



Weekly Update: 24th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for your diary

Monday 27th October – 31st October	Half term holiday
Tuesday 4th November	Last day to bring in Christmas Shoes boxes
Wednesday 5th November	Discovery Sharing Morning
Thursday 6th November 9.00am	SENDCo & PFSA Coffee Morning
Thursday 6th November 2.15am	Pippin Sharing Afternoon
Monday 10th - Friday 14th November	Anti-Bullying Week (Monday 10 th November- Odd Socks Day)
Thursday 13th November 9.00-10.30am	Open Morning for prospective new families
Friday 14th November	PTA Disco (Details to follow)
Tuesday 18th November	Stand Against Violence workshop for Year 6
Thursday 20th November	PTA Meeting @ The Firehouse 7pm
Thursday 4th December 1pm	Panto - Sleeping Beauty (Gifted by the PTA)
Friday 5th December	Maigold Sharing Morning
Monday 8th December	Carols on the Green (Details to follow)
Tuesday 9th December	SATs Information Evening for Year 6 Parents/Carers
Thursday 11th December	Blenheim Sharing Morning
Monday 15th December	Afternoon Nativity performance to parents
Tuesday 16th December	Evening Nativity performance to parents
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 18th December	Christingle making in school
Friday 19th December 9.15am	Carol Service at St Andrew's Church; Last Day of term; PTA Class raffle

Dates and INSET Days for Academic Year 2025/26

- Autumn Term (First Half): Thursday 4th September- Friday 24th October 2025
- HALF TERM BREAK: 27th-31st October 2025**
- Autumn Term (Second Half): Monday 3rd November- Friday 19th December 2025
- INSET Day: Monday 5th January 2026
- Spring Term (First half): Tuesday 6th January- Thursday 12th February
- INSET Day: Friday 13th February 2026
- HALF TERM BREAK: 16th-20th February 2026**
- Spring Term (Second half): Monday 23rd February- Thursday 2nd April 2026
- EASTER BREAK: Monday 3rd April- Friday 17th April 2026**
- Summer Term (First half): Monday 20th April- Friday 22nd May 2026
- HALF TERM BREAK: Monday 25th May- Friday 29th May 2026**
- INSET Day: Monday 1st June 2026
- Summer Term (Second half): Tuesday 2nd June- Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Headteacher:
Mrs Ali Pook

Curry Rivel C of E VC Primary School, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset TA10 0HD
Telephone: 01458 251404

e-mail: office@curryrivel.somerset.sch.uk website: www.curryrivelprimary.co.uk

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to see you all at the Parents' Evenings this week- having a moment to relax with a cup of tea and a doughnut! Many of you commented on the warm welcome the school staff, SENDCo and PTA team gave you in the school hall, and how the teachers shared useful information with you about your child. Thank you to our enthusiastic House Captains who volunteered to welcome families and direct you to your meetings. Please remember you do not need to wait until a parents' evening to share concerns or queries- contact your class teacher in the first instance as they will be happy to help. The next parents' evenings will be in end of March/April.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

We are joining forces with St Andrew's Church in their Christmas charitable work with the 'Shoebox Appeal'. Despite the difficulties that they face every day, through poverty, illness, disability, or other disadvantages, receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe. Sally Harvey, from St Andrew's Church, met all the children this week to explain how to pack a Christmas shoebox, and have given the children leaflets to take home. If you are interested in filling a Christmas Shoebox with gifts, you can download the leaflet with list of items etc. from the Blythwood Care website at <https://blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal/>. Your filled boxes need to be delivered to school **by 4th November** (After the half term break). Please note that this is a completely voluntary activity.

Remembrance-Poppy Appeal

As we move into November and Remembrance Day approaches, we will be selling poppies in school every day for the first week after half term. House Captains will be selling the merchandise (Paper poppies, wrist bands, sharpeners, button hole poppies etc) for a small donation (suggested donation 50p-£1.50). Please note that slap bands are £1.50, but we have politely asked the children to wear these out of school. Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion. We will be holding a minute's silence in the school hall on Tuesday 11th November. A Remembrance Sunday Service will be held at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 9th November, where I will attend with school pupils- all parents, carers and pupils are welcome to join us. If you would like your child to represent the school with myself as Head Teacher, please let the school office know.

500 Words: Message from Mrs Samuel, English Lead

After half term, all children in Key Stage 2 will have the fantastic opportunity to create a story for the BBC's 500 Words competition. This is a wonderful chance for our young writers to unleash their creativity and showcase their talent! If you do not wish for your child's entry to be submitted by us, please ensure you notify the school office by Monday, 3rd November. For more information about the competition and other terms, please visit [BBC 500 Words](#). We can't wait to see the amazing stories our students will create!

Starting and Transferring School in September 2026?

The portal is now open for applications. Parents and carers of children due to start or transfer school in September 2026 can apply now. The deadline for secondary and upper school applications is **31 October 2025** and the deadline for junior, middle and starting school applications is **15 January 2026**.

Parents Online Safety Presentation @Huish

Please find the slides from this informative presentation attached- do take time to look as there are some great links, advice and resources.

National Safeguarding alert

We have been made aware of a national safeguarding alert about the children's books 'Spy dog/Spy Pup' and 'Spy Cat' written by Andrew Cope.

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The books ask children to explore the associated website in order to find out more about characters. It appears the website (identified on the back or inside the book) has been compromised, and takes users to a highly pornographic website with no age verification.

We have checked our library and classrooms and removed all of these books if we have found any. We are asking you as a precaution to please check if you have any of these books at home and to remove them from your child's access, until confirmation is received that this issue has been resolved.



For Parents - App Safety Settings

It's no surprise to see a lot of focus and scrutiny on tech companies, their features and safety settings being so prominent in the media, particularly safety settings failures. However, that shouldn't detract from the fact that safety settings are important; they're not perfect and never will be, but they are there for a reason. Below are safety information for a range of Apps.

- Discord app settings - [Discord app safety guide for parents | Internet Matters](#)
- TikTok parental controls - [TikTok parental controls guide | Internet Matters](#)
- Snapchat parental controls - [Snapchat privacy settings guide for parents | Internet Matters](#)
- Instagram parental controls - [Instagram parental controls guide | Internet Matters](#)
- Pinterest privacy and safety settings - [Pinterest safety settings guide for parents | Internet Matters](#)
- FaceTime privacy and safety settings - [FaceTime parental controls guide | Internet Matters](#)
- WhatsApp privacy guide - [WhatsApp privacy guide - Internet Matters](#)

FREE WORKSHOPS



WISE UP WORKSHOPS
Empowering Parent Carers to succeed

Wise Workshops @ Ridgway Hall Langport

- Friday 24th October-**
EBSA
presented by SPCF & EP Service @ 12.30-14.30 & Online
- Monday 8th December-**
Understanding Autism & related needs
presented by Bibic @ 12.30-14.30 & Online
- Wednesday 11th February-**
Autistic Masking
presented by Platypus @ 10.00-12.00 & Online
- Wednesday 13th May-**
Family Wellbeing
presented by Platypus @ 10.00-12.00 & Online
- Thursday 11th June-**
Empowering parents: Building strong SEN partnerships with schools
presented by Insight @ 12.30-14.30 & Online

Book now:
www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/

These sessions are open to all parent carers in Somerset who have a child with additional needs and/or a disability.

 

Message from the PTA

Thank you for your support in raising nearly £200 for the school on Monday! Well done to Maigold our mixing it up winners!



🦋 PTA Disco – 14th November! 🦋

Get ready to dance the night away at our PTA Disco on Thursday 14th November! This year's theme is "Fancy Dress or Dress to Impress" so come along in your best costume or smartest outfit and show off your style on the dance floor. Tickets are just £5, which includes a hot dog and squash, and there'll be plenty more fun with our tuck shop and glam station, both accepting cash or PTA Bux. Don't miss out on one of the most exciting nights of the school year.

Get your tickets now at crpta.co.uk!

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Lates

We are aiming to reduce the number of pupils who arrive late.

Class	Number of lates last week	Number of lates this week
Pippin	4	3
Maigold	1	3
Discovery	3	3
Camelot	2	1
Blenheim	1	1
TOTAL	11	11

Please remember that being late can lead to your child:

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons making them fall behind
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future
- The impact of being just a little late can accumulate to a loss of learning time.
- The wellbeing and progress of our pupils is our priority, and we know that absence from school is often a sign that additional support may be needed.

The impact of being just a little late can accumulate to a loss of learning time.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days

Overall attendance this week (School target 96%): 95.74%

Highest attendance: Maigold (99.1%)

Most improved: Discovery

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Celebration

We were able to welcome parents/carers to our celebration assembly today. Well done to the following pupils:

Class Cup Awards

Pippin: Elsie HS
Maigold: Florence
Discovery: Reuben
Camelot: Elliot
Blenheim: Megan

Lunchtime stars

Pippin: Erin
Maigold: Annabel
Discovery: Brody-Luca
Camelot: Rosie
Blenheim: Arya

Headteacher Value awards: Dylan (Blenheim); Elliot and Oscar (Camelot)

FREE* HALF TERM ACTIVITIES *FREE



TREASURES OF ST CATHERINE'S

St Catherine's Church, Drayton TA10 0JT
Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th October 2025
10am – 3pm

Mysterious objects
Clues to solve
A tower to climb (over 12s only)
Is your teddy ready for our zipline?
Our village treasures to explore
FREE refreshments

(All outdoor activities weather dependent!)

Heritage Fund

Thanks to National Lottery Players

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

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 CATHEDRAL

WELLS ART

ST. CLEERS CHAPEL & FRONT THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENT

NOT GETTING INN

Christmas Community Pantomime

JOIN US FOR A SHOW BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WITH SLAPSTICK FUN, LAUGHTER, BRILLIANT SONGS AND A HEARTFELT MESSAGE OF HOPE AND JOY FROM THE HEART OF THE NATIVITY

28th NOVEMBER | EDGAR HALL, SOMERTON

Doors open at 5:30 pm - Show time 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Totally **FREE** - with free refreshments - although booking is essential!

Book online at
www.tinyurl.com/somertonpanto

ST. CLEERS CHAPEL
Sharing Jesus' Story with Little

WWW.FRONT-THEATRE.COM WWW.STCLEERS.ORG

St Gregory Players Present:

A Christmas Carol

Novel by Charles Dickens
Adapted for stage by Karen Louise Hebden

Performances on Thursday 20th, Friday 21st at 7:30pm and Saturday 22nd November at 2:30pm and 7:30pm at Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.

Tickets available from www.seary.co.uk/achristmascarol (Print at home or use e-ticket)
Prices £10 or £8 Concessions for minors and full time students.
For additional needs please call 07773512333 or 07719939516 or email stingregoryplayers@gmail.com

This is an outdoor production by arrangement with St. Helen Books.

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Have a wonderful half-term.

Ali Pook

Head Teacher

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