



# SOMERVALE SCHOOL



## Newsletter: Term 2



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

# Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carers

I cannot believe that it is finally the end of what seems like two incredibly long terms.

We have managed to pack a lot into the last seven weeks. We had our annual fantastic book fair which was a good excuse for some early Christmas shopping, Year 11 were amazing in their first set of mock exams, all students have completed their preference forms for next summer's activities week, we held Christmas jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and just today we have had the book drive with books being issued to Year 7 and 8.

Our new staff have all settled in well and are enjoying getting to know all of the students. I can report that Mrs Bendrey had a little baby boy at the end of November and Mum and Baby are doing well.

We are wishing goodbye and good luck to Miss Harris who is leaving us at the end of this week. After three years here at secondary level she is returning to a post as Deputy Head of a primary school in Somerset. We would like to thank her for all the support she has given the students and her commitment to the SEND Department. Mrs Parker will be taking on the role of SENCO from 1<sup>st</sup> January.

We have received out provisional numbers for next September and I can confirm that yet again we are oversubscribed but that we will be sticking to 5 tutor groups.

With the cold weather set to continue after Christmas, please can I request that the students all return to school in appropriate clothing. We are still getting large numbers of students coming to school without coats in the cold and often wet weather. With some many of our students growing at great rates since September please can you also check over the holidays that skirt length are still appropriate and just on or above the knee and must be pleated.



# Headteacher

It is a challenging time for all at the moment and we recognise that many of our families are struggling. Please contact your child's tutor if there is anything that we need to be aware of or if there is anything that we can do to help. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support over the last two terms and would like to wish you and your family a happy and safe break over the holidays and look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Santa needs new reindeer. The first bunch has grown old.

Dasher has arthritis; Comet hates the cold. Prancer's sick of staring at Dancer's big behind.

Cupid married Blitzen and Donner lost his mind.

Dancer's mad at Vixen for stepping on his toes.

Vixen's being thrown out— she laughed at Rudolph's nose.

If you are a reindeer we hope you will apply.

There is just one tricky part:

You must know how to fly.

Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

*Joanna B. H. Waite*



# Attendance

It has been another outstanding term in terms of attendance. In Term Two, we introduced our Attendance Awareness Month, providing students, Staff, and Parents with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of attendance, not just through headline figures, but in appreciating its real impact on educational opportunities.

At Somervale, we recognise the strong connection between attendance and a student's sense of belonging. We are proud that, in a recent school survey, over 97% of students reported feeling safe, happy, and supported, and could identify a trusted adult within the school.

During December, we offered students a range of experiences outside the traditional academic curriculum as part of our "15 Days of Christmas" activities. These included Christmas themed dances, candy cane giveaways, Christmas pudding hunts, and hot chocolate events. These activities, enthusiastically supported by our students, have contributed to consistently positive attendance.

I am delighted to share that over 170 students improved their attendance between Term One and Term Two, and an impressive 493 students currently maintain attendance above 95% for this academic year.

Finally, as a school, we continue to lead the way in attendance across the trust and the wider BANES area. We are proud to be recognised as an Attendance and Behaviour Hub school by the DfE for the South West. This role allows us to support other schools and underscores the incredible commitment of our students and families in promoting strong attendance at Somervale.

**Mr B Pearce**

**Deputy Headteacher**

**(Behaviour, Attendance & Safeguarding)**



# Certificate Evening

**We spent a lovely evening celebrating with last years Year 11 cohort . In addition to presenting their well deserved exam certificates a number of subject awards were presented.**

**It was so lovely to see them and hear all about how well post 16, college and their apprenticeships are going. We continue to be extremely proud to have been part of their journey.**

**English** - Charlotte T - Charlotte achieved brilliant results for both English Language and English Literature which shows that she worked conscientiously to revise knowledge and learn skills. Her commitment to her own success is commendable!

**Mathematics** - Apollos CK - Apollos achieved an amazing result for his maths GCSE. He achieved this through hard work and perseverance, tackling every challenge with determination and quiet confidence. His dedication to making improvements after each assessment meant he never hesitated to press the right button to move his learning forward, enabling him to achieve a grade he can truly be proud of. Amazing work Apollos!

**Biology** - Ellis P - Ellis always had a natural aptitude for Biology, but really fostered it through her hard work and resilience in her independent work. Ellis's passion for the subject meant she was so lovely to teach, and I'm glad that it resulted in a fantastic grade.

**Chemistry** - Filip K - Consistently hard working, polite, and able. A pleasure to have in the classroom. He demonstrated a phenomenal knack for molar calculations, was always eager for feedback and acted almost like a Teaching Assistant when helping his friends out. Well done Filip!

**Physics** - Abigail P - Abigail has shown an exceptional aptitude for Physics, consistently demonstrating maturity and diligence in her approach to learning. Her ability to pay close attention to finer details and thoughtfully act on feedback has allowed her understanding to grow tremendously. Abigail's commitment and work ethic made her a pleasure to teach, and her steady perseverance has truly distinguished her in the subject.

**Art** - Oliver B - Oliver is a very talented artist who produced some outstanding paintings for both his exam and his coursework projects. He was a pleasure to teach throughout the course, and I wish him the best of luck with his A level Art course.



# Certificate Evening

**Geography** - Bradley F - Bradley worked so hard over the 2 years of his GCSE Geography. He was focused and ensured he revised well. He attended the Eden Project trip and was involved in all the fieldwork data collection. Overall Bradley did extremely well in his result. Well deserved.

**History** - Mason M - Outstanding commitment all year, where his attitude to classwork and assessment was always consistent and he was a leading example of a student that clearly wanted to succeed, and was willing to put the work in to do it. I have no doubt that your winning attitude will have motivated other students within your class to also succeed and do well in History as well as in other subjects.

**Hospitality & Catering** - Alfie C - Alfie had set his mind on doing well in Catering, so this meant he set the bar high for himself from the start. He worked hard to complete each area of his coursework to a high standard. His practical exam was also executed in the same manner. Well Done! A well deserved outcome!

**Music** - Joscelin M - Joscelin showed exceptional dedication to the music department. Appearing in concerts and taking lead roles in several of our productions. She was a dedicated student who worked tirelessly to achieve well at GCSE. Joscelin's positive manner and commitment to self improvement made her a pleasure to teach throughout her time at Somervale.

**Philosophy & Belief** - James A - James enjoyed the debates and arguing his point in PB. This enabled him to do extremely well. He was focused and always gave 100%. He was fantastic at his independent work and achieved a great result due to this. Well done.

**Health & Fitness** - Laura B - Laura worked immensely hard over the 2 years. She always put 100% effort in her lessons, in her home revision, and in her coursework. Her hard work has paid off with Laura achieving the highest grade in the class! Her behaviour and attitude has always been brilliant, and she has been a pleasure to teach! Well done Laura!

**Photography** - Maisie S - Maisie worked throughout the two year course with determination and focus. She produced some amazing photographic work and achieved a high grade. Well done!

**Combined Science** - Jacob O - Jacob worked very hard in the final build up for exams, and showed lots of enthusiasm in lessons. Through efficient revision, he ended up with a fantastic grade.

# Certificate Evening

**Creative iMedia** - Archie W - Archie demonstrated exceptional academic performance, achieving a Distinction\* in his comprehensive coursework, which constituted 60% of the total course assessment. Furthermore, he exhibited remarkable proficiency in his final examination, showcasing a consistently high level of academic engagement. His intellectual rigor, methodical approach to learning, and profound commitment to academic excellence distinguish him as an exemplary student within my pedagogical experience. It has been a profound privilege to facilitate Archie's academic journey, and I anticipate his continued success in future scholarly endeavors.

**Languages** - Chloe U - Amazing effort, attitude and hard work throughout her GCSEs in French and Spanish. Chloe achieved great results which were well deserved! She showed excellent dedication to her speaking preparation and performed amazingly across both languages.

**Creative Media Production** - Oscar R - Oscar achieved an outstanding quality in his final film piece, consistently building his knowledge and understanding of filming and editing techniques to produce a near-professional quality product. This was achieved with consistently excellent effort, diligence and a willingness to push his learning as far as possible. Congratulations!

**Design & Technology** - Jasmine B - Jasmine demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning throughout the two years. Her attention to detail and precision was outstanding. Jasmine always took on board all feedback and made many excellent developments to her product throughout the testing and prototype phase. Well done. She was a delight to teach.

**Callum Stewart Award** - Meah C - Meah was dedicated to school sport throughout her time at Somervale and had some brilliant performances! In the academic part of the subject, Meah excelled and came out with a fantastic grade; producing some brilliant coursework too! Well done!

**Headteacher's Award** - Filip K - Filip worked extremely hard day in day out during his time at school. He was a reflective and dedicated learner who always strived to make improvements even when he was already being successful. A very well deserved top achiever.

**Child Development** - Annalise B - Annalise worked continuously hard throughout the two year course. Putting in 100% effort to make sure her coursework was the best it could be which included spending her own time after-school. Her hard work paid off when she received one of the highest grades of the group. Well done!



# Certificate Evening





# Iceland Trip

Please read the following student write up and reviews of our most recent trip to Iceland which took place over October half term. It was an incredible trip.

**Phoebe W - Yr11**

## **Iceland Review**

The Iceland trip was super fun! My favorite parts included running outside in the middle of the night to see the northern lights, relaxing with a free drink and face pack at the blue lagoon and having a snowball fight on the first day. I would definitely recommend this trip to anyone especially if you like stunning landscapes and adventurous activities! The shops in Reykjavik were super cool and I tried lots of new foods including traditional Icelandic ice cream from a farm. Overall, it was super fun and I had an amazing time.



# Iceland Trip

**Lilia C - Yr10**

## **On Day 1**

We landed in Reykjavik on Thursday and went straight out to our activities for that day which included seeing the plate boundary between the Eurasian and American tectonic plates, Stampar craters, Gunnuhver Hot springs and ended the day in the capital city doing some shopping.

## **On Day 2**

We woke up to find that lots of the roads were closed because it was so windy, So we spent our morning in the pool and going to the supermarket and in the afternoon after the roads had finally opened we went out to do our activities which included the Geysirs, Gullfoss waterfall and Efstidular farm where we got to enjoy some ice cream.

## **On Day 3**

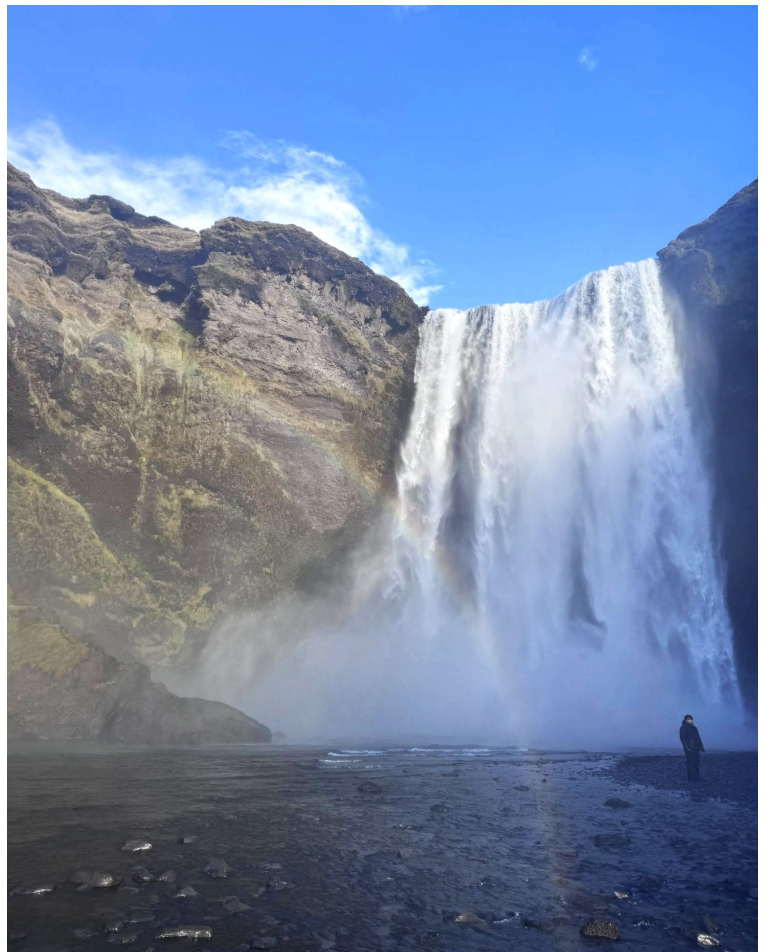
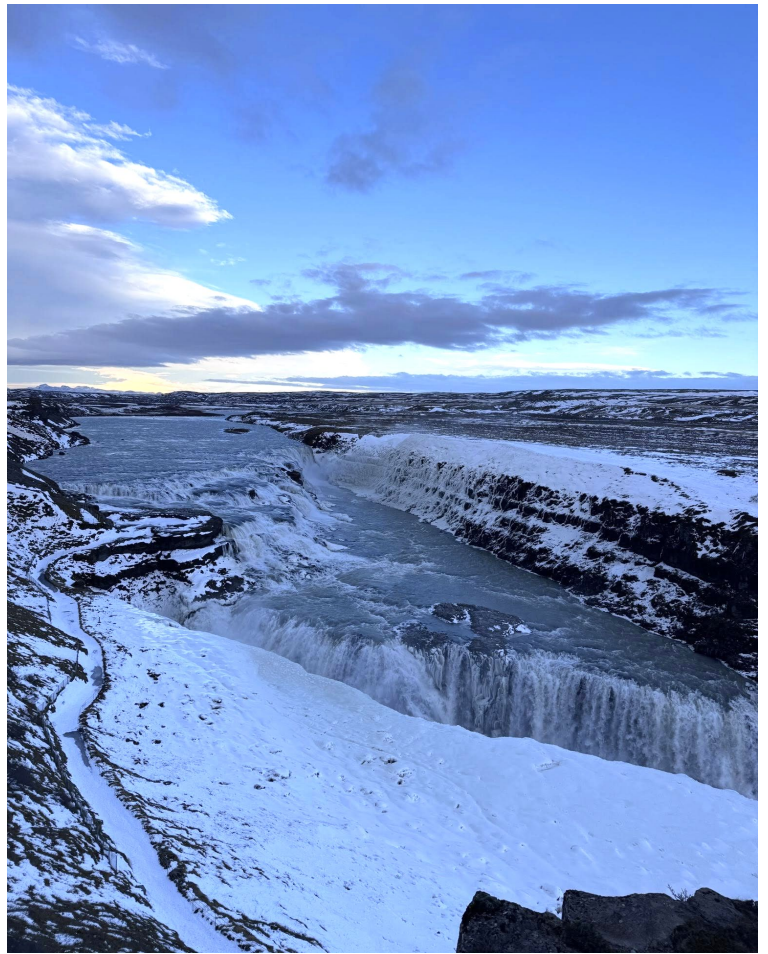
We started with the lava centre where we looked at the most recent eruptions and went to a viewing point where we could see all the different volcanoes in the distance, we then visited Skógafoss waterfall, Vík, Reynisfjara beach which had black sand and then went to Seljalandsfoss that we could walk behind, after dinner we had the option to go swimming again and we then ended the day by seeing some of the Northern lights!

## **On Day 4**

We started by seeing this huge crater called Stora Eldborg and then went to see some of the most recent lava flow, we then went to the Blue lagoon which was my favourite part! We had two hours to spend there to explore the blue lagoon and there were face masks to get too! After the blue lagoon we went to and watch the sunset at a beach and we then ended the trip with another sighting of the Northern lights, before spending the next day travelling back home.



# Iceland Trip



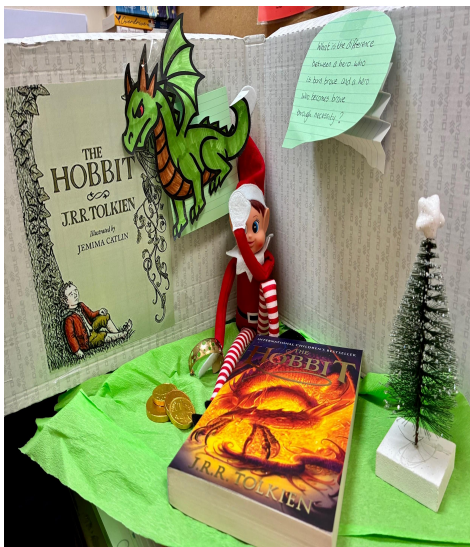


# Iceland Trip





# Somervale Christmas Elf





# Somervale Christmas Concert

Congratulations to all of our students that performed in our Christmas Concert that took place on Tuesday evening.

All the students performed excellently and it was so lovely to see so much variety and talent on the stage.

It was also a real treat to see so many people in the audience. Everyone involved in the show is grateful of the support shown to the students and the school as a whole.

As a school we are immensely proud to show how talented our students are. They have worked so hard on their performances.

We hope that you all enjoyed it as much as we did.





# Christmas Jumper Day





# Christmas Jumper Day





# Art & Design Department

## ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Imani Year 10

Well done **Imani** for creating this mixed media piece. We were so impressed with the way that you used tone to create depth and interest in your work.

Lilly R Year 11 made this art work in her mock Art exam. We thought it was excellent, Well done **Lilly** keep up all the hard work.

## ARTIST OF THE WEEK





# Art & Design Department

## Year 9 Art Workshop We The Curious, Bristol

This term the Art department were offered 15 tickets for Year 9 students to participate in a special creative day marking the legacy of the Bristol Bus Boycott at We The Curious, Bristol.

Students spent the day exploring how young people can stand up for fairness and equality, they took part in hands-on workshops responding to the themes through creative mediums. The day included a collage workshop with Bristol artist Oshii, where they explored the power of 'protest art' by creating their own placards.

The students were also given an opportunity to meet and talk with Bristol Bus Boycott pioneers, helping to inspire their creative responses.





# Library News

## Christmas Book Fair

It was another busy two weeks in the library with our annual Book Fair visit from Scholastic UK. Our 'Takeover Team' of helpers worked tirelessly to promote and help students choose books to buy.

Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair. We managed to sell over £1,000 worth of books!





# Library News

## Winter Wonderland reads...

The evenings are dark and chilly, why not stay warm and cosy inside, and read a book this festive season?





# Library News

## In The Local News!

Our fantastic panel of students taking part in this year's Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Book Award had a mention in the local newspaper this term! Our group have been busy reading the shortlisted books, giving reviews and voting on their favourites. The Award Ceremony will take place at Frome College in Term 4!



Wednesday, 26th November 2025

Contact us by email: [contactus@mnjournal.co.uk](mailto:contactus@mnjournal.co.uk)

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## Shortlist for School Library Book Awards

### STAFF REPORTER

THE Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership has announced the much anticipated shortlist for its 2026 School Library Book Awards.

This year's shortlist includes a zombie story with an environmental twist, a murder mystery, a historical romance inspired by Robin Hood's legacy, and a young adult gothic novel inspired by Mary Shelley and company's stay at the Villa Diodati. A middle years horror story and ghost tale complete the shortlist.

The shortlisted books are: *Young Gothic* by M A Bennett; *Not for the*

*Faint of Heart* by Lex Croucher; *Fear Files: Hide and Seek* by Christopher Edge; *Mondays are Murder* by Ravena Guron; *The Zombie Project* by Alice Nutall; and *The Scream of the Whistle* by Emily Randall-Jones.

Panels of students at secondary schools in the schools partnership trust, including Norton Hill School and Somervale School, will read and review the shortlisted books.

Students' ratings will then decide their favourite book from the shortlist, and the overall winner of the award will be announced at a ceremony on April 23



Somervale School and Norton Hill School students who are reading the shortlisted books

at the Merlin Theatre in Frome.

The Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership's School Library Book Award was founded in 2024 by school librarians and library staff, with the idea to join forces and work together, to enhance students' reading, by giving them a unique opportunity to explore

a variety of texts and genres that they might not have otherwise chosen and to celebrate the love of reading and books, across the whole of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Trust.

The Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership was established in 2009, as a result of the successful merger

between Norton Hill and Somervale Schools, both situated in Midsomer Norton, with a mission to ensure all children can attend a good or better school.

To find out more about their work visit [www.midsomernor-tonschoolspartnership.com](http://www.midsomernor-tonschoolspartnership.com)

[Visit iserve.tindlenews.co.uk](https://www.iserve.tindlenews.co.uk)

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# Library News

Congratulations to all our Word Millionaires so far!



## Year 7 Accelerated Reader Competition

Our Year 7 competition winner, **Noah**, enjoyed an evening with Diary of a Wimpy Kid author, Jeff Kinney earlier this term. Year 7 students were encouraged to take part in an Accelerated Reader challenge of passing as many quizzes as possible. **Noah** was the lucky winner whose name was drawn in the prize draw!





# Careers

## Careers at Somervale School

Term 2 has been an exciting time for Careers! Work Experience clinics are currently underway to support Year 10 students find placements, Bath College have been into school with Year 11 to present courses that are available, as well as numerous Open Evenings in the local area to assist students in making Post 16 choices. There are also preparations underway behind the scenes to continue to support all students in their careers decisions, including our annual Bath Spa campus visit for Year 10, links are being created with Airbus as one of our key local employers, as well as another Careers Fair in March.

A request!

We continue to be eager to enhance our Alumni connections as well as further expand our employer and business contacts. If this is an area you are interested in, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sdavis@somervaleschool.com](mailto:sdavis@somervaleschool.com)

***Mrs S Davis***

***Year 11 Leader and Careers Lead  
Somervale School***



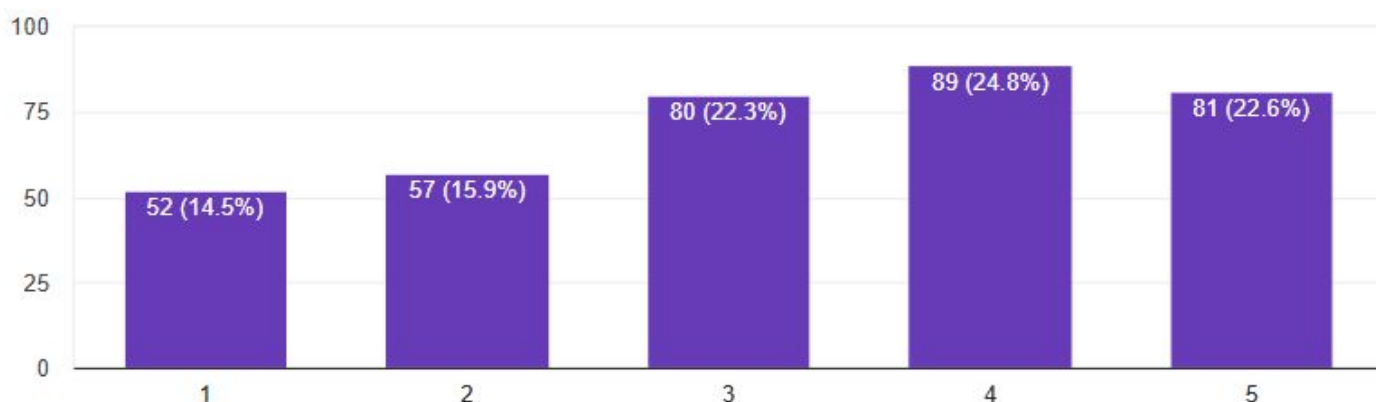
# English Department

As usual, this has been a very busy term in the English department.

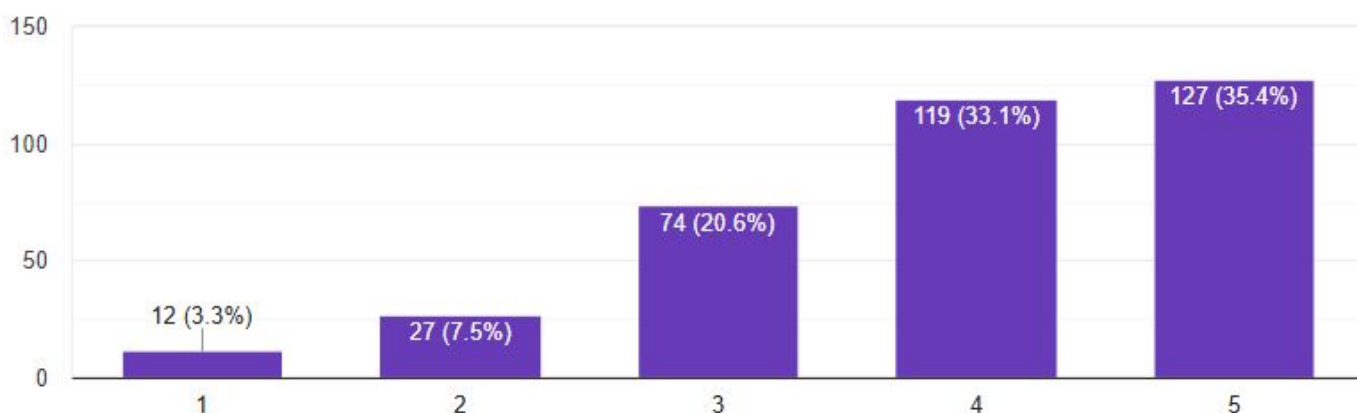
## KS3 News

Our KS3 students completed a reading survey at the start of the term and we were very pleased to find that around 70% of the respondents enjoy reading - and almost 23% say that they enjoy it a lot.

This is above the levels reported nationally according to the Annual Literacy Survey carried out by the National Literacy Trust in 2025 in which just 32.7% of children aged 8 to 18 stated that they enjoyed reading.



While the trend nationally is to read less across different age groups, when asked about the importance of reading, almost 90% of our respondents declared that reading is important to them, and over 35% say it is very important.





# English Department

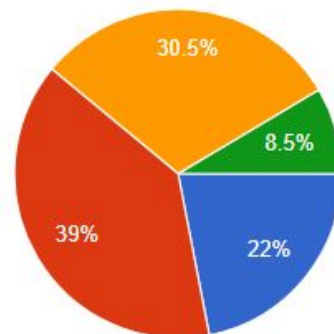
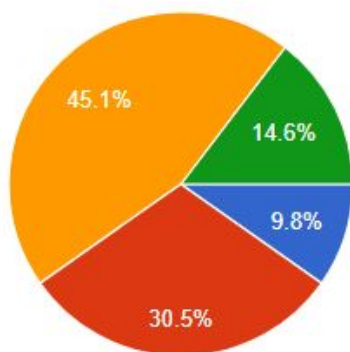
We know good readers are more successful in their GCSEs and later in life: that's why at Somervale, we place huge emphasis on developing reading skills that can be transferable to all subjects.

On that note, well done to all our new Word Millionaires: you are leading the way towards achievement, success and excellence.

## KS4 News

In KS4, Year 11 had their first round of mock exams and we were very impressed with their commitment.

According to the survey that we asked students to complete after their mocks, almost 90% of our respondents stated that they revised at least 1 hour for English Literature, and around 80% did the same for English Language.



From our students' feedback, it is clear that memorising techniques, completing revision on Seneca and watching YouTube tutorials have been the most popular revision strategies.

The survey has also highlighted that our students find revising for Language a bit more challenging. These responses will help us put support and resources in place to ensure that all students feel confident when it comes to revision.



# English Department

## Extracurricular activities

Our **Thursday clubs** have also been busy this term. If you are keen on reading and writing, why not join Mrs Yates' Creative Writing Club after school in UG5? You will learn to take your creativity to the next level!



If you prefer the spoken word, try Public Speaking Club with Mrs Thompson at lunchtime in UG2. We are preparing for our first competition, so why not challenge yourself and give it a go?





# English Department

On Friday 19th December we held our annual book exchange event or 'Jolabokaflod' with year 7.

This is an Icelandic Christmas tradition where families exchange books at Christmas and read them with a mug of steaming hot chocolate. Students from Year 7 choose a book to take home and read over the Christmas holiday period, with a hot chocolate sachet to enjoy with it.

Thank you, once again, to all the parents and students who donated books to school for this lovely event.



# Physical Education

## Students of the Term in Physical Education

Class & Teacher	Student & Reason
7Q Mr Kelly	<b>Bella L.</b> for her continued progress in PE.
7Q Miss Tanner	<b>Albert C</b> for his consistent positive attitude to lessons.
7Q Miss Dury	<b>Charlie D</b> for excellent progress in rugby this term!
7W Mr Pearce	<b>Willow J</b> for great enthusiasm and sporting performance!
7W Miss Dury	<b>Lacie V</b> for great attitude in PE and in fixtures!
8Y Mr Kelly	<b>Lily-Rose P</b> for excellent enthusiasm in PE
8Y Miss Dury	<b>Riley W</b> for great leadership and performance in Rugby!
8Y Miss Tanner	<b>Jake R</b> as he is an amazing role model for the rest of the group.
8X Mr Kelly	<b>Jacob M</b> for showing excellent progression in his skill development
8X Miss Tanner	<b>Jasper P</b> for his amazing effort and performance in table tennis.
9Y Mr Kelly	<b>Elsa K</b> for a huge improvement in her trampolining this term.
9Y Miss Dury	<b>Annabel P</b> for being a great leader and coach in rugby!
9Y Miss Tanner	<b>Lucas L</b> for his continued high work rate lesson and determination to do well.
9X Miss Dury	<b>Dillon J</b> for great performance and effort in Rugby!



# Physical Education

<b>9X Miss Tanner</b>	<b>Adam K</b> for his continued progress in table tennis.
<b>9X Mr Kelly</b>	<b>Mia S</b> for her continued enthusiasm and energy this year.
<b>10 Exam PE</b>	<b>Albie S</b> for his impressive knowledge around the Musculoskeletal and the respiratory system!
<b>10 Child Development</b>	<b>Amy R</b> for working incredibly hard on making sure her coursework is the best it can be, by also choosing to spend her own time after school to improve it!
<b>10 Dance</b>	<b>Amber N</b> for her fab attitude and catching up on missed choreo
<b>10Y</b>	<b>Kyle C</b> for his his efforts during American Football
<b>10X</b>	<b>Christine M</b> for 100% effort and energy every lesson!
<b>11Y</b>	<b>Faith H</b> for being a positive role model for others.
<b>11X</b>	<b>Zac R</b> for his continued effort organising and refereeing his peers despite his ongoing injury.
<b>11 Exam PE</b>	<b>Josh T</b> for working extremely hard in coursework lessons!
<b>11 Dance</b>	<b>Ruby A</b> for her fantastic mock performance
<b>Dance Club</b>	<b>Olivia M</b> for stepping up when I needed her to do extra!

# Physical Education

## Football

Our Year 8&9 girls football team also took the trip to Wells this term to play the Blue School, in which we came away with 1 loss and 1 win. They displayed some amazing football and determination throughout the game. Well done to our two player of the matches, **Chloe M & Jasmine D.**



## Netball

Our YR10/11 Netballers played some brilliant netball against UCS Seniors girls (A sixth form team from London who were touring)! This was a brilliant experience for both schools and the game was fantastic to watch! Both teams played brilliantly with the Somervale Girls leading for the majority of the game. UCS just took the win in the last few minutes but, the Somervale squad played some exceptional Netball (especially considering some of their students were 2 years older them)!





# Physical Education

Our Year 7 team played in the B&NES netball tournament this term where there was some brilliant performances from all players! Special mentions to **Willow**, **Taiya** and **Lacie** who achieved either player of the match or coaches player! Year 7 also played brilliantly against The Blue School where they played some great netball with **Willow** gaining player of the match and **Lacie** achieving coach's player!



Our Year 8 Netball team also competed in the B&NES Netball tournament where some excellent play was shown! Special mentions to **Calley** for her amazing interceptions, Best play was **Skye Y** who scored some excellent shots and to **Isla K** for some amazing defensive work!

Our Year 9 Netballers took part in a tournament against 4 other schools at Writhlington School. This team achieved some great wins and showed some great teamwork! Shout out to **Hollie S** for some great defensive work and **Lily P & Poppy** for great attacking and movement!





# Physical Education

## Football

A big well done to the Y8 boys to beat a strong Broadoak Team to get through to the second round of the Somerset Cup. Despite a long journey to Minehead, they were beaten 1-0. Team training will start after Christmas in preparation for the BANES league. We also have a range of friendly tournaments to allow all students to get involved in.



An amazing well done to the Year 10&11 Girls football team who finished 3rd in their B&NES Tournament. After coming 1st in their group, they lost out in the semi-final to a very strong Ralph Allen side, putting them into the 3rd-4th place play off. An amazing performance by **Dianne G** in goal and a last minute half volley by **Isla H** meant the girls came away with the bronze medal. Well done all!





# Physical Education

## Rugby

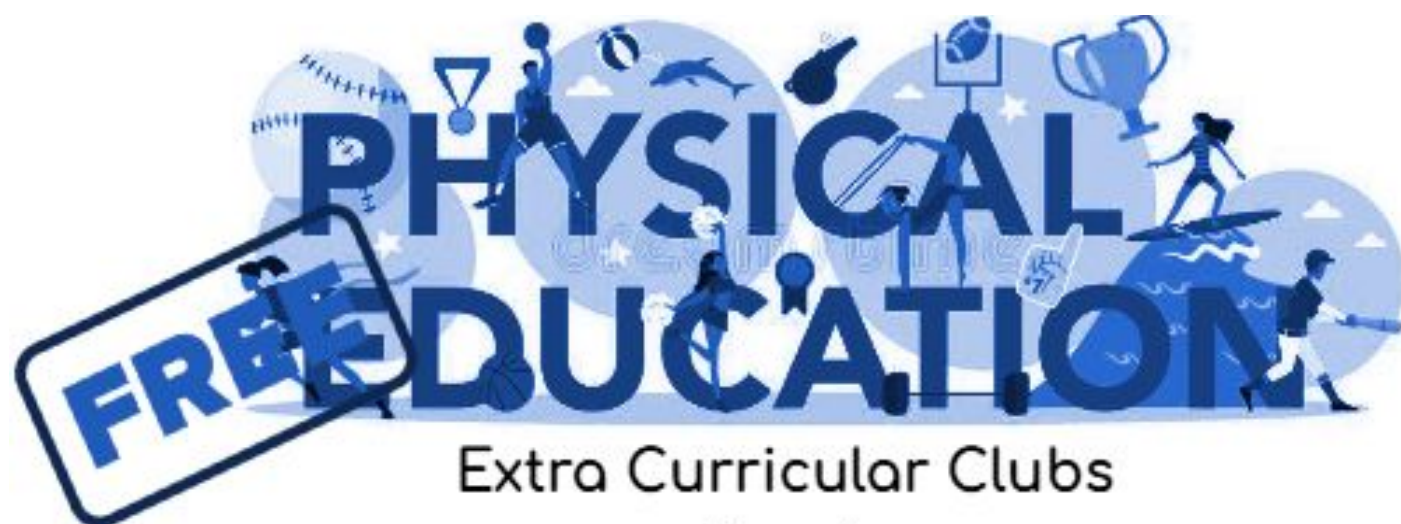
Year 7,8,9&10 have continued with their rugby fixtures this term against local schools. All teams have put out excellent performances, with a special mention to the developing Y10 team stepping into the season late and enjoying their first match against Norton Hill. Y9 boys continue to be unbeaten this season.



This term also rounds up girls rugby training after school on a Wednesday. Despite this photo only showing a few of the girls, Miss Low wants to thank everyone who continued coming to training, even despite some horrific weather! Also a huge thank you to **Abi P** from Year 12 who came and helped out with our last few sessions.



# Physical Education



## Extra Curricular Clubs

Term 3

	Lunchtime (12.40-1.25pm)	Afterschool (3.30-4.25pm)
Monday	Astro Turf open to all year groups. <i>Studded boots or astro boots required.</i>	Boys Football *Trampolining Club
Tuesday		Girls Football Club Indoor Cricket
Wednesday		Netball Club
Thursday		Catch-ups
Friday		Catch-ups

\* Trampolining is sign up only. £4.50 per session. Please email [ikelly@somervaleschool.com](mailto:ikelly@somervaleschool.com) for details.

If you want to join a club, meet the PE department in the changing rooms straight after school.

All fixtures are on the Google Classroom: j37g7zg





# House News

## Somervale Houses Foodbank Collection

This term, each house collected the Needed Christmas Items for the Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Food Bank. Students brought in a variety of tinned foods, toiletries, christmas chocolates and other essential items. It was great to see so many of our students contributing to this cause!

As a school we have also donated £221, half the money raised from our most recent non uniform day.

Thank you to all students and staff who made a contribution!



Bath, Keynsham  
& Somer Valley  
**Foodbank**  
Together with Trussell



# House News

## House Christmas Tree Decoration Club 🎄

It has been lovely to see so many students getting involved with the Christmas tree decorations club! Students have made a variety of decorations for their house christmas tree including Pom Poms, painted baubles, candy canes, mini trees and garlands that all feature the houses colours! Well done all!



## House Football Matches!

During the last week of term, each year group has the opportunity to represent their house in a house football tournament! Students were really excited about this and were assigned team captains/representatives to help organise teams! Results will be announced next term/P6 Friday! The Year 7's started the week off superbly with some great football being shown!

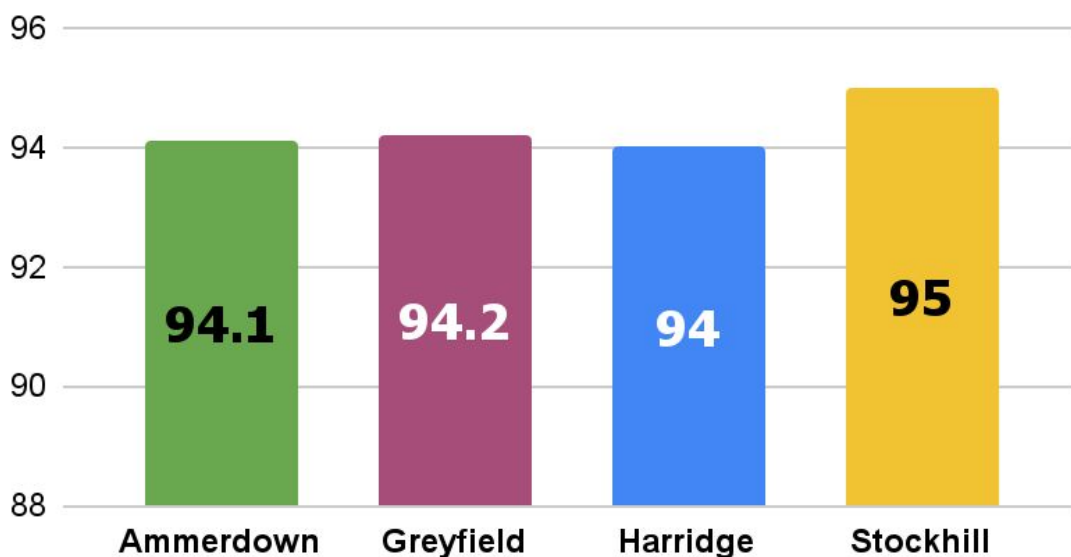




# House News



## Attendance %



Big shout out to **Stockhill** who had the highest attendance this term! Very close for 2nd place however!

## Halloween Competition Winners!

Thank you to everyone who submitted entries, we saw a variety of different mediums used, which was fab to see! A huge well done to our top 3, particularly **Molly** who produced an incredible Lorax transition video.

1st - **Molly-May G**, 7BST (**Ammerdown**)

2nd - **Liviya J**, 10ZYA (**Greyfield**)

3rd - **Kian B**, 7BCH (**Greyfield**)

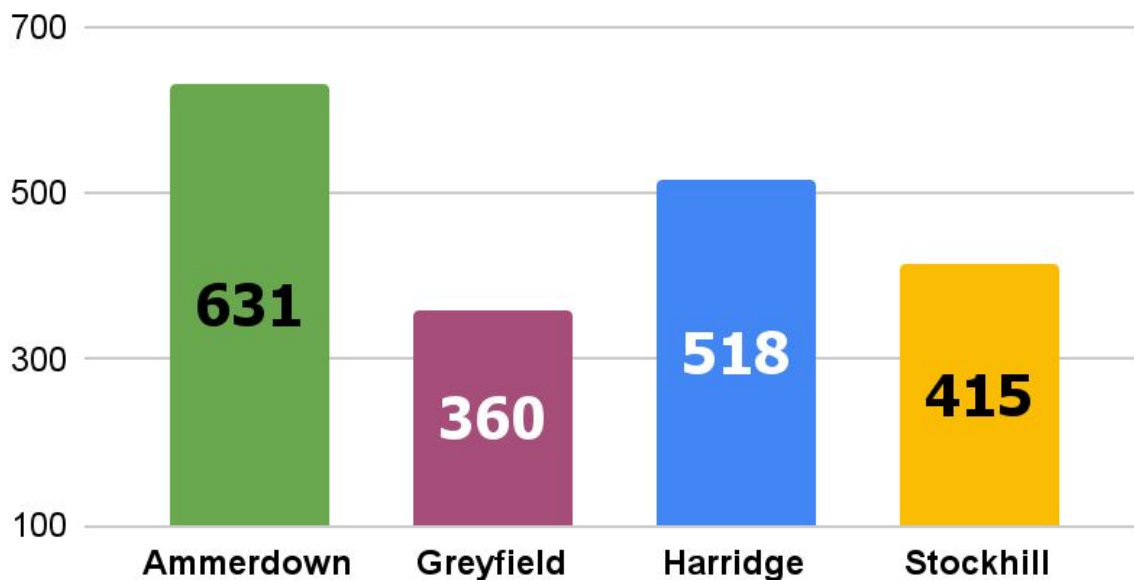


# House News

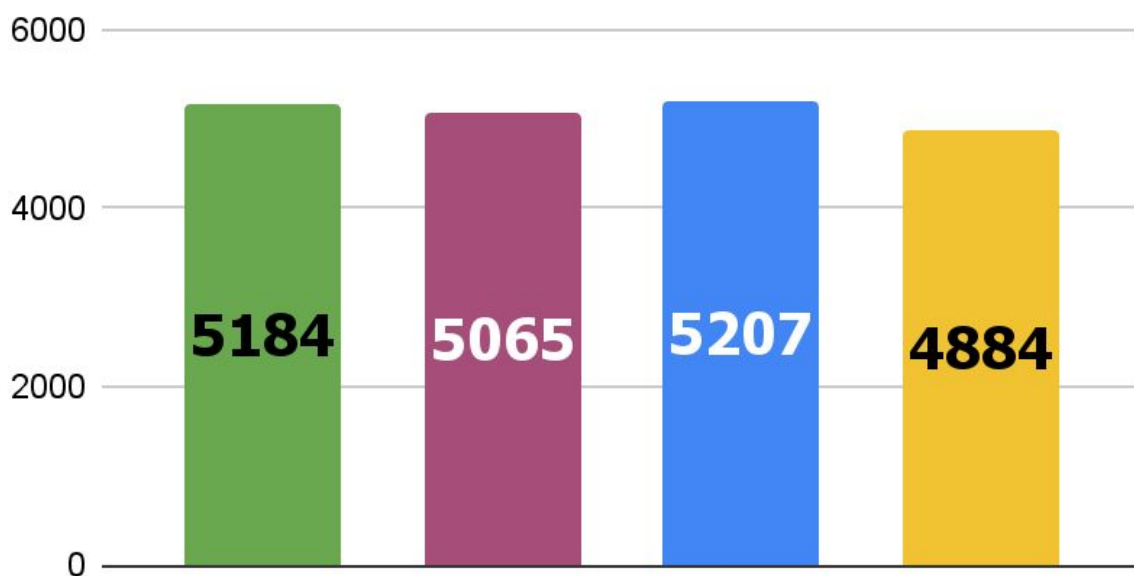
## House Points and Achievements

Below are the results for Term 2 Raffle Tickets! Well done **Ammerdown**!

### Thank you - Raffle Tickets



### Achievement Points



Shout out to **Harridge** for the overall best house points in term 2! However, many houses gained lots of house points in term 2 and it is still very close!



# House News

## Gingerbread House Competition

During this term and over the Christmas period, Mr Gentle and the **Greyfield** House reps have launched a Ginger Bread House Competition! If any students make a Ginger Bread House over the christmas break, please send the gingerbread houses via email to [lgentle@somervaleschool.com](mailto:lgentle@somervaleschool.com).

These houses can be made out of anything; not just gingerbread! We look forward to seeing your creations!



## Christmas Card making

It was great to see so many of our students getting involved with the Christmas Card Competition! It showed how so many of our students are very creative and talented! Thank you to everyone who took part and produced fantastic card designs. A special well done to our top 2, **Emilia S** in 7JBU for her Grinch inspired card and **Ruby R** in 7BCH. Excellent effort everyone!



# Pastoral Department

## INTERNET SAFETY TALK FOR PARENTS

**WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 6.30PM - 7.30PM**

We'd like to invite you to a parents evening "It is never going to happen to my child... ?" which aims to raise awareness of Child Exploitation, use of social media apps and gaming. The session will be run by Andri Nicolaou from Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Content:

- Overview of online risks (gaming and social media).
- Exploitation of children online / offline.
- Top tips on starting a conversation with your child about the exploitation/grooming and how to work together to use the internet safely.

[click here for microsoft teams link](#)



## Christmas tips for SEND families!

- ☒ Put presents in one big box and let your child open them at their own pace over the following days
- ☒ Avoid surprises by picking gifts from their list and wrapping them in clear cellophane (or not at all)
- ☒ Add batteries to toys before wrapping
- ☒ No food rules. Who says pizza and pot noodles can't be Christmas dinner?
- ☒ You do you! Don't feel guilty telling friends or relatives if something doesn't work for you
- ☒ Don't put unrealistic pressures on yourself. The holidays can be overwhelming for everyone, so stick to your regular routine if you want to

contact 

# SEND News

<https://banespcf.co.uk/events/> - link to B&NES Parent Carer Forum's Cafe

## January 2026

### Friday 9th

9 January, 2026 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Café – Batheaston

Batheaston Village Hall School Lane, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, BANES, United Kingdom

Roxy runs our group held at the Village Hall, Batheaston - right next to Batheaston Primary School. This group is our longest running drop-in café and you're guaranteed a warm welcome. Come and get to know other parent carers, share stories, experiences and spend time with people who truly get it. We'll make you tea...

Free



### Tuesday 13th

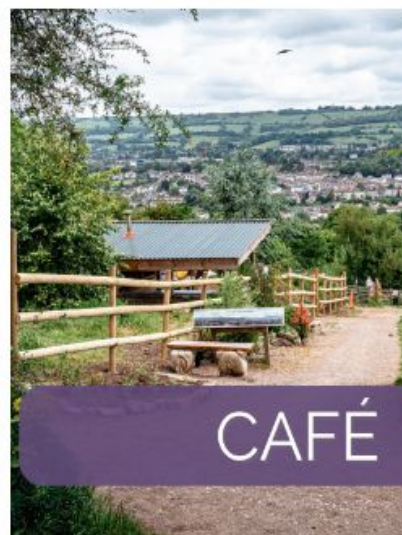
13 January, 2026 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Café – Bath City Farm

Bath City Farm Kelston View, Whiteway, Bath, United Kingdom

Mandy and Lucy run this supportive group from the beautiful setting of Bath City Farm. When the weather is good we sit outside, otherwise we're inside keeping warm & dry! We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday in every month, apart from Christmas and half-term holidays. Come along and get to know other parent...

Free



<https://visitbath.co.uk/whats-on/dorothy-house-interactive-nature-trail-p351665>

[3](#)

<https://visitbath.co.uk/whats-on/christmas-advent-trail-on-bath-skyline-p386252>

[3](#)



# School Office

HELP SUPPORT



## SOMERVALE SCHOOL

**HELP US TO SECURE FUNDING FOR OUR NEW LEGO STEM CLUB WITH THE TESCO BLUE TOKEN SCHEME.**

The Lego Stem Club will introduce students to engineering concepts through Lego-based activities, also creating an inclusive space for students to develop teamwork and innovation.



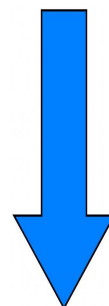
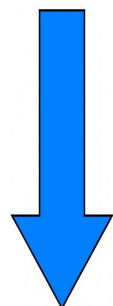
**Voting to commence from October 2025 – Mid January 2026**  
**In the following stores**

**PEASEDOWN  
ST JOHN  
EXPRESS  
BA2 8DN**

**MIDSOMER  
NORTON  
SUPERSTORE  
BS39 7SW**

**COMBE  
DOWN  
EXPRESS  
BA2 5RU**

**BATH  
WESTGATE  
BUILDING  
BA1 1EB**



**If you have any Lego you would like to donate towards our new STEM club please drop it into reception. Thank you in advance.**

# School Office

# Kip McGrath™

Est. 1976

## ENGLISH AND MATHS TUTORING

The team at Kip McGrath have been wonderful in building my son's lost confidence. The lessons were engaging, fun and the proof of learning really showed in school exams.

Amy, Year 7 parent

Kip McGrath Midsomer Norton



Build your child's confidence with our qualified tutors



Primary - Secondary • Proven Methods • Personalised Learning

Book a free assessment today

8A High Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2LE



[kipmcgrath.co.uk/midsomer-norton](https://kipmcgrath.co.uk/midsomer-norton)



01761 569005



# Important Dates

## Term 3

Monday 5th January - Inset Day

Tuesday 6th January - Return to school Week B

Thursday 15th January - Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 22nd January - Year 11 Parents Evening

Friday 30th January - Aim Higher Bath Spa Campus Trip

Thursday 5th February - Year 9 Parents Evening

Wednesday 11th February - School Nurse visit for immunisations

Friday 13th February - Last day of term

# Term Dates 2025-2026



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

## Term Dates

### Academic Year 2025/2026

#### **Term 1**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

#### **Term 2**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### **Term 3**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

#### **Term 4**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

#### **Term 5**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

#### **Term 6**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026  
(Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July last day for students)

## INSET DAYS

#### **Inset day 1**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

#### **Inset day 2**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

#### **Inset day 3**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

#### **Inset day 4**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### **Inset day 5**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

#### **Inset day 6**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026

#### ***National Bank Holidays:***

*Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025*

*Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025*

*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026*

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026*

*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026*

*Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026*

*Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026*



# Term Dates 2026-2027



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

## Term Dates Academic Year 2026/2027

### **Term 1**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026

### **Term 2**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026

### **Term 3**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027

### **Term 4**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027

### **Term 5**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027

### **Term 6**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2027

## INSET DAYS

### **Inset day 1**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026

### **Inset day 2**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026

### **Inset day 3**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

### **Inset day 4**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026

### **Inset day 5**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2026

### **Inset day 6**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027

### ***National Bank Holidays:***

*Friday 25th December 2026*  
*Saturday 26th December 2026*  
*Monday 28th December 2026*  
*Friday 1st January 2027*  
*Friday 26th March 2027*  
*Monday 29th March 2027*  
*Monday 3rd May 2027*  
*Monday 31st May 2027*  
*Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2027*