

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term, perhaps the busiest but certainly the most festive for the school! Lancelot Class have already started the fresh season of learning by revamping the display in the front foyer – I hope you'll agree it looks brilliant and presents a great reflection of the learning we enjoy together each day at Countess Gytha.



Similarly, the front of the school is well-adorned with our annual Remembrance display – proudly produced by Pendragon. The Royal Naval charity, Aggies, presented an assembly this week to highlight the importance of Remembrance. They delivered a very interesting assembly focusing on the impact of both World Wars on our local area, as well as discussing how we still commemorate lost and injured personnel today.

The Year 1 and 2 children then took the opportunity to create Peace Buttons and Patience Prayers in a workshop delivered by Julie and Angela.

The school will be marking the silence on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a short service of remembrance (around 10 minutes) from 10:45am which parents are welcome to attend. We will be gathering at the front of school, beneath the flagpole; please be aware, there is no parking to the left of the front gate. The Gytha Troops will be visiting RNAS Yeovilton at this time.

Also on Monday are the school's individual and sibling portraits by Imago Photography. Please ensure children are dressed in full school uniform, with jumpers and ties and a message for Merlin parents particularly, that they should come to school in their uniform on Monday, rather than PE kit!

With an extremely busy half-term ahead of us, please do keep a close eye on the Diary Dates – our Christingle Celebration is planned for 11am on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The school and community will be providing ribbon and fruits/sweet treats to adorn our Christingle oranges, but please can each child have an orange in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December ready to decorate. Families are encouraged [to sign up via our short form here](#) if you plan to join us.



Countess Gytha Primary and Preschool is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. Mr Gordon is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his absence, Mrs Trusson, Miss Bridge, Ms Flagg and Mrs Gillman.

I would like you to join me in congratulating the following children who were recognised this week by their teachers for excellent hard work and dedication:

Merlin Class joined the whole school Praise assembly for the first time this year and we are delighted to celebrate the following children. Congratulations Louis, you are Merlin's Star of the Week for being such a helpful friend, working as a team to help your peers to complete their Remembrance lanterns – amazing news! Well done Jack, you have been chosen as the Worker of the Week for working really hard and trying your best to concentrate on all tasks this week – keep up the hard work, Jack!

Pendragon – Eric has been chosen as Pendragon's Star of the Week, for his excellent listening skills and as a learning role model to his peers in class this week – wonderful to hear, Eric! Well done to Rupert, who has been chosen as Pendragon's Worker of the Week for his hard work in his English, describing fireworks in great detail!

King Arthur – This week, we are celebrating Noah as Miss Bridge's Star of the Week, for being incredibly helpful and determined to keep the classroom spotless – well done, Noah! King Arthur's Worker of the Week goes to Henry, for his exceptional description of Mr Tumnus, which included lots of expanded noun phrases and prepositions too – a brilliant read, great work young man!

Excalibur – Tayana has been awarded the Star of the Week in Excalibur, for starting to develop greater pace in recording her work and even practising at home – keep up the hard work, Tayana! Mrs Trusson's Worker of the Week is Kai, for working hard to develop a neatly presented handwriting style and being determined to challenge himself in maths lessons – well done, Kai!

Lancelot – The Star in Lancelot class this week is Alfie C, for his fantastic letter as a royal advisor to Prince Paris of ancient Greece, to attempt to choose the right Goddess – great work, Alfie! Mr Gallagher's Worker of the Week is awarded to Albie for his determined attitude to return to school ready to learn with lots of resilience and determination – keep it up, Albie!

A special mention to Noah for gaining the Player of the Match and captaining his team to a successful 7-2 victory this week – great news! Milo, Rupert and Willem were proud to present their medals they achieved from a recent 5km run – all of whom finishing in the top 200 out of 2000 runners! Congratulations Austin, for being awarded in Eco Blue Peter

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badge, for his suggestion that every school should have a hedgehog home on site – Mr Inskip will have a lot of fun building these with the Eco-Council!

Finally, a special mention to all who undertook Bookman's Half-Term Reading Challenge – he flew in to present certificates across the school and will be back next week to present Excalibur with theirs!



Mr Gordon

### Payment Reminders



Excalibur Year 4 and King Arthur Year 3 swimming – £22.50

Year 3 & Year 4 enjoyed their first swimming session of the half-term, travelling and changing really sensibly at Wincanton pool. Please can I take this opportunity to remind that children will either need to remove their earring studs or have these taped for the weekly pool session.

Pantomime £3.50

Cineworld Trip £3.80

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The new menu is now live on ParentPay.

Please remember that all children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 have the option to take up a free lunch (including the new packed lunch option) via the Universal Infant Free School Meal Scheme.

Families in receipt of Free School Meals will also be entitled to this extra choice.

All meals are charged at £2.65 for paying families.

All Allergens for meals are available on our website:

[New Menu Website Link \(November 2024 - February 2025\)](#)

[Allergens Website Link](#)

### **Children in Need Day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

To mark the event, all are invited to wear pyjamas and bring in a teddy bear. A suggested donation of 50p is being asked for, which is also available via ParentPay.

[Children In Need Donation Page on ParentPay](#)



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# **School Council**

## **Children in Need Sale**

***Badges and Wristbands - £1 each  
(while stocks last!)***

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Weds 13<sup>th</sup> November**

## ***Pudsey Cupcakes Cake Sale***

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

**On the playground at 3.15pm**

***- 50p per cake***

***(while stocks last!)***

***Please Come and Support this Worthwhile Cause***



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

***Come to school dressed in your  
pyjamas and bring in a teddy!***



***Suggested donation of 50p/£1***



# CAKE SALE



**THEY ARE BACK!**

**Please support your House  
and bring some cakes in.**

# **POLDENS**

**THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**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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COUNTRESS GYTHA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# COLOURFUL CLASSES DAY

MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

MUFTI DAY IN YOUR CLASS COLOUR IN  
EXCHANGE FOR HAMPER PRIZES IN THE SAME  
COLOUR

**RED** - MERLIN

**ORANGE/GOLD** - PENDRAGON

**YELLOW** - KING ARTHUR

**GREEN** - EXCALIBUR

**BLUE** - LANCELOT

**PURPLE/SILVER** - PRE-SCHOOL



Example: Merlin class wear a Red T-shirt and bring in some red wrapping paper







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Beech Catering  
**Christmas Lunch**

December 2024

**Main**

Roast Turkey Crown with a Pig in Blanket,  
Sage and Onion Stuffing, Roast Potatoes,  
Carrots, Brussels Sprouts  
and Rich Gravy  
Allergen Change - GF Pig in Blanket, GF Stuffing

**Vegetarian**

Vegetable Wellington with Sage and Onion Stuffing, Roast  
Potatoes, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts and Rich Gravy  
Allergen Change - GF Wellington, GF Stuffing

**Pudding**

Christmas Pudding served with Creamy Custard

Strawberry Gateau

Gluten Free Christmas Pudding with Dairy Free Custard

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They have  
arrived!!!...

**TESCO**  
Community Grants



Visit any Tesco Store in the  
local Yeovil area to help the  
school be in with a chance of  
receiving additional funding  
from Tesco's Community Grant!

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<b>Every Friday</b> 	<b>FRIDAY TUCKSHOP</b> <b>Every Friday morning breaktime - 20p</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Imago Photography in school for Individual and sibling photographs. All school children to be uniform.
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day 2024 (in-school event)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need sale of badges and wristbands (£1 each) after school.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	School Tours for New Intake 2025 at 9.30am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Polden's Cake Sale – after school from 3.15pm in the playground/ hall. 
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day 2024 See posters above for details. 
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & 6 Cineworld Trip.
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Cineworld Trip.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	PTFA MUFTI Day for Christmas Donations – Details above
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Ansford Dance Festival – letter sent home 17.10.24
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	PTFA Christmas Fair 3.30pm 
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Christingle Making – all children to bring in an orange,
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	11am Christingle Service at St Barnabus Church – <u><a href="#">please request your seats via this link. Confirmation will be sent closer to the event.</a></u>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Village Café Choir Performance – letters sent home today.
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Performance 1 (afternoon performance) Details to follow shortly
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch – Book via ParentPay by 4th November. Children may wear a Christmas jumper or t-shirt with their uniform.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Performance 2 (evening performance) Details to follow shortly.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Lancelot Class children vs Parents Quiz 'Are you smarter than your 10 year old?' Letters sent home today.
<b>Week Commencing 16th December – No enrichment clubs this week</b>	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Dick Whittington Pantomime in school.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of school term.

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