



COUNTESS  
GYTHA  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

# Diary Dates

21<sup>st</sup> March 2025



Dear Parents & Guardians,

After a recent term of handball lessons in PE, a team from the school excitedly took part in a handball tournament at Westfield on Monday. Drawing both games, the team were very pleased to see that their shooting, passing and defending skills were up-to-scratch against other local primaries!



Handball team

On Wednesday, 4 children represented Countess Gytha at a Talented Writers event, hosted by children's author, Kev Payne. They were taught ideas of how to make descriptive and exciting poetry, practise their illustration techniques as well as role play their characters such as 'The Professor'!

Forces-families egg decorations



Chess Champions!

I am pleased to announce that following a series of virtual games hosted on Chess.com against children from Preston Primary, Countess Gytha's chess club won this year's trophy. The group now look

forward to continuing to hone their skills in a series of friendly matches during lunchtimes over the coming weeks.



Chess Tournament

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.



Forces families joined Miss Bridge for an afternoon of egg design and decorating, in preparation for the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) competition entries at the end of this term.



Raffle tickets are available from the school office for the School Council organised Easter Hampers, currently in the foyer, council representatives will be selling tickets after school every day next week. Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets so far.

Pendragon Clay Day

Next week, we look forward to meeting families once again at Parents' Evening.

If you require an additional appointment, please contact the school office. During the week of Parents' Evenings, the PTFA will be offering quality, used uniform during the evenings, with logoed cardigans/sweatshirts priced at £2 and all other pieces at 50p an item.



Cake Sale

Thank you to all who supported either (or both of!) the Blackdown's House or Red Nose Day cake sales. The house captains of Blackdown House are delighted to



announce raising £86 with a further £120 being donated

to Comic Relief following today's sales and donations.

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Looking ahead to the final two weeks of term, please can I take this opportunity to remind parents that enrichment clubs have now finished, although after-school care is still operating. Parents are warmly invited to both the PTFA's Easter Bingo event on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March (details below) and a letter has been sent home to Year 3,4,5 and 6 informing of an upcoming author visit by Onjali Rauf – please note that there is no expectation to purchase any books – merely that the school have a favourable discount to any interested. Finally an invite is also open to attend this year's Easter celebration at St Barnabas church on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2pm – seating requests can be made [here](#).

**Red Nose  
Day  
2025**



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Miss Morris and the Merlin team are delighted to celebrate the following children in reception. Congratulations Jesse, you are Merlin's Star of the Week for always being incredibly polite and helpful to everybody across the school – very high praise, Jesse! Well done Primrose, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week, for working hard to master your knowledge of phase 3 digraphs – keep up the great work, Primrose!

Pendragon – Congratulations to Freddie, who is Pendragon's Star of the Week for his fantastic effort in English, planning his short story of his Primary Engineer entry of a robot which automatically waters plants – a brilliant idea, Freddie well done! Well done to Milo, who has been chosen as Pendragon's Worker of the Week for brilliant focus during phonics – Milo even treated Mr Gordon to a 1:1 reading session!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating William as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for taking on the role of being class librarian and creating an organised and exciting system to help choose books – great to hear, William! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Austin, for pushing himself to complete all the solve and prove questions in maths this week on the trick topic of fractions – you clearly have a real passion for maths, Austin!

Excalibur – Stanley has been awarded the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for his support and encouragement towards his peers during PE – particularly within recent circuit training sessions – great to hear that you are offering to support your peers, Stanley! Mrs Trusson's Worker of the Week is awarded to Emily, for working hard to achieve the challenges she has been set, particularly in maths and writing – a brilliant attitude, Emily – well done!

Lancelot – The Star in Lancelot class this week is Aurelia, for a speedy extended write about Rosa parks; keep up the great pace, Aurelia! Mr. Gallagher's Worker of the Week is awarded to Betsy for always being a fantastic role model to others in the class; for being ready to help and support the younger children on the playground – wonderful to hear, Betsy!

A special mention this week goes to Emelia in Excalibur who has achieved her Level 3 water safety – skills include swimming for 200m as well as treading water for 2 minutes and performing a shout and signal rescue – extremely impressive, Emelia! Well done to Charlotte W in Pendragon, who is celebrating achieving her 10m swimming distance – a brilliant success which takes a lot of practice and courage at such a young age!

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# Countess Gytha School Council

## Easter Fundraiser



**Raffle will be drawn on the morning of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

*The School Council are raising funds for the school this Easter by holding a raffle for some lovely hampers.*

*Tickets are available at the school office for £1 a strip for 5 tickets.*



### Preschool Easter Open Morning

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

9.00am – 10.30am



Please come along and enjoy some fun Easter activities with the children and enjoy a cup of tea and a yummy Easter treat.

We look forward to seeing you

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Every Friday	<b>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</b> Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p
Week commencing Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>No Enrichment clubs this week</b> Parent meetings. Invite sent out via email.
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Excalibur Class – Art Specialist Day
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Cross Country at Yeovil Recreation Centre Letter sent home 6.3.25 or available from the school office.
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	King Arthur Class trip to The Newt
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent meetings. Invite sent out via email.
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr Gordon's Tea Party – selected pupils
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Author, Ben Pullett visits King Arthur Class
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA Easter Bingo. 6pm. Poster below.
Week commencing 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>No Enrichment clubs this week</b>
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Pendragon Class trip to Haynes Motor Museum. Letter sent home 7.3.25
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Author, Onjali Rauf visiting Year 3,4,5 & 6
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Service at St Barnabus Church at 2pm. Please see link above to reserve seating.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 4 and 5 trip to Legoland, Windsor.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Preschool Easter Open Morning – see details below
Monday 7-18 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Monday – school closed
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Back to School
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Deadline for full balance of Year 6 Residential
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Week commencing 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Key Stage 2 Assessment Week (SATs)
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Pendragon Class and King Arthur Class trip to Westlands to watch Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

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COUNTESS GYTHA PTFA

# EASTER BINGO

FRIDAY 28TH MARCH

COUNTESS GYTHA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Doors Open 5.30pm  
Eyes Down 6pm

£1 a book or a book of 6 for £5  
Refreshments & Hot Dogs  
Raffle



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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# St Michael's North Cadbury

United service  
Vale of Camelot Churches

**30th March**  
**10.30 am**  
**Mothering Sunday**



*An informal, child-friendly, interactive service  
There will be fun activities as well as a quiet space for reflection.*

Commissioning of Christy Casley as an Anna Chaplain

*Everyone is included—families and individuals - all are welcome  
Come and enjoy flowers and CAKE!*

SOMERSET NETBALL

# NETBALL YOUTH CAMP



**TUES 8TH APRIL 2025  
10AM TO 3PM**

Westfield Academy, Stiby Rd,  
Yeovil BA21 3EP

**8-11 year olds**

**12-14 year olds**

Cost - £25 per player  
(sibling discount available)



Book a place today using the link  
[Johanna.templeman@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:Johanna.templeman@englandnetball.co.uk)

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# FUN-filled, Action-packed Active- Camps

During The

## Easter Holidays



Nine Action Packed Days

9:00—3:00pm

£18.00  
Per Day

Monday 14th to Thursday 17th April 2025 from 9—3

Countess Gytha Primary School, West Camel Road, Queen Camel, Yeovil. BA22 7FF

For more information visit: [www.tlesportscoaching.co.uk](http://www.tlesportscoaching.co.uk) or call 07951 291471

## Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six-session parenting programme  
for parents of adolescents aged 10-18

*Would you like to learn how to:*

- *be better at talking with your teen?*
- *be better at understanding your teen?*
- *help your teen learn to manage their emotions?*
- *help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?*
- *teach your teen to deal with conflict?*

*'Tuning in to Teens' shows you how to help your teen develop emotional intelligence.*

*Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:*

- *are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure*
- *have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers*
- *are more able to cope when upset or angry*
- *have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties*
- *have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults*
- *have greater career success.*
- *Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ!*

Starting 29<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am in person. Please contact

[rachel.clements@ansford.net](mailto:rachel.clements@ansford.net) to book a place.

Venue TBC (Ansford /Castle Cary area)



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## ***Payment Reminders***

*King Arthur Class – The Newt*

*Pendragon and King Arthur Class – BSO Orchestra at Westlands*

*Excalibur Class and Year 5's in Lancelot Class – Legoland*

***Year 6 Residential – Land & Wave, Dorset***

*Balance to be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025*

*Payments to be made via BACS – see school office if details required.*

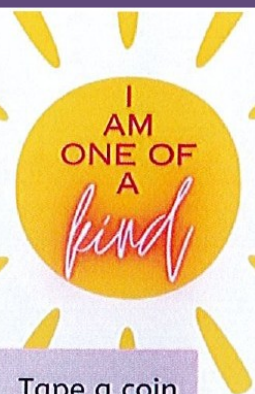
***Merlin Class – Puxton Park***

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# 30-DAY

## Acts of Kindness Challenge



List all the things you are grateful for	Give 5 people a high five	Make a thank you note for someone special	Paint some rocks with messages of kindness to leave around	Tape a coin to a vending machine
Tell yourself you are kind, brave, smart, strong and loved in the mirror	Make a gift for someone you love	Tell someone how much they mean to you	Hold the door open for someone	Write a positive note with chalk on the footpath
Write a thoughtful card to someone you love	Leave a kind note in a letterbox of somebody you know	Help prepare breakfast, lunch or dinner	Donate some of your items to charity	Offer to do some extra chores
Give hugs to those you love	Help set or clear away the table for a meal	Go for a walk with an adult outside	Come up with your own way to be kind for the day	Be kind to nature, water a plant or plant a seed
List all the things you love about yourself	Hide kind notes around the house for a family member to find	Compliment someone	Encourage somebody by using positive words	Make someone a bookmark
Practise some mindfulness meditation	Pick up some rubbish outside	List all the things you love about your family	Start a conversation at dinner on the ways everyone can be kind for the next day	Create a kindness jar for home and record all the kindness you see others do



Kind







**The Knight Frank Schools Triathlon is the UK's largest sport fundraising event for children aged 7 - 13 years old. King's College, Taunton has been selected as a local host venue to your school!**

**[More information for this specific event can be found here](#)**

**Children are invited to take part in this unique event designed especially for young people by getting into teams of 4 and coming up with a fun creative team name; then they get fundraising with their teammates.**

**On the day, the three sports are completed in a relay format, allowing each team member to swim, cycle and run before crossing the finish line together as a team. All abilities are welcome to take part in this event!**



**RESTLESS  
DEVELOPMENT**



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SCAN TO BOOK!



# LEWESTON ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP

4-13 YEARS OLD

NERF GUN BATTLES, SWIMMING, INFLATABLES, LASER TAG,  
ARTS & CRAFTS, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, DODGEBALL & MORE!



#### PRICES:

STANDARD DAY - £30 (PER CHILD)

EXTENDED DAY - £35 (PER CHILD)

#### TIMES:

STANDARD - 9:00AM - 3:30PM

EXTENDED - 8:00AM - 5:30PM

#### 2025 Dates:

Monday 7th - Thursday 10th April

Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April

#### LEWESTON SCHOOL

SHERBORNE

DORSET

DT9 6EN

#### Booking Link:

<https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2025/04/07/leweston-ultimate-activity-camps-easter-2025>

More Information: [ed.doble@primary-sports.co.uk](mailto:ed.doble@primary-sports.co.uk)/07903347412





# JOIN US FOR OUR EASTER BINGO NIGHT!

**ST MICHAELS ACADEMY**  
**SUNDAY 13TH APRIL**  
**Doors Open: 6pm**  
**Eyes Down: 6:30pm**  
**CASH ONLY**

**WE ARE ALSO HOLDING A RAFFLE  
 WITH GREAT PRIZES TO WIN!**

**BINGO WILL END WITH  
 A SPECIAL GAME WITH AN  
 AMAZING PRIZE OF £50 FOR  
 MATTIA DINER**

Some vouchers/prizes from  
 companies below and many more:

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Queen Camel Community Land Trust Ltd. (QCCLT) is carrying out a survey to help inform the updating of their business plan. QCCLT would be very grateful if recipients of this newsletter would kindly complete the individual section of the survey, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CB2V5ZJ>

As a reminder, the primary purpose of QCCLT is to meet the needs of local residents through the ownership and development of community assets. The updated business plan will set out how we will use the existing assets at the Old School site in Queen Camel and identify new opportunities to hold and manage assets on behalf of the communities within the area of benefit referred to as the doughnut. This will include the possibility of providing more affordable homes, if such a need is identified.

**Queen Camel  
Community Land Trust**

[Further details about the history, aims and benefits can be found on the QCCLT website.](#)



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## Barclays Big Tennis Weekends

6.1 miles away

3 sessions

### Date

Saturday, 12th April 2025

### Venue

Yeovil Recreation Centre, Somerset, BA21 4AW

### Class type

Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Improver

Spaces Available

## Barclays Big Tennis Weekends

### Date

Saturday, 12th April - Saturday, 12th April

### Total sessions

0

### Total Cost

0 sessions

Free

[Book class](#)

Free cancellation up to 24 hours before booking. Please see the policy for full details.

### About the class

Don't miss your chance to pick up a racket and play tennis at your local park, club or community centre and try our sport for FREE at an open day near you.



### Session times

### Class details

### Session lead

### Venue details

Please choose the sessions you'd like to attend

#### Junior

No matter what your ability you'll have fun on court with other junior players your age. Coaches will be on hand to offer tips to help your game and advice on how you can continue to play.

☐

**Saturday, 12th April 2025**

10:00 - 11:00 • 10+ left • Free • Ages 3-11

#### Adult Coaching

Try our adult coaching taster session. Ideal for people new to the sport or who haven't picked up a racket in a long time. You can borrow our rackets if you don't have your own, just come prepared to hit a few balls and have some fun.

☐

**Saturday, 12th April 2025**

#### Free Play

If you don't fancy a coaching session why not just try out our new facilities. You can book a slot on one of the courts for free!

☐

**Saturday, 12th April 2025**

12:00 - 13:00 • 8 left • Free • Ages above 18

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# EASTER 2025

# TECH & STEM CAMP

**NEW TAKE HOME INVENTIONS!**

ofsted Registered



Water Tornado



Motor Fan



Levitating Ball



Robotics & Coding



Circuitry & Electronics



Tech Fun

**7TH - 25TH APRIL : LIMITED SPACES, BOOK NOW!**

MULTI DAY DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE, FROM JUST £35 PER DAY!  
AGES 5-11, 9 AM - 4 PM DAILY

**www.nextthing.education**

Children's Vouchers  
WE ALSO ACCEPT  
**TAX-FREE**  
CHILDREN

**HAF**  
PLACES  
AVAILABLE

## EASTER CAMPS 2025

Every day at Tech Camp is an adventure with hands-on tech fun, iPad creativity, and take-home inventions!

Example Camp Schedule. Please check online for specific camp schedule.

Day 1 (NOT RUNNING ON 23RD APRIL)	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5 (NOT RUNNING ON 18TH APRIL)
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9 am drop off

 <b>ROBOT LAB</b>	 <b>LEGO Engineering</b>	 <b>ELECTRIC CREATIONS</b>	 <b>3D CREATIONS</b>	 <b>LASER TAG OR VIRTUAL REALITY</b>
 <b>COOL CIRCUITS</b>	 <b>CRAZY CODING</b>	 <b>MOVIE MAKING</b>	 <b>MINECRAFT REDSTONE</b>	 <b>MINECRAFT MAZE</b>
 <b>Electric</b>	 <b>Motorised</b>	 <b>Light</b>	 <b>Hydraulics</b>	 <b>Solar</b>

Take Home Inventions

4 pm pick up

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

At Next Thing Education, our goal is to ignite curiosity, fuel creativity, and empower young minds for the future!

Through hands-on coding & STEM experiences, we inspire the next generation of inventors, creators, and tech leaders. Led by DBS checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids will explore STEM through exciting activities and challenges.



"The best camp we've tried! A perfect mix of fun and learning!"



"My child loved every minute - already asking to come back!"



"Fun, engaging, and highly educational - highly recommend!"

Scan me



**LIMITED SPACES, BOOK NOW!**

E: [info@nextthing.education](mailto:info@nextthing.education) T: 01442 873150

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