



NEWSLETTER 14 – 19TH DECEMBER 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

What a year 2025 has been! There have been so many exciting opportunities for our pupils with too many to mention in an end of term newsletter. However, these experiences have helped to build resilience and character, whilst giving children chances to find out more about the wider world.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas on behalf of all the staff here at Kewstoke Primary, and hope you have a restful New Year.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Wednesday, Aspens delivered our Christmas lunch. Tables were decorated, crackers were pulled, and a truly festive lunch was enjoyed by everyone who sat together in the school hall.



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Our Christmas performance this year was 'Christmas Around the World' where angels were sent to different countries to find out about how Christmas is celebrated across the world. Our angels travelled to Australia, Ireland, China and the United States of America. The children were amazing performers, learning lines and singing songs from their country.

Many thanks go to Mrs Le Guilcher for organising the performances, as well as all the staff for their support and efforts with the rehearsals and actual productions. It was lovely to see so many parents and family members at the performances, as well as friends and adults involved with the school.



WESSEX PODCAST

The latest episode of the official Wessex Learning Trust podcast, *The Only Way is Wessex* is now available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#). In the first Meet the Head episode, they sit down with Rebecca Bennett, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead at Fairlands Middle School. From her journey into education across London and Somerset to her vision for the school's future, Rebecca shares what inspires her every day to support and champion every child in her care. With a passionate, hands-on approach, Rebecca's dedication to her pupils and community shines through in everything she does.



NSSPEA EXTRA -CURRICULAR AFTERNOON

Using Sports Premium funding, we welcomed staff from the North Somerset PE Association for an extra-curricular afternoon. Pupils from across the classes took part in a cup stacking challenge that developed dexterity and motor skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and I would like to thank Mr Jeeves for arranging the sessions and for developing a link with the local PE association.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

Hedgehogs - Olly
Badgers - Melody
Foxes - Feriha

Our 'Values Ambassadors' this week are...

Hedgehogs - Joy
Badgers - Corey
Foxes - Akyedea

'Values Ambassadors' of the term are...

Hedgehogs - Isla
Badgers - Noorah
Foxes - Aria

'Exceptional English Award' winners

Hedgehogs - Juno
Badgers - Safaya
Foxes - Nathan

'Mathemagician' Award winners

Hedgehogs - Ivy
Badgers - Georgie
Foxes - Jannell

Attendance:

The class with the best attendance this week was...

Hedgehogs - 100%

Our year to Date attendance as a school is...

93.4%

KEY DATES

5th January 2026

School open

13th January 2026

National Handwriting Day

15th January 2026

Census Day

20th January

SEND parents coffee morning

21st January

Foxes multi-sports event

29th January

Foxes Class Assembly

5th February

Badgers Class Assembly

12th February

Hedgehogs Class Assembly

Attendance Awards

Congratulations to our pupils who have achieved 100% attendance this term:

Papayaw, Kenji, Rosie, Ivy, Olly, Izzy, Max, Josie, Akyedea, Willow, Emily, Gwen, Jacob, Melody, Primrose, William, Erika, Corey, Tyler-James, Austin, Daniel

House Points

Sapphire House have achieved the most house points this term. Well done for all your efforts, and I look forward to sharing what the house captain has chosen as their prize next term.

SAFER INTERNET DAY POSTER COMPETITION

WESSEX LEARNING TRUST POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

Poster theme about - **Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**

COMPETITION RULES:

1. The design should **promote Safer Internet Day on February 10th 2026**
2. Poster size - A4 Portrait
3. Posters must be submitted to your school by Monday 19th January
4. Winning posters will be shared across all Wessex Learning Trust Schools



Wessex
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On the back of your poster,
we need your:
First NAME only
AGE
Name of SCHOOL



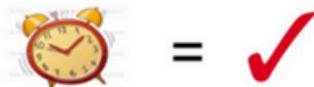
PUPILS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

As a school, we have a duty of care to you and your children to ensure they attend school every day if possible.

We are noticing some children are regularly arriving late to school. This can not only affect your child's attendance but also their attainment and ability to learn. Being late also disrupts the rest of the class' learning.

If you need support from school to get your child in on time, please do speak to Mr Champs or a member of staff.

Every minute counts



Lateness = lost learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Don't let your child miss out!

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could affect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

As of September 2013, no school is allowed to grant holiday requests under new legislation.

Therefore, any request for term time absence will need to be put in writing, in advance, to the Headteacher. Each case will be considered individually and the absence will only be authorised in specific circumstances.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority of all unauthorised absences and a penalty notice may be given by the LA.

DID YOU KNOW that if a child is taken away for a two week holiday every year during term time and has an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a year of school?

PARKING

I am very grateful to those parents who choose to park away from the school entrance and off the zig zag yellow lines. We have, however, had a recent issue with one of our neighbours where a parent had parked their car over a neighbour's driveway who needed to get out.

Please consider our neighbours when parking. I have asked North Somerset Council to send an enforcement officer to the school at pick-up times to talk to parents who cannot park respectfully or correctly.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

Festive Tips for a SCREEN-FREE CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, why not unplug and rediscover the simple joys of spending time together? Here are some festive, screen-free ideas to help families laugh, create, and connect in the old-fashioned way.

1 GET CREATIVE AND CRAFTY

Bring out the glue, glitter, and imagination to make your home sparkle with handmade cheer.

- Make decorations: Try paper snowflakes, salt-dough ornaments, or pinecone garlands for the tree.
- Christmas card workshop: Design and decorate cards for friends, family, or neighbours.
- DIY gifts: Craft photo frames, bath salts, or 'kindness coupons' offering hugs, chores, or treats.

2 BAKE, BUILD, AND TASTE TOGETHER

The kitchen is the heart of Christmas, and it smells divine when everyone's baking.

- Festive baking: Bake and decorate cookies, mince pies, or cupcakes together.
- Gingerbread challenge: Build a gingerbread house and let the kids take charge of decorating!
- Sweet treat swap: Wrap up homemade goodies to gift to friends or neighbours.

3 SLOW DOWN AND BE PRESENT

The greatest gift you can give is your attention.

- Digital Detox Day: Choose one day to switch off screens and enjoy each other fully.
- Gratitude Sabbath: Share what you are thankful for from the past year.
- Memory Moments: Take photos with a disposable camera or sketch favourite holiday scenes.

4 ENJOY COSY, INDOOR FUN

Color outside? No problem, turn your home into a festive retreat.

- Family game night: Play board or card games, from Uno to festive trivia.
- Hot chocolate bar: Set up a 'cocoa station' with marshmallows, cream, and candy canes.
- Puzzle power: Work together on a big jigsaw puzzle – slow, calm, and wonderfully mindful.

5 HOLD A FAMILY TALENT SHOW

Let everyone shine with a little Christmas sparkle and imagination.

- Perform together: Sing, dance, tell jokes, or stage a short Christmas play.
- Make costumes: Use household items to design festive outfits or props.
- Prizes: Assign titles like 'Best Performance' or 'Most Festive Outfit.'

6 READ, WRITE, AND IMAGINE

Nurture creativity and quiet time with stories that come to life.

- Story hour: Read holiday tales aloud by the fire or under a blanket fort.
- Write a story or comic: Create Christmas adventures starring your family or pets.
- Book swap: Exchange favourite books and read each other's choices.

7 EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Wrap up warm, breathe the crisp winter air, and find magic in nature.

- Winter nature walks: Spot birds, berries, or frosty patterns while collecting natural treasures.
- Christmas light hunt: Take an evening stroll to admire twinkling lights in your community.
- Scavenger hunt: Hide small surprises around the garden or park.

8 GIVE BACK AND SPREAD KINDNESS

Christmas feels even warmer when shared with others.

- Kindness countdown: Do one good deed a day, from helping at home to writing thank-you notes.
- Donate together: Collect food, toys, or clothes for a local charity.
- Neighbourly cheer: Deliver homemade treats or cards to someone spending Christmas alone.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their safeguarding and child protection skills. Our three membership levels help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website www.thenationalcollege.com

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SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

This WakeUpWednesday guide shares warm, family-friendly inspiration for enjoying a Christmas that's richer in conversation, creativity and togetherness. Drawing on simple seasonal pleasures, from crafts and baking to storytelling and wintry walks, it encourages families to reconnect and make memories in ways that feel authentic and wonderfully low-tech. You'll also find gentle prompts for slowing down, noticing the small moments and putting presence before presents.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern about any child in our school, then it is your responsibility to say something to us. Remember, 'Safeguarding' is everybody's responsibility! You can speak to any member of staff in school. We also have a team of designated safeguarding leads - Mr Champs (DSL), Mrs Mann (DDSL), Miss Speller (DDSL) and our School Safeguarding governor, Mrs Phippen.



They can be contacted on 01934 623430 or office@kewstokeprimaryschool.co.uk

As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Care Connect: 01275 888 808