'Cherish and Nurture, flourish and aspire'

Burrington News No. 33

Friday 12th June 2026

Beaver woods at Longleat

On Tuesday, the winners of our Science STEM Week enjoyed an unforgettable adventure at the Beaver wetland area of Longleat Safari Park, where we had the opportunity to observe one of nature's most incredible engineers – the beaver – in its natural habitat.

We learned that a mum and dad beaver, along with their three young kits, are currently living there. The beavers have recently had more babies, although the exact number is not yet known, as they are still safely tucked away inside the lodge. Once they begin venturing out, the team will be able to find out how many new arrivals there are. It is believed that the beavers may have swum up from Frome before making their home at Longleat.

While searching for signs of beaver activity, Mr CS organised a fun game called **BEEEEEAVER Bingo!** The children were buzzing with excitement as they spotted evidence of recent beaver activity and learned about the important role these fascinating animals play in nature. Many of us were amazed to discover how beavers can create entire new ecosystems simply by carrying out their natural behaviours.

A huge thank you to the staff at Longleat for hosting us and sharing their expertise, and to our wonderful Beaver Trust educator, Mr CS, as well as Mrs Licata for helping the day run so smoothly.

It was a fantastic experience and a wonderful opportunity to learn about wildlife conservation and the remarkable impact beavers have on the environment..

A BIG Thank you!

Thank you to all the families that sponsored their children for the mini London marathon. This money is going directly to the class teachers to spend on resources for their classrooms. Birch Class raised the most money for their class so well done to them. Here are the totals, (they are amazing!) We will keep you updated with what the money is spent on.

Maple Class	£191.50
Oak Class	£294.50
Birch Class	£455.00
Cherry Class	£34.50

Refugee Week 2026

This takes place from **Monday 15 June to Sunday 21 June 2026**, centering around the national and international theme of **"Courage"**. Established in the UK in 1998, it is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the resilience, creativity, and contributions of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

Some of our families work for **Refugees Welcome North Somerset (RWNS),** which is a community led charity**.** They support people who are seeking sanctuary in North Somerset via their Welcome Centres, offering friendship, warm and nutritious food, a chance to meet and make friends and learn or improve their English skills as well as so much more!

We are going to have a non uniform day next Friday (the 19th June) where we would like to raise money for this local charity. Children are invited to wear non uniform in exchange for a donation of cash or you can donate via the QR code below.

Well done to the children who received certificates this week.

Maple Class

Reading Certificates:

125 Nights : Arabella
150 Nights : Luke
175 Nights : Ned
200 Nights: Edie, Leila
225 Nights: Leo
275 Nights: Evie

Marvellous Mathematician:

75 Division club: Wayne

Fractions club 3: Louis

Ultimate Time Table challenge 1: Teddy

Gold Award (earning 350 class merits):

Alma, Evie, Luke, Peter

Star Award: Max for excellent progress in Maths

Special Award: Louis for organising class games showing leadership and initiative

Oak Class

Reading

Brooke - 150 nights
Chloe - 200 nights
Kasper - 225 nights

Well done certificates

Bethany - for your conscientious approach to all of our assessments

Chloe - for your lovely retelling of the story of Krishna in RE

Birch Class

Reading Certificates:
125 nights: Lammy
150 nights: Joshua
175 nights: Wilf, Rory and Nina
200 nights: Joe
225 nights: Bailey
275 nights: Mabel and Chloe
Superstars:
Demi for great effort in maths counting in 2's
Theo for working hard to help create a fantastic Goblin Village in Forest School

Cherry and Cherry Buds Class

Superstars:
Lucca Licata for being a kind and caring friend
Finn, Inka and Thomas for excellent sentences about the classroom
Ben for smart and speedy writing

Artie for showing kindness to others and helping his friends
Lyla for being a super friend
Charlotte for being kind and caring to her friendsFlorence and Phoebe were caught being kind this week to a friend.

Mr Hushers tidiest classroom award: Maple

Birch Forest School Day

Sitting around the log circle, sheltered by our canopy from the rain, we listened to a myth about goblin villages that once stood on our Burrington playing field site. We understood that a friendly, but clumsy dragon (who lived on Blackdown) had accidentally destroyed the village with his dancing shoes and the goblins had moved away (presumably to Goblin Combe!!).

Birch Class set about building some new goblin villages in the hope we might entice the goblins back to keep watch over our playing area. We had villages with plunge pools, play areas, dining halls, tree houses, lakes, paths, spas, grassy decks and so many other fabulous features! We also heard some lovely goblin songs!

There was some great teamwork, resilience and respectfulness shown during our session. We do hope the goblins will be pleased!

Hot Chocolate was enjoyed by all, we had a small biscuit nibble and a thoughtfully created mud cake with candles for a Birch Class Birthday celebration at the fire circle.

Thank you parents for providing great kit for keeping the children happy in the rain. Thanks to Mrs Morris and Mrs Russell for their valued support, embracing the Forest School fun and the seasonal offer of weather! Thank you to all the children for working with focus and joy.

We have had some brand new tools and new forest school apparatus delivered this week (which I am very excited about!) Do watch this space for more Forest School nature learning, tool use and joy in our outdoor space!

Mrs Kuipers

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.

Wednesday 17th June	**Sports Day 1pm (No afterschool club)**
Thursday 18th June	**Music recital @ 9am in the Church**
Friday 19th June	**NON UNIFORM DAY for RWNS**
Friday 19th June	**Reserved Sports Day**
Tuesday 23rd June	**Churchill Academy Induction Day (Yr6)**
Tuesday 23rd June	**Moving up morning**
Wednesday 24th June	**Churchill Academy Drama Day (Yr6)**
Wednesday 24th June	**Moving up morning**
Wednesday 15th July	**School production**
Friday 17th July	**Awards Service @ 9am**
Wednesday 22nd July	**Leavers Service @ 1.30pm**
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
99.66%	96.67%	98%	98.25%

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

BUILDING SCHOOL-READY LANGUAGE SKILLS

Oral language is fundamental to children's learning, literacy, and social and emotional development, with long-term impacts. As language develops rapidly between the ages of three and six, early, evidence-based support is essential. This guide offers practical ways to help the children in your care become confident communicators, including through proven approaches such as the DfE-funded NELI programmes available to settings in England.

1 BUILD ORAL LANGUAGE

Support children to use language, not just hear it. Give them the time to talk, respond, ask questions, and share their ideas. Everyday conversations, shared activities, and reading together help children practise both speaking and listening. At nursery or school, programmes such as NELI can help build their vocabulary, storytelling, attention, and listening skills, helping children grow in confidence as communicators.

2 SUPPORT LISTENING SKILLS

"PLEASE PUT YOUR COAT ON"

Help children to listen and follow simple instructions during everyday routines. Break instructions down into short, manageable steps and check their understanding. For example, say, "Please put your coat on," rather than giving them several instructions at once. Strong listening skills support learning, attention, and participation at school.

3 GROW THEIR VOCABULARY

Talk with children about the world around them, naming objects, actions, and feelings. Use a wide range of words during everyday activities such as shopping, cooking, and playing. Repeating and explaining new words help children understand and use vocabulary more confidently, supporting their comprehension and communication.

4 SHARE STORIES TOGETHER

Read storybooks together regularly and talk about characters, events, and illustrations. Ask simple questions such as "What's happening here?" and validate children's responses with positive feedback. Acting out stories together, asking open questions, and giving children the chance to be the storyteller can all support their narrative skills and confidence.

5 NAME DIFFERENT FEELINGS

Help children learn to express themselves by talking about different feelings and naming them clearly, such as happy, sad, or angry. Visuals and role play can support their understanding of this. Being able to express their feelings verbally helps children build positive relationships with adults and peers, reduces frustration, and supports their social development as they prepare for school.

6 WORK WITH SETTINGS

Strong communication between home and the nursery, school, or early years setting can help children feel more confident and supported. Parents can visit the setting with their child before they start, helping them become familiar with the environment and key adults. Educators can share relevant information with families and colleagues, so each child's needs are understood. Newsletters can also help families continue language learning at home.

7 SPOT LANGUAGE NEEDS

Children develop their language and communication skills at different rates, so early conversations between home and settings are important. If parents have concerns, they should speak to their child's nursery, school, or early years setting. Educators can use tools such as LanguageScreen, included in the NELI programmes, to build a profile of a child's speaking and listening skills and help identify suitable support.

8 EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT

Prioritise language and literacy approaches that are underpinned by robust research evidence. Evidence-based programmes help ensure children receive support that is more likely to make a meaningful difference. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) provides guidance on the strength of evidence behind different strategies, supporting informed decision-making and effective use of school time and resources.

9 MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Settings can use evidence-based assessment tools to understand children's language skills and identify where support may be needed. These tools support SEND reforms, and strengthen whole-setting language development, helping children receive support that reflects their individual communication needs.

10 TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Research trials can give schools, early years settings, and families a valuable opportunity to contribute to evidence construction and future policy. Parents may be asked to give consent, share feedback, or support activities at home, while educators help deliver and monitor approaches in practice. The EEF often has trials that settings can join, including whole-class oral language programmes designed to support children's communication development.

Meet Our Expert

OxEd is a University of Oxford spinout company specialising in early language and literacy assessment and intervention. They are the delivery team for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programme in reception, funded by the Department for Education for schools in England, and for NELI Preschool, which supports nurseries to strengthen children's early language development through evidence-based practice.

OxEd & Assessment

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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Date	Tuesday 28th July 2026 Thursday 6th August 2026 Monday 10th August 2026
Time	9am to 3pm
Cost	£25 per child
Location	Lower Stock Farm, Bakers Lane, Wrington, BS40 5HT

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North Somerset

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BEGINNERS
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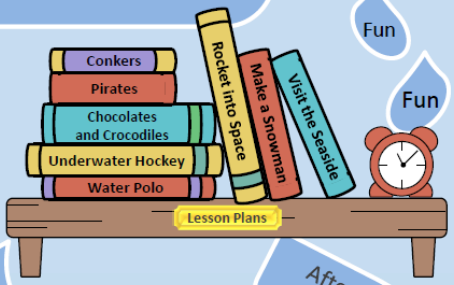

Pools at Sidcot and Redhill

After-school and Sunday lessons

Ruth's Swim School

Call Ruth: 07919 103078 www.RuthsSwimSchool.com

Our School Christian value this term is:

Truth and Truthfullness

'Tell the truth to each other'

Zechariah 8:16

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