



23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to all who supported the Mendips cake sale on Thursday, Enes and Tayana – House Captains for Mendips – are pleased to report a total of £72.50 raised. All monies raised will be totalled following the final house cake sale in the summer term and put towards school extras!



Basketball at  
Bucklers' Mead

Our basketball team took part in an exciting afternoon tournament at Bucklers' Mead. The competition began with a well-matched 0-0 draw against East Coker, followed by a confident performance against Kingfisher. A strong 3-0 victory was followed with a 3-1 win against St Gildas, with goals from Alex and Barnaby.

Despite a narrow 2-1 defeat to Huish, in which Jaxon scored a fantastic shot, the team showed resilience and bounced back with a 2-1 win over Primrose Lane, with the tournament ending with an entertaining 2-2 draw against South Petherton - Albie finding the net again twice! Enes delivered a standout defensive performance, making crucial interceptions and rebounds throughout. Well done to everyone involved for representing the school so positively.



New Sheds!

Excitingly, we have some shed-related news this week – with both Merlin and Preschool having a new shed apiece to store their outdoor and seasonal equipment. A big thank you to Mr White for helping to remove the old units, we hope that you agree they look very smart and should last well into the future, being of metal construction.



Mendip's House  
Cake Sale



Congratulations Sophia, you are Merlin's Star of the Week – for showing great enthusiasm and positivity throughout your week – you always have a smile on your face around the school – something which is always lovely to see, Sophia! Well done Henry, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week for challenging yourself to write four sentences, remembering finger spaces and full stops throughout – incredible news in your birthday week, young man!

Pendragon – Congratulations Imogen, you are Pendragon's Star of the Week – for trying really hard to keep your letters sat on the line as well as having a 'can-do' attitude towards all of your learning – lovely news, Imogen! Pendragon's Worker of the Week this week goes to Arthur, for his brilliant effort in phonics and just as importantly, his effort in applying his phonic knowledge in other subjects too – keep up the great work, Arthur!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Harriet as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for always being the first person to volunteer to help another child or teacher – you have such a positive and caring attitude Hattie, well done! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Eliza, for writing an excellent description of an Egyptian god, which included some amazing prepositions and expanded noun phrases – great to read, Eliza!

Excalibur – Layla is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for being a kind member of the class and always offering her time to help staff and her peers around her – great to hear, Layla! Excalibur's Worker of the Week is awarded to Harriet, for challenging herself to use a good range of vocabulary and a range of other features in her latest extended write – excellent effort, young lady!

Lancelot – Henry has been recognised as Lancelot's Star of the Week for demonstrating enthusiasm and contributing to class discussions during the class's science investigation about thermal insulators – this all sounds very impressive, Henry! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week goes to Rupert, for an outstanding extended write, written around the class text of the Lucky Dip, including cohesion, varied sentence openings and immediately creating a strong sense of atmosphere to the storyline – the Board of Brilliance is waiting, Rupert!

A special mention to Emily, who attended the second round of showjumping at the NSEA GR Regionals, hosted at Moreton equestrian. Emily continues to represent both herself and the school brilliantly, coming 2nd in the 40-style class and has now qualified for the Hickstead championships in August – a phenomenal achievement to represent the school so highly at regional level and we wish her the very best at the national competition in summer.



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.

Once again, Countess Gytha is taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026 this weekend, as part of our ongoing commitment to sustaining our Green Flag Environmental Award.

The Birdwatch encourages us to discover the nature on our doorstep and we will be taking part in Going for Gold with the RSPB's Wild Challenge award, which will involve many outdoor learning activities. Your child has been sent home with a bird spotting sheet today so that they can record how many bird species are spotted within one hour. Please return these to class teachers by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.



**Big Schools'  
Birdwatch**

**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.**

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Q Every Friday	<b>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</b> Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p
Weekend 23-24 <sup>th</sup> January	RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch – letters sent home yesterday.
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 4 Ansford Sports Festival.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026. Completed booking forms can be emailed to <a href="mailto:wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org">wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org</a>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Somerset Sustainable Futures Event at Yeovil Town Football Club – selected pupils only.
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/Year 4 Basketball tournament at Bucklers Mead – selected pupils only.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Lancelot Class Trip to Shepton Mallet Prison.
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026. Completed booking forms can be emailed to <a href="mailto:wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org">wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org</a>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	PTFA Film Night – slips sent home last week or available at the school office.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Cross Country Event @ Bucklers Mead
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	School Council – Year 5 & Year 6 only. School in a bag prep with Mrs Sherry.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Lunar New Year (falls in half-term) marked with a Lion Dance
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Early Years & KS1 Pancake Making with Mr Gordon (Shrove Tuesday falls in half-term) – details to follow

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Half Term

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

Completed booking forms can be emailed to [wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org](mailto:wraparoundcare@countessgytha.ppat365.org)

Monday 23rd February	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Leisure Centre. Letter sent home and emailed last week.
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	King Arthur Egyptian Topic Day – Details to follow
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 and Year 6 visiting Houses of Parliament, London – letter sent home this

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	week.
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Leisure Centre.
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March and Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Bikeability for Year 6's – Group 1
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Bikeability for Year 6's – Group 2
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Leisure Centre.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Step into the NHS Day 2026 – Details to follow
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Leisure Centre.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day 2026
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Leisure Centre.
Week commencing Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	No enrichment clubs due to parent meetings.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA Easter Bingo – details to follow shortly.
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Pendragon Class and Year 2 King Arthur Swimming at Wincanton Leisure Centre.

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West Camel Theatre Group invite you to  
**A Night At The Musicals**

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

*Friday now  
Sold Out!*  
30th January  
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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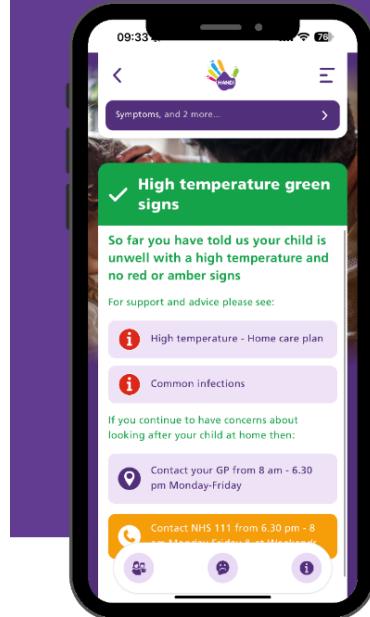
**Parent and Carer Workshops: Talking to your Children and Teens About Their Bodies, Feelings and Relationships for mainstream settings** - A relaxed and informative session for parents and carers of SEND children) of all ages with an additional focus on teenage years. The 2-hour session focuses on Talking about bodies, boundaries, feelings, and relationships. **Dates: In person: 26th February 2026 at Albemarle Centre, Taunton, TA1 1BA, 1pm–2:45pm or Online (live only): 11th February 2026, 7pm-9pm**

Book your place here: [Talking to your children and Teens about their bodies, feelings and Relationships – Fill in form](#)



## 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.



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Jan/Feb/March 2026



Somerset  
Council

## Somerset School Nurse Team Newsletter

### Welcome to the new Somerset School Nurse Team newsletter!

The school nurse team is made up of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses, and Assistant Practitioners. We specialise in promoting the health and wellbeing of children and young people aged 5–19 years and cover primary and secondary schools across Somerset.

This newsletter will be delivered termly, and is intended to keep you up-to-date on all the things we are doing as a service, and will include topics and links relevant to physical and mental health.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful but please do feedback anything you would like to be added.

[Somerset children & young people : Health & Wellbeing : Phn School Nursing](#)



Feedback QR code

**SAINT**  
School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team

**NHS**  
Somerset  
NHS Foundation Trust

**School aged vaccinations**

**Did you know they will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?**

- FLU- Reception- Year 11
- MMR - Year 8
- HPV- Year 8
- Meningitis ACWY- Year 9
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)

**Did you miss us?**  
We also have community clinics across somerset for:

- Home Educated Children
- Anxious Children
- Children who missed the session at School

Kindness, Respect, Teamwork  
Everyone, Every day

SCAN HERE

For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team.

Call us on **0300 323 0032**

### Children's Mental Health Week 2026

9—15 February 2026



If your child is struggling with their mental health speak with a school nurse or your GP.

Further support can be found:

[Mental Health Issues | Young Somerset](#)

**shout**  
**85258**  
here for you 24/7

[YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | Young-Minds](#)

### Are you looking for support with your child's bedwetting?

If so please contact your school nurse team for advice or make contact via the Chat Health Text service.

For more information regarding this topic please visit the following website:

**ERIC**

Free helpline:  
0808 801 0343



Somerset Parent Carer Forum C.I.C

Do you have a child with additional needs/and or disabilities?

Are you looking for advice and support?

The Somerset Parent Carer Forum provides a range of information and support for parents and carers in Somerset. They run a range of support groups and workshops for parents/carers to attend, and also provide a phoneline where you can speak to a parent representative.

For more information click on the link below:

[Somerset Parent Carer Forum CIC Ltd \(not for profit\) company](#)

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