



St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 23rd October 2026

Newsletter 02

Our core Christian Values: Compassion, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Creativity, Service, Truthfulness

End of Term Message

As we come to the end of a busy Term 1, I want to take a moment to highlight what has been a truly fantastic start to the school year. The children returned full of enthusiasm, curiosity, and an eagerness to learn, setting a wonderfully positive tone across the whole school.

Term 1 Highlights:

Black History Month Art Exhibition: A wonderful showcase of our pupils' artistic talents, exploring key figures, culture, and moments in Black history. Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate their work.

Awareness Days: We marked Hello Yellow Day (mental health), Wear Red Day (anti-racism), and Jeans for Genes Day (genetic conditions), building empathy through meaningful classroom discussions.

PTA Autumn Disco: A lively event full of music, dancing and community spirit. Thank you to all who helped arrange and support the disco!

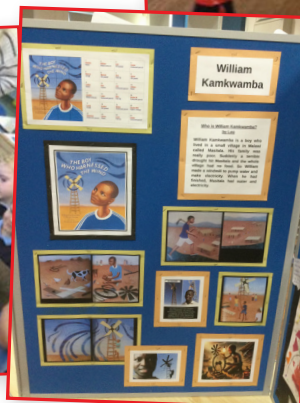
The children have settled brilliantly, routines are firmly in place, and our school community feels stronger than ever. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Have a wonderful, restful break, and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back for Term 2!

Mr Thomson

Black History Month

The Equalities Team have worked hard this month to highlight the importance of giving 'Racism the Red Card'. The children at St Marys showed their support by wearing red for the day as part of the UK annual event. In classes, the children created an art piece that was on display at the annual Exhibition of Excellence. These showcased a prominent figure within the black community that has made a positive difference to society. Thank you for all of your support for this important event that celebrates diversity.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



Attendance Winners



**MOMENTS MATTER,
ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

How are we doing?*

Ducklings	98.40%
Rabbits	93.00%
Badgers	96.30%
Foxes	97.20%
Bees	96.60%
Lions	97.70%
Eagles	93.10%
Total	96.10%

*Attendance for the 26/27 academic year.

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to all the children who received a Headteacher Award - keep up the great work!

Class	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6
Ducklings	Orpheia	Ottillie	Colby	Teddy
Rabbits	Sienna	Millie	Jimmi	Amelie P
Badgers	Alicia	Alaina	Rubie	Tommy
Foxes	Evie	Lillie	Esme	Oscar
Bees	Spencer	Rosie	Mabel	Lucas
Lions	Willow	Liam	Luca	Florence
Eagles	Robin	Freddie	Violet	Scarlette-Rose



Christian Values Awards



The children recognised for demonstrating our Christian Values during term 1:

Compassion	Ray, Sid, Lillie, Shay, Maggie, Daisy, Vinnie, Ellie and Freddie
Koinonia	Roux
Creativity	Vinnie
Service	Olly, Alex, Arthur, Theo, Merryn, Rex and Louie

Hedgehogs



Class News:

We have had such a wonderful first term in Hedgehogs! The children have settled in brilliantly and have been so busy exploring, playing, creating, and learning together.

We have loved getting out into the forest and going on exciting 'listening walks' as part of our sound play for early Phonics. The children listened super carefully to all the different environmental sounds around us! While exploring the forest, we collected natural treasures and sticks, which we used alongside clay and twigs to craft our very own adorable clay hedgehogs. We were so proud to showcase our autumnal creations in the school-wide 'Exhibition of Excellence' art display!

We have also been introducing lots of *Bucket Time* sessions this term, with a big focus on building early listening, attention, and understanding. The children have shown fantastic curiosity and focus during these sessions!

Thank you to all our families for a fantastic start to the year. We hope you all have a well-deserved, restful half-term break, and we can't wait for more fun and adventures in Term 2!

Mrs Summers and Mrs Thomson



Ducklings



Class News:

What a fantastic first term at St Mary's Ducklings have had. The children have settled into school life and are confident learners.

In Phonics, we have learned all of the Phase 2 sounds and the children are using their sounds daily to read and write.

In Literacy, we have been reading the story of 'The Colour Monster'. We have talked about lots of different emotions and how we could help when it is a feeling we don't like. The children created their own monsters and are beginning to use their learned phonemes in their writing. This week we have written invitations for the Harvest festival.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of 1, 2 and 3. We have learned lots of number rhymes that

highlight one more than and one less than and the children have begun to understand the composition of different numbers.

We have loved looking for signs of Autumn and the children have really developed their cutting skills. Some lovely Autumn trees went home for you to see.

Thank you for supporting our dress up events this term. The **Hello Yellow** day was centered around mindfulness and play. The children also loved presenting their art work at the **Exhibition of Excellence**.

We showed Racism the red card by dressing in red. I think you'll agree that the children's art work was fantastic.

Have a wonderful half term break.

Mrs Gillard



Rabbits



Class News:

In English, we have published our first piece of writing based on the book 'Not a Stick' by Antoinette Portis. We have been writing sentences independently using our own ideas.

In Maths, we have been learning about *addition and subtraction within 10*. We have been exploring the part-whole model to help us understand how to form number sentences. We have also been working hard to ensure our numbers are formed correctly.

In Geography, this term we have been exploring our local area. We have been creating maps of our classroom, exploring compass points, and spotting features on maps. We also loved having parents in for our parent workshop, where we completed lots of activities about our local area.

Finally, we have celebrated lots of events over the past few weeks. We had a great time wearing yellow and having extra play for **Hello Yellow**, and we also came in wearing red to show racism the red card. Rabbits worked so hard to create their artwork for the art exhibition and we really enjoyed visiting it to see what other classes had been up to. Lastly, we thought Foxes did a fantastic job with the **Harvest Festival!**

We hope you all have a wonderful half term!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree



Badgers

Class News:



What a brilliant start to the year! I have been so impressed by how well the Badgers have settled into Year 2. They have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum and should be very proud of all they have achieved so far.

In English, we have been writing diary entries from the perspective of Muffin the horse. The children have been developing their handwriting and letter formation, while focusing on key writing skills such as capital letters, finger spaces, sentence types and understanding what makes a complete sentence.

In Maths, we have been exploring addition and subtraction, building our confidence and developing our number skills. Over half term, please encourage your child to log on to DoodleMaths and complete their Baseline Assessment. This will help the programme set activities

tailored to your child's needs, providing the right support and challenges to help them progress.

In Science, we have been investigating habitats and microhabitats, exploring different environments in Timsbury and around our school. The children have enjoyed observing their surroundings and discovering more about the living things that can be found in these habitats.

I am incredibly proud of the Badgers and the enthusiasm they have shown in their learning. They have made a fantastic start to Year 2, and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence and develop their skills over the coming weeks.

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term break!

Miss Heath



Foxes

Class News:



Wow, where has this term gone! It has been another busy couple of weeks in Foxes and it has been filled with fun and learning.

A highlight of our term has to be the **Art Exhibition** where we displayed the fantastic Egyptian scrolls that the children had made. First, they made the paper and then painted and drew on a range of Ancient Egyptian symbols. For our **Black History Month** display, we learnt about Walter Tull, an inspirational footballer and soldier who led battalions of troops into battle in World War 1. Foxes have really enjoyed undertaking both of these Art projects this term.

In Science, we have continued learning about *Forces and Magnets* and have been exploring magnetism. We conducted an experiment with different types of

materials, to work out what was magnetic and what was not.

In English, we have been writing Harvest acrostic poems in preparation for performing them in church. The children have worked hard to include alliteration and a range of expanded noun phrases to bring detail to their poems. The Foxes have also been working hard to prepare our annual **Harvest Festival** service where we celebrate the harvest and I'm sure you'll agree that they did a wonderful job.

Finally, we have enjoyed spending time in the forest area, toasting marshmallows, being creative with outdoor art materials and building dens. Well done for a wonderful term Foxes, have a great half term break.

Mrs Brown



Bees

Class News:



What a fantastic and busy first term it has been in Bees! The children have settled in brilliantly and worked exceptionally hard across every subject.

A key highlight was our **Excellence Exhibition**. The children created brilliant drawings and used watercolours to paint effective pictures of fruit and cakes, focusing on how to use tone to make their artwork look realistic. They also had a lot of fun creating their own painting using textured impasto paint made of sawdust, PVA glue and paint.

In Geography, we have been studying *Antarctica* and learning why it is classified as a polar desert due to its extremely low precipitation and freezing

temperatures. The children were particularly fascinated by how the Weddell Seal manages to survive in such extreme conditions.

In Music, we have been exploring *Rock and Roll*. The children learned the hand jive, which was a fun way to understand how dance connects to the beat of the music. We have also practiced playing a walking bass line on the glockenspiels.

To end the term, we spent some great time in the forest area building dens and toasting marshmallows - Forest School is always a highlight for Bees.

Thank you for a great term and I hope you all have an amazing half-term break!

Mrs Pope

Lions

Class News:



What a wonderful Term One we have had in the Lions classroom. Our superb group of Year 5 pupils have continued to work hard, behave brilliantly and show how much they are enjoying life within our learning environment.

So much has been happening over the last few weeks. You might have been lucky enough to see our William Kamkwamba artwork at the recent **Art Exhibition**. We have been learning all about William's life as *'The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind'* in English, writing explanation texts about our own windmills that we created. William then became our chosen famous person to feature during **Black History Month**. Our jigsaw-style picture recreating the front cover of the book that our work has been based on this term took a huge team effort and we love how it

turned out.

We have taken our learning to other areas of the school too - with one of these occasions being enforced on us whilst the new air conditioning units were fitted in our classroom! However, we took full advantage of being based in the hall to make use of the gymnastic apparatus to help us with our scientific investigation where we found out how the size of a parachute affected the time it took for a ping pong ball to reach the ground. Our term of Dance in PE ended with us performing the routines we had created using motifs seen in traditional Chinese dances. In the photo, you can see our teams of Chinese lions. This was great fun! It's now time for a well-earned break for our Year 5 Lions. Please enjoy a happy half-term holiday!

Mr Daniels



Eagles

Class News:



Wow! What a fantastic first term in Year 6 with Eagles. I have to commend the children on their hard work, resilience and willingness to tackle challenging new concepts. Not only have they led by example with their learning, but their behaviour both inside and outside the classroom has also been exemplary- a true credit to our school community!

In Writing, we have published our instructions on *How to Visit the Masai Mara Successfully*, applying a range of advanced punctuation, including colons to introduce lists. The children enjoyed linking their writing to our Geography topic on Kenya, as well as drawing inspiration from our class core text, 'Warrior Boy,' to learn subject-specific vocabulary and gain insight into the Maasai way of life.

In Maths, Eagles have been powering ahead with the four operations, successfully consolidating their understanding of addition, subtraction and multiplication using larger numbers. We have also introduced long division, breaking down the steps to success to help master this challenging concept.

Art has been a real highlight this term, with everyone eager to produce high-quality pieces for the St Mary's Art Exhibition. Working collaboratively, the children recreated David Hockney's painting of 'A Pool with Two Figures',



using mixed media to explore his fascination with capturing water.

In History, Eagles have made fantastic progress in our World War II topic. The children explored who was involved, learned about propaganda and censorship and linked their knowledge to local history such as the Bath Blitz. They particularly enjoyed creating their own vibrant propaganda posters. Next term, we look forward to deepening our WWII learning alongside our new class text, 'Goodnight Mister Tom'.

All in all, it has been a successful term and I could not be prouder of Team Eagles. I wish all of our Year 6 children, parents and families a restful and enjoyable half term break!

Miss Woods



Art Exhibition of Excellence

If you were lucky enough to visit this year's Art Exhibition, I am sure you will agree it was truly fantastic. Each class displayed their term's artwork, demonstrating skills in line drawing, sketching, painting, clay modelling, and collage. The children took immense pride in their work and showcased wonderful creativity - what a talented group of artists we have here at St Mary's Timsbury!

Mrs Gillard



Child Safety and Parking Outside the School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to address a critical and urgent safety issue regarding vehicle parking directly outside the school gates.

On Friday afternoon, staff and parents observed six vehicles parked on the yellow zig-zag lines during pick-up time.

The yellow zig-zag markings are strictly designated "Keep Clear" zones. They exist for one vital reason: to keep our children safe. Parking or stopping on these lines creates dangerous blind spots, severely restricting visibility for children trying to cross the road and for oncoming traffic. Stopping on these lines, even for "just a minute", puts children's lives at risk.

Moving forward, we will be increasing our monitoring of the area outside the school gates during drop-off and collection times.

Please note: Anyone seen stopping or parking on the yellow zig-zag lines in the future will have their vehicle photographed. These photographs will be forwarded directly to the police and local traffic enforcement officers for formal investigation and further action.

We ask every parent and carer to prioritise the safety of our pupils over convenience. Please park legally and responsibly in designated areas, even if it means a short walk to the school entrance.

I appreciate there are additional challenges for parking due to our increasing pupil numbers. Thank you to the majority of our school community who continue to park safely and respectfully every day.

If anybody has any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please arrange an appointment to speak with me.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Thomson



Hello Yellow

On Friday, our whole school came together to focus on our mental health as part of **Hello Yellow Day**. We arrived at school dressed in yellow and spent time in our classrooms exploring strategies to help us understand and manage our emotions.

As the year progresses, we will be building our own *mental health toolkit*, discovering different ways to look after our wellbeing and support ourselves when things feel tricky.

In the afternoon, we put our usual timetable aside and had just one mission: to play! The children had lots of fun enjoying time together, reminding us how important play, friendship and having fun are for our mental health.

It was lovely to dedicate time to such an important message and put mental wellbeing at the heart of our day. A big thank you to everyone who supported **Hello Yellow Day**!

Outside Achievements



We love watching our St. Mary's children grow, thrive and succeed in everything they do.



Free School Meal Changes for the 2026 to 2027 Academic Year

Many families will become eligible for the first time under the expanded FSM Criteria which is changing from September to the following:

- Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- Expanded FSM, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earning of £7,400 & above

If you believe you may qualify for the expanded FSM please make an application now. Please see the link here:
www.bathnes.gov.uk/form/apply-free-school-meals



School Uniform Reminder

Here's a reminder of the school uniform for anyone needing to purchase new items over the summer break.

Winter Uniform	Navy blue, grey trousers Navy blue, grey skirts or pinafore dresses Light blue polo shirts Navy blue jumper or cardigan with or without the school logo embroidered on it Navy, grey, black or white socks Navy, grey, black tights Shoes should be plain black low heeled or flat and sturdy for outdoor play. An appropriate school coat for all weathers
Summer Uniform	Navy blue, grey or black tailored shorts Blue and white checked / striped dresses
PE Kit To be kept in school at all times in a PE Bag	Plain white T-Shirt with no logo Navy blue or black shorts Plain black daps or trainers
Additional options	Wellington boots, any colour

Staple items such as trousers, tops and plain jumpers can be purchased anywhere. However, if you wish to have items with our logo embroidered on, then you will need to purchase these online from Mapac.

Parents can view all available products by visiting the company's website. There is a separate sheet in the pack explaining how to register with Mapac.

<http://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/stmarystimsburyBA2>

The school does not purchase any items of uniform or keep items here. From time to time, the PTA sell "pre-loved" items of uniform. Pre loved items are also available at Timsbury Library for a small donation.

We are keen to encourage independence and responsibility. Your child is responsible for his/her belongings and the school cannot be held responsible for any losses. We discourage children from bringing personal/valuable belongings into school; this avoids things being lost or broken.

Please help us by ensuring that ALL items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. We require all children to have a full PE Kit in school at all times, clearly labelled and in an appropriate bag.

Hairstyles

Long hair should always be tied back, particularly during PE. Children should not be sent to school with extreme haircuts or hairstyles. Hair bands must be white/black or blue, and fashion accessories including large bows are not acceptable.

Shoes and accessories

Shoes should be smart black school shoes and appropriate for school. Black trainers should not be worn as shoes. For safety reasons, children must not wear shoes with an excessively high heel to school or trousers with an excessive flare. Equally, only stud earrings are allowed and children should wear no other jewellery. All earrings must be removed before PE. Nail polish is not permitted at school.

PTA Disco Round Up



What an absolutely brilliant first PTA event of the year! Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered and all the parents who paid and brought their little ones to the school in the evening.

Over 100 children attended the DISCO and they looked like they were having an absolute blast!

We had 18 parent and carer volunteers, Disco Dad Dan providing the disco for free alongside 4 teachers staying late to ensure everyone had the best time and was safely checked in and out.

There was glitter galore (sorry about the aftermath!) fantastic dancing, chomping on chocolate and glugging squash to keep energy up. We tried hard to ensure the quiet room was quiet – although this proved a popular room too!

We raised over £350!

This money is currently going towards creating some social spaces outside for children to play in regardless of the weather and one day hopefully an Outdoor Classroom – but this requires a significant amount of fundraising!

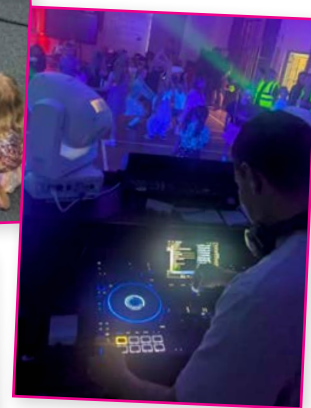
We are currently looking for anyone who may be able to help with any fairly heavy-duty grounds work... if you think you might be able to help or know someone who could please do get in touch. And as always please send over any feedback.

We appreciate discos aren't for everyone and the PTA committee are already planning the next events.

If you'd like to get involved or send feedback you can via; phoning the school office, replying to the fairly constant PTA WhatsApp messages in the class WhatsApp groups or by email to:

stmarysschooltimsburypta@gmail.com (yes this was the shortest option available!)

But mainly THANK YOU to everyone who is supporting the PTA and aiming to make the school an even better place for our children.



Safeguarding Notice: Keeping Our Children Safe

The safety and wellbeing of our young people is a shared responsibility across our entire school community. While school staff are unavailable over the holidays, support remains active. If you ever have concerns regarding the welfare or safety of a child during the break, please use the guidance and contacts below.

When to Seek Immediate Support

Please report a concern if:

- A child is suffering or at risk of significant harm.
- You need to protect a child from abuse or serious neglect.
- A child or family requires urgent, acute, or short-term care.

BANES Children's Social Work Services (Standard Office Hours)

- Telephone: 01225 39 61 11 or 01225 47 79 29
(Weekdays 8:30am – 5:00pm; Fridays close at 4:30pm)

- In Person: Drop into the Keynsham One Stop Shop and ask to speak to the duty children's social worker.
- Professional Advice: You can also discuss concerns with key healthcare professionals, such as a health visitor or school nurse.

Out-of-Hours & Emergency Contacts

- Immediate Danger: If a child is in immediate danger, call 999 for emergency services straight away.
- BANES Emergency Duty Team: Call 01454 61 51 65 for urgent support during evenings, weekends, or bank holidays.

National Confidential Support

- NSPCC Helpline: Call 0800 800 5000 or visit the NSPCC website to report a concern confidentially 24/7.

Dates for your Calendar - Autumn Term 2

Date	Event
02.11.26	Start of Term 2
09.11.26	Pupil Progress Meetings
10.11.26	Pupil Progress Meetings
13.11.26	Children in Need Day - Non Uniform - Wear Spots
20.11.26	Odd Socks Day - Non Uniform - Anti- Bullying
25.11.26	Inset Day - school closed to children
26.11.26	Great Timsbury Bake Off
01.12.26	Parent Workshop Lions 9.00 AM
03.12.26	Parent Workshop Foxes 9.00 AM TBC
08.12.26	KS1 Nativity 2.00 PM
09.12.26	KS1 Nativity 9.30 AM
10.12.26	Parent Workshop Bees 2.00 PM TBC
11.12.26	Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
15.12.26	EYFS Nativity 2.00 PM
16.12.26	Christmas Lunch - wear a Christmas Jumper
17.12.26	Christingle @ St Mary's Church 9.30 AM
18.12.26	Last Day of Term 2

Thought of the Week

'Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.'

(Psalm 100: 1-2)

When many of us are feeling down or a bit fed up, we often need something to lift us. This might be time with family or friends, or maybe enjoying a good film, or watching something funny. Many of us enjoy uplifting music and one genre that often hits the spot is disco. If you're not a fan, I unapologetically warn you that this is very much a disco themed message!

Disco first emerged in New York, in the early 1970s, although it keeps on getting revived through genres like house music, nu-disco and most recently through modern pop-disco crossovers with artists like Dua Lipa and The Weeknd. It was originally seen as a direct fusion of different musical styles including funk and soul, rhythm and blues, Latin and of course Gospel. Whereas the other styles provided the driving basslines, the syncopated rhythms, the melodic structure and the celebratory dancefloor energy, the emotionality, euphoric vocal arrangements and background harmonies all originated in Gospel music.

This is probably why so many people see Disco as uplifting - it is directly connected to the soul. Many Disco legends like Donna Summer ("I Feel Love"), Candi Staton ("Young Hearts Run Free"), Gloria Gaynor ("I Will Survive") and Loleatta Holloway ("Love Sensation") all started off singing in church gospel choirs. Even if the messages in many Disco songs don't refer to God or faith, the spirit is still there, through the singing and the emotions. And there is often a focus on love. And although this is love between people, the Bible talks about humans imitating God's unconditional, forgiving and enduring love. As it says in 1 John 4:19, *'We love because he first loved us.'*

When the disco movement first started, some of the venues described their club sets in explicitly religious terms, like "Mass" or "Church". These events were open to everyone and disco is often seen as one of the most inclusive forms of music, regardless of your race, gender or orientation. There are many examples of black female artists who became famous because of disco, including Diana Ross, Chaka Khan, Patti LaBelle, Sister Sledge and The Pointer Sisters, alongside those I have already mentioned.

Because of its spiritual overtones, it's no surprise that a sub genre known as 'Gospel Disco' (or Divine Disco), emerged in the late 70s and into the 80s, bridging the spiritual, uplifting roots of Gospel traditions with the energy and emotion of disco.

In today's verse we are told to 'Shout for joy to the Lord' and to 'Worship the Lord...with joyful songs'. We are being encouraged to sing and enjoy music. This may of course include some kitchen dancing as well! Many Christians believe that music first originated from God, with the morning stars singing together and the angels shouting for joy when the earth was first formed (Job 38:4-7). So Gospel music, and maybe even Disco, can point towards God's love for us and the opportunity to enjoy what he has given us.



Paul Marvin

MNSP Christian Distinctiveness Lead

BATH ROTARY — CHARITY — FIREWORKS FIESTA 2026

SAT 7th NOV 5pm

The Rec

Gates open 4.30pm Entertainment from 5.00pm
Fireworks from around 6.00pm

Tickets: Adult £12 Child £6 (5-15 years)

Only available in advance from Bath Box Office and Bath Rotary websites

Student tickets available from The SU University of Bath

No refunds available on tickets | Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult

Please leave sparklers at home | Bath Rugby food & drink outlets accept card payments only.

Admission only by ticket, purchased in advance | No dogs except guide dogs

For security purposes, security personnel will perform random bag checks

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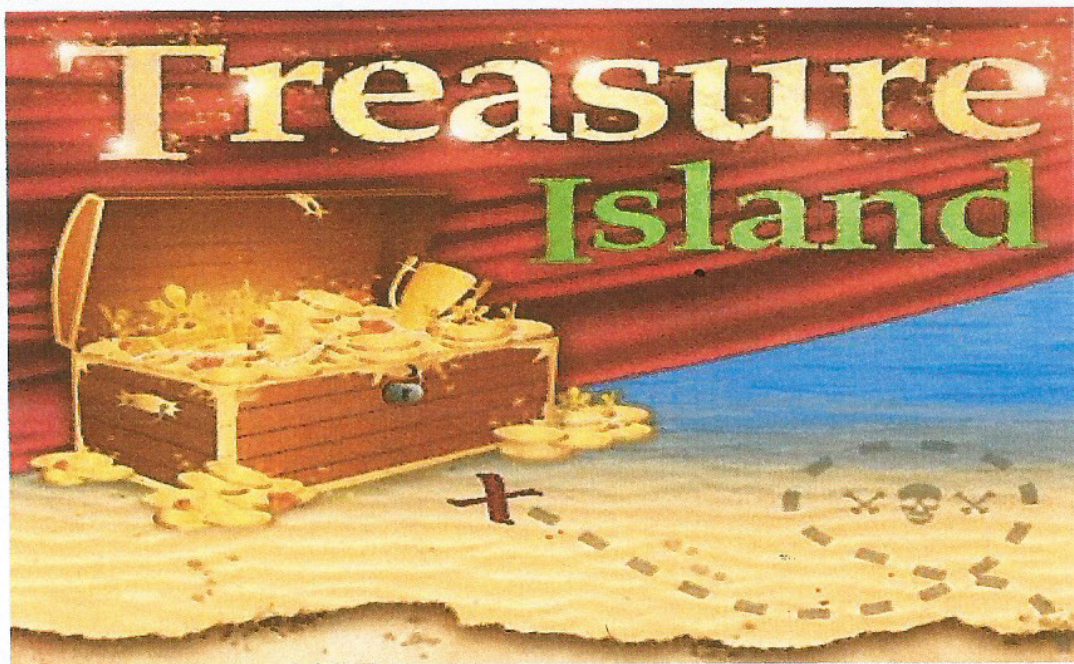
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and other charities supported by the Organisers



HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

Half Term fun at St Peter's Church Camerton.

Stories, games, quizzes, Treasure hunts, Burt the Puppet, snacks and lunch provided. *No charge*

**Please contact Revd Martin or Revd Lindsay by
Tuesday 27th October to Register**

**07854 273489 (Martin) or (Jane) 07483 156995
jane@luxyouthproject.co.uk**

Thursday 29th and Friday 30th October

St Peter's Church, Camerton

10.00 am to 1.00 pm with lunch!