



COUNTESS  
GYTHA  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

# Diary Dates

10<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Dear Parents & Guardians,



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break, and I would like to wish all our families and friends a very Happy New Year. We would all also like to say an enormous Thank You for the lovely gifts received from many of you this Christmas – it was very kind of you.

The children are all looking very smart on their return and have settled back brilliantly in their first week of the Spring Term, enjoying their new topics. Class curriculum letters, outlining topics and learning in each subject, are now [available on the Curriculum webpage, via this link](#). Please don't forget that the yearly overview is also available for you to see on this webpage too.

Very excitingly, work has started to redevelop the pond area at the edge of the school grounds. The area has now been cleared and the pathway construction started. We hope that when the work is completed, the pond will become a central part of the weekly environmental education sessions that we offer as part of each class's curriculum enrichment.



I am delighted to say that our newest staff members, who either started just before the Christmas break or this week, have settled in magnificently to support the children at Countess Gytha. Mrs Spyrou is supporting children in Merlin, alongside Mrs Brennan who has joined our lunchtime supervisor team!

Although started before the Christmas break, [the autumn survey is still open](#) for all to complete. It will remain open until January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The staff and I will continue to adapt the provision to best suit the needs of all children and we always welcome further feedback to continue to diversify these opportunities.

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.



Bookman made his first visit of 2025 today, thanking all for their participation in the Christmas Reading Challenge, we were absolutely delighted that so many of the children completed so many of the challenges! Thank you too, for our wonderful PTFA, who provided the book prizes. Congratulations to our winners: Finn; Louis; Anna; Jack; Freddie and Betsy.



The children never fail to amaze us here at school and it is a privilege to work with such inspirational people every day. Recently, there have been some outstanding efforts to raise money for charity by our young people in school.

Emily in Excalibur class has raised £740 and donated 32cm of her hair to the Little Princess Trust, who craft wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer. By raising and donating the amount that she did, Emily has enabled the charity to create a new wig for a child this year!



A special mention also goes to Alice and Rosie who donated their charity fundraising collection to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance service recently. The girls managed to raise an amazing £1400 through a charity bingo and cake sale!

To present their donation, Rosie and Alice visited Henstridge airfield and met members of the crew that provided Alice with the critical care she needed as well as some of the aftercare team. The girls had a great day, asking lots of questions, receiving some goodies and even managing to have a look around the aircraft and the rapid response car!



Finally, if you know of any families who are starting school in September 2025, please remind them that the application deadline is quickly approaching on January 15th; applications are made [via the Somerset Council Website](#).

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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:

Miss Morris and the Merlin team are delighted to celebrate the following children in reception. Congratulations Imogen, you are Merlin's Star of the Week for settling so well into Merlin Class and trying hard during your lessons – keep up the good work, Imogen! Well done Harry, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week, for being determined to read your book through to the end during every reading session this week – great to see such determination, Harry!

Pendragon – Congratulations to Jett, who is Pendragon's Star of the Week for fantastic listening and focus during lessons in this first week back – great news, Jett! Well done to Teddy, who has been chosen as Pendragon's Worker of the Week for writing great sentences during his English work – keep up the effort, Teddy!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Reuben as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for taking his role as cloakroom monitor very seriously and helping to keep our classroom tidy – you're a brilliant help, Reuben! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Molly S, for writing an excellent recount of the story of Romulus and Remus – keep up the hard work, Molly!

Excalibur – Stanley has been awarded the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for having a great attitude to his work, particularly challenging himself with extending his reasoning skills and answers in maths – great news, Stanley! Mrs Trusson's Worker of the Week is Eyup, for a super effort in both maths and English this week, which has resulted in some brilliant work – keep up the hard work, Eyup!

Lancelot – The Star in Lancelot class this week is Lucy, for challenging herself in every lesson in maths and always being helpful around the classroom – a great start to 2025, well done! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week is awarded to Isabelle, for being a supportive shoulder partner and an excellent team member when completing the bow and arrow advert task – keep up the brilliant work, Isabelle!

A special mention this week goes to Emily in King Arthur and Jenson in Lancelot. Both have recently passed their next swimming awards, level 6 and 7 respectively – brilliant news!

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## *Payment Reminders*

*Swimming for:*

*Pendragon Class and Year 2's in King Arthur Class - £22.50*

*Legoland*

*Excalibur Class and Year 5's in Lancelot Class - £27.50*

*Year 6*

*Year 6 Residential - 2025*








*Congratulations Quantocks, our house winners from the autumn term!*

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<b>Every Friday</b> 	<h1>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</h1> <p><b>Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p</b></p>
	<p>Yoga for King Arthur and Excalibur Classes – Our weekly Yoga sessions continue with Paula. Paula is an accredited Yoga Instructor and her Green Crow Yoga classes help children to find their own sense of calm and contentment, a key skill in all walks of life.</p>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Enrichment Clubs start this week.
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Swimming for Pendragon Class Year 1 & 2 and King Arthur Year 2's. <div style="text-align: center;">   (session 1) </div>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 20th January. </div>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Basketball – Preston Sec Selected pupils
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	King Arthur – Art Day
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Swimming for Pendragon Class Year 1 & 2 and King Arthur Year 2's. <div style="text-align: center;">   (session 2) </div>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	A.I.M High Maths Day at Thornford Junior School. Selected pupils only.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Book Club trip to Yeovil Library – selected pupils only.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Swimming for Pendragon Class Year 1 & 2 and King Arthur Year 2's. <div style="text-align: center;">   (session 3) </div>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 4 Ansford Sports Festival
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Cross Country Event 4 – Yeovil Showground Please note change of date.

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# CAKE SALE



Please support your House  
and bring some cakes in.



## Mendips Cake Sale



THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

50P A CAKE

SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND BUY SOME DELICIOUS AND YUMMY CAKES

ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE SCHOOL

THANK YOU

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

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# TREASURE ISLAND



## *A Buccaneer of a Panto* by the West Camel Theatre Group at The Davis Hall, West Camel

### Performances

23rd, 24th, 25th January at 7.30pm

*Matinée Saturday 25th at 2.00pm*

### Contact

[mpc609@gmail.com](mailto:mpc609@gmail.com) / 07801 968608  
or the Queen Camel village shop

### Tickets

*Thursday:*

Adult £10 / 16 & under £5

*Friday & Saturday:*

Adult £12 / 16 & under £6

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**FREE**  
TO ATTEND

# ORIANA ORCHESTRA

*'Music for all'*  
*Starting in January 2025*

All Instruments | Primary School Children | All Abilities

**Tuesdays between 4.15 - 5.00pm (Term Time)**  
The Merritt Centre, Sherborne Girls

**For more information, please contact:**

Catrin Win Morgan

E: [cw.morgan@sherborne.com](mailto:cw.morgan@sherborne.com)

T: 01935 818212

SHERBORNE  
BOYS



SHERBORNE  
GIRLS



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