



COUNTESS  
GYTHA  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

# Diary Dates

28<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the second half of the school year and to start the term off with some brilliant news, I am delighted to announce that Countess Gytha have been successful in receiving the Tesco



Community Funding!

Thank you to all who supported us through the blue token scheme – Mr Gallagher is busy collating sporting and play funding ideas which formed the original bid.



It was wonderful to see so many of our young people in their Scouting or Guiding movement uniforms, marking World Thinking Day on Monday. The day is an initiative led by the Guiding movement for groups

across the world to think about each other, the groups that they are a part of and any important topical issues.



King Arthur Class had an excellent end to the week, having all made a super effort to come to school dressed in a variety of Roman regalia! Activities included a costume parade, a Roman Numeral code cracker game, some gladiator roleplay and designing and painting a Roman fresco piece of artwork.



As well as this, King Arthur Class also performed the song 'Invade' to the whole school in assembly, which they have been learning in music. Furthermore, the children prepared themselves a feast for the end of the day, making a variety of delicious Roman dishes! 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.



If any parent has the opportunity to attend next week's PTFA AGM, please see further details on the flyer below – all are welcome. Similarly, a reminder that the parent governor position remains open, with nominations closing on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Following the final swimming session for Year 1 and 2 on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, we are looking forward to cooking pancakes together on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. If any are interested in taking up the Random Acts of Kindness Challenge which is a popular observation over the Lenten period, please see the poster below – printed copies are available in school office for those who like to tick off their progress!

Thank you to all who brought a recent online safety incident to the school's attention during the half-term. The school takes its role in educating our learners for a safer and kinder digital world seriously and we really value the support our families give to us in this. [A step-by-step guide to implementing parental controls to common social and gaming sites our children are regularly using is linked here.](#) As ever, please do not hesitate to raise concerns with school staff so that we can continue to work together keeping our children safe both online and off.

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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School trips, Bikeability, World Book Day, British Science Week, Red Nose Day and pancakes are all just around the corner, as well as Parents' Meetings and Easter events which will be detailed for the final two weeks of this half-term.

### **Payment Reminders**

*Pendragon Class and Year 2s in King Arthur Class – Swimming  
Pendragon and King Arthur Class – BSO Orchestra at Westlands  
King Arthur Class – The Newt*

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

*Lancelot Class – Sutton Bingham Reservoir*

*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.*



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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 your cheery attitude, making everybody in Merlin Class smile – what a lovely compliment, Arthur! Well done Dylan, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week, for your outstanding 'can-do' attitude to all learning tasks – a great start to the half-term, Dylan!

Pendragon – Congratulations to Jude, who is Pendragon's Star of the Week for his fantastic handwriting – it's clear just how hard you have been working on this, young man! Well done to Anna, who has been chosen as Pendragon's Worker of the Week for her consistent effort in all of her lessons – keep up the great work, Anna!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Albert as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for creating an excellent costume for the class's Roman Topic Day – outstanding, Albert! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Maisie, for her excellent work in maths, finding halves and quarters as part of her fractions work – great to hear, Maisie!

Excalibur – Theo has been awarded the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for being a kind member of the class, always offering to help and support his peers – lovely to hear, Theo! Mrs Trusson's Worker of the Week is Sebastian for working hard to complete work to a good standard and in the time allocated in each lesson – keep up the hard work, Seb!

Lancelot – The Star in Lancelot class this week is Barnaby, for outstanding effort in maths – neat, accurate and hardworking – high praise indeed, Barnaby! Mr. Gallagher's Worker of the Week is awarded to Tommy for his resilience in completing tasks across the week, including writing a fantastic pen-pal letter to a local school as part of next week's World Book Day activities – a great end to the week, Tommy!

A special mention this week goes to Harry for completing a non-stop 25m length in his swimming – a fantastic achievement! Well done to Florence, who achieved her Level 3 award of her gymnastics Early Adventures – she highly recommends Orchard Gymnastics! Finally, congratulations to Henry R, who received a Blue Peter badge for his excellent drawing of the Blue Peter dog, Henry!



School Clubs restarted this week – please note that there will be no clubs in the final two weeks of term due to parents' evenings.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<b>Every Friday</b> 	
<b>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</b> <b>Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Swimming for Pendragon Class Year 1 & 2 and King Arthur Year 2's.  Extra session due to missed day due to school closure.
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Lancelot Class – Pancake making
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Cross Country Event 4 at Aldon Hill Letter sent out this week.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras– Pancake making in classes (see email 26.02.25)
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Lancelot Class trip to Sutton Bingham Reservoir
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Deadline for ordering lunches, booking Breakfast Club and After School Childcare for the week beginning Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March. 
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Ansford school Dodgeball Tournament selected Year 5 and Year 6
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day 2025 
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6 Email and letter with opt out form sent home 22.01.2025
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March & Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Bikeability 
Week commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week – classes will take part in a range of science-based activities across the week 
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Blackdown House Cake sale after school. 
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Red Nose Day 2025 
Week commencing Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>No Enrichment clubs this week</b> Parent meetings. Booking details to be sent home shortly.
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Excalibur Class – Art Specialist Day
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	King Arthur Class trip to The Newt
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Author, Ben Pullett visits King Arthur Class

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Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA Easter Bingo	
Week commencing 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>No Enrichment clubs this week</b>	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April -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	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed	

*On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, classes will celebrate Shrove Tuesday by preparing, cooking and eating pancakes together with classmates.*

*Please be aware that our pancake recipe includes the following allergens:*

- Milk
- Gluten (Flour)
- Eggs

*Dairy and Gluten-Free alternatives will be available; please inform the school office if you would prefer your child **not to take part** in the pancake activities or to enjoy either the dairy or gluten-free alternatives.*

*Please note Lancelot Class will make pancakes on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March due to their class trip on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.*





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# CAKE SALE



Please support your House  
and bring some cakes in.

## Blackdowns Cake Sale



**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**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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## 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)

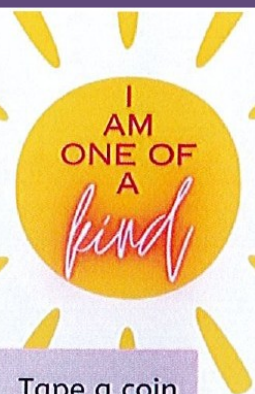


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# 30-DAY

## 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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# AGM

## Annual General Meeting

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**Stay informed and get involved.**

To be held at school – via main school office entrance.  
Please join us for a short AGM

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March**  
**9.00am**



**Parenikind**  
Member Association

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