



COUNTRESS
GYTHA
PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Diary Dates

24th January 2025



Dear Parents & Guardians,

For those with good memories, you may remember that this time last year, we were celebrating in the Diary Dates our friendship tree with messages from our partner schools around the world. I am delighted to say that a year later, the school has received the British Council's highest award for its language, cultural and international offer!



Alex F, Alex R, Imogen & Aurelia travelled to Sherborne

earlier this week to represent Countess Gytha at their talented maths event.

The children took part in some problem-solving activities using dominoes, magic squares and addition pyramids; they especially enjoyed the collaborative spirit between the other schools taking part – the team represented the school magnificently!



Both the Year 6 and the Year 3 book clubs enjoyed their trip to Yeovil Library on Thursday. The groups had a tour of the library; completed their book club

sessions; explored the amazing books; visited a book shop, where children had

the opportunity to buy new books and a bakery for some sweet treats! The weather unfortunately didn't hold out and all were soaked walking back to the bus – however, a great time was had by all!



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The basketball team were fantastic on Thursday evening, at Preston Academy school. The team won the first three matches with no scores against them! Jack was a star performer, seeming to hit long shots just for fun. Cooper, Noah and Barnaby were brilliant, demonstrating teamwork, tenacity and skill. Unfortunately, the team were extremely unlucky in the final, losing in a shootout.



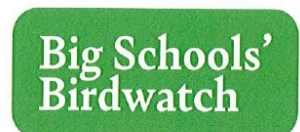
A couple of notices for upcoming local events, on Wednesday morning, to mark the Chinese Lunar New Year, children will be greeted into school by a brilliant dragon!

If you are interested in signing up to the next Tuning into Kids or Tuning into Teens – please see the flyers below. These are always very positively received courses which receive great feedback and are run by the school Parent Family Support Advisor (PFSA) team.

World Thinking Day – If your child is part of Girl guiding or Scouting movements, they are invited to wear their Rainbow, Brownie, Beavers or Cubs uniform to school on Monday 24th February. Local guiding groups are signposted in the flyers below.



Once again, Countess Gytha is taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch 2025 this weekend as part of 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 3rd February 2025.

Finally, a reminder from Mrs King that all Pendragon children are asked to bring in a cardboard box, of cereal box sizing, in order to complete their DT car project please.

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Miss Morris and the Merlin team are delighted to celebrate the following children in reception. Congratulations Arthur, you are Merlin's Star of the Week for always being a kind and helpful friend in Merlin Class – lovely news to hear, Arthur! Well done Jack, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week, for working hard on your letter formation and pencil control in bookwork tasks – great perseverance young man!

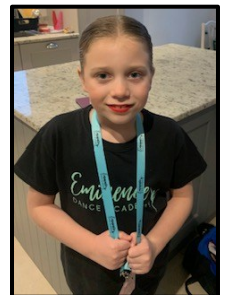
Pendragon – Congratulations to Willow, who is Pendragon's Star of the Week for working so hard in her phonics, learning her new sounds as independently as possible – brilliant to hear, Willow! Well done to Poppy, who has been chosen as Pendragon's Worker of the Week for her super effort in maths. Poppy is another brilliantly independent learner, who always tries her hardest and gives her all to every task – keep up the great effort, Poppy!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Isabelle as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for her great understanding of the value of notes and coins and being able to quickly add two amounts to make the correct total – great work, Isabelle! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Elsie, for writing an excellent newspaper report about the opening of the Colosseum in 80AD – keep up the hard work, Elise!

Excalibur – Freddie W has been awarded the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for listening to advice about how to improve work, which is making his work even more amazing – fantastic news, Freddie! Mrs Trusson's Worker of the Week is Grace, for a well-written explanation text on how volcanoes erupt and for passing the 'fifths club' in the Mental Maths Olympics – keep up the hard work, Grace!

Lancelot – The Star in Lancelot class this week is Jenson, for an outstanding extended report on Olympic athletes past and present – brilliant effort, Jenson! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week is awarded to Noah, for demonstrating excellent effort in his maths lessons, focusing particularly well on his algebra work – brilliant to hear, Noah!

A special mention this week goes to Isabelle in King Arthur, who took part in a showcase with her dance school – performing ballet and acrobatic arts in front of an audience of over 300 people! Not only that, she is also a leading talent on the stage, alongside her brother William, with both playing pirates and island-zombie roles in West Camel Theatre Group's production of Treasure Island!



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I am pleased to report that 'Project Pond' continues well, with the jetty now partly-built and the pathway in place!



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

Balance to be paid by 1st May 2025

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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<p>Every Friday</p> 	<h1>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</h1> <p>Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p</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>	
<p>Monday 27th January</p>	<p>Swimming for Pendragon Class Year 1 & 2 and King Arthur Year 2's.</p> <p>(session 3) </p>
<p>Tuesday 28th January</p>	<p>Year 4 Ansford Sports Festival</p>
<p>Wednesday 29th January</p>	<p>Chinese New Year – Year of the Snake</p>
<p>Wednesday 29th January</p> 	<p>Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 3rd February.</p>
<p>Monday 3rd February</p>	<p>Swimming for Pendragon Class Year 1 & 2 and King Arthur Year 2's.</p> <p>(session 4) </p>
<p>Tuesday 4th February</p>	<p>Excalibur Class Volcano Day – letter sent home 23rd January</p>
<p>Wednesday 5th February</p>	<p>Vision screening for Reception Class. Opt out letters sent home.</p>
<p>Wednesday 5th February</p> 	<p>Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 10th February.</p>
<p>Monday 10th February</p>	<p>Swimming for Pendragon Class Year 1 & 2 and King Arthur Year 2's.</p> <p>(session 5) </p>
<p>Monday 10th February</p>	<p>Cross Country Event 4 – Yeovil Showground Please note change of date.</p>
<p>Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February</p> 	<p>HALF TERM</p> <p>Wednesday 19th February – Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 24th February.</p>
<p>Monday 24th February</p>	<p>World Thinking Day</p> <p>If your child is part of Girl guiding or Scouting they are invited to wear their Rainbow, Brownie, Beavers or Cubs uniform to school.</p> 

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WE TAKE

Clothes

Shoes

Bed Linen

Accessories

Such as belts, hats, gloves,
scarves, handbags
Soft Toys



WE CAN'T TAKE

Duvets or Cushions

Off Cuts

Carpet or Curtains



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six-session parenting program for
parents

Would you like to learn how to:

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

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop *emotional intelligence*.
Children with higher emotional intelligence:

- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses

Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success
than IQ!

Where: Online

When: starting Tuesday 25th February 2025 **7.30pm**

Contact: Rachel Clements rachel.clements@ansford.net



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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 29th April 9.30am in person. Please contact

rachel.clements@ansford.net to book a place.

Venue TBC (Ansford /Castle Cary area)


















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Girlguiding Wyndham district

 Volunteers Needed

 Spaces Available

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st Somerton Rainbows  	1st Ilchester Rainbows 	12th Yeovil Brownies	2nd Lyde Rainbows	6th Yeovil (St Michaels) Brownies 
1st Somerton Brownies 	1st Queen Camel Brownies 	13th Yeovil Guides 		Saturday
2nd Ilchester Brownies	1st Queen Camel Guides 	Rangers COMING SOON  		1st Wyndham Rainbows  
13th Yeovil Brownies  	Yeovil Division Rangers			
1st Somerton Guides				
1st Somerton Rangers 				



Rainbows
ages 4-7



Guides
ages 10-14



Brownies
ages 7-10



Rangers
ages 14-18

Please be aware that it is up to our individual Rainbows units if they accept 4 year old's, it maybe they accept them from 4 years 6 months or once they have started school. They may also have a long waiting list.

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All Saints Church, West Camel

Wednesday 19th February

ONE DAY ONLY

10am–12.30pm



HOLIDAY CLUB

for children aged 4–11

Crafts, games, quizzes, Bible Stories, songs,
videos and refreshments.

Lots of fun for everyone!

Free – but children must be registered – preferably
in advance to help with catering.

For more information, or to register, please contact
Geoff.mead@yahoo.com or phone 01935 850838.

SAFE-GUARDING: Our Club leaders have been DBS checked



FUN-filled, Action-packed Active-Camps

During The

February Holidays



Five Action Packed Days

9:00—3:00pm

£18.00

Per Day

February 17th to 21st 2025 from 9—3

Xtra Time available

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

For more information visit: www.tlesportscoaching.co.uk or call **07951 291471**

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HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

FEBRUARY HALF TERM PROVISION

Exciting activity clubs for children aged 5 - 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals across Somerset

**5 DAYS
PER CHILD**

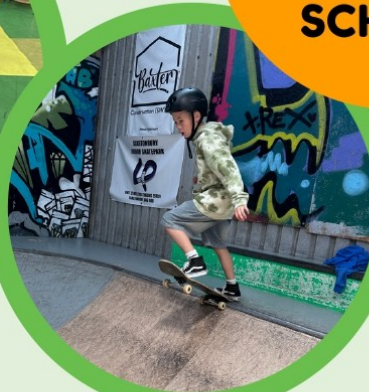


**GET A
BOOKING
CODE FROM
YOUR
SCHOOL**

**BOOKINGS
OPEN ON
20TH
JANUARY**



**FOOD
INCLUDED!**



**Find and book FREE local activities by visiting:
www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays
or scan the QR code!**

SCAN ME



This provision is funded by The Household Support Fund 'Help Through Winter' programme by Somerset Council, who are working alongside partners across education and the VCFSE sector to deliver essential support to families and residents.

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Key information for Happy Healthy Holidays



**Need help with booking?
Watch this video**



**Bookings open on
Monday 20th January at 10am**



LOG IN

**Login to Playwaze
(same login as used at Winter)**



**Enter the code your school
has given you**

5

5 days of provision per child only



**Need help? Call or email our
HHH team**

 **hhh@sasp.co.uk**  **07843 816168 / 01823 653992** (Open 9am - 1pm)

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Key information for Happy Healthy Holidays

- Before bookings go live take a look at our 'how to make a bookings video' using this link www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fInPPFjSbU
- Bookings open on Monday 20th January at 10am which you can access using www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays
- To book onto activities you will need to login into Playwaze, and enter the code your school should have given you
- Your Playwaze login is the same you used for the Winter programme, if you have forgotten your password you can reset it by clicking the reset button
- Book your desired activities, you can book up to 5 days of provision per individual child
- If you need assistance you can email our HHH team or call between 9am-1pm Monday- Friday



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SCAN TO BOOK!



LEWESTON ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP

4-14 YEARS OLD

LASER TAG, NERF GUN BATTLES, INFLATABLES, CRICKET, FOOTBALL,
GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL, ARTS & CRAFTS, AND MORE!



Cost

STANDARD: £30.00
EXTENDED: £35.00

Times

STANDARD: 9.00AM-3.30PM
EXTENDED: 8.00AM-5.30PM

Leweston

Leweston School, Sherborne,
Dorset, DT9 6EN

Booking Link

<https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2025/02/17/leweston-ultimate-activity-camps-february-half-term>

February Half Term

Monday 17th of February
Tuesday 18th of February
Wednesday 19th of February
Thursday 20th of February

More Information: ed.doble@primary-sports.co.uk / 07903347412





FREE WINTER PLAYDAYS: YEOVIL

Save the dates (10am – 2pm):

- Magical Music Making
- Diva Dancing
- Creative Crafts
- Fabulous Face Painting
- Artistic Creations
- Plus a whole host more!

All for free at a venue near you!

Monday 17th February 2025 | Westlands
Entertainment Venue, **YEOVIL**, BA20 2DD

Tuesday 18th February 2025 | Wincanton Memorial
Hall, **WINCANTON**, BA9 9JF

Wednesday 19th February 2025 | Ridgway
Hall, **LANGPORT**, TA10 9PQ

Thursday 20th February 2025 | Chard
Guildhall, **CHARD**, TA20 1PP

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