*'Cherish and Nurture, flourish and aspire'*

# Burrington News No. 38

## Wednesday 22nd July 2026

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

**Leavers**

On behalf of everyone in the school, I should like to wish all the children in Year 6, all the very best of luck in their new schools. They have been a great group of children, and have risen to the challenges of year 6 admirably. What a talented group of children they are - we are so proud of them all!

They have contributed to our school in so many ways: sporting, artistic, musical… I am sure they will continue to flourish and aspire in the future as they build on the firm foundation they have received.

We say goodbye to all our leavers, including those in other classes. We send them off with our love and wish them every success for the future.

**Staff Leavers**

We also say a fond farewell to some very special members of staff . Mrs Balicki will be taking up a class teacher post in Year 4 at Wrington. She will be greatly missed at Burrington but I'm sure we will still be seeing her as she continues to have responsibilities for Early Reading across the federation.

Mrs Russell is sadly leaving us to relocate to Cornwall. Her calm and nurturing presence will be greatly missed by all, but especially in Cherry Class. Mrs Russell contributes to our school in so many different ways including as a great supporter of the PTA. We send her our love as she starts a new chapter with her family.

**School Production**

Congratulations to the whole school for their splendid performances last Wednesday . So many positive comments about the children's acting and singing were made, not to mention comic timing! The hall and stage looked incredible thanks to the wonderful efforts of Mel, Paula and family. I should like to thank Mrs A, Mrs McCormack and the whole staff team for all their work behind the scenes to produce the play, from allocating characters and directing on stage. These things do not just happen, they require lots of energy and additional work for which we are very grateful. Mrs Attwood's brilliant choreography was hugely appreciated as well as Eileen's beautiful adornments to the stage curtains – the animals looked wonderful. Experiences such as performing on stage provide valuable nurturing opportunities to develop confidence.

We are so proud at Burrington to involve all children from across the school in these performances. Didn't they do well!

**Awards Services**

Congratulations to all the children who received awards at the  Awards services last Friday. Bravo Bravissimo to you all!

**Reports**

Annual reports were sent home last week. Thank you to the staff for all the care that has gone into creating the reports.

**Thank you!**

We are so fortunate to have such a great community of support that makes our school so special. Thank you to all the **volunteers** who help in so many varied ways such as hearing readers, supporting clubs, Clergy and other leaders of worship, sharing skills (such as our scientists), support with school trips, driving children to special events and other volunteering in school.

Thank you to our wonderful **PTA** who raise valuable  funds that make such a difference to our provision. Thank you too, to you as parents, for all your support.

Thank you to all our **Governors** for their behind-the-scenes strategic support. Thank you, particularly, to Laura Laird as Chair of the Local Governing Board, who steers the governance 'ship'.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge **thank you to all the staff** for their hard work and dedication over the year, frequently going 'above and beyond' in their spare time to ensure the children have an inspiring curriculum and nurturing environment.

**Please be aware, we will not be using Dojo over the holiday to allow for essential maintenance and to give staff a very well-deserved break!**

We look forward to seeing all children in September on Monday 7th September (Y1-6). Home visits for new Reception will take place 7th -8th September.

Have a super summer holiday!

Thank you for all your support over the year.

Sarah Joskey

## Year 6 Leavers party 2026!

Year 6s had the perfect weather to celebrate their Leavers' Party. The morning began with a vibrant graffiti workshop, followed by a BBQ lunch, before everyone launched into a fantastic slip and slide session and finished the day on an inflatable assault course. Laughter, cheering and pure joy filled every part of the day.

A huge thank you to Paula and Zoe Alvey for organising the lunch, to Prof Ed for setting up the activities, and to Mr Parsons for delivering the slip and slide.

Everyone agreed it was the perfect way to end a brilliant year.

**Huge Congratulations to all the children that received a Cup at the Awards Service.**

## Maple Class

| | |
|---|---|
| Evelyn for receiving | The Caring Cup |
| Georgina for receiving | The Music Cup |
| Edie for receiving | The Rising Star Award |
| Edwin for receiving | The Computing Cup |
| Sebby for receiving | The PSHE Cup |
| Peter for receiving | The Drama Cup |
| Teddy for receiving | The Maths Cup |

## Oak Class

| | |
|---|---|
| Nina for receiving | The High Five award |
| Kaiden for receiving | The Atheltics Cup |
| James for receiving | The Global Goals Award |
| Brooke for receiving | The Art Cup |
| Bethany for receiving | The Good Egg Cup |
| Alice for receiving | The Endeavour Award |
| Jesse for receiving | The Humanities Cup |

## Birch Class

| | |
|---|---|
| Cora for receiving | The Consistent Effort Cup |
| Joe for receiving | The Engineering Cup |
| Henry for receiving | The School Support Award |
| Florence for receiving | The Writers Shield |
| Tilda for receiving | The Reading Cup |
| Hollie for receiving | The Early Maths Cup |
| Chloe for receiving | The Good Progress Cup |
| Bea for receiving | The PE Cup |

## Cherry Class

| | |
|---|---|
| Ben for receiving | The Early Readers Cup |
| Tinashe for receiving | The Phonics Cup |

## Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat!

This summer, why not keep your child's love of reading growing by taking part in the **Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat** at North Somerset Libraries?

The challenge is **completely free** and is a fantastic way to encourage children to enjoy books over the summer holidays. This year's exciting theme, **Read to the Beat**, celebrates the connection between stories and music, inspiring children to discover books filled with rhythm, creativity, self-expression and adventure.

The main challenge is for **children aged 4–11**, but we're delighted that there is also a special challenge for **under 4s** to enjoy with their grown-ups. Younger children who complete the challenge will receive a **sparkly sticker medal and certificate**.

How does it work?

- Sign up at any **North Somerset Library** from **Saturday 4 July**.
- Read or share **six library books** of your choice over the summer.
- Collect a sticker for each book you read.
- Complete the challenge by **Saturday 12 September** to receive a **certificate and sticker medal** (while stocks last).

Research shows that reading for pleasure is one of the biggest indicators of a child's future success. Taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge helps children maintain their reading skills over the holidays, build confidence and, most importantly, discover the joy of reading.

We hope many of our families will take part this year. We'd love to hear about the books you've enjoyed and to see your certificates and medals when we return to school in September. **But ALSO the school with the highest percentage of pupils taking part wins a reading mural, which would look amazing in our library!**

Happy reading, and enjoy the challenge!

# 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.**

# Dates for the Diary

**Thursday 3rd September** **INSET Day**
**Friday 4th September** **INSET Day**
**Monday 7th September** **School open to Birch, Oak and Maple Classes (Closed to Nursery and Cherry)**
**Tuesday 8th September** **School open to Birch, Oak and Maple Classes (Closed to Nursery and Cherry)**
**Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September** **Cherry Class Home visits**
**Wednesday 9th September** **Whole school open**
**Week commencing Monday 14th September** **Year 6 camp**
**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.**

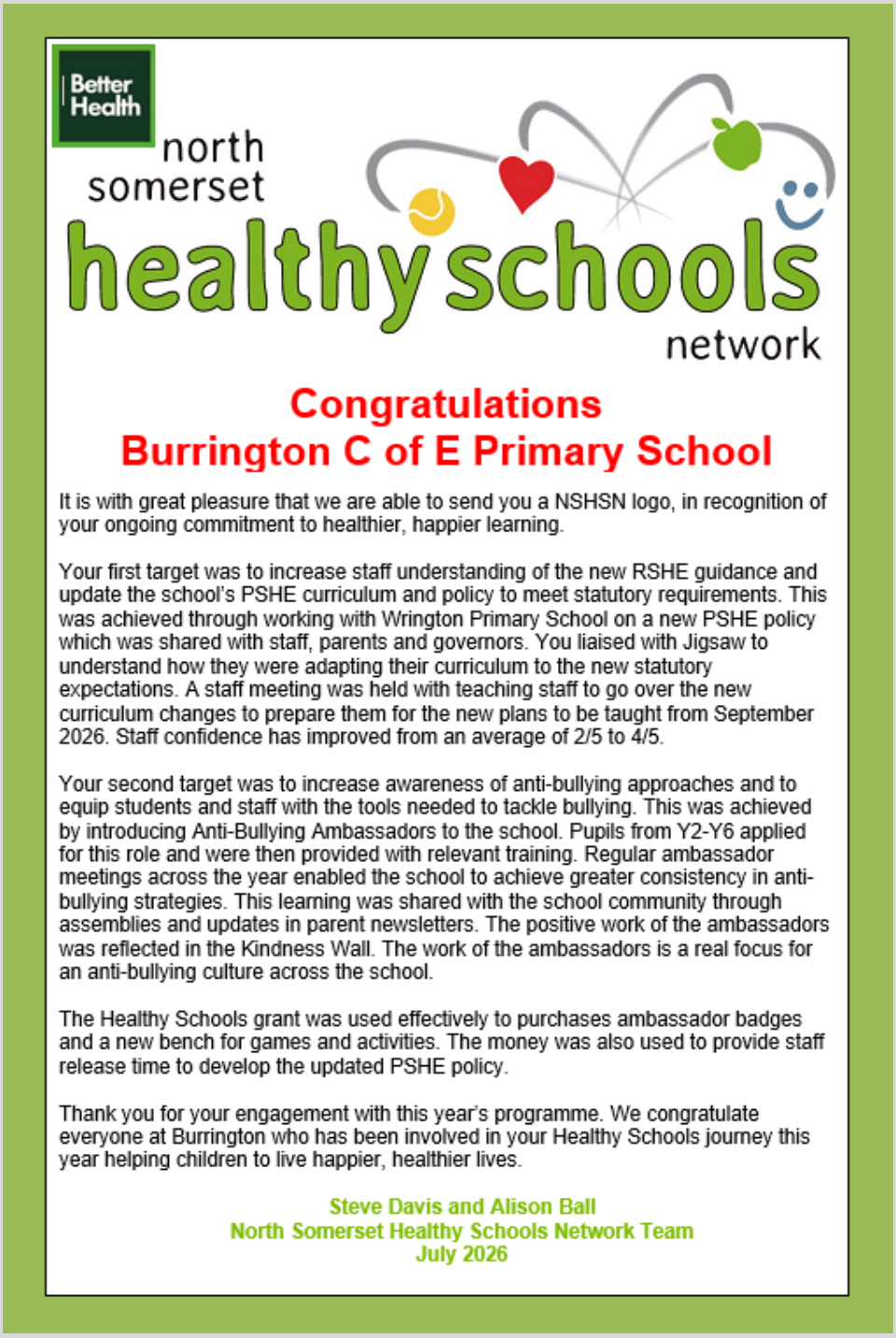
We understand that children should not be in school if they are ill (or are recovering from a tummy bug - sickness or diarrhoea -for 48 hours); however, children should still come to school if they are tired or have a minor cold. We also respectfully ask you to avoid taking holidays in term time.

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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 99.65% | 99.04% | 97.67% | 98.75% |

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

**We are delighted to have been awarded Healthy Schools Status once again!**



Better Health

north somerset healthy schools network

## Congratulations
## Burrington C of E Primary School

It is with great pleasure that we are able to send you a NSHSN logo, in recognition of your ongoing commitment to healthier, happier learning.

Your first target was to increase staff understanding of the new RSHE guidance and update the school's PSHE curriculum and policy to meet statutory requirements. This was achieved through working with Wrington Primary School on a new PSHE policy which was shared with staff, parents and governors. You liaised with Jigsaw to understand how they were adapting their curriculum to the new statutory expectations. A staff meeting was held with teaching staff to go over the new curriculum changes to prepare them for the new plans to be taught from September 2026. Staff confidence has improved from an average of 2/5 to 4/5.

Your second target was to increase awareness of anti-bullying approaches and to equip students and staff with the tools needed to tackle bullying. This was achieved by introducing Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to the school. Pupils from Y2-Y6 applied for this role and were then provided with relevant training. Regular ambassador meetings across the year enabled the school to achieve greater consistency in anti-bullying strategies. This learning was shared with the school community through assemblies and updates in parent newsletters. The positive work of the ambassadors was reflected in the Kindness Wall. The work of the ambassadors is a real focus for an anti-bullying culture across the school.

The Healthy Schools grant was used effectively to purchases ambassador badges and a new bench for games and activities. The money was also used to provide staff release time to develop the updated PSHE policy.

Thank you for your engagement with this year's programme. We congratulate everyone at Burrington who has been involved in your Healthy Schools journey this year helping children to live happier, healthier lives.

Steve Davis and Alison Ball
North Somerset Healthy Schools Network Team
July 2026

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.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

## GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

## EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

## SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

## UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

## DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

## COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

ONLINE

...ONLINE...

SECRET CODE

# Advice for Parents & Educators

## REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

## TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

## BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

## TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#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: 18.02.2026

METRO BANK ONE DAY CUP
SCCC
SOMERSET
v WARWICKSHIRE
somersetcountycc.co.uk/buy-tickets
FAMILY DAY
SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2026
Brown & Brown

SKOOL BEANZ
NEW KIDS GARDENING HOLIDAY CLUB
AT THE YEO VALLEY ORGANIC GARDEN
Garden and art joy with Lara at Skool Beans
Club Details:
All children aged 4+ years welcome
£15 (2-hour Gardening & Art Club)
1 child (inc free garden entry
for 1 adult during the session)
Pre-book only, 12 kids per session
Location:
Skool Beanz Children's Garden
at Yeo Valley Organic Garden,
Holt Farm, Bath Road, BS40 7SQ
Book Now:
www.yeovalley.co.uk/events
Lara
SESSIONS IN AUGUST:
THURS 6TH, SAT 8TH,
THURS 13TH, SAT 15TH,
& FRI 28TH.
(2 SESSIONS PER DATE)
10AM OR 2PM START
Supported by...
Yeo Valley ORGANIC

SCHOOL STARTERS SESSIONS
Is your little one starting school in September? Join us on one of the following dates for a play with their new school friends.
MONDAY 20TH JULY
9:30am - 11:30am Yatton C of E Primary School
12pm - 2pm Blagdon Primary School
2:30pm - 4:30pm Chestnut Primary School
TUESDAY 21ST JULY
9:30am - 11:30am Sandford Primary School
12pm - 2pm Beckitt Primary School
2:30pm - 4:30pm St Andrews Primary School
WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY
9:30am - 11:30am Churchill Primary School
12pm - 2pm Locking Primary School
2:30pm - 4:30pm St Anne's Primary School Academy
THURSDAY 23RD JULY
9:30am - 11:30am Mary Elton Primary School
12pm - 2pm Worle Village Primary
2:30pm - 4:30pm Wrington C of E Primary School
FRIDAY 24TH JULY
9:30am - 11:30am Yeo Moor Primary School
12pm - 2pm Heron Moore Primary School & Burrington C of E Primary
BOOK HERE!
Cadbury Garden Centre, Smallway, Congresbury, BS49 5AA

# BLAGDON FARMERS MARKET

**Next market:**
**Saturday 25th July**
**9:30 - 1:30**
**Blagdon Village Club**

Eat local
Support local
Love local

FARMLINK

Take learning off the page and into the countryside

## Holiday Club

**Adventure, Nature & Creativity**
**Give Your Child a Holiday to Remember!**

Packed full of fun outdoor experiences at a beautiful working farm! Children will enjoy pond dipping, outdoor games, exploring nature, cooking activities, creative crafts, and lots more. A perfect way for children to learn, play and make new friends in the countryside.

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

**Book your child's place today!**
**Contact dani@farmlink.org.uk**

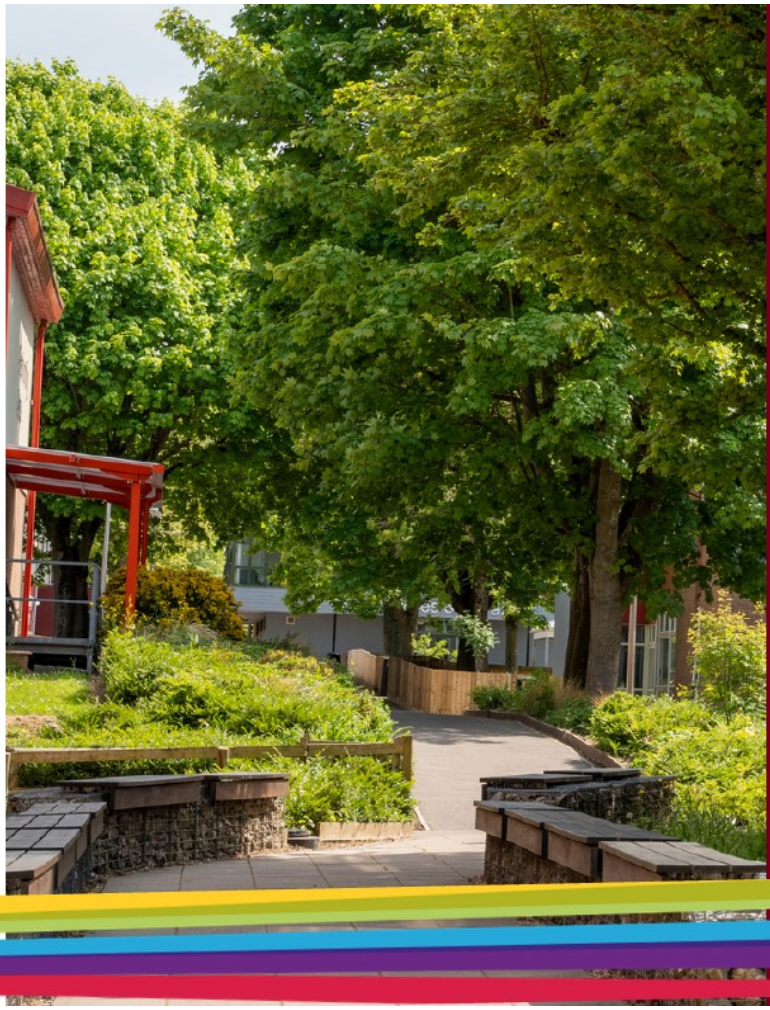
Churchill Academy & Sixth Form

# Open Evening 2026

Wednesday 30th September 2026
5pm - 8pm

Scan the QR code or visit the website address below for event details and ticket booking:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/churchill-academy-sixth-form-open-evening-2026-tickets-1992051867761



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**