'Cherish and Nurture, flourish and aspire'

Burrington News No. 2

Friday 18th September 2026

It is always such a privilege as headteacher to visit classes and see learning in action. The children have settled well and it has been lovely to see all the classes across the whole school getting involved in the curriculum.
I popped in to see Cherry in a maths lesson today. The children were sitting so beautifully on the carpet listening carefully and then were learning through play showing how they are getting the hang of our High five for behaviour'.
In Birch, the class were having a wonderful time on a shape hunt inside and outside the classroom followed by starting their new literacy text – you could have heard a pin drop as they listened to the story.
Oak class were portrait artists (of themselves) this morning and - wow- what superb skills were in action!
Finally, Year 5 have had a great time in forest school with Mrs K which even included some edible campfire treats!

Our Year 6 return from camp today. Thank you to Mrs A and Jane for accompanying the children. The videos from Osmington Bay reveal the huge variety of activities which the children have enjoyed. We can't wait to hear all about it next week.

Sarah Joskey

Applying for Reception School places for September 2027

If your child is starting Reception in September 2027, its time to apply for their school place. Use the link below to apply online for your place

https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/apply-school-place/applying-school-place

The closing date for applications is 11.59pm on the 15th January 2027.

We are holding open mornings for parents of children starting in Reception next year on Wednesday the 30th September at 9.30am and Wednesday the 14th October at 9.30am. Please do share this with any friends who might be interested.

Applying for Secondary school places for September 2027

All year 6's will have received an email today to apply for their Secondary school places. Apply using the same link. The difference is the closing date is the 31st October!

https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/apply-school-place/applying-school-place

Free School Meals: Check if Your Child May Be Eligible

As you know from September 2026, more families qualify for Free School Meals (FSM) as the Government expands eligibility.

Free School Meals are not just for children who have school dinners. We encourage all parents and carers to check whether their child may be eligible, even if:

- your child currently brings a packed lunch
- your child already receives meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme (Reception, Year 1 or Year 2)
- you have applied previously and were not eligible

your circumstances have changed recently

Expanded Free School Meals

All families receiving Universal Credit may now qualify for Expanded Free School Meals. However, eligibility is **not awarded automatically**. Parents and carers must still submit an application to receive this benefit.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Pupils

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive free school meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

However, if your household has a low income, we strongly encourage you to apply for Free School Meals. If eligible for **Targeted Free School Meals**, your child's school can receive additional **Pupil Premium funding**, which helps provide extra support and opportunities for pupils.

Who Can Apply for Targeted Free School Meals?

Your child may be entitled to Targeted Free School Meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Universal Credit with annual net earned income (excluding benefits) below £7,400, equivalent to £616.67 per month

Benefits of Targeted Free School Meals

If your child qualifies for Targeted Free School Meals, they may also benefit from additional support funded through Pupil Premium, such as:

- assistance with the cost of school trips
- support with school uniform where needed
- music tuition and other enrichment opportunities

additional educational support provided by the school

Check Your Eligibility

To find out whether you qualify for Expanded or Targeted Free School Meals, please use the online eligibility checker below:

https://fsm.lgfl.org.uk/

If you require any assistance with your application, please contact the school office.

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. Here is a list of foods the foodbank are particularly looking for this year.
Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Look out in next weeks newsletter for all the excitement that happened on camp and at Forest School this week!

Just wanted to let you know that we have some amazing partners joining us for Parenting Village in the next couple months, that might be of interest to families you are supporting:

North Somerset Parent Carers - NSPCWT *support for parents around SEND*

Education & Virtual School – *"Would you like to know more about your child's transition to secondary school? Do you have any questions about the process? Come along and meet Katie Bray Virtual School Extended duties lead and Laura Pfister Re-integration officer, from North Somerset Council."*

Educational Psychologist – *Anna Lipscomb will be joining parenting village*

Send & you - *Providing information, advice and support about SEND to children, young people and their parents and carers. Home - SEND and You*

School Nursing *– The school nursing team from Sirona will be joining to share what support they can offer young people and their families.*

Castle Batch Family Hub *(First Friday of each month 09:30 - 11:00)*

October (02/10/2026) – **NSPCWT, Send & You, Education & Virtual School, Educational Psychologist, School Nursing**

November (06/11/2026) – **NSPCWT, School Nursing**

December (04/12/2026) - **NSPCWT, School Nursing**

Clevedon Library *(Third Monday of each month 09:30 - 11:00)*

September (21/09/2026) - **NSPCWT, Education & Virtual School, School Nursing**

October (19/10/2026) – **NSPCWT, School Nursing**

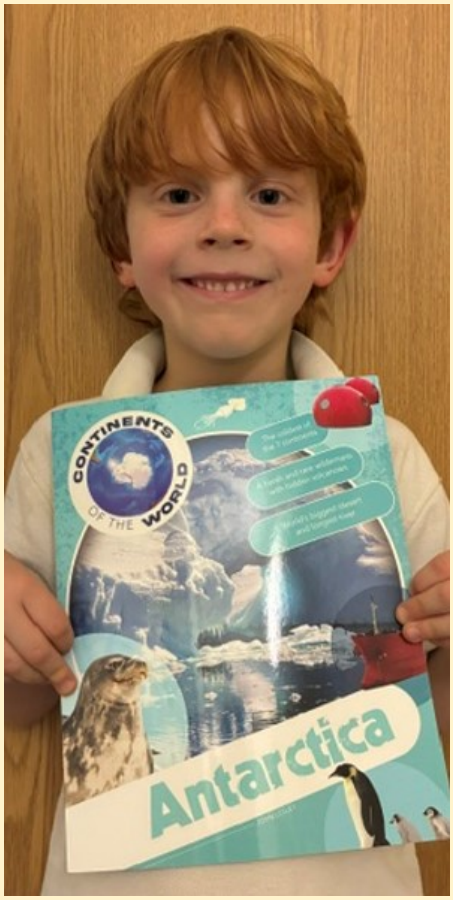
November (16/11/2026) – **NSPCWT, School Nursing, Educational Psychologist**

December – No parenting village - CHRISTMAS

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.

Happy Birthday to Finn This week. Thank you for your lovely Book!

Dates for the Diary

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**
Thursday 22nd October	**Spooky Disco TBC**

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
97.14%	100%	100%	98.96%

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

Don't forget next Friday we are holding a McMillan coffee Morning.
Payment has been added to Parent Pay to purchase a ticket or to donate the price of a ticket. Tickets will also be available on the door. Please do support this event, we only do a coffee morning every other year and we have raised a lot of money in previous years.

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TOXIC GAMING

Gaming should be a way for children to have safe fun with their friends. But anonymity and a lack of consequences can mean that corners of online multiplayer gaming are riddled with toxicity that makes them unpleasant at best, and damaging to children at worst.

A 2019 study found 74% of players had experienced harassment in online games, and such behaviour has become increasingly normalised.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GAMING WITHOUT THE FUN

Toxic gaming takes many forms. In live, multiplayer games, players can be targeted by strangers bullying them over voice and text, or deliberately sabotaging their game. It can also be present in spaces outside of the game such as Discord and Reddit, with players gatekeeping their community and making it deliberately unwelcoming to newcomers. In extreme circumstances, it can lead to physical threats, stalking and doxing.

WIDESPREAD TOXICITY

The Anti-Defamation League's 2019 study numbers are stark. At that point, 74% of players had experienced some form of abuse, with 65% receiving physical threats, stalking or sustained harassment. Nearly a third of players surveyed found themselves doxed while playing online, which means private or personal information was shared against their will in an attempt to intimidate or silence.

BIGOTED TRASH TALK

Such toxic tactics are especially prevalent against girls, LGBTQ+ players and players from minority ethnic backgrounds. In all, 53% of respondents reported being targeted based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Another survey revealed that 88% of openly LGBTQ+ players have been harassed by their communities, while over half of women report using a non-gendered or male username while playing to avoid harassment.

EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES

Extremist groups have been known to target gaming communities and streaming platforms as a way of spreading propaganda and recruiting young players to their cause. Even in 2019, the ADL's research found that 23% of players had been exposed to white supremacist ideology, with a further 8% exposed to positive views about Islamic State. Disinformation is also a problem, with 13% hearing conspiracy theories about 9/11 and 9% exposed to Holocaust denial.

A SAFE SPACE MADE UNSAFE

This toxic environment can lead to the same feelings of fear, isolation and depression that offline bullying can. Children exposed to toxic gaming can become withdrawn, anxious or irritable. They can struggle with sleep and find it difficult to focus on schoolwork and other pursuits, even after the game has been switched off and they're no longer playing.

COPYING HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

At the other end of the spectrum, children can mimic the toxic behaviour and language they've seen online in offline settings. If bullying or bigoted chat is normalised as a legitimate part of online gaming, children may end up emulating it offline with classmates, seeing it as harmless banter. This could make other children's lives miserable or leave them feeling isolated at school.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PLAY WITH FRIENDS

While some games rely on playing with strangers to make up the numbers, there are plenty of titles that can be played on a private server with vetted, trusted friends, sidestepping the toxic elements of the wider gaming community. If a child encounters toxic behaviour in others while playing larger games, encourage them to block and report the players responsible.

TALK TO CHILDREN

Most importantly, if children are gaming online or want to start, talk to them about the risks and how to deal with toxic behaviour. Explain the kinds of behaviour they may encounter, encourage them to report and block, and let them know they can talk to you about any concerns. Where appropriate, you may even want to play alongside them to get a feel for the community yourself.

USE THE GAME'S TOOLS

Many online games provide ways to limit interaction with strangers, either through the global settings on PlayStation or Xbox, or within the game itself. Look at the options, and make it so children can only communicate with their friends. If you can't see this level of control, you can consider disabling chat completely and, where age-appropriate, using a suitable separate service for communication with friends.

FIND THE RIGHT COMMUNITY

If your child is at an age where social media is permitted, friendly communities exist. There are online groups for LGBTQ+ players, players from minority backgrounds and girls, where they can chat and find people to play with in more welcoming environments. Not everyone is who they claim to be online, so be sure to discuss the risks of online friendships, and maintain an open dialogue with children to ensure their ongoing safety.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.09.2026

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!
@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG
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
Contact us:
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

NORTH SOMERSET PCWT
PARENT CARERS WORKING TOGETHER
The Family Support Fayre
WE'RE BACK!
Discover, Learn & Connect at Our FREE SEND Event
Resources and Information for families supporting children 0 - 25 years with additional needs and/or disabilities
21st October 2026
One Event
3 supportive spaces
Connect • Learn • Explore
The Royal Hotel
Winter Gardens
Sovereign Centre
FREE expert-led SEND training
Including Autism, sensory, masking & eating difficulties sessions
5 Inspiring Keynote speakers
Sharing professional and lived experience perspectives
Local SEND Updates & support information
Understanding medically complex needs
Over 70+ Exhibitors
Ranging across Health, Educational and Support services
A Welcoming space for families, carers & professionals
@nspcwt
Together we make a difference

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