

Science Week

As part of Science Week, this half term we were joined by Fizz Pop science who ran some science workshops with all of the children. In Reception and KS1 we learnt all about air; investigating how air can make things move and made our very own spinning helicopters. In KS2 the children were 'science detectives' for the morning; solving crimes by looking at finger prints, observing which pens reacted and testing to see which power reacted with vinegar! Thank you very much to the PTA for funding these brilliant workshops.



Attendance to date this academic year

	Crowcombe	Stogumber
Reception	96.9%	96.6%
Year 1	95.5%	94.8%
Year 2	96.8%	96.9%
Year 3	95%	95%
Year 4	89.4%	96.3%
Year 5	94.8%	95.6%
Year 6	93.9%	94.6%

Term Time Leave

We have seen an increase in the number of term time leave request so feel it is important to share with you some information regarding penalty notices.

Supporting Good School Attendance

Information about Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absence from School

Following the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised absences recorded after 10 August 2024. This information refers to penalty notices that are considered for both irregular attendance and unauthorised term-time leave.

What is a Penalty Notice?
A penalty notice is a fixed penalty fine issued to parents as an alternative to prosecution in relation to unauthorised school absence.

Who can be a Penalty be Issued to?
Penalty Notices can be issued to each parent or carer of each child whose unauthorised absence meets the national threshold.
For example, in a family with two parents and three children taking unauthorised term-time leave, each parent could receive a penalty notice for each child resulting in six penalty notices being issued.

The National Threshold
Schools are required to consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate when a child reaches 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.
Absences do not have to be consecutive and can be a combination of any unauthorised absence codes (G, O, N or U).
The rolling ten school week period can span terms, school years and schools.

The First Offence
The first time a parent is issued with a penalty notice in relation to a child's absence, they will be able to pay the reduced amount of £80 if they pay within 21 days.
After 21 days, the full amount of £160 is payable within 28 days.

The Second Offence
If a parent is issued with a second penalty notice within three years the amount payable will be £160 within 28 days.
The reduced amount will not be available.

Further Offences
A parent cannot be issued with more than two penalty notices in relation to each child within a three-year period. Where this threshold is met and further offences occur, the Local Authority will consider other measures to address attendance concerns.
This may include prosecution, which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and the parent having a criminal record. In rare cases, parents may receive a custodial sentence. If convicted, the offence will also show on any future DBS checks.

Appealing a Penalty Notice
There is no statutory right for parents to appeal penalty notices for unauthorised school absence.
If a parent believes a penalty notice has been issued in error, they should contact their child's school as quickly as possible. If an error has been made, the school may request a withdrawal.

Not Paying a Penalty Notice
If a penalty notice is not paid within the payment period, Somerset Council may prosecute the parent for failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

The Law
Penalty notices are issued in line with Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 when a parent has failed to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.
Penalty notices can only be issued when:
✓ a child's absence meets the national threshold
✓ issuing a penalty notice is compliant with the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct
Every local authority has a Penalty Notice Code of Conduct that outlines how, and when, it will issue penalty notices relating to unauthorised school absence.
Somerset's Code of Conduct is available online and describes the circumstances when issuing a penalty notice is appropriate.
Penalty notices will only be issued in line with the Code of Conduct.

Useful Links
→ Working Together to Improve School Attendance
→ Somerset Council Penalty Notice Code of Conduct
→ The Education Act 1996

World Book Week Celebrations

We loved celebrating stories during World Book Week! Reception and KS1 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Williton Library, supported by their Year 6 buddies, where they explored books and shared stories together. Children also dressed up as their favourite characters and took part in an exciting dance and drama workshop that brought traditional tales to life, led by West End Dance and kindly funded by our PTA.



School Council News

KS1 School Council members have been exploring road safety. They would like to encourage parents, family members and community members to drive slowly and park in the care park!



Bringing our Learning to Life!

Year 3 and 4 Explore Local Farming

As part of their Geography topic, "Where does our food come from?", Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a brilliant learning experience with two local farmers. In school, Ella Sellick taught the children about mixed farming, animal welfare and how farms work together. Pupils then designed their own farms, carefully considering machinery, space and the systems needed to produce food sustainably.

The children also visited Richard Giles' dairy farm, travelling by tractor-towed trailer to see the cow sheds, pasture and milking parlour. They learned about different feeds, the importance of healthy soil, and even met some new calves.

The day helped the children understand how much care, skill and planning goes into producing good food, bringing their Geography learning to life in a memorable way.



Climate Ambassadors in Action

Our Climate Ambassadors have been busy this term, leading a range of projects to help us understand and reduce our impact on the environment.

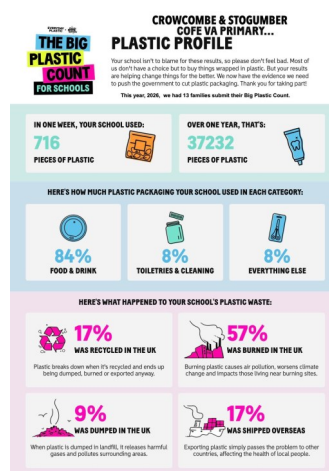
Our Waste Ambassadors have been exploring the amount of rubbish produced from our lunchboxes and were shocked by how many crisp packets and plastics we throw away each day. This investigation has inspired us to look into crisp-packet recycling schemes, and the whole school took part in **The Great Plastic Count** to learn more about the types and amounts of plastic we use and how we can reduce it.

Our Community Garden Ambassadors have been working on designs for a new community garden in Stogumber. With the support of local residents, their ideas are now being developed into a real shared space for the whole village to enjoy.

Year 5 and 6 have also been learning about the impact of litter on oceans and coastlines. They took part in a beach clean at Blue Anchor and Dunster, seeing first-hand how rubbish affects marine habitats.

To build on this learning, KS2 enjoyed an inspiring assembly from Keith, founder of *Our Precious Earth*, who encouraged pupils to consider the difference small actions can make. You can find out more about his work at <https://ourpreciousearth.co.uk/>

Together, these activities show our pupils' growing commitment to caring for our planet and making positive change within their community.



Sporting success!

Reception & KS1 House Jumping competition:

We are thrilled to announce that the winning house for Spring Term 2 Inter-house competition for Reception & KS1 was: ALDER!

SASP Events: Sporting events this half term have included Year 5 & 6 Cross Country, Year 5 & 6 and Year 3 & 4 Netball competitions and a full day at Whirlwinds Gymnastics club for Mrs Lewis, which saw 3 teams (KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2) enter gymnastics competition against other local



Bringing our Learning to Life!

Year 1 & 2 Geography

In Geography, KS1 have been learning about the seven continents and have recently moved on to exploring the coldest places on Earth — the North and South Poles. They have used atlases to help them locate these regions and have been discussing the different features of each area, including the climate, landscapes and wildlife. They were very excited to welcome explorer Oliver Hicks into their classroom, who shared his fascinating experiences of travelling to and exploring both the North and South Poles. His visit really helped bring their learning to life and inspired lots of thoughtful questions from the



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

We hope to have our annual Sports Day during the afternoon of Wednesday 20th May. We do hope you are able to join us .

Whole School Biodiversity Adventure Day

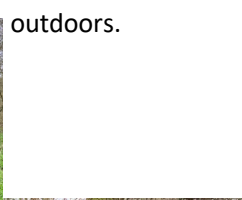
Our Biodiversity Ambassadors led a fantastic whole-school Learning Outside the Classroom day at Viper Woods, packed with hands-on nature learning and outdoor exploration. Children moved through a range of activities designed to help them understand local wildlife and how to protect it.

Everyone took part in **Animal Trackers**, searching the woodland for signs of wildlife, followed by practical activities such as **wild-flower seed-bombing**, **tree planting**, and building our very own '**Buggingham Palace**' to create new habitats for minibeasts. Groups also enjoyed den building, obstacle courses, and even some very muddy fun damming the stream—helping children learn how changes to habitats affect water flow and biodiversity.

Older pupils explored **carbon capture** and **tree-age calculations**, discovering the importance of both mature woodland and new plantations for our future environment.

We ended the day by coming together to share our discoveries and celebrate what we had learned about nature, conservation, and how our small actions can make a big difference.

A huge thank you to all staff, volunteers, and of course our brilliant Biodiversity Ambassadors for leading such an inspiring day outdoors.



DIARY DATES

- 1 April - Last Day of term
- Easter Holidays**
- 20 April - Start of Summer term
- Woodpecker Residential at Kilve
- 21 April - Woodpecker Residential at Kilve
- 24 April - Yr 1 LOTC
- Woodpeckers swimming, Knights Templar, pm
- 27 April - Yr3 / Yr4 cross-county, Danesfield, pm
- 1 May - Yr 2 LOTC
- Yr 1 Multi-skills Festival, Kingsmead, am
- Woodpeckers swimming, Knights Templar, pm
- 4 May - May Day Bank Holiday**
- 8 May - Woodpeckers swimming, Knights Templar, pm
- 9 May - PTA Spring Fete, Stogumber 12 - 3.00pm**
- 11 May - SATS week (until Thursday)
- Yr R LOTC
- 15 May - Yr 3 / Yr 4 LOTC (am)
- Yr 6 Invasion Games + lunch, Kingsmead, am
- Woodpeckers swimming, Knights Templar, pm
- 20 May - Whole school Sports Day, Stogumber, pm
- 22 May - Yr 5 LOTC
- Woodpeckers swimming, Knights Templar, pm
- w/c 25 May - Half-term Holiday**



EASTER FUN!

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL
CROWCOMBE VILLAGE HALL
10AM - 12AM
£4 PER CHILD

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
VIA THE QR CODE BELOW OR AT
[HTTPS://CRUMBSPTA.SUMUPSTORE.COM](https://crumbspta.sumupstore.com)

EASTER
CRAFTS AND
EGG HUNT



CHOCOLATE
EGG FOR
EVERY CHILD!

Come and join us on

EASTER SUNDAY

11 am
5th April



**Family Service with Communion followed
by an Easter Egg Hunt. at the
Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowcombe.
All are welcome**

Date	Time	Cost	Venue	Activities
Tue 7 th April	9.00-1.00pm	£14.50 or via SASP HAF Holiday Provision	Dunster First School, St Georges Street, Dunster,	Team Games, Dodgeball, Human bowling, Darts Football, Parachute Games and many more
Wed 8 th April	9.00 - 1.00pm	£14.50 or via SASP HAF Holiday Provision	Dunster First School, St Georges Street, Dunster,	Team Games, Dodgeball, Human bowling, Darts Football, Parachute Games and many more
Thurs 9 th April Gymnastic Bars Workshop	9.00 - 1.00pm	£14.50 or via SASP HAF Holiday Provision	Minehead First School, Townsend Road, Minehead, TA24 5RG	Gymnastic workshop focusing on bars - we have two sets of bars. This will suit anyone who would like to practice their skills and anyone wanting to give it a try.
Friday 10 th April Gymnastic Beams Workshop	9.00 - 1.00pm	£14.50 or via SASP HAF Holiday Provision	Minehead First School, Townsend Road, Minehead, TA24 5RG	Gymnastic Beams workshop focusing on high, low and foam beams. This will suit anyone who would like to practice their skills and anyone wanting to give it a try.

Transport is available from different areas so please do enquire if required, subject to criteria

Age: Children will need to be aged 5 years and upwards to attend.

Who: Open to all children.

Food: Lunch/Tea will be provided as well as snacks. Please bring a refillable water bottle.

Wear: Casual, comfortable clothes, daps or trainers.

Cost: £14.50 per day or if you have a HHH (Happy Healthy Holidays code which you will be supplied by your school you can book <https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>

Book with a code: You will need to book on . For assistance please contact HHH@SASP.co.uk;

Helpline 01823 653992. Please see <https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>

Paying: Please contact Suzanne e-mail: suzannenumber1WS@gmail.com

Book by: Please book by Wednesday 1st April 2026

Bookings will be made on a first come first served basis. Limited numbers.



September 2026						October 2026						November 2026								
M			7	14	21	28	Mo			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
T		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	T		3	10	17	24	
W		2	9	16	23	30	We			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		Fr		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	S		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25		S	1	8	15	22	29	
December 2026						January 2027						February 2027								
M			7	14	21	28	M			4	11	18	25	M			1	8	15	22
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			5	12	19	26	Tu			2	9	16	23
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			6	13	20	27	W			3	10	17	24
Th		3	10	17	24	31	Th			7	14	21	28	Th			4	11	18	25
F		4	11	18	25		F		1	8	15	22	29	F			5	12	19	26
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		2	9	16	23	30	Sa			6	13	20	27
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		3	10	17	24	31	Su			7	14	21	28
March 2027						April 2027						May 2027								
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26	M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24		Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	2	9	16	23	30	
June 2027						July 2027						August 2027								
M			7	14	21	28	M			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22	29	

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 03 September – 23 October 2026 (37 days)	
Term 2: 02 November – 18 December 2026 (35 days)	
Term 3: 04 January – 12 February 2027 (30 days)	
Term 4: 22 February – 25 March 2027 (24 days)	
Term 5: 12 April – 28 May 2027 (34 days)	
Term 6: 07 June – 23 July 2027 (35 days)	TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2026/27

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2026	Easter Monday	29 March 2027
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2026*	May Day Bank Holiday	03 May 2027
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2027	Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2027
Good Friday	26 March 2027	Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2027

*Replacement Bank Holiday when Bank Holidays falls on a weekend.

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.