



## Newsletter 4

### 24th October 2025

Dear all,

In many ways I can't believe it is only half term. The summer holidays feel like a distant memory and once again we seem to have packed so much into a very busy few weeks. Here's a round-up of some of the main things that have happened in school...

### SIAMS

As a Church of England school we were inspected by SIAMS, which stands for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. Although we knew that the inspection would be coming this year, I wasn't necessarily expecting the call on the first Monday back! SIAMS inspections provide a framework for inspecting Church of England and Methodist schools in England, focusing on how a school's distinctively Christian vision is effectively impacting pupils and adults and promoting flourishing.

We were very pleased with our report (which is now [published on our website](#)). Primarily we were pleased to be awarded the highest possible judgement: "The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish."

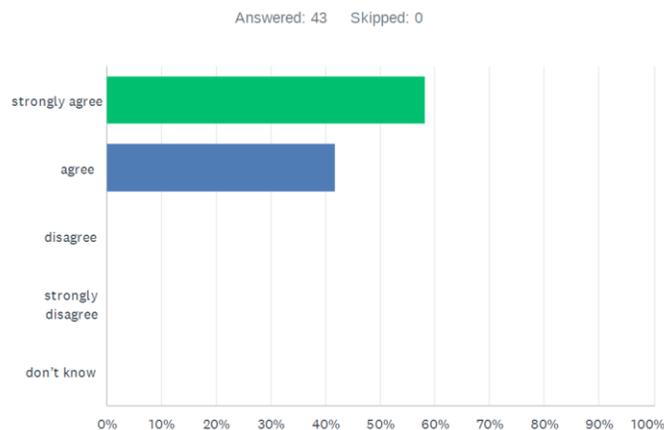
But aside from the overall judgement, the report mentions many of the wonderful things that are happening in school and the positive impact of the partnerships that the school has with the surrounding community. Some of the stand-out phrases used by the inspector in the report included:

- **"Stoke St Gregory Church of England Primary School gives pupils and adults the confidence to shine brightly"**
- **"During social times, pupils' relationships are respectful and there is a strong sense of belonging. This is a school where people are valued."**
- **"The Christian vision creates a caring culture. Therefore, leaders are inspired to actively serve the pupils, families and the wider community with energy and passion."**
- **"An exciting culture of improvement and support is evident with the collaboration of the village, local church and the multi-academy trust."**
- **"The updated school curriculum has been developed so pupils are well prepared for the future."**

### Parent Survey

We were very pleased with the take-up on our parent survey recently (by far the highest as a percentage of any school within the Oak Partnership Trust!) so thank you to everyone who took the time to give their views.

Q3 My child is happy at this school.



We currently have 44 families and there were 43 responses, which is fantastic. Aligned with the feedback we receive from moments like our SIAMS inspection, it is only with the feedback from the people who we work with every day that we are able to fully reflect, take stock and continue to look for areas that we can improve the school.

I have included screenshots of some of the questions at the end of the newsletter but here are some of the collected answers to questions from the survey:

- 100% of parents answered 'agree' or 'strongly agree' to the statement: My child is happy at this school.
- 98% of parents answered 'agree' or 'strongly agree' to the statement: My child feels safe at this school (with one 'don't know')
- 98% of parents answered 'agree' or 'strongly agree' to the statement: My child does well at this school
- 95% of parents answered 'agree' or 'strongly agree' to the statement: I would recommend this school to another parent (with one 'don't know')

### **School places for September 2026**

We recently held an open morning for parents of children who are Reception age in September 2026. It was great to see so many current parents spreading the message, either by word of mouth or by sharing our posts on Facebook. Thank you to all that did. We know that we currently have spaces in year groups throughout the school and that the best form of publicity comes from those that are able to personally recommend us, so if you know of people in the area or moving into the area that are looking for a school space, please let them know about us!

### **Radio 5 came calling**

Talking of publicity, it doesn't get much bigger than an interview on Radio 5 Live, which is what happened to me last week when I found myself talking to Matt Chorley on his afternoon show. Some of you may remember Matt as a former student of the school, and his recollections of egg shackling during his time here resulted in a quick chat on the peculiarities of that particular tradition!



If you haven't had a chance to listen, zoom to the final five minutes of the show -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002knp7>

We've invited Matt to join us for the next egg shackling!

### **Parent Governors**

Thank you to everyone who sent applications to be a parent governor. It is fantastic to have people interested in this important role. The nominated governors were Hope House and Jordan Marchant, who have joined our Local School Committee.

## Beyblades

Beyblade fever has swept the school over the last few weeks and i wrote to all parents this week regarding the use of beyblades in school. While we have seen overwhelmingly positive behaviour when it comes to the use of beyblades during break and lunch times, we have made the decision to restrict their use to morning breaktimes to ensure that the children are engaging in other play activities, both organised and imaginative. We are very happy for children to continue bringing beyblades into school.

## Guess the weight of the pumpkin

Congratulations to Isla who guessed the correct weight of 9kg exactly! She wins the pumpkin (which she looks thrilled about) and free tickets to Tropiquaria.

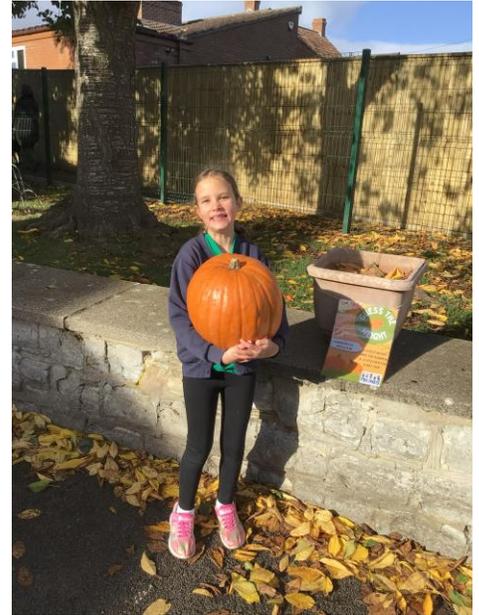
## Things to look forward to

The fun doesn't stop and next half term is already looking busy. More information will come out regarding some of the events on the key dates table below but please save the date

Best wishes,

David Rowland

Headteacher



## Key dates:

<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>Half term</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service at the memorial at 10.45am - all invited
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>FOS</b> Bottle line at drop off time
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Family Learning in the afternoon – details coming soon
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	HOTV Christmas fair - <b>FOS</b> stall
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Raven Class assembly in the church at 9.15am - all invited
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 theatre trip to Wells
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>FOS</b> Hot chocolate stall after school
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity/Carol Concert 9.30
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch and disco
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Inset Day – start of Christmas holidays</b>



# Halloween Activity Club

Join us for some fun activity days at St Giles Animal Welfare. Choose a morning or afternoon slot or bring a packed lunch and spend the day!



**Morning session: 10am - 12pm**  
**Afternoon session: 1pm - 3pm**

**Tuesday 28th October**  
**Wednesday 29th October**  
**Thursday 30th October**  
**Friday 31st October**

**£10 PER SESSION**  
Price is per child  
One accompanying adult only per booking  
Open to 6 - 12 years old and must be accompanied by an adult.

**Activities include:**

- Games / Arts & Crafts
- Preparing enrichment feeds for our animals
- Meeting suitable animals

**Book Now**

[www.stgilesanimalwelfare.co.uk](http://www.stgilesanimalwelfare.co.uk)




## Fun DOG Show

At the Family Autumn Fair on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October at Northfield House, 51 Staplegrove Road, Taunton TA1 1DG

Dog show starts 11.30am, register from 11.00am



**8 Exciting Classes**

Prizes 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Rosettes and supported by Skinners Dog Food

- 1 – Prettiest Bitch
- 2 – Handsome Fellas
- 3 – Best Veteran (Over 7 years)
- 4 – Best Child Handler (under 12 years)
- 5 – Sausage and Spoon
- 6 – Dog most like its owner
- 7 – Best Trick
- 8 – Dog the Judge would most like to take home

£3 a class or 3 classes for £8




Or book in advance by scanning the QR code or calling the office on 01823 333818

In aid of Somerset Sight, the local charity supporting visually impaired people across Somerset for over 100 years.

Please note there is no parking available at Northfield House on the day.

Charity Number 1154472



**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 11:00am - 3:00pm**

## Family Half Term Fun & Dog Show

Northfield House, Staplegrove Road, Taunton, TA1 1DG

Come and enjoy a family fun day at Somerset Sight and support your local charity.

**Fun Dog Show** – Starts 11.30am. £3 per class  
Sponsored by Skinners Dog Food

**Traditional Family Games** – all games free.

**Fresh locally sourced BBQ.**



**Spooky Magic Show**

**Prize for best carved Pumpkin** – bring own carved pumpkin.




In aid of Somerset Sight. Charity number: 1154472

Please be advised that there will be no parking available at Northfield House

# Half-Term Holiday Activities: Art Adventures



27–29 October 2025, 10:30–15:30

Take inspiration from Wells Art Contemporary (WAC) installations in the Cathedral this half term with our creative drop-in workshops for families!

**Monday 27 October**

### Branching Out

Explore relationships between humans and trees with 2D and 3D art

**Tuesday 28 October**

### Willow and Windows

Create a willow-framed suncatcher

**Wednesday 29 October**

### Decorate a Deck

Design a deck and create your own mini skateboard model



Admission FREE with adult entry. No need to book – simply drop in on the day! Plan your visit online at [wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays](http://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 Family 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.



**WELLS  
ART**  
CONTEMPORARY



## 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](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/choice-advice)

Contact us via email  
[choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk)  
or scan the QR code



# HELP US WIN £1,000 FOR OUR LIBRARY

Nominate us and you could win a £100 gift card!  
[nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize](http://nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize)



#rebuildthelibrary



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



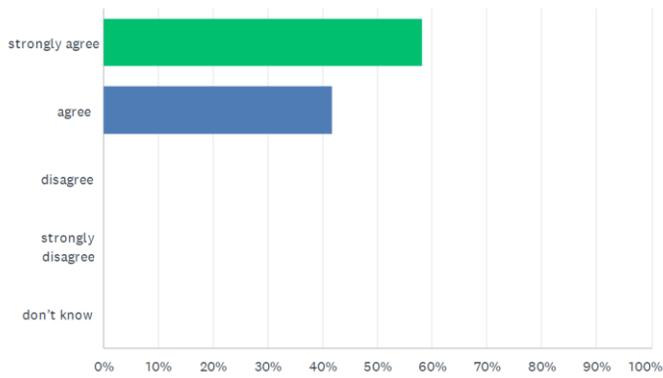
For FoS to hold events, we require volunteers to help the small but mighty committee.

No need to attend meetings, just to help at events.

Please see a member of the committee to put your name down.

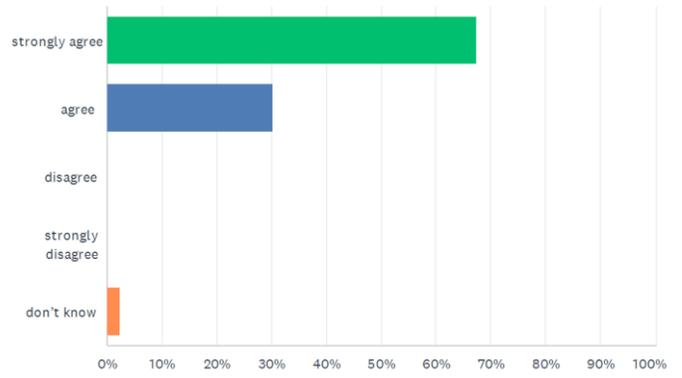
### Q3 My child is happy at this school.

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



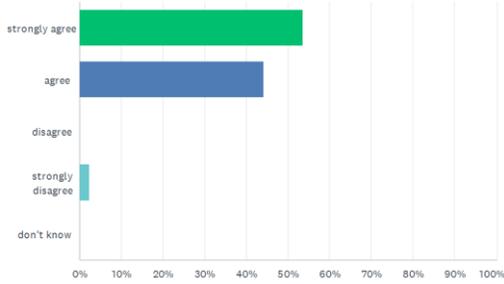
### Q4 My child feels safe at this school.

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



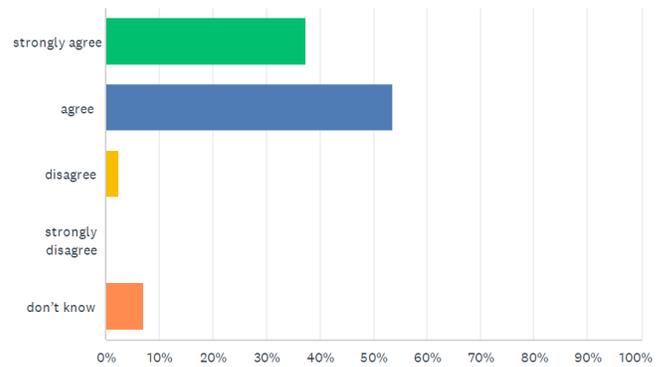
### Q5 The school takes active steps to promote and uphold good behaviour among its pupils.

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



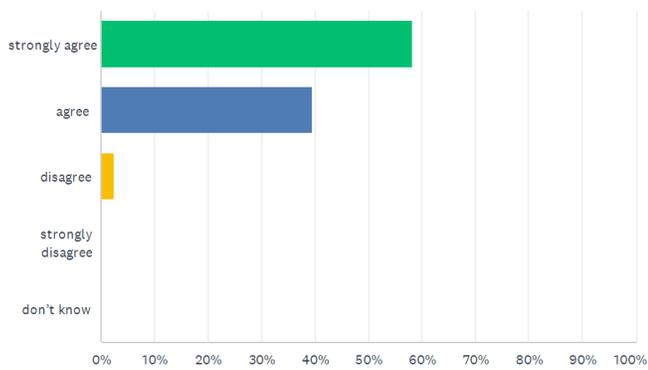
### Q10 The school has high expectations for my child.

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



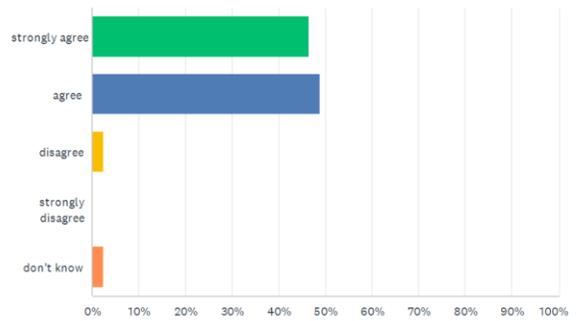
### Q11 My child does well at this school.

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0

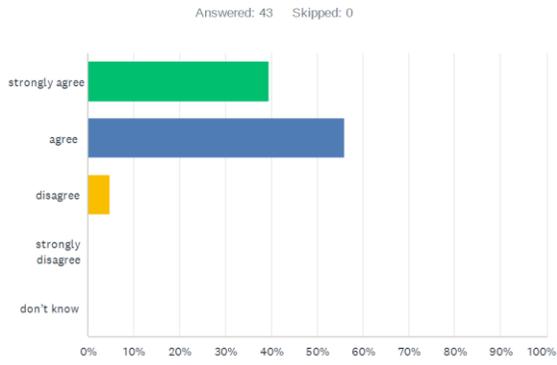


### Q14 My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



Q15 The school supports my child's wider personal development.



Q16 I would recommend this school to another parent.

