



COUNTESS  
GYTHA  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

# Diary Dates

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Dear Parents & Guardians,

It has been another wonderful week of learning at Countess Gytha, with so much going on as ever!

On Tuesday, Lancelot enjoyed a fantastic visit to Sutton Bingham reservoir as part of their geography and science topic of water and energy preservation. The class learnt a lot about the work and use of the reservoir, as well as the important work going on locally to protect wildlife species.



The children also marked Shrove Tuesday with a little help from a celebrity chef with all making pancakes with classmates. Children discussed the origins of the pancake tradition as well as other traditions from around the world such as Mardi Gras and King Cake!



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 the school office for those who like to tick off their progress!

Following the pancakes, World Book Day 2025 provided an epic stage for the school to celebrate reading and book culture!



Thank you so much to everyone who took part, helped prepare costumes and really got involved in the spirit of the event this year – it was clearly enjoyed by all, with the door decorating and the Book in a Box particularly successful this year! The children looked incredible in their costumes and were so passionate about their characters when staff were talking to them throughout the day – amazing efforts!



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World Book Day vouchers have been sent home with your child, these may be exchanged for one of the books published for World Book Day or used towards a book of their choice. A printable voucher is also [available via this link](#).



For those looking for ideas for books or to use their World Book Day token against, Mr Gallagher highly recommends the following sites to help with choosing – [The Reader Teacher](#); [Technology Books for Children](#); [Book Matching](#)



In other news this week, Countess Gytha took a strong squad to the most challenging Cross Country event on the calendar – Aldon Hill – to take on an 'uphill battle' against 28 other schools in the sunshine. Great results, including LOTS of new personal bests and a number of top-10 finishes for Emily B, Molly S, Jack G, Grace G and Ruby W, which topped off a



fantastic effort from all!

A shout out to the two Year 5 and 6 dodgeball teams, who joined Mrs Sherry at Ansford to compete against other local primaries. The children performed commendably, with Year 6 not losing a game in their first dodgeball tournament and all performing with great sportsmanship – well done teams!



Next week is British Science Week and the school is celebrating it with a science-based activity everyday in classes. Please don't forget your bottle rockets on Tuesday if wanting to launch this year!

Parent Meeting invites for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

March will be emailed out to families at 6pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March. If you experience any difficulties, or require an additional slot, then please contact the school office to arrange. Please note that there is a cross-country event on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, which may affect some families.



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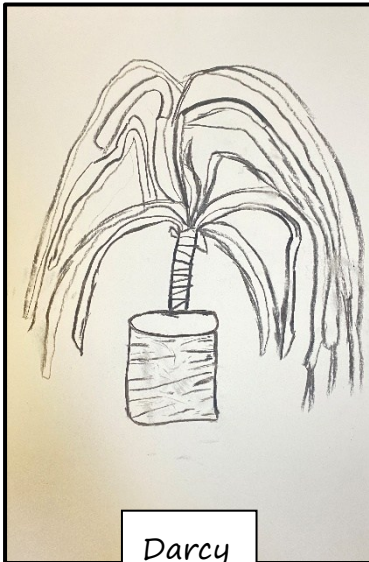
Looking further ahead, an Easter Celebration invite email was also sent out this morning with parents and families able to indicate their attendance this year [via this Microsoft Form](#).



Eliza



William



Darcy



Holly



Evie



Lydia

Mrs King this week submitted entries to the Young Artist competition – we wish them the best of luck!

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Miss Morris and the Merlin team are delighted to celebrate the following children in reception. Congratulations Harry, you are Merlin's Star of the Week for your positive attitude to all learning tasks this week and being incredibly kind to all of your peers – what lovely news, Harry! Well done Louis, you are Merlin's Worker of the Week, for being a great teacher and helping his peers practise their tricky words – a great career choice, Louis!

Pendragon – Congratulations to Elif, who is Pendragon's Star of the Week for working incredibly hard in phonics, Elif is really progressing with her reading – it's clear just how hard you have been working on this, young lady! Well done to Roma, who has been chosen as Pendragon's Worker of the Week for working hard on her presentation and handwriting – reflecting her hardworking attitude this week!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Jack as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for having great knowledge of book genres on World Book Day – you would make a brilliant sidekick to Bookman! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to George, for writing an excellent biography about Boudica in English – great to hear you're so enthused about your topic, George!

Excalibur – Hunter has been awarded the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for recognising when he will not achieve his best work and therefore making consistently 'good choice' this week – keep up the hardworking attitude, Hunter! Mrs Trusson's Worker of the Week is Emelia for writing a great start to her historical setting story, including superb detail and about her characters – I can't wait to read the finished piece, Emelia!

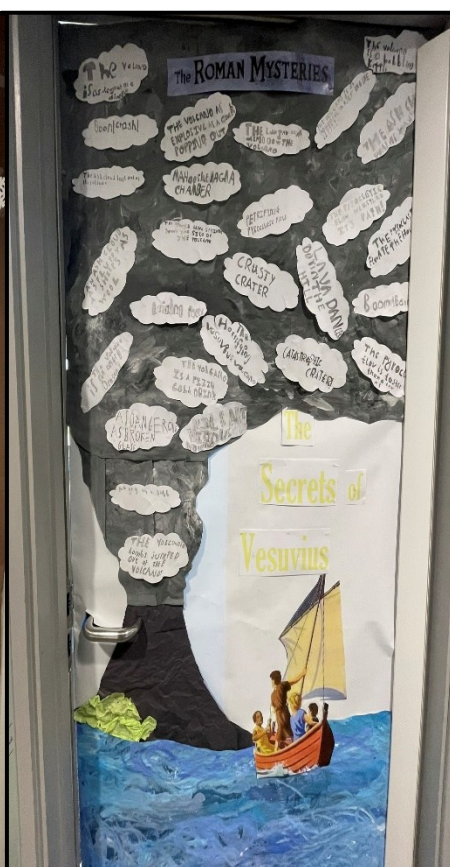
Lancelot – The Star in Lancelot class this week is William, for his excellent book spine of Jelly and for demonstrating superb teamwork during the Library Hunt as part of World Book Day – great work (and costume!) William. Mr. Gallagher's Worker of the Week is awarded to Alex F, for his brilliant work in maths always attempting the challenge in every lesson – a great reflection of your strong learning attitude, Alex!

A special mention this week goes to Rothen, Layton, Evie and Betsy in Lancelot, who received their certificate of publication from their latest short story write entries – we look forward to the compilation arriving at school for us all to enjoy. Well done to Bella in Pendragon for completing her Level 3 adventure in gymnastics. Likewise, a special mention for Harriet A in King Arthur, receiving her Level 1 in her Gymnastic Foundations. Noah in Lancelot has a special mention for being selected as trainer's player as part of the Yeovil Town academy he attends. Finally, well done to Phoebe F in Excalibur, for achieving her Brownie Bronze Award: her sash is a beautiful collection of skills and achievements!

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Our  
classroom  
doors –  
Designed  
and created  
by each class  
of children!



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# Countess Gytha School Council Easter Fundraiser



*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.*



## COUNTESS GYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL


*Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the PTFA AGM this week, [minutes from the meeting will be published shortly on the school website, here.](#)*

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<b>Every Friday</b> 		<b>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</b> <b>Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p</b>
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 Non school uniform for pupils on course.	
Week commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week – classes will take part in a range of science-based activities across the week	
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Rocket Launching. Science letter emailed out 6.3.2025	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	POSTPONED ** Tag Rugby tournament at Yeovil Rugby Club	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Handball tournament at Westfield Academy – selected pupils only	
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	AIM High Writing event for selected Year 1 & 2 pupils	
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Blackdown House Cake sale after school.	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Red Nose Day 2025 Non uniform – Wear RED for 50p donation.	
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	
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	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Author, Ben Pulletz visits King Arthur Class	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA Easter Bingo.	
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 today.	
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	

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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	
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.	

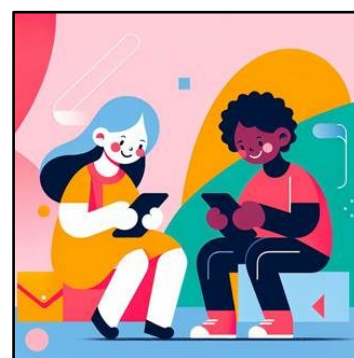
### **Are 'free' games and apps really free?**

While some games and apps cost money, most are free to download and use. But are they actually free?

Online companies use clever tactics to make money through products and services they market as being free. These tactics are not always obvious, and some can be very persuasive, especially those aimed at children. The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) portal offers resources dedicated to understanding marketing in games. It explains how marketing strategies are embedded in online games and apps and offers practical advice on how to recognise these tactics and help our children understand them. By using these tools, parents can better protect and guide their children while they are online.

Visit the Better Internet for Kids website to learn more:

<https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en/learning-corner/parents-and-caregivers/marketing-games>



**Somerset e-Learning and Information Management**

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## 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

### **Payment Reminders**

*Merlin Class – Puxton Park*

*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*

*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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# 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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COUNTESS GYTHA PTFE

# 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



COUNTESS GYTHA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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)

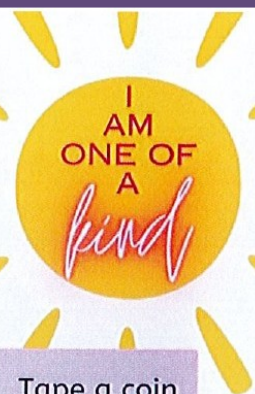


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# 30-DAY

## 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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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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