



NEWSLETTER 15 - 16TH JANUARY 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year to all our staff, families and the wider community! This year is planned to be packed with lots of exciting ventures for the children, whilst ensuring ambitious learning is taking place in the classrooms.

I am very much looking forward to sharing our school news every week, and in time, suggestions and ideas to make our school an even better place to learn. With the support of the Wessex Learning Trust, we are constantly looking at ways to improve how and what we teach our children, as well as further opportunities to involve families and the wider community in our school life.

I know that 2026 will be a fantastic year for all of our students, and look forward to welcoming new pupils to our school throughout the year.

READING BUDDIES

To further develop our pupils' love of reading, a new initiative we are introducing to Kewstoke is the opportunity for children to listen to and read to each other across classes. Last week saw the first of these events, and it was a great success, particularly giving our older children more responsibility to support our younger pupils with their learning.



NATIONAL

HANDWRITING DAY

This week we celebrated National Handwriting Day with children having a real focus on how important their handwriting is to future success. With so much technology use in the modern world, it is important to remember how much we still need to write every day.

At the end of the day, staff got together to look at how much improvement has been made this year so far across all classes, and I was lucky enough to award certificates today to those children in each year group that have sustained a neat handwriting style, as well as those pupils who have seen an improvement in their handwriting style through determination and practise.



CLASS ASSEMBLIES



As a parent, having any opportunity to find out what my children have been learning about in school is so vital to supporting them at home. This term will see the introduction of class assemblies, where parents are invited to come along to share in the learning that has taken place in school. Each class will be holding an assembly on a Thursday morning, and we hope as many of you will be able to attend as possible. Please see the key dates section below for your class' date.

PTFA

The PTFA had a very successful meeting last week and lots of new ideas were shared to raise money for the school. If you are able to support the PTFA in any way, please do contact them. Keep an eye on the Key Dates section to find out when the next events are happening.

STUDENT TEACHERS/WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS

We are very fortunate at Kewstoke to have very close links with both Bath Spa University and the University of the West of England (UWE). We have been joined this week by Miss Penny in Foxes class who will be with us for the rest of this academic year, whilst Mr Cruse and Miss Richards will continue to work in Hedgehogs class.

It is always a pleasure to offer former students back to Kewstoke school. In the coming months, Year 10 work experience students from local secondary schools will be joining us to gain an insight into how we support and develop our pupils.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

Hedgehogs - Rebel

Badgers - Layla

Foxes - Jannell

Our 'Values Ambassadors'
this week are...

Hedgehogs - Isabella

Badgers - Zachary

Foxes - Nathan

Attendance:

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

**Hedgehogs and Badgers -
98.1%**

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

92.9%

KEY DATES

20th January

SEND parents coffee morning

21st January

Foxes multi-sports event

29th January

Foxes Class Assembly

5th February

Badgers Class Assembly

6th February

Hedgehogs beach morning

12th February

Hedgehogs Class Assembly

12th February

PTFA Valentines Crafts Event

13th February

INSET DAY (School closed)

WESSEX PODCAST

In this latest episode of The Only Way Is Wessex, we shine a spotlight on Kings Fitness & Leisure, the fitness hub at the heart of Cheddar.

We explore what Kings Fitness & Leisure has to offer, the values they stand for, and how their work goes far beyond fitness. From supporting wellbeing to strengthening community links, this episode highlights how their partnership is making a real difference to our school and the wider Wessex Learning Trust family.



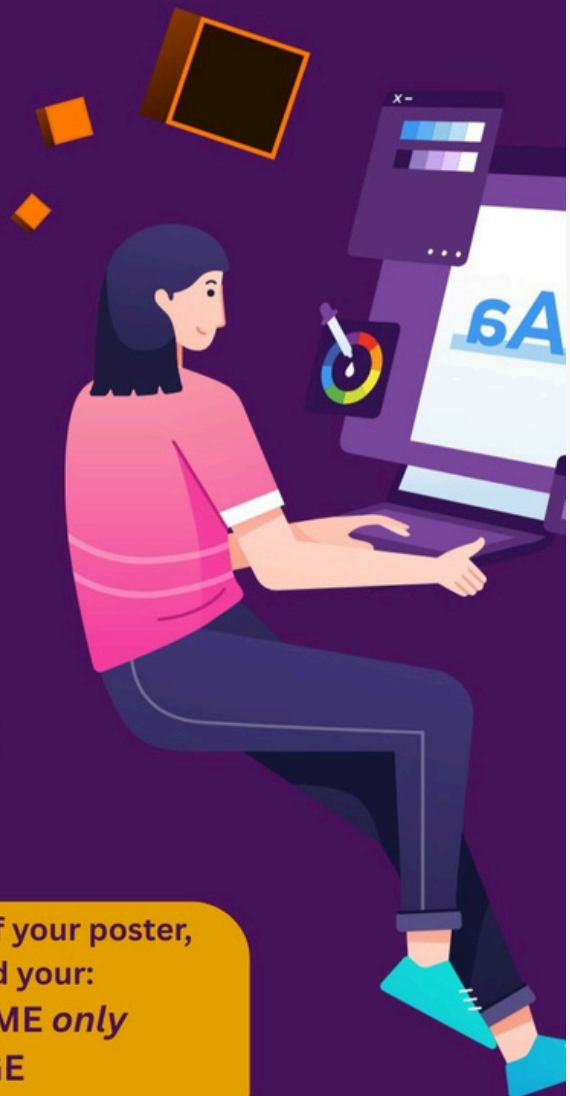
SAFER INTERNET DAY POSTER COMPETITION

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
Learning Trust

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.

Social media influencers are people who have established credibility in a specific industry and have the power to influence other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, 'influencers' will usually have a large number of followers and be viewed as authentic by their audience. It is for this reason that many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.

25K

What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'

AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or skincare, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.

BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like their own life isn't very fulfilling.

ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.

THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies will then use to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote. If they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.

AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are dishonest or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.

Safety Tips For Parents

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.

TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.

DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.

ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.

Meet our expert

Pete Bath is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.

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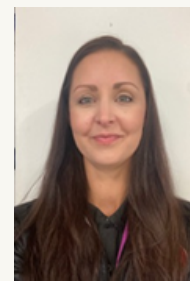
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INFLUENCERS

Social media influencers are people who've established their credibility in a specific industry and therefore have the power to affect other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, influencers usually have a large number of followers and are viewed as authentic by their audience. For this reason, many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products, in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.

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: 0800 800 5000

Care Connect: 01275 888 808



The Mid Somerset
Consortium

BACK TO SCHOOL... AS A TEACHER

*Train to Teach Primary with Mid
Somerset Consortium – Inspire the
Next Generation*

- Flexible training designed for busy parents.
- Make a real difference in children's lives.
- Start a meaningful career in your community.
- Earn while you learn with hands-on classroom experience.

Client Testimonials

'I couldn't have wished for a more supportive group of staff and fellow trainees... The MSC team have all been incredible and there is always someone there to talk to should you need it.'

— **Danni**

'The primary training course has been supportive and practical, allowing me to build confidence and develop invaluable classroom skills. Importantly, it has worked well around being a parent, allowing me to successfully balance training alongside a busy family life.'

— **Sarah**

'A real strength of the course is the opportunity for primary and secondary trainees to work together'

— **Millie**

'Placement schools are varied and well chosen, including first schools, middle schools, and primary schools. Being placed locally has helped us build strong networks across the area, which feels invaluable for future job opportunities and professional connections.'

— **Millie**

Ready to take the next step?

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