



Newsletter 14 1st July 2026

Dear all,

Teaching is full of firsts, but having to balance the complications of children's learning amidst a red weather warning was a new one for me. In contrast to a large number of schools around us we decided we could safely stay open last week with the help of a fully air-conditioned classroom, regular hydration breaks (that Facebook post was seen by a larger-than-average number of people!) and thick, Victorian walls.

The fact that our attendance was between 80%-90% each day fully justified our decision to remain open and demonstrated (I hope) the trust that parents and carers have in the school to make decisions in the best interests of the children. Thank you to everyone for working with us last week, and a big thank you to all of the staff who worked tirelessly in somewhat tricky (and sticky) conditions.

As well as a celebration of some of the things that have happened in school recently, there is plenty of information in here covering the last action-packed three weeks of term.

Raven Class Activity Week

The lucky ones were those in Raven class, who on Thursday hopped on an air-conditioned coach out of the red zone down to Plymouth where we encountered a nice sea breeze. At the (air-conditioned) National Marine Aquarium we received a tour full of facts and stories, the children getting up close to rays, sharks, lobsters and Friday the turtle. After lunch, at the (air-conditioned) Theatre Royal we were treated to a wonderful performance of Annie. We were all very



much aware that the sun had come out today, let alone tomorrow, but thankfully we were able to keep cool for the day and very much enjoy the experience.

Then on Friday we were paid a visit by [Exmoor Game School](#) who provided a completely unforgettable experience for the children. 'Different for a Friday' was the main term used as the day began with a brilliant session that challenged the children to answer questions from 'Is it ok to kill animals?' to 'Does it matter where our food comes from?' The morning then progressed into children being given the opportunity to make their own venison burgers, taken step by step through the process. Different for a Friday indeed!

Pyjamarama

Pyjamarama was a lot of fun, with children turning up in their pyjamas and spending the day enjoying the love of reading while raising money for Booktrust. The day raised £55 in total – well done everyone!



Bikeability

Well done to our Year 5 children who completed their bikeability course last week, learning how to cycle safely on the roads. A very important life lesson and something we always encourage our Year 5s to do.

Whole school trip to Coates Willow

I say whole school trip... the whole school went, but for a variety of different reasons connected to the curriculum in each of the three classes. Over the last couple of years we have been making big updates to ensure there is a clear focus on local history and local geography, giving children a clear understanding of where they are from.

All children were given a tour of the site and the willow machines but also used the trip to help answer different questions. Our Otters were learning about the local area in geography whereas Kingfishers were more focused on discovering developments in our local history, particularly in terms of land use and the willow industry over time and how that influenced the area. Ravens were focused more on the geography – physical and human – comparing the wetlands to other wetland areas around the world (for example the Everglades in Florida).



Children's Parliament

I was very proud of Daisy, Matilda, Bertie and Dorothy for representing the school brilliantly at Somerset Children's Parliament. They were challenged to deliver a 5-minute presentation on 'Making a difference to the school or global community' in front of a panel of judges and children from other schools.

They took the opportunity with both hands, speaking clearly and confidently, telling the room about our developing relationship with The Congo Initiative and how we are raising awareness and building connections here and in the DRC. They were knowledgeable and answered questions well and had great feedback from the judges. Well done to them all!



Otter Class Assembly

Congratulations to Otter Class on a lovely showcase assembly in the church. The children spoke clearly, presented well and were rightly very proud of their wonderful work. Who knew that polar bear cubs were born black? Each class has had an opportunity to present to parents and the rest of the school in the church this year – a good opportunity to practise their public speaking while getting to show off a bit!



The Bookshop At The End Of The World

We are very much looking forward to our whole school performances on Tuesday 14th July. Similarly to last year there will be two performances due to capacity in The Williams Hall (1.30pm and 6pm), with tickets for the evening performance limited to three per family. Full details – including costumes, tickets, arrival times etc will come out in separate letters shortly.

Family Picnic – Friday 17th July

Preparations are also ramping up for our family picnic on Friday 17th July. All parents, carers and family members are invited from 1pm on the school field. All children will eat lunch outside (weather permitting) and we would like to encourage picnic rugs, packed lunches and a whole school community feel. FOS will be providing some additional refreshments. Please watch out for additional information.

Have a lovely weekend.

David Rowland
Headteacher

Key dates:

Wednesday 1 st July	Transition/Moving up Day
Friday 3 rd July	Sports Day – parents arrive from 1.45pm
Tuesday 14 th July	The Bookshop At The End Of The World: Summer Show in The Williams Hall (1.30pm and 6pm)
Wednesday 15 th July	Ravens Sailing day (rescheduled)
Friday 17 th July	Family picnic from 1pm
Monday 20 th July	Somerset Cricket Engagement Day
Tuesday 21 st July	Whole school trip to Magdalen Farm
Wednesday 22 nd July	Leavers Service (9.15am) and last day of the year

Safeguarding Information:

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please direct to one of our safeguarding team members: Mr Rowland or Mrs Anderson.

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm or in danger, please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or by email at: childrens@somerset.gov.uk





CHOICE ADVICE

Somerset Choice Advice is a free and impartial service which supports families with advice and practical support through the school admission and appeals processes.

This service exists to ensure that parents can play an active and informed role in securing a school place for their child

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