

Diary Dates



4th July 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As will be clear to all who are involved in our school, we are continually on the lookout for new opportunities and activities to broaden and enrich our children's lives. This week was no different and a last-minute spot was gained allowing our Year 6 cohort to join in on a Guiness World Record attempt!

On Tuesday, the children were participants in an attempt to break the largest cookery lesson across multiple venues, organised and coordinated by Jamie Oliver. With no assistance available from school staff (who acted as stewards to the attempt!), Year 6 prepared their own pasta from scratch, with an accompanying fresh tomato, basil and garlic sauce.

As you can see from the pictures, tasty fun was had by all and we hope to confirm that we are world record holders by next week after all of the evidence has been submitted!



Primary Engineers

This opportunity complemented another which the school took part in earlier

this year — that of the Primary Engineers competition. We are very proud to announce that Barnaby, Emily, Henry, and Lily all received awards at the recent award ceremony, held at the Engineering School in the University of West of England, Bristol.

All of our children took part in the challenge of "If you were an engineer, what would you do?" and after careful judging





Y6 Guiness World Record Cookery

by industry experts, Barnaby, Emily, Henry, and Lily were among the winners and highly commended pupils awarded trophies and certificates. Their innovative ideas impressed the judges and showcased the talent we have in our school.



Merlin trip to Puxton Park

Our wonderful Merlin children enjoyed a class trip to Puxton Park. All enjoyed a bumpy tractor ride to the cow barn, where we met lots of playful calves. The children created enrichment snacks for some marmosets (who had rather fluffy eyebrows!) and had the chance to stroke giant rabbits and guinea pigs. To top it off,

everyone put their physical skills to the test in the adventure parks, climbing, swinging, and exploring with great enthusiasm. A lovely day had by all!



Timber, the Giant Rabbit!

All children across the school enjoyed their transition morning on Wednesday, working together with their new classmates and in some cases teachers, to get a feel for their return to school in

September. Teachers were keen to give children the opportunity to talk and share about themselves, as well as begin some new displays ready to ensure the classrooms will be as bright and welcoming as possible in the autumn term!

Year 1 Sports Festival

Our Race for Life

Another strong week of sport to report upon, starting with a final update of our

Race for Life total which took place last week - £2200! An incredible achievement by all and a huge thank you for supporting our children in their sponsorship and participation. On Tuesday afternoon, Year 1 visited Ansford to take part in their year group's athletics session. From long-jump to high-jump, boccia to hurdles all had a wonderful time, with a

particular highlight of the closing relay event.

At the other end of the school, the Year 5/6 football team took to the pitch at Ilchester.

Our team showed great determination and resilience with a challenging first half as

VE/6 Football

Team vs Ilchester

we went into the break trailing. All came back after half-time with renewed energy and focus. The second half was a much-improved performance, with tighter defending and more confident passing. Their efforts were rewarded with a well-earned goal, winning the second half 1–0.

Despite the overall score ending in a 5-1 loss, the team never gave up and showed fantastic team spirit throughout. A big well done to our team captain, Tom S, who led by example and worked tirelessly from start to finish.

Congratulations as well to the rest of the team for their hard work and commitment: Alex, Albie, Wes, Enes, Stanley, Noah, Jack, and Barnaby. We're proud of the way you represented the school – well played!

Year 5 also need a mention in this week's update as they all participated in the annual Fiver Challenge, supported by the PTFA. Following a very successful evening of sales at this year's Summer Fair last week, I am pleased to announce that the total profit from all businesses combined was £276.39! The top profit trophy was awarded in Praise Assembly today to Grace, with her Godley Bakes business of flapjacks! She made a £45 profit, closely followed by Phoebe, whose bracelets were a sellout-success, netting £42 profit as well!

This year's Summer Reading Challenge launches on Saturday in libraries across Somerset – please see the flyers below for



Grace from Godley Bakes!

more details <u>or this short clip explaining the details</u> or this year's event. As ever, we would love to hear of those who participate or complete the challenge when we return in September!

A final note to say that next week will be the final week of enrichment clubs (After-School Care is still open!); a new offer of clubs will be shared with families to select from next term.

Miss Morris and the Merlin team are delighted to celebrate the following children in reception.

Congratulations Jack, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week for great work in maths this week, using a number line to add and subtract within 20 — a brilliant foundation to master in preparation for Year 1 Jack, very well done! Unconventionally, Miss Morris has awarded her entire class the Star of the Week for fantastic behaviour on our school trip yesterday, listening carefully to adults being very polite to all the people that they met (and the monkeys!).

Pendragon – Congratulations to Charlotte C, for her fantastic headline ideas and news piece about flying frogs – great work, Charlotte! Well done to Georgia, Pendragon's Worker of the Week for her great focus during lessons – wonderful news as the school term draws to a close – keep up the top effort, Georgia!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Harry as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for applying the maximum amount of effort into everything that he does – a standout mention, Harry! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Jack for a fantastically comprehensive letter of complaint to the Three Bears – I thoroughly enjoyed reading it out on Goldilocks' behalf during assembly!

Excalibur – Grace is the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for supporting her peers in the electrical circuits works and using 6-figure grid references on maps – a brilliant week, Grace! Mrs Trusson's Worker of the Week is awarded to Finley, for his confidence when demonstrating sharing prediction for whether a circuit was complete or not – top scientist, Fin!

Lancelot – Betsy has been recognised as Lancelot's Stars of the Week for being a fantastic role model; producing an excellent extended write and showing outstanding commitment and energy in every rehearsal – a true star, Betsy! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week goes to Alfie C, for his brilliant maths and incredible effort when learning his play lines. Alfie always challenges himself and shows fantastic focus, determination and commitment – high praise indeed, Alfie!

A special mention this week goes to Charlotte W in Pendragon, for completing her 25m swimming distance — a brilliant achievement at her age and no doubt sets her up for strong swimming and water confidence skills moving forwards. A big shout goes to Lucy in Lancelot class, who has been awarded the all-rounder of the seasons in her U11 hockey team at Bruton — a fantastic achievement, Lucy!

For children with Medical, Health or Care Plans, please inform the office as soon as possible if there have been any updates or changes, which should be reflected in your child's plan.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Every Friday COUNTESS GYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL	FRIDAY TUCKSHOP Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p
Monday 7 th July	Merlin Class swimming session 5
Tuesday 8 th July	Tulip Photography in school for class photos and Year 6 Leavers photos
Tuesday 8 th July	Leavers' Performance of 'The Little Orphan Girl' 1.30-3pm
Wednesday 9 th July	New Intake transition session 1.30-2.30pm
Wednesday 9 th July	Leavers' Performance of 'The Little Orphan Girl' 6-7.30pm
Thursday 10 th July	Year 6 Ansford Sports Day 9.30am–3pm
Monday 14 th July	Merlin Class swimming session 6
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 6 walk to South Cadbury
Friday 18 th July	PTFA Summer School Disco – details to follow
Monday 21st July	Countess Gytha's Got Talent Show
Monday 21st July	Year 6 Leavers' assembly 2:00 – 2.45pm
Monday 21st July	Year 6 Kayaking at Sutton Bingham
Tuesday 22 nd July	Last day of the summer term.





If any children aged 9 and above are interested in the Autumn 2025 National Youth Choir – please speak to Mr Gordon or Mrs Sherry for further details or visit the National Youth Choir Webpage here.



Joining the National Youth Choir is a wonderful opportunity for young singers to develop their voices and musicianship and expand their horizons in a wonderfully supportive environment.



Charles Harrison Composer, Sound Designer, Musician tuition@charlesevanharrison.com www.charlesevanharrison.com



We are delighted to announce we now have a drum set and Charles is available for drum lessons in school each week.

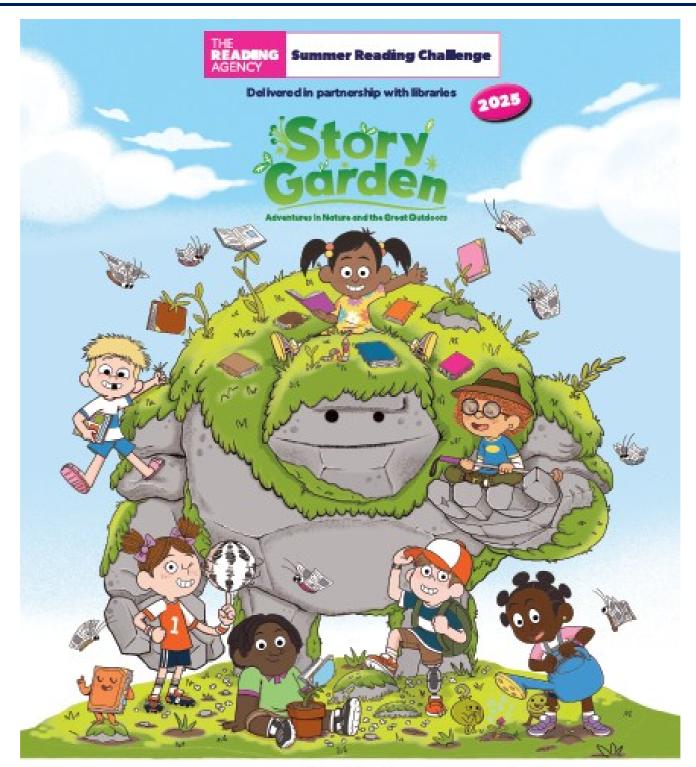
If your child is interested in guitar, violin or drum lessons, please email Charles above. Tuition will be weekly on a one-to-one basis and will cost £10 per 20 minute lesson. You will be invoiced privately at the end of each term and only for lessons attended.





Calling Year 3 and Year
4! Come and join Queen
Camel Cricket Club! Learn
amazing cricket skills,
play fun games, and be
part of a brilliant team,
who have loads of fun
every week.

Contact Catherine
Robinson to find out
more!



summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Sign up for free at your nearest library from Saturday 5th July!



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THE READING Sun AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The Summer Reading Challenge, created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, is a FREE, fun-packed way to keep kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme is **Story Garden**, where imagination blossoms and stories grow! Children will explore creativity, storytelling, and the magic of books through exciting activities and adventures.

Why Join?

- It's FREE! Available at local libraries and online
- Inspires a lifelong love of reading
- Boosts confidence, creativity, and imagination
- Earn rewards, certificates, and prizes
- Fun for the whole family. Vsit your local library together
- 95% of children said they read more after joining!
- Children choose their own books to read over the summer, collect rewards for each milestone they reach, and receive a certificate or medal when they complete the challenge.



Help your child start their reading adventure today!







Countess Gytha Primary School West Camel Road, Queen Camel, Yeovil, BA22 7FF Tel: 01935 850345

Email: office@countessgytha.ppat365.org

1:1 LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT Full-time and Part-time options considered

- · Starting salary is currently £12.45 per hour, with a pay award pending
- Fixed Term Contract (contracts run 1st September 31st August annually)
- Paid on a pro-rata basis working term time only
- Employers' Pension contribution 24.4%

We are looking to appoint a committed and enthusiastic 1:1 SEN Learning Support Assistant to join our friendly and supportive team at Countess Gytha Primary School.

The ideal candidate will:

- Have a passion for supporting the education and well-being of all our wonderful children.
- · Be enthusiastic about the development and aspirations of all learners.
- Have the ability to think on their feet, using their initiative whilst working collaboratively.
- Be motivated, passionate and reflective about their work.
- Experience of autism and/or non-verbal communication is preferred but not essential.
- Participate in ongoing professional development to ensure best practice is followed and shared.

Please apply in writing by completing the application form available from the school website: https://www.countessqythaprimary.co.uk/staff-vacancies/ indicating any preferences regarding working hours on a covering letter or email.

Applications should be returned by post to the school address above, or emailed to: office@countessgytha.ppat365.org

Visits to our school are welcome; please telephone the office to make an appointment.

Closing date: Wednesday 9th July 2025

Interviews will be held on: Monday 14th July 2025

Preston Primary Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All positions require a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure before any post is confirmed.



COUNTESS GYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL



AUDITION!

OPEN TO ALL

HOW

WHEN

MUSICIANS, SINGERS, DANCERS, RAPPERS, ACTORS, COMEDIANS, MAGICIANS, ETC.

SEE MISS BRIDGE AT LUNCHTIMES TO AUDITION

SHOW ON MONDAY 21ST JULY 2025 AT 10AM



Queen Camel Tennis Club OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th July: 9am - 2pm

Join us for some FREE tennis activities and coaching!

Fun coaching sessions for all ages, skill games for Juniors, social and family tennis.

Whatever your age come and have a go!

9.00am - 9.45am - Red Ball (ages 5-8 yrs) 9.45am - 10.30am - Orange Ball (ages 8 - 10yrs) 10.30am - 11.15am - Green Ball/Yellow Ball (ages 11+) 11.15am - 2pm open courts for social & family tennis

* Children under 14 years must be accompanied. Rackets are available to borrow.

Refreshments available throughout

Queen Camel Tennis Club is a friendly and sociable two-court Club with floodlights. We enjoy competitive & social play and have a great coaching programme including Saturday mornings for children from 5 upwards and for adults Wednesday evenings.

In addition to our regular Club Night on Tuesday evenings, we also have Club morning sessions on the first and third Sunday of every month at 10am until noon.

All members welcome.



Queen Camel Tennis Club, The Playing Fields, Green Lane, Queen Camel BA22 7NW www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/QueenCamelTennis Club



RSPCA WEST HATCH

Animal Centre

SUMMER PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT!

Looking for a summer holiday activity or just want a reason to get outside for some fresh air?

For just £5 you can take part in our Summer Photo Scavenger Hunt and raise money for the animals at the same time!



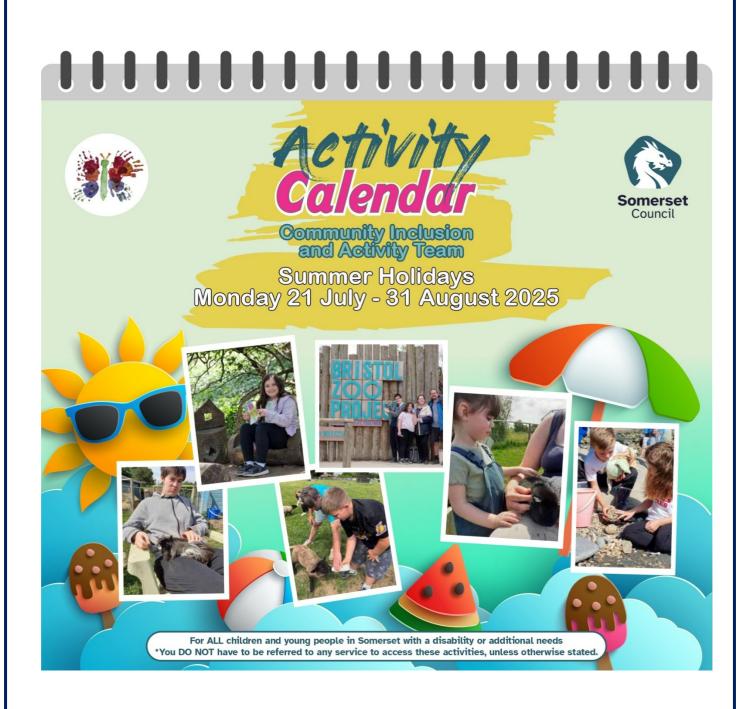
Thank you for supporting us!



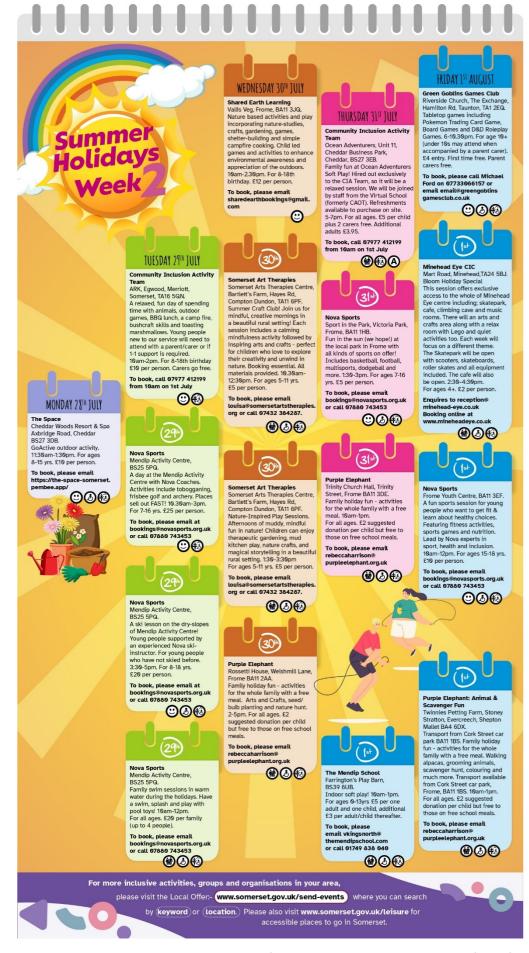
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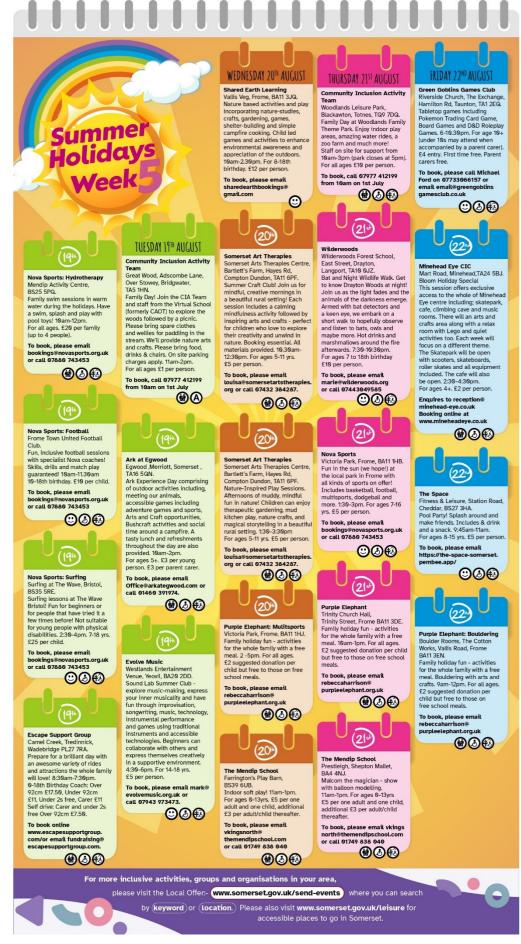
















Key for activities:



Family Activity - for all members of the family to attend and enjoy



Child/Young person can attend on their own under group supervision or with parent/carer if additional 1:1 support is required - please call the organisation to have a chat



Child/young person must attend with a parent or carer



Staff provided by the organisation to support the child/young person 1:1 if required - please call the organisation to see what they can provide as this may not include personal care



Some parts of the activity are wheelchair accessible please call the organisation to find out more



Accessible changing facilities are available please call the venue to find out more

Activities aimed at young people/teenagers/young adults

Autism friendly session with staff from the Virtual School (formerly CAOT) available for light support

Useful Information

Who are the people offering the activities? Organisations who have experience of working with children and young people with a disability or additional need and their families. Activities can be adapted to suit the children and young people who would like to attend. Please call them to chat about your child / young person's needs.

Activities offered by the Community Inclusion and Activity Team
Dependant on the child / young person needs, we can provide a day out
without parent / carer as we offer group supervision. If it is the first time
your child / young person has accessed a trip with our team, a parent/
carer will need to attend. We require payment a minimum of 2 weeks prior
to the day. Please note, spaces for children and young people with a
disability or additional need will be prioritised first, with spaces offered
to siblings once bookings have closed if we have room.
Online payment at www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd

Don't forget our Activity Day Passes - Available to ALL families in Somerset with a child or young person with a disability or additional need - Puxton Park, Noah's Ark, The Bristol Zoo Project, Abbotsbury, Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Hestercombe gardens, Court farm. Email ciateam@somerset./gov.uk to find out more or visit **www.somerset.gov.uk/activity-passes** to view the flyer.

Max Card - A FREE card for all children and young people with a disability or additional need in Somerset aged 0-25 years. This card can be used at many places all over the UK offering discounts and special rates when you show the card. Visit www.somerset.gov.uk/max-card for more information on how to access this card. Cards can ONLY be issued by Somerset Council to people living in Somerset.

If you would like help with the calendar and how to access activities, please email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk and someone will be in touch to support you.