



Newsletter 10

2nd April 2026

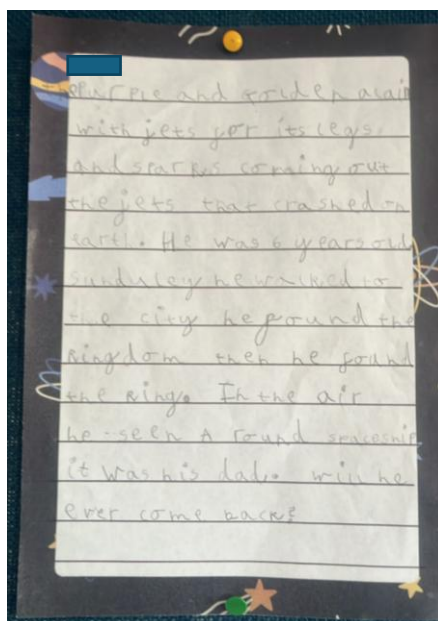
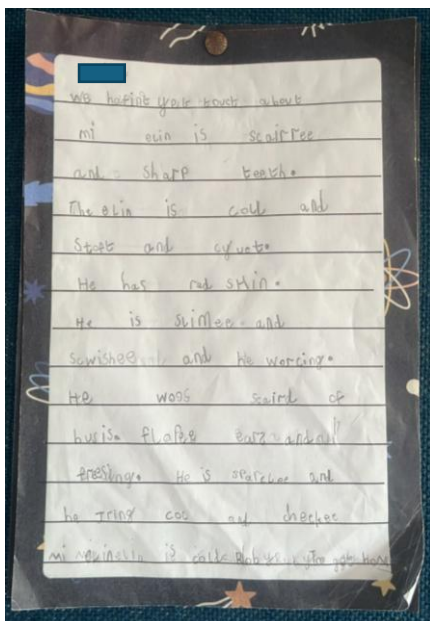
Dear all,

Another busy and wonderful term draws to a close. Wassailing, egg-shackling, World Book Day, swimming lessons, dark mornings and flood chaos are all in the rear view mirror, while dancing around the Maypole, Sports Day, Pyjamarama, Year 6 SATS (shh), the summer show, sunny days, lunchtimes on the field and rounders matches are all coming over the horizon.

Staff and children have all worked really hard this term – I am sure that many of you recognise that your children are ready for a

break. Somehow Somerset (along with Devon and Cornwall) seem to have gone on for an extra week compared with the rest of the country, but hopefully this will mean we all remain fresh for an extra week in the summer term. Hopefully some of you will be able to take advantage of this with slightly cheaper holiday activities in the second week of the holidays!

I hope the weather stays good for you all and you have a lovely couple of weeks. Before then, a round up of some of the wonderful things that have been happening over the last couple of weeks...



Otter Class

As Miss Newstead is approaching her return to West Monkton, she wanted to share how wonderful her time has been in Otter class.

“This term the children have written their very own creative alien stories as well as constructing non-chronological reports all about wolves. They have been kind, hardworking and so much fun! I have loved my time at Stoke St

Gregory - it is a charming school at the heart of a wonderful community. Thank you all so much for the warmth I have received upon my arrival. I wish all of you the best for the future.”

Raven Class

Ravens have been digging deeper into the rainforest in geography lessons. They have been looking into the implications of deforestation both locally and globally, writing reports and discussions around the issue and making posters to highlight the need to save the rainforest.



Swimming

School swimming is done for another year and staff have seen a wonderful attitude towards swimming lessons from our children, with plenty of them making really good progress. Lots of children have told me it's their favourite lesson in school – I'm not sure what that says about everything else we try to teach

them! It is not easy going all the way to Street for half an hour in the middle of the day but the children did really well. As ever, we will review things ahead of next year, and let you know if we think improvements can be made around the logistics for this important part of the curriculum.

Shine Time

Another half term and another wonderful selection of Shine Time activities for children on Friday afternoons. In Key Stage 2, Miss Sully's group were ending the week practising their yoga poses while Mr Flint's group made a wonderful model village of Stoke St Gregory that is now on display in the church! (Pop in and see it over the holidays if you get a chance)

Meanwhile, Reverend Simon joined me and a group of children in making videos to introduce ourselves to a group of schoolchildren in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ['The Congo Initiative'](#) is something you will hear a lot more about in the future – here's hoping this is the beginning of a long and successful collaboration.



In Otter class, our younger children were busy making friendship bracelets with Miss Andrew and learning sign language with Miss Newstead. How's that for variety on a Friday afternoon?

Book Fair

Another very successful book fair last week, with lots of children and families engaging in the different books (and hand pointers) on offer. As well as bringing a book shop onto our playground, the commission the school receives enables us to buy books for the school, so we are very grateful to everyone who bought a book from the fair.



Book Amnesty

Following hot on the heels of buying books... do you have any books at home that you are considering passing on? We have recently been given a wonderful present of hundreds of brand-new books by one of the other schools in our Trust, which will have a huge impact on the way we are able to share quality texts in the classroom.

To say thank you, we would like to be able to provide them with a quantity of books in return as they build up their library. We are looking for books that are:

- Suitable for children between the ages of 5 and 14
- In good (but not necessarily good-as-new) condition
- A range of genres, particularly non-fiction

If you think you can help us out, and help with your spring cleaning, then we will run a book amnesty in the first week back

after Easter – just drop them into the office.

Clubs

We continue to work hard to offer as wide a range of clubs as we possibly can and we really encourage you to take up these opportunities if you can. The clubs we have planned to offer for the summer term are as follows. Make sure to sign up for our new clubs Craft club and Tennis - on Arbor.

Monday: Choir with Mrs Webber (free)

Tuesday: School band for Key Stage 2 with Mrs Meikle

Craft club for Reception to Year 3 with Mandy (Mrs B! - £2.50 to cover materials)

Wednesday: Piano with Mr Selby (Somerset Music rates)

Friday: Tennis for Key Stage 2 (free)

On top of this, we will be expanding our lunch time clubs in the summer term, which do not need parental sign-up. Rumour has it that Mr Flint's skipping club will be returning...

Staffing

Thank you so much to Miss Newstead for all her hard work with Otter class this half term. The children have really enjoyed their time with her. After Easter we look forward to the return of Mrs Rogers full time after her stint at West Monkton. One more change to alert you to: after the break Mrs Mullally is returning to using her maiden name of Miss Bohun – please help the children remember!

Have a lovely Easter, everyone.

David Rowland
Headteacher

Key dates:

Friday 3rd – Sunday 19th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 20 th April	Children return to school
Monday 20 th – Friday 24 th April	Book Amnesty
Tuesday 21 st April	FOS Tempting Tuesday
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th April	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 18 th May (evening)	The Oak Partnership Combined Choirs Concert
Thursday 21 st May (afternoon)	Maypole
Friday 22nd May	INSET day
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	Half term
Monday 1st June	INSET day
Friday 12 th June	Pyjamarama Day
Friday 3 rd July	Sports Day
Wednesday 24 th – Friday 26 th June	Ravens Activity Week
Thursday 16 th July	Summer Show
Wednesday 22 nd July	Leavers Service and last day of the year

Safeguarding Information:

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please direct to one of our safeguarding team members: Mr Rowland, Mrs Anderson or Mrs Daniels.

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm or in danger, please contact Children’s Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or by email at: childrens@somerset.gov.uk



CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL, AND CAN I LODGE MORE THAN ONE APPEAL?

There aren't any places at my preferred school, what can I do now?

I'VE MOVED INTO THE AREA AND NEED HELP FINDING A SCHOOL FOR MY CHILD.

IS THERE ANYONE THAT CAN SUPPORT ME PREPARING FOR MY APPEAL?

CHOICE ADVICE

Somerset Choice Advice is a free and impartial service which supports families with advice and practical support through the school admission and appeals processes.

This service exists to ensure that parents can play an active and informed role in securing a school place for their child

Call us on **01823 356 903**

Fill in our online form
www.somerset.gov.uk/choice-advice

Contact us via email
choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk
or scan the QR code



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Swim School

Part of the **Swim England** Learn to Swim Programme

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HELP US WIN £1,000 FOR OUR LIBRARY

Nominate us and you could win a £100 gift card!
nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize



#rebuildthelibrary



ChatHealth

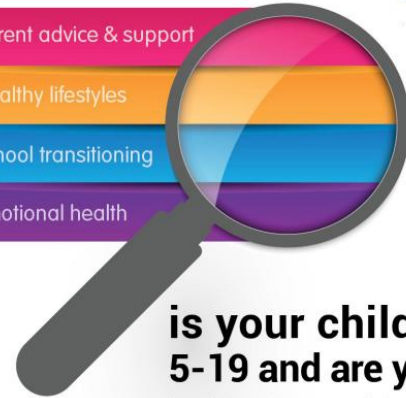


Parent advice & support

Healthy lifestyles

School transitioning

Emotional health



is your child 5-19 and are you
 looking for confidential help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact your School Nursing Team

Just send a text
07480 635 515



Improving LIVES

Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.

FAMILY FUNDAY FIXTURE



U18'S FREE

£15 IN ADVANCE

£20 ON THE GATE

THURSDAY 9 APRIL

TRY YOUR LUCK FOR FREE ON OUR FAIRGROUND STALLS

BUY NOW

TAUNTON RACECOURSE



15-16 MAY TAUNTON 2026

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION OF STORIES AND ILLUSTRATION

INCLUDING EVENTS WITH MANY BESTSELLING AND BELOVED CHILDREN'S AUTHORS

**ROB BIDDULPH A.F. STEADMAN
 KATHERINE RUNDELL MIKEY PLEASE
 ANDY DAY RACHEL BRIGHT
 JOSEPH COEHLO EMMA CARROLL**

AND MANY MORE, THE FESTIVAL PROMISES A VARIETY OF EVENTS AND AN ARRAY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COMIC BOOK CREATION AND WRITING WORKSHOPS, COSTUME APPEARANCES, STORYTELLING AND CRAFT ACTIVITIES TO SUIT ALL AGES.

EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AT TAUNTON BREWHOUSE AND OUR BEAUTIFUL BOOKSHOP.
 FOR TICKETS AND DETAILS PLEASE VISIT WATERSTONES.COM/EVENTS OR THE SCAN THE CODE.

