Believe And Achieve

Burrington News No. 31

Friday 22nd May 2026

Maple Class trip to Life skills Centre

This week, Maple Class visited the Life Skills Centre in Bristol, where they took part in a range of practical and engaging activities designed to teach important safety and daily life skills.
During the visit, pupils learned how to stay safe in different real-life situations, including at home, on the roads, and in public places. They explored scenarios such as crossing the road safely, recognising potential dangers, and understanding how to respond in emergencies. The children also learnt about basic first aid and how to ask for help if they need it.
One of the highlights of the trip was the interactive role-play sessions, where pupils could practise making good decisions in a safe environment. These activities helped them to build confidence and develop their Independence.
Overall, Maple Class had an enjoyable and educational experience. The visit supported their understanding of how to stay safe and make responsible choices in everyday life.
A big thank you to Mrs Pincher, Mrs Licata, Jane and Prof Ed for taking them and thank you to Lifeskills for providing such an important opportunity to help prepare Maple Class for the real world.

Volunteer at Lifeskills

Lifeskills welcomes over 10,000 children each year, and they are currently looking for volunteers to help guide children through their sessions. Volunteering is flexible, fun, and a brilliant way to build new skills while making a real difference.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact:
 0117 922 4511
 volunteer@lifeskills-bristol.org.uk

Sunny weather!

The sunny weather is here, and we are so excited to enjoy lots of fun outside!

To help keep everyone safe and smiling in the sunshine, please remember:

- Put on an 8-hour sun cream before coming to school each morning.
- Bring a sunhat to school every day to keep cool and protected.
- Bring a water bottle so you can stay hydrated and refreshed all day long.

We want all our children to enjoy the lovely weather safely while learning, playing, and having fun with friends. Thank you for your support with this.

We hope you have a lovely restful half term and we will see you back in school on Monday the 1st of June

Well done to the children who received certificates this week.

Maple Class

Well Done Certificate to Wayne for showing perseverance and resilience for sewing

Special Award to Leila and Alexa for meticulous stitching

Teacher's Award to Alma for great creativity and design during DT

Reading Certificates:

100 Nights : Wayne

125 Nights : Luke

150 Nights : Elsie

175 Nights : Edie

200 Nights : Evelyn, Louis, Ollie

225 Nights : Edwin, Nyasha

250 Nights : Alice, Evie, Georgina, Peter

Marvellous Mathematician:

144 Division club: Sebby

Fractions club 2: Alma

Fractions club 4: Peter

Decimals to 10: Luke

Oak Class

Reading certificates

100 nights - Jesse

175 nights - Tilly P, Emily

225 nights - Myles, Kaiden

250 nights - Bethany, Myles, Finn, Kaiden

Well done certificates

Kasper for your fantastic retelling of the story of Pentecost

Nina, Alice, Brooke for your brilliant 'Kimmy Cantrell' masks in art

Rosie for fantastic work in maths calculating amounts of money

Birch Class

Reading Certificates:
125 nights: Gus
250 nights: Chloe
Star of the week: Robin

Cherry Class

Superstars:
Regan for being a kind friend and helping others
Rose and Finley for being an excellent helper in Afterschool club
Inka fr asking interesting questions in Class
Jaxx for excellent word reading
Finn for being kind and helpful to others
Finley for joining in so well with singing

Cherry Buds week of fun

Cherry Buds celebrated World Bee Day this week. It is a great time to remember that bees do much more than make honey! They help flowers, fruits and vegetables grow by moving pollen from plant to plant. Bees also help keep many kinds of plants alive, which is good for our planet.

Pizza Making!

And today they enjoyed making (and eating) pizza's!

Have you read…? (No.34)

Best known for creating picture books about children's emotions, Tom Percival has written a wonderful collection of stories including Ruby's Worry, Finn's Little Fibs and Meesha Makes Friends. Each book focuses on a different challenge children may face, such as worries, honesty, confidence and friendship, helping our children understand that these feelings are normal and manageable.

These stories are well illustrated and written in a simple, engaging style that makes them accessible for younger independent readers, while also making excellent shared reads with adults. The books naturally encourage discussion and provide opportunities for children to talk about their own feelings and experiences in a safe way. Suitable for children aged 4–8, these books are a valuable addition to any home and are always popular choices in our class libraries.

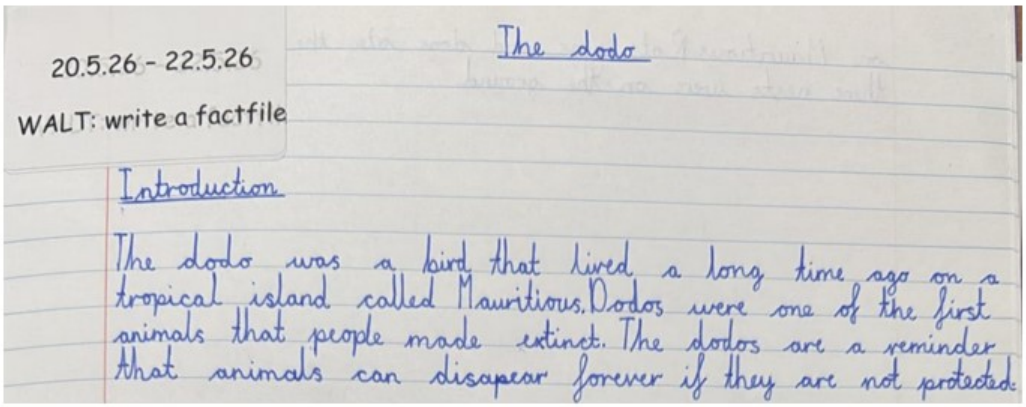
Ruby loves being Ruby. Until, one day, she finds a worry.
At first it's not such a big worry, and that's all right, but then it starts to grow. It gets bigger and bigger every day and it makes Ruby sad. How can Ruby get rid of it and feel like herself again?
A perceptive and poignant story that is a must-have for all children's bookshelves. From Tom Percival's bestselling Big Bright Feelings series, this is the perfect book for discussing childhood worries and anxieties, no matter how big or small they may be.

Link to North Somerset Libraries:

https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/libraries-leisure-open-spaces/libraries

Birch Class Fact File Writing

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been reading The Journey Home. As part of this unit, we have been learning all about dodos and developing skills in collecting and organising information. We then used everything we had learnt to create our own factfiles, filled with interesting and fun facts. Here are some examples of the fantastic writing in both Year 1 and 2.



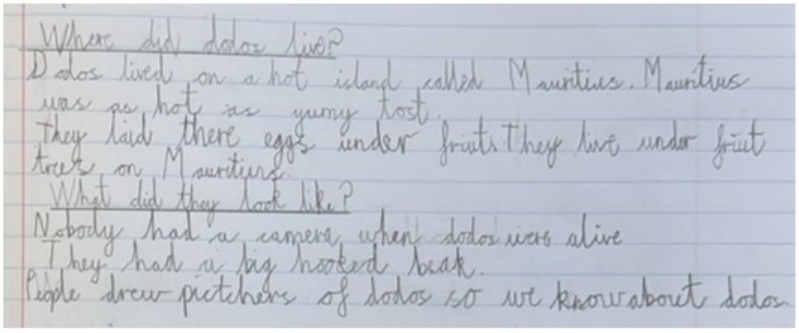
20.5.26 - 22.5.26

WALT: write a factfile

The dodo

Introduction

The dodo was a bird that lived a long time ago on a tropical island called Mauritious. Dodos were one of the first animals that people made extinct. The dodos are a reminder that animals can disapear forever if they are not protected.



Where did dodos live?

Dodos lived on a hot island called Mauritius. Mauritius was as hot as yummy toast.

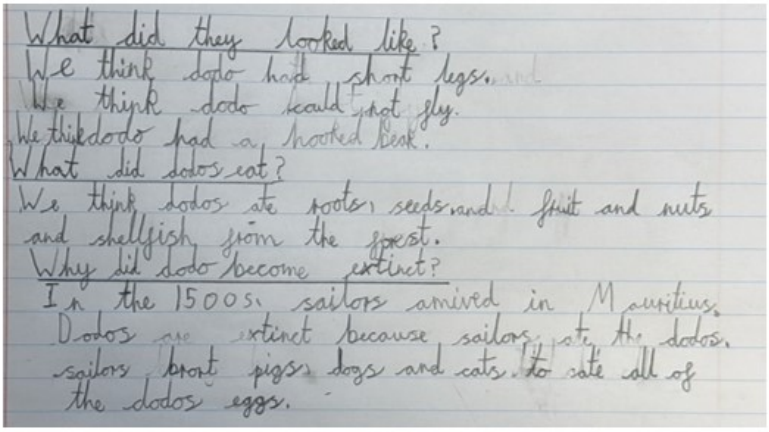
They laid there eggs under fruits. They live under fruit trees on Mauritius.

What did they look like?

Nobody had a camera when dodos were alive.

They had a big hooked beak.

People drew pictures of dodos so we know about dodos.



What did they looked like?

We think dodo had short legs.

We think dodo could not fly.

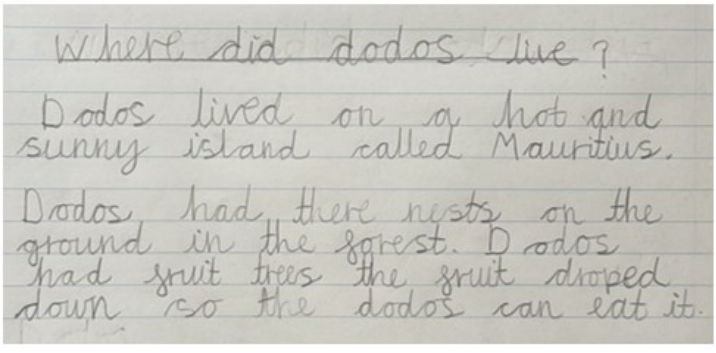
We thik dodo had a hooked beak.

What did dodos eat?

We think dodos ate roots, seeds and fruit and nuts and shellfish from the forest.

Why did dodo become extinct?

In the 1500s, sailors arrived in Mauritius. Dodos are extinct because sailors ate the dodos. sailors brot pigs, dogs and cats. to ate all of the dodos eggs.



Where did dodos live?

Dodos lived on a hot and sunny island called Mauritius.

Dodos had there nests on the ground in the forest. Dodos had fruit trees the fruit droped down so the dodos can eat it.

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.

Monday 1st June	**Start of Term**
Thursday 4th June	**Maypole Dancing**
Wednesday 17th June	**Sports Day (No afterschool club)**
Thursday 18th June	**Music recital @ 9am in the Church**
Friday 19th June	**Reserved Sports Day**
Wednesday 15th July	**School production**
Friday 17th July	**Awards Service @ 9am**
Wednesday 22nd July	**Leavers Service**
Wednesday 22nd July	**NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
Wednesday 22nd July	**End of term**

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
98.62%	95.71%	98%	97.62%

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

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 MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

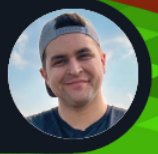
Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#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: 20.05.2026

BLAGDON FARMERS MARKET

Next market:
Saturday 23rd May
Blagdon Village Club
9:30 - 1:30

Eat local
Support local
Love local

Come and buy local veg, flowers, cheese, bread, meat, cakes, cider and much more!

TIPPETTS

NEMPNETT

BBC

Does your child love making new friends?

The award-winning makers of The Dog House are casting for a brand-new BBC series about friendship.

We are looking for children aged 5 to 8 from Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, Wiltshire & South Gloucestershire who are sociable and enjoy making new friends.

If your child is interested (with no pressure to take part) please apply at:

makingfriends.tv

FIVE MILE FILMS

WELLS CATHEDRAL

ACTIVITIES

Half Term Holiday Activities: Bugs, Bats & Butterflies

Investigate some of the winged wonders that visit Wells Cathedral, and try fun-filled family activities that can help support biodiversity at home.

Bat Trail
Saturday 23 to Sunday 31 May, 9am–4.30pm
Follow our bat trail and contribute to our growing bat roost tree.

Beautiful Butterflies
Tuesday 26 May, 10.30am–3.30pm
Learn about pollinators and make a butterfly feeder or try paper butterfly crafts.

Brilliant Bats
Wednesday 27 May, 10.30am–3.30pm
Find out about the bats that visit the Cathedral with a fun, interactive talk, and make a flapping bat toy.

Beds for Bugs
Thursday 28 May, 10.30am–3.30pm
Help us give our bug hotel a makeover, and make your own mini version to hang at home.

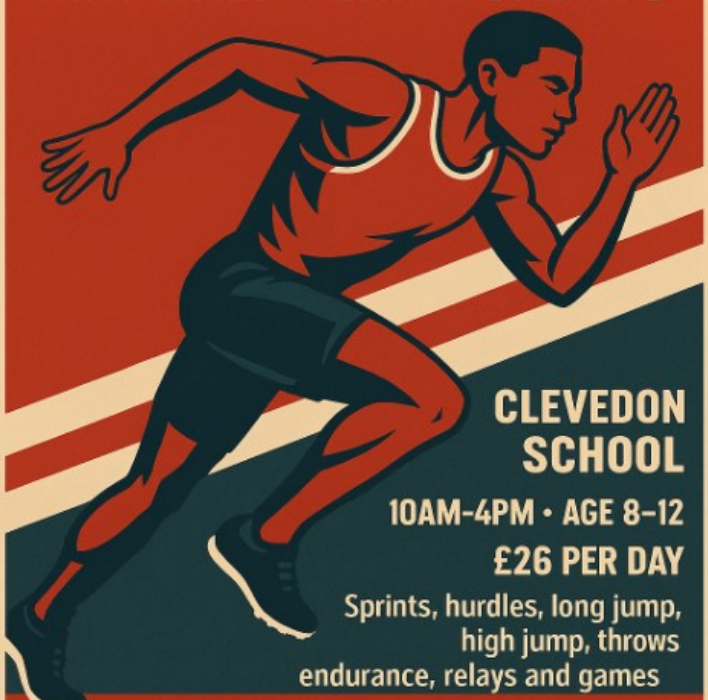
Admission included with entry to Wells Cathedral.
No need to book – simply drop in on the day!
Plan your visit online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays

Standard adult admission tickets include re-entry for 12 months from date of purchase, so you can enjoy access to a number of seasonal events, including exhibitions and Half Term Holiday Activities beyond your initial visit. Please note that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at these activities.

Registered Charity No. 1207269

NORTH SOMERSET ATHLETIC CLUB

MAY HALF-TERM FUNDAYS



CLEVEDON SCHOOL

10AM-4PM • AGE 8-12

£26 PER DAY

Sprints, hurdles, long jump, high jump, throws endurance, relays and games

CONTACT FUNDAYS@NSAC.ORG.UK FOR MORE INFO

CRICKET CAMP

28TH-29TH MAY

Ages 5-13

All abilities welcome

ECB qualified coaches

THE CLUB HOUSE
Recreation Ground
The Lynch
Winscombe
Somerset
BS25 1AZ

SMC
SPORTS MASTERS COACHING

Junior Rugby Community Fun Day

Everyone Welcome

Reception to Year 6 | Boys & Girls | No Experience Needed

What's On?

- Inflatables
- BBQ & Bar
- Ice Cream Van
- Raffle
- Music
- Tug of War
- Rugby Taster Sessions

Sunday 10th May 2026
11am – 3pm
Chew Valley RFC, Lobbingtons
FREE ENTRY

Girls Taster Session
10am -11am
Girl only group sessions
Meet the coaches

Bring your friends, bring your family and discover rugby at Chew Valley RFC

BLAGDON TENNIS CLUB PRESENTS.....

MULTISPORTS CLUB

WHEN & WHERE:
MONDAYS AFTERSCHOOL
3:30-4:30PM
@ BLAGDON TENNIS CLUB

AGE GROUPS:
4-7 (KS1)
RECEPTION - Y2

DEVELOP SKILLS, STAY ACTIVE, HAVE FUN!

REGISTER NOW!

COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL AVAILABLE FOR BLAGDON STUDENTS

£6/SESSION BOOKED AS A TERM-TIME BLOCK

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

HTTPS://CLUBSPARK.LTA.ORG.UK/BLAGDONTENNISCLUB/COACHING/BOOK/12EF3924-F321-4B75-9FE1-E9F8152120E3

SWIMMING LESSONS FOR KIDS

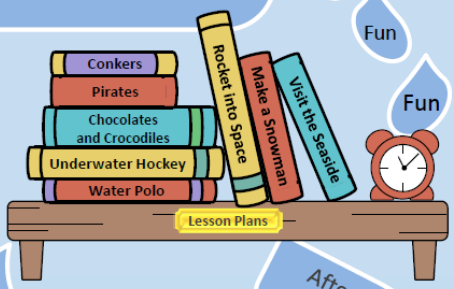
North Somerset

Fun

Fun

Fun

PRE-SCHOOL
BEGINNERS
IMPROVERS
TEENS CLUB



Pools at Sidcot and Redhill

After-school and Sunday lessons

Ruth's Swim School

Call Ruth: 07919 103078 www.RuthsSwimSchool.com

Our School Christian value this term is:

Service

'Serve one another in Love'

Galations 5:13

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

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