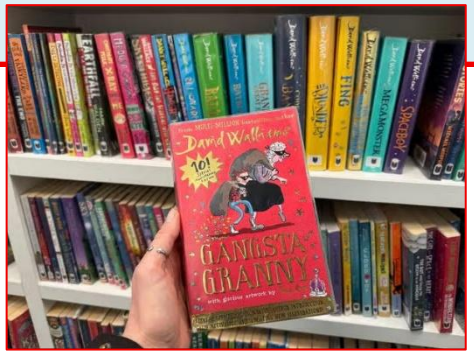


A special mention to Molly in Lancelot, who took part in the Devon Dance Festival in half-term and her two dance groups got 1st and 3rd place in jazz and ballet! Well done to Sophie and Hattie in Excalibur, who participated in a recent hockey tournament. They

enjoyed all of their games (even the one where they played each other) and would highly recommend Yeovil and Sherborne hockey club! A special mention goes to Mason in Pendragon, who was awarded star player at his recent football training sessions. Mason has been listening really carefully and training hard alongside his team! Well done to Henry, also in Pendragon, who was recently awarded a medal from his gymnastics group at Orchard, for his participation in the team routines!

Following serious allegations of misconduct and grooming, the school has taken the decision to remove the books of David Walliams at this time. If your child has one as a current reading book provided by the school, then please return it to the school office when convenient.

It remains up to families as to whether they wish to continue reading his works at home or as a home-school book provided by the parent.



<u>Payment Reminders on ParentPay</u>

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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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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12th Nov 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to ask for your support in keeping children and young people safe and ensuring families understand the law around privately owned electric scooters (e-scooters).
We are increasingly seeing children and young people using privately owned e-scooters to travel to and from school and in other public places.
While e-scooters are widely available to buy, this does not mean they can legally be used in public.

What does the law say?

Privately owned e-scooters cannot legally be ridden on public roads, pavements or in public spaces such as parks. They can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner.
The rules for authorised rental e-scooters are different. Rental e-scooters operating within an official scheme may be used in accordance with the conditions of that scheme.

What could happen?

Using a privately owned e-scooter in public can result in enforcement action. This can include;

- Seizure of e-scooter
- Reporting riders to court
- Reporting parents or guardians where circumstances indicate offences relating to permitting unlawful use
- Potential points on driving licence for those who hold one
- Impact on future driving licence applications and insurance premiums

The financial implications of recovering a seized e-scooter can be significant, with recovery and storage fees often exceeding the value of the scooter itself.

Riders could receive a fine and penalty points, and the e-scooter may be seized by police.

Safety Concerns

Alongside the legal issues, there are serious safety concerns surrounding the use of e-scooters. Many e-scooters are capable of travelling at considerable speeds and hospitals across the UK are reporting

increasing numbers of injuries linked to e-scooters. These range from minor cuts and bruises to serious and life-changing trauma. Importantly these injuries not only affect riders. Other children walking to school, pedestrians, and cyclists can also suffer injury.

Our message to parents and carers

With birthdays and Christmas often bringing new bikes, scooters and other forms of transport, we are encouraging parents and carers to think carefully before purchasing an e-scooter for a child or young person.

If you do purchase one, please be clear with your child about where it can legally be used. In particular, children should not be riding privately owned e-scooters to school, as doing so will ordinarily involve riding in a public place.

We are asking schools to help us share this message so that children and families understand the law before enforcement becomes necessary.

Our aim is not to criminalise young people. Our aim is to prevent harm, improve road safety and avoid children and families facing unnecessary consequences because they were unaware of the law.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep children and young people safe.

Best regards,





Sarah Crew QPM
Chief Constable
Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Clare Moody
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Avon and Somerset Constabulary

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY TUCKSHOP - Every Friday morning breaktime – 20p

Monday 16th November	Swimming for Year 4 Excalibur Class & Year 3 King Arthur Class – session 3
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
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.
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.

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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.

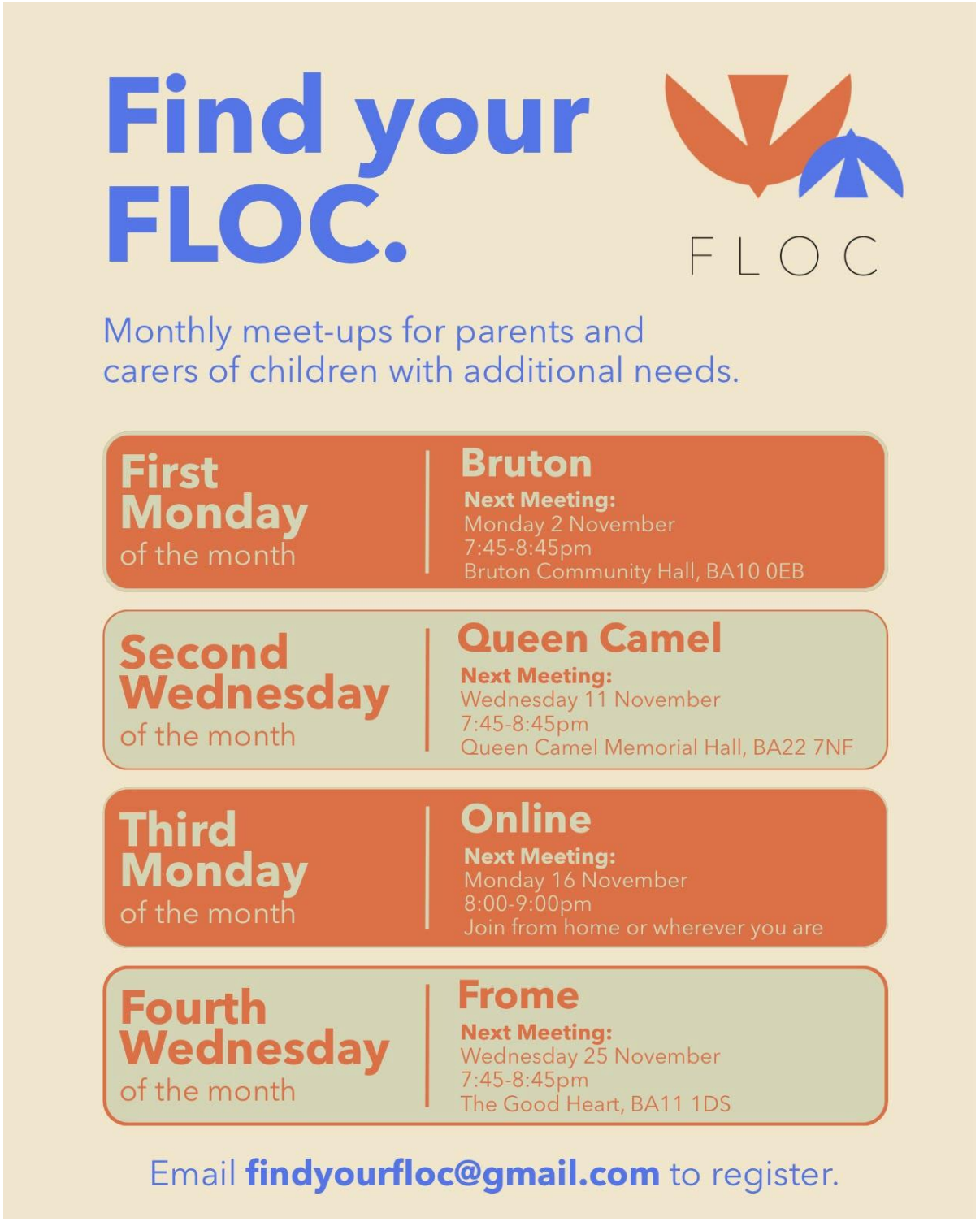
Connection changes everything.



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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HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS... IS BACK FOR WINTER!





Exciting activity clubs for children in primary and secondary schools who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals across Somerset



GET YOUR UNIQUE BOOKING CODE FROM YOUR SCHOOL

4 SESSIONS PER CHILD

BOOKINGS OPEN ON 16TH NOV

FOOD INCLUDED!



Find and book FREE local activities by visiting:
www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays

happy healthy holidays SOMERSET | sasp Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership | Somerset Council | BEST START IN LIFE | Funded by UK Government

hhh@sasp.co.uk 01823 653992 (Open 9am - 1pm)

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Key information for Happy Healthy Holidays Winter!

SCAN ME

Need help with booking?
Watch this video

16th

Bookings open on
Monday 16th November at 10am

LOG IN

Login to your booking system account, or create one here

Enter the unique code your school has given you

4

4 sessions of provision per child only

Need help? Call or email our HHH team (contact details below)

hhh@sasp.co.uk 01823 653992 (Open 9am - 1pm)

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Key information for Happy Healthy Holidays Winter!

- **Before bookings go live take a look at our Bookings User Guide Video using this link:** https://vimeo.com/1191115221?fl=pl&fe=vl
- **Bookings open on Monday 16th November at 10am which you can access here:** https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays
- **To book onto activities you will need to login to your SASP booking system account, or create a new one here:** https://www.sasp.co.uk/links/registercustomer
- **Your login is the same one you used for previous holidays. If you have forgotten your password you can reset it by clicking the 'Forgot your password?' button**
- **Book your desired activities, you can book up to 4 days of provision per individual child**
- **If you need assistance you can email our HHH team or call between 9am - 1pm Monday- Friday**

happy healthy holidays SOMERSET | sasp Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership | Somerset Council | BEST START IN LIFE | Funded by UK Government

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