'Cherish and Nurture, flourish and aspire'

Burrington News No. 1

Friday 11th September 2026

Welcome back to a new academic year. It has been lovely to see the children bouncing into school after the long break in their smart school uniforms, with beaming smiles and positivity.

Uniform

Having a smart school uniform for all children helps to create a feeling of community and belonging. It supports the principle of inclusion. It is suitable for all school activities and promotes a sense of pride. Finally, it avoids the distraction or pressure of fashionwear! New government regulations regarding uniforms have come in for schools to minimise the number of 'branded' items to 3. We already follow this policy. Please can I remind families that children should be wearing polishable black (or patent) shoes (not boots) and not trainers. It is important that all children follow this rule and we thank you for supporting the school in this. Long hair (girls' or boys') should be tied back and jewellery is not permitted. Nursery children do not need to wear school uniform. All children should have a waterproof coat as we go out in ALL weathers! For further information on school uniform, please see the school website.

Welcome to new staff and pupils

As well as children starting in Reception and nursery, we welcome new families in Years 1,4 and 6. We also have **new staff**: Mrs Pitteway (teacher) and Mrs Griffiths (learning partner) join the team in Cherry class and Miss Dersley (teacher) joins the Birch class team. Mrs Dodd is now using a different name – Ms Olgard and we have Mrs Caddick and Miss Edwards as lunchtime supervisors. We hope all our new colleagues will enjoy being part of our Burrington family. You may have also heard Mrs Rooney has some very exciting news! In order to keep baby Rooney safe, we kindly ask that you let the school know if your child develops Slapped Cheek or chicken pox .

Church

In church, we have had to reorganise our places as we are now filling more pews with children; it is wonderful to see our school flourishing in this way! Over the course of the year there are various church events, beginning with our Harvest Festival on Monday 5th October at 9am to which families are most welcome. We will be supporting the local food bank as normal and details of donations to bring to school on that day will follow.

School Communication

The newsletter is the main source of school communication each week with celebrations of successes and general school news. Staff do post photos and other often class-based info on Classdojo, which is a secure platform for our Burrington school community, so do keep an eye on that too. It is lovely to keep in touch with what the children have been doing… It is also possible to message staff via Dojo. Please bear in mind that this should **not** be used for raising concerns or complaints (if needed, please use the school email for this) but more short notes and messages for the teacher. Staff will not be accessing Dojo messages while they are teaching so there may be a delay in their responses. For urgent matters, it is best to go through the school office.

Year 6 Camp

Year 6 will be making their way to Dorset on Monday for their residential to Osmington Bay. We wish them a very happy and sunny time away. Such trips are so important for developing confidence, team work and resilience and we look forward to hearing all about their adventures on their return. Thank you to Mrs A and Jane who are generously giving up their time to attend – it certainly is not a holiday!

Nurture and attendance

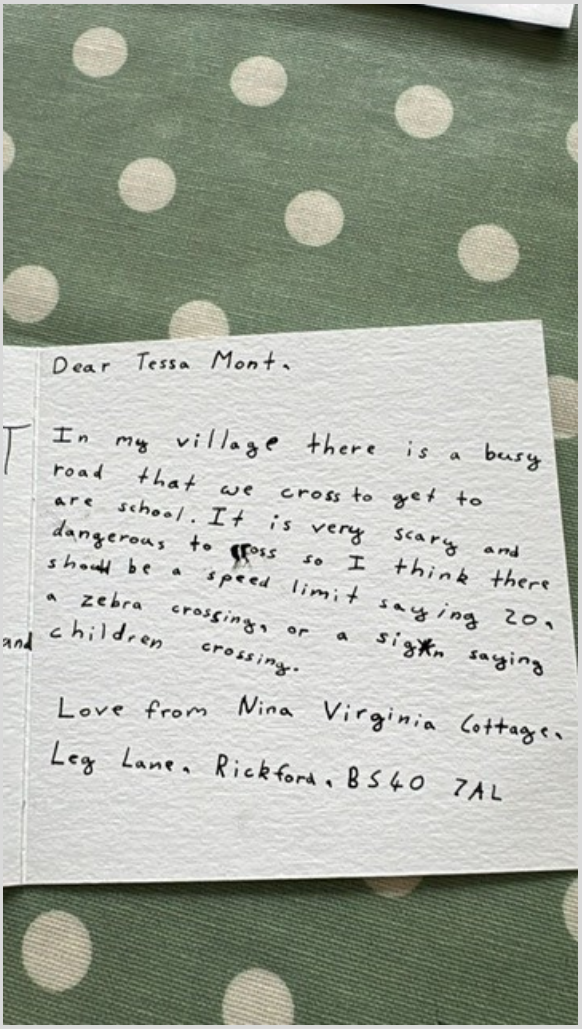
We have a bumper year ahead of us and we look forward to working in partnership with you. Our NurtureUK award certificate arrived this week - we are very proud that the assessor described the school as a '*beacon of nurture*'. We know how nurtured children will have a greater chance to flourish now and in their future. Excellent attendance is also an important factor and this can make a huge difference to a child's confidence and progress (as well as developing a strong work ethic for life). I urge you to confine holidays to the school holidays and ask that you are honest with us regarding any absence (holiday forms are available from the school office). The rules have been tightened regarding school attendance but I am very pleased that at both Burrington and Wrington, our attendance rates last year were strong within our Trust and the national picture – let's maintain this please!

Here's to a great year ahead!

Sarah Joskey

Bravo Nina, Rosie and Tilly!

During the holidays we received news that after nearly getting run over crossing the road, Nina has had enough! Nina, Rosie and Tilly met with Tessa Munt MP asking for a 20mph speed limit through Rickford. Tessa was very much onside and they hope more people can petition Tessa. They are also asking for the same in Blagdon.



Dear Tessa Mont.

In my village there is a busy road that we cross to get to are school. It is very scary and dangerous to cross so I think there should be a speed limit saying 20, a zebra crossing, or a sign saying and children crossing.

Love from Nina Virginia Cottage, Leg Lane, Rickford, BS40 7AL

HOP, SKIP & GO!
A Quick and Easy Way to Get to School

Helping to Reduce Traffic Congestion Around School

As we begin the new school year, we would like to remind everyone about our **Drop and Go service** and the **one-way traffic system**, both of which help to reduce congestion around the school and make arrival and collection times safer and smoother for everyone.

To help ease traffic in the village square each morning, we operate a **Drop and Go service**. This is a fantastic service supported by a parent volunteer who stands at the churchyard gateway from 8.35am everyday. As you pull into the gateway, the volunteer will open your car door and help your child safely out of the vehicle, allowing you to continue your journey without needing to park. Many families find this a quick and convenient option during the busy morning period.

To support the Drop and Go service and improve traffic flow generally, we ask drivers to follow our **one-way system** whenever possible. This involves driving up **Burrington Coombe**, taking the first left into **Ham Link**, and then following the road back down the hill with the school on your left-hand side. You can then pull into the church gateway if using Drop and Go. Even if you are not using the service, following this route helps to reduce congestion, particularly on **Fry's Lane**.

Please be aware that **Friday afternoons are typically our busiest collection time**, as we do not run an after-school club on Fridays. If you would prefer to avoid the congestion around the square, an alternative option is to park in the **Coombe car park** and enjoy the short walk across the fields to school.

Finally, we would be grateful if all families could be mindful of our neighbours by ensuring that driveways are not blocked and that roads are kept clear at all times. Maintaining access for emergency vehicles is particularly important and helps keep everyone in our community safe.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. Working together, we can make the start and end of the school day safer, smoother and more pleasant for everyone.

Harvest Service Monday 5th October

Everyone is welcome to join us for this lovely service in the Church at 9am. We always collect food items for Clevedon Foodbank on this day. Below is a list of foods the foodbank are particularly looking for this year. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Applying for Reception and Secondary school places for September 2026

Applications open tomorrow!

Applications for secondary school places open on 12 September 2026. The closing date for applications is 11.59pm on 31 October 2026.

Well done to the children who received certificates this week.

Maple Class

Superstars:

Well done to Leo for showing perseverance during stitching

Well done to Leila, Alexa, Sebby and Adam for excellent sewing machine skills

Pen Licence: Tilly P

Oak Class

Superstars:

Tilly for your fantastic letter to the Prime Minister about climate change

Bea for excellent work in maths this week

Charlie for a fantastic first week in Oak Class

Birch Class

Superstars:

Leonard for settling in so well in Birch.

Mabel and Hollie for helping the year 1 children to settle into Birch.

Mr Hushers tidiest classroom award: Birch

Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat!

This summer, North Somerset libraries encouraged all children to take part in the **Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat**. You still have until tomorrow to complete the challenge and collect your certificates from the Library!

We are delighted that several of our children completed the challenge.

Very well done to Edie, Teddy, Grace, Myles, Nina F, Chloe R, Isabel, Mabel, Thomas R, Chloe M, Wilfred, Inka, Josie and Hollie.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a particularly exciting time for children, and we love celebrating with them at school. One of our well-known traditions is the 'birthday claps' that take place during our celebration service on Fridays. Additionally, we sing "Happy Birthday" to the children in their classes, and each class marks the occasion in a special way, such as with a card or sticker.

We understand that some children may wish to bring something special to school on their birthday. However, to accommodate children with allergies or dietary restrictions, we kindly ask that these birthday treats are not sweet items. Instead, if a child wishes to bring something into school to mark their birthday we are offering an alternative: **the opportunity to contribute a 'birthday book'.**

A 'birthday book' is a book chosen from the school's recommended reads or a high-quality book that the child recommends themselves. We will place a special sticker inside the front cover of the book, noting that it was purchased to celebrate the child's birthday. The birthday child will have the opportunity to present the book to their class, and, if they wish, it can be read aloud to the class on their special day. This creates a lasting legacy of books within the school, while also making the birthday celebration more meaningful.

We hope this new tradition will be a memorable way for children to celebrate their special day while contributing to our school community.

Our school has a whole list of books in a wish list from https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/wishlists/a70a350cc0fef7bf58d0783292631472

For every book purchased through this website, LoveReading4Kids donates 25% of the purchase price back to our school account, allowing us to buy even more books.

We have lots of new exciting books on our wish list to help us refill our lovely library. Thank you all who are buying Birthday Books.

Attached to the newsletter is a list of school dates for the whole year. These may be subject to change. All dates in the near future will always be in this part of the newsletter.

Week commencing Monday 14th September	**Year 6 camp**
Week commencing Monday 14th September	**Year 5 Forest School week**
Wednesday 16th September	**Year 1 phonics workshop POSTPONED (new date to be advised on Monday)**
Thursday 17th September @ 9am.	**Reception phonics workshop**
Tuesday 22nd September	**Flu immunisations (Rec—Year 6)**
Friday 25th September	**McMillan Coffee Morning**
Tuesday 29th September	**Oak Forest School day**
Tuesday 29th September and Wednesday 30th September	**Year 6 Bikeability. (Bookings now closed)**
Wednesday 30th September	**Open morning for Reception starters 2027**
Monday 5th October	**Harvest Service at 9am. All welcome.**
Monday 12th October	**Individual photos**

Absence from school for unauthorised term time holidays

IMPORTANT CHANGES—are you aware?

There are now changes to the penalty notice framework since August 2024:

1. Fines have increased from £60 to £80 for a first time offence or £160 if paid after 21 days and within 28 days.

2. In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be **charged at the higher rate of £160.**

3. For a repeat third offence- a Penalty Notice will not be issued- Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. **Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.**

4. The Threshold at which a Penalty Notice must be considered is 10 sessions in a 10 week rolling period.

5. Local Authorities (LAs) have a duty to check with other LAs if a Penalty Notice (PN) has previously been issued in the preceding 3 years- which means that even if families move LA area, any previously issued PN by another LA can count towards the two PN limit per parent per child in the 3 year period.

Have a look at the link to the DFE website: Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk)

Please avoid taking holidays in term times. Thank you for support.

Attendance

Please find below the weekly attendance rates by class across the school. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%. **There is considerable research about the link between attendance and attainment.**

We understand that children should not be in school if they are ill (or are recovering from a tummy bug - sickness or diarrhoea -for 48 hours); however, children should still come to school if they are tired or have a minor cold. We also respectfully ask you to avoid taking holidays in term time.

95% attendance equates to 9 days of absence which is approximately 2 weeks off school, which means approximately 50 lessons have been missed. 80% attendance equals 38 days absent which is approximately 8 weeks or 200 lessons.

Birch	Oak	Maple	Whole School
98.21%	99.29%	94.29%	97.53%

Gold 97+ Silver 95-96% Bronze 90-94% Red 80-89% Blue below 80%

Maple Class invite you to their

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Friday 25th Sept 9-10 am

Burrington Parish Rooms

Please join us for tea, coffee and cake, served by Maple Class

Drink and cake £3.50
Tickets available on the door

If you are not able to attend, please consider donating your ticket money or baking a cake

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

COFFEE, CAKE AND COMPANY

Flu immunisations

Don't forget to complete the consent form sent out by email this week!
School Nurses are coming in on Tuesday the
22nd September.

Stitching Club

We'd love to start a stitching club at school, so if you know anyone with a spare sewing machine that we could borrow or have, we'd be very grateful.

Mrs A

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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After School Sports every Friday with Future Stars Coaching

Looking for a fun, action-packed way for your child to unwind after their week at school? Welcome to Sports Zone, our all-inclusive afterschool sports club designed to build confidence, make new friends, and try something new!

Each week, our expert coaches bring an exciting variety of accessible sports and energetic games - from Dodgeball and Rounders to Tag Rugby, Cricket, and so much more! Every session is packed with fun, ensuring children of all abilities can join in, stay active, and shine.

Children can wear their school uniform or switch into their PE kit - whatever they feel most comfortable moving in! Just make sure they bring a refillable water bottle and plenty of energy.

CREATE! Sunday
#FUN FOR FAMILIES & ALL AGES
Sundays 4-6pm
For venue check out churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk
SAVE THESE 2026 DATES!
20 September
18 October
22 November
20 December
Ready... Steady... Fun!
#QUALITY FAMILY TIME
#NATURE & CRAFT ACTIVITIES
#OUTDOOR OR INDOOR GAMES
#MEET LOCAL FAMILIES
#STORY & BUFFET TEA
*outdoor venues to be confirmed
Churchill Methodist Church
Contact us:
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk
Free

Welcome!
CHURCHILL BABY & TODDLER GROUP
Try us for FREE!
PLAY. SING. CRAFT and CHAT!
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Mondays 09.00-11.30
7, 14, 21 & 28 September
Friendly group, easy parking
Bright hall, lots of toys
Yummy snacks; cuppa & cake
Breastfeeding Welcome Here
Churchill Methodist Church
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Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS
MyShine.co.uk
*Conditions apply. Expiry 11/10/26

NORTH AC SOMERSET
NORTH SOMERSET AC
OCTOBER HALF-TERM FUNDAYS
CLEVEDON SCHOOL
10AM - 4PM
AGE 8-12
£26.00 PER DAY
CONTACT CHRIS MILLARD ON
FUNDAYS@NSAC.ORG.UK
ATHLETICS

Our School Christian value this term is:

Generosity

'God loves a cheerful giver'

2 Corinthians 9:7

Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Sarah Joskey (Head Teacher)

Deputy safeguarding Lead: LJ Annandale (Deputy Head)

Safeguarding Governor: James Pretty

SENCo: Tracey Jones

Learning Mentor: Maylina Allen

Administrator: Mel Hodgkinson

Concerned about a child?

Please speak to us about it.

PRAYERS:

From: ..... Class: .....

Please could we say a prayer in Service on Friday for:

.....

.....

.....

Ms Sarah Joskey – Headteacher