



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

## Mid-Somerset Festival Verse Speaking Competition

St. Mary's have entered nearly 40 children from Year 1 to Year 6 into the *Mid-Somerset Festival Verse Speaking Competition* on Tuesday, 4th March 2025. A big thank you to all the parents who have signed their children up for this exciting event!

We will meet with the children weekly to support them as they practice, rehearse, and refine their poem deliveries. To ensure we make the most of our time together, please help your child learn their poem as soon as possible. This will allow us to focus on the more important work of perfecting their performance!

Thank you for your support!

### Speaking Guidance

- *The chosen poem (from a choice of 2) must be learnt off by heart.*
- *Stand still with relaxed hands - in other words don't fidget!*
- *Always good to settle down by giving a clear intro of title and poet straight to the adjudicator and take a tiny pause before starting the poem.*
- *Don't rush delivery.*
- *Catch the mood of the poem; demonstrate an understanding of its themes through the use of voice and facial expressions.*
- *No acting or extreme actions are allowed because the idea is that the voice communicates effectively by the use of a variety of tone, pitch and pace together with accompanying emotions being visual facially.*
- *Small gestures such as a shrug - if relevant- tend to be acceptable.*
- *Make the last line count.*
- *Enjoy the rapturous applause.*

## House Points Winners



Well done to **Sapphire** House for taking the lead, although it is very close, with **Topaz, Ruby & Emerald** catching them up!

## Attendance Winners



Congratulations to the **Badgers & Eagles** for having **100%** attendance last week. This week's champions are **Rabbits** with **97%** attendance - well done.

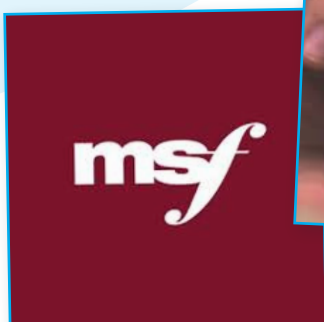
## \*Correction Notice\*

We would like to correct an error in our previous newsletter. We didn't give **Arthur E** the credit he deserved for competing magnificently in both the Swimming Gala and the Football Tournament - **Sorry Arthur!**

## Wish list

We have a wishlist of books to help pupils, particularly in EYFS, with their Maths knowledge. If you would like to purchase a book for the school, your support would be greatly appreciated, and it would make a valuable difference in the education of our youngest pupils.

<https://amzn.eu/9IXEron>



# Headteacher's Award

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

- Ducklings** Isabel & George
- Rabbits** Vinnie & Esme
- Badgers** Ben & Rowan
- Foxes** Olivia & Dexter, Oliver & Robin
- Lions** Poppy & Rachel
- Eagles** Imogen & Jude



## Outside Achievements



Well done to **Bea & Mollie** for receiving their gymnastic medal.



## Hedgehogs



### Class News:

Wow, the last two weeks have flown by in Hedgehogs! We are all very happy to be back and all of the children have settled happily and enjoyed welcoming some new children. We have spent time talking about what we did over the Christmas break, sharing what traditions we do at home with our families and also what we are looking forward to doing this year.

Last week, our focus book was 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears'; this week, it was 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. We like to use rhyming stories in class to help children explore the fun of language and predict what is coming next. Stickman is such a fun story that the children have been engaged with all the activities we have been doing this week. You could try reading Stickman at home and see if your child can tell you what is coming next!

The children enjoy learning about the seasons and exploring how the weather and environment change. Even though it feels like we have been learning about winter for ages, the children are still enjoying the odd spell of snow and ice we have been having. We learn by being hands-on in Hedgehogs, so please ensure all children have warm layers, hats, gloves and an appropriate coat so we can always get outside to play!

Mrs Harrison & Miss James





# Ducklings



## Class News:

Welcome back and a Happy New year to you all. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. We would like to thank you all again for spoiling us all with your lovely Christmas presents.

The children are enjoying our new topic of Space this term. We have discussed lots of facts that we already know.

In Literacy we are reading 'Zim, Zam, Zoom' and 'Whatever Next'. The children have written lists of what they would take to the moon if they went.

In Maths, we introduced the concept of zero and continued to develop correct numeral formation and recognition of numbers.

The children explored the recent snow and ice with enthusiasm. The mud kitchen became a snow kitchen for a few days and was a wonderful learning experience.

We have drawn pictures of the solar system with great detail. The children are learning lots of new cutting and joining skills. We look forward to inviting parents in for a DT/Junk modelling workshop in week 5, this term. The children have been taking home many of their creations. Please add any photos to Seesaw if your child creates anything at home.

A fantastic start to the year. Well done Ducklings!

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



# Rabbits



## Class News:

Happy New Year everyone!

Rabbits have come into the new year ready to learn. This term, we are working hard to become more independent with our learning. Rabbits have already made a great start to working more independently.

In English, we have started our book 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies. So far, we have enjoyed reading this book and working on our comprehension skills. This week, we have been making predictions and inferences and looking at the meanings of new words.

In Maths, we are learning about addition and subtraction in 20. We have been learning about number bonds, doubles and near doubles. We enjoyed learning songs to help us remember what we had learned.

This term, we have also started a new unit of painting in art. We have been exploring basic colour theory by mixing secondary colours. We applied our knowledge of colouring mixing to create fantastic artwork inspired by Jasper Johns.

What a great start to the year Rabbits!

Miss Tolfree

# Badgers



## Class News:

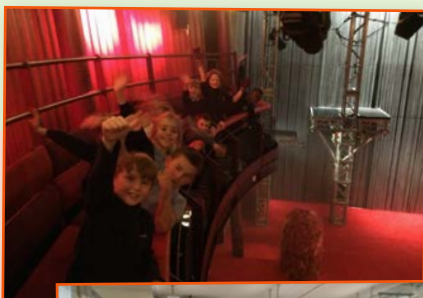
Welcome back and Happy New Year everyone. Badgers have had a super start to the year over the past two weeks, demonstrating a fresh enthusiasm for learning.

In English, we have been reading '*Meerkat Mail*', the children have enjoyed writing all about what Meerkats eat this week. They are looking forward to planning and writing their non-chronological report all about Meerkats over the next few weeks. We are concentrating on key skills in our writing, such as using present tense, lists and expanded noun phrases.

In Maths, we have been exploring *2D shapes* and their properties. Badgers have enjoyed working practically with different shapes, counting their vertices and sides to identify the shape name.

In Science, we have begun looking at our new topics *Everyday Materials* and Badgers have enjoyed investigating the different properties of materials found in their everyday lives and the purposes these materials may be useful for.

Miss Heath



# Foxes



## Class News:

Happy New Year to you all. Foxes have had a super start to the term and this week, were lucky enough to go to The Egg Theatre to watch a fantastic performance of *Robin Hood*. The children were a fabulous audience and have used their experience to write some very detailed recounts about their trip.

In Art, we started our new topic on *sculpture* by looking at the difference between 2D and 3D. The children looked at the work of Kenyan artist Magdalene Odundo for inspiration. Using chalk, the children drew detailed sketches of sculptures highlighting light and dark areas to make a 2D object look 3D.

In Computing, we have started to think about how to collect data to answer questions we might want to know the answer to. The children experimented with collecting data and looked at how accurate they were and how they could improve their data collection techniques.

Finally, in Geography, we have begun to look at the *USA* and used atlases to locate the country and find out some of its key physical features. The children already knew quite a lot about America and are looking forward to learning more about this fascinating country.

We have a busy term lined up for the Foxes and we can't wait to get stuck into Term 3!

Mrs Brown



# Lions



## Class News:

Our Year 5 Lions have started the year in fine style, returning to school with their usual commitment and enthusiasm and demonstrating that they are ready to meet all the exciting experiences 2025 has to offer them head on!

We have begun some new interesting topics this term. In Geography, all of our work will be based around *Global Trade*. This week, we have been looking at where all of our 'stuff' comes from, researching where things arrive in the UK from and finding these places in atlases. We soon realised how much is imported from China!

Our work in English is inspired by the book '*A Galaxy Of Her Own: Amazing Stories of Women in Space*' by Libby Jackson. We have been planning biographies of our own amazing women whom we have invented, deciding what their great space achievements might have been. Term 3 has a real *Space* focus with a lot of connections to the Earth and beyond through our work in Science and also

in Art, where we have been studying propaganda posters linked to the *Space Race* and examples of retrofuturism artwork.

We had a really fun time in Latin where we played a game of real-life human Guess Who? In our unit on *Adjectives and Agreement*, we have been describing ourselves (eye colour, hair colour etc) and we created game cards so that we could play our own version of the classic board game. For example, you might have had to sit down if 'capillos brunos habes!' (Translation: You have brown hair.)

Finally, we enjoyed performing to a large audience at a music event this week. We have been working hard at developing our singing skills with Mrs Munro.

Mr Daniels



# Eagles



## Class News:

2025 has got off to a flying start in Year 6 Eagles. We have returned to school full of enthusiasm and determination to do our best!

The children have made a great first impression on Miss Woods and are really living our school vision of '*I can do all things!*'

This term, we are continuing with our class novel '*Pig Heart Boy*'. We are going to be writing a balanced argument over the next few weeks debating whether animals organs should be used in human transplants. We are focusing on making our writing as formal as possible by using passive voice and appropriate fronted adverbials.

In Maths, we have started our new unit on *decimals*. A secure understanding of place value is key when working with decimals and we have been revisiting some of our learning from earlier in

the year. Miss Woods has been particularly impressed with Eagles determination with improving their arithmetic scores and we can see even more progress already!

Finally, we have had our first trip of 2025, a visit to the **Lifeskills Centre** in Bristol!

*Timsbury Parish Council* have generously provided us with the funds to enable us to offer this important trip to all Year 6 children for free! We are incredibly grateful for their kind donation; the children had a thoroughly enjoyable day. They learnt a range of skills to help them in their daily lives, including road and fire safety, making a 999 call and staying safe around railways, to name a few of the incredible real-life scenarios they found themselves in.

Mrs Newman and Miss Woods



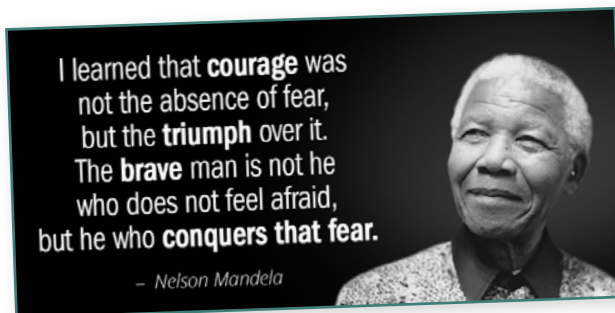
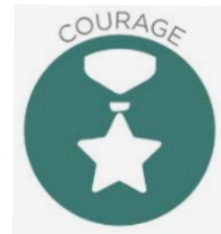
## THANK YOU!

We raised a fantastic £150 to spend on books for the school at the latest Scholastic Book Fair! This money was spent on a range of new Accelerated Reader books to complement our growing collection, including some dyslexia-friendly titles and books for each class to add to their reading corners.



## Courage

Our Christian Value for the term is **Courage**. This week our Collective Worship was based on the theme of courage. We looked at the story of 'David and Goliath'. The story showed us that even someone small and unimportant was able to be courageous when he was faced with a big, boastful bully. We suggested our own positive ways of being courageous when faced with challenges.



## A note about safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school office and ask to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or any of our Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Newman or Mrs Purnell.

**The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.**

## Dates for your Calendar 2024/2025 - Term 3/4

Date	Event
23.01.25	Netball Match v Peasedown St John Primary 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
29.01.25	Girls Football Match v Trinity Church School 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
04.02.25	<i>Badgers parent workshop - 2 PM</i>
06.02.25	Ducklings parent workshop - 9 AM
07.02.25	Foxes parent workshop - 9 AM
07.02.25	NSPCC Number Day
10.02.25	Internet Safety Week
11.02.25	Eagles parent workshop - 2 PM
12.02.25	Speak Out Competition
12.02.25	Rabbits parent workshop - 9 AM
13.02.25	Lions parent workshop - 9 AM
14.02.25	Last day of term 3
11.02.25	Eagles parent workshop - 2 PM
12.02.25	Speak Out Competition
12.02.25	Rabbits parent workshop - 9 AM
13.02.25	Lions parent workshop - 9 AM
14.02.25	Last day of term 3



# Lower fuel bills, warmer homes



**CALL FREE**

**0800 082 2234**

Save money and stay warm with free advice on:

Benefits and money.



How to check your energy bills.



Using your heating controls.



Budgeting and debt.



Cutting your energy bills.



How to avoid damp and mould.



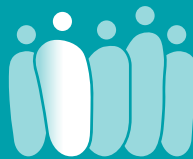
Housing.



Staying warm at home.



# Knife crime awareness events



Bath & North East Somerset

**Violence Reduction Partnership**

Join us at

## **Newbridge Primary School**

Wednesday 22nd January, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

## **Chew Valley School**

Monday 10th February, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Parents and carers in B&NES are invited to learn about the devastating impact of knife crime and how they can support young people to steer away from its dangers at a series of events.

You will hear from a guest speaker with lived experience who has been personally affected by knife crime. There will be an opportunity to hear about the support available for children and families in B&NES and view a partnership film on county lines.

There will also be a panel discussion with an opportunity to ask questions.

Free tickets can be booked in advance via [Eventbrite](#), search for **B&NES VRP** to find your nearest event.

The event is organised by the Bath & North East Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership which aims to prevent and reduce violence in our area.

**Any questions about the event can be emailed to**

[VRP\\_Events@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:VRP_Events@bathnes.gov.uk)

**Or book** your ticket now on [Eventbrite](#)



**For more information visit**

[Bath & North East Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership \(VRP\)](#)



[asvrp](#)



[@asvrp](#)



Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Improving People's Lives



# NEW! JUNIOR CHOIR FREE TRIAL SESSION Tuesday 14th January

Singers of Junior School Age 7-11

**Where:** St Keyna Primary School BS31 2JP

**Time:** 5:45pm - 6:45pm

**What:** Sing all styles of music from rock to pop, classical to folk. High quality singing in a fun and relaxed atmosphere

**How:** Sign up below and come and give it a try



Book a space: <https://wema.org.uk/wema-music-centres>  
Select Keynsham

Membership is free for students entitled to Pupil Premium. Usual fee is £44.82 per double term



**FEB 17TH - 21ST** NEXT THING EDUCATION PRESENTS **9am-4pm**  
**FEBRUARY HALF TERM**

# TECH CAMP

Ofted Registered

**FEBRUARY CAMPS 2025**

£39.99 PER DAY OR £175 FOR 5 DAYS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 5-11

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

SCAN FOR LOCATIONS MAP

NEXT THING EDUCATION CAMPS PRESENTS  
**FEB HALF TERM 2025**  
17TH - 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

Coding & Robots | Circuitry & Inventions | Creative Technology | Expert Engineers | Media Madness

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

**17TH - 21ST FEBRUARY - LIMITED SPACES**  
AGES 5 - 11 MULTI DAY BOOKING DISCOUNTS!

**What Parents Say**

"Absolutely Fantastic!  
First time attending & my son loved it!"

★★★★★

**HOW TO BOOK**

**STEP 1** SCAN THE QR CODE

**STEP 2** FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP

**STEP 3** BOOK ONLINE SPACES LIMITED

BOOK

W: [WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION](http://WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION)  
E: [INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION](mailto:INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION) T: 01442 873150



**FREE  
EVENT**

# Lunar New Year Planetarium Show

FUNDED BY

THE  
ROYAL  
SOCIETY

Saturday 25th January @ Bath Central Library

10:30 - 11:30am | 11:45 am- 12:45pm | 1:45-2:45pm | 3:00-4:00pm



Immerse yourself in the beauty of the night sky as we explore the legends and traditions of this special festival. After the show, join in with family craft activities.

Pre-booking essential. Suitable for ages 5+  
See website for details: [herschelmuseum.org.uk](http://herschelmuseum.org.uk) or [meaa.org.uk](http://meaa.org.uk)

**HERSCHEL MUSEUM  
OF ASTRONOMY**



**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**



# SASS Community Choir

for all autistic young people and their families in B&NES



**Led by Tim Parker**  
The SASS team are excited to be working with Tim and WEMA for our new community choir!



**Dates**  
**(Wednesdays)**  
December 18th  
January 29th  
March 12th  
April 30th  
June 11th  
July 2nd



## Venue

Fosse Way School  
Longfellow Road  
Radstock BA3 3AL  
(Parking available)

## Time

4pm - 5pm  
All ages

Come for as much or as little of the session as you would like!

The SASS team are starting a choir for autistic young people and their families including siblings, parents/carers and grandparents..

**All are welcome!**

Music provides a unique way to connect with others with singing having many health and wellbeing benefits. Let's enjoy some singing together within a fun, friendly and supportive environment!

Parents/carers will also have the opportunity to meet with members of the SASS team for general advice and support during the session.

**A £1 voluntary donation per family is invited.**

For more information contact: [sass@fossewayschool.com](mailto:sass@fossewayschool.com) - 01761 412198 Ext 1

# LIBRARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c  
20 January

## Bath Central Library

### Lego Lab - Family Fun Drop In

Mon - Sat      During opening hours

---

### Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Wednesday      10.30 - 11.00am      22 January

---

### Storytime

Tuesday      10.30 - 11.00pm      21 January

---

### Board Game Saturdays

Saturday      12.30 - 4.00pm      25 January

---

### Art in the Library: Julie Starks

Mon - Sat      During opening hours      throughout January

---

### Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

---

### Winter Reading Challenge

A fun online challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading. Unlock special badges and earn a certificate of achievement once you meet your reading goal!

---

### Lunar New Year: Planetarium Show

Suitable for parents and carers with children aged 5+.      25 January  
Booking required. <https://bath-preservation-trust.merlintickets.co.uk/product/EVE-00250>      10.30am - 4.00pm  
*There will four shows during this time each lasting 40mins*

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via the Virtual Library  
Visit [baneslibraries.co.uk/events](https://baneslibraries.co.uk/events)



# LIBRARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c  
20 January

## Keynsham Library

### Lego Lab - Family Fun Drop In

Mon - Sat      During opening hours

---

### Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Tuesday      9.30 - 10.00am      21 January  
                  10.30 - 11.00am

---

### Storytime

Thursday      10.30 - 11.00pm      23 January

---

### Board Game Saturdays

Saturday      12.30 - 4.00pm      25 January

---

### Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

---

### Winter Reading Challenge

A fun online challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading. Unlock special badges and earn a certificate of achievement once you meet your reading goal!

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via the Virtual Library  
Visit [baneslibraries.co.uk/events](https://baneslibraries.co.uk/events)

# LIBRARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c  
20 January

## Midsomer Norton Library

### Lego Lab - Family Fun Drop In

Mon - Sat      During opening hours

---

### Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Monday      11.00 - 11.30am      20 January

---

### Storytime

Wednesday      10.30 - 11.00pm      22 January

---

### Board Game Saturdays

Saturday      during opening hours      25 January

---

### Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

---

### Winter Reading Challenge

A fun online challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading. Unlock special badges and earn a certificate of achievement once you meet your reading goal!

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via the Virtual Library  
[baneslibraries.co.uk/events](https://baneslibraries.co.uk/events)