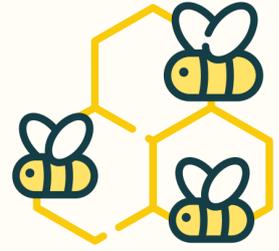




Cheddar First School

Where Every Child Is at the Heart



School Newsletter

Issue No. 18

23rd January 2026

Message from Mrs Smith:

What a exciting week it has been! The children have really enjoyed the different activities that have been going on and have been super resilient with the lovely range of weather we have experienced!

Yesterday saw the children in Years 2-4 having a visit from a theatre company who performed the pantomime Snow White. The performance was really exciting and involved lots of singing and interactions - it even starred our very own Mr Hynam and Miss Whaites! Lots of popular songs were involved and have been sung across the school ever since.

We can't wait for the storytelling sessions that will be happening for the younger children on Friday 30th January. Next week we are also looking forward to sharing different stories during our 'Books at Bedtime' event on Wednesday. The evening is free and there is still time to book a ticket via MCAS – see you there!

Be Proud!

Congratulations! Our 'Be Proud Certificates' this week have been awarded to...

Ladybirds	Maya	Goldfinch	Lilah
Bumblebees	Tilly	Woodpecker	Artur
Caterpillars	Rupert	Skylark	Toby
Butterflies	Oliver	Falcon	Teddy
Wren	Ike	Kestrel	Albie D
Robin	Dee-dee	Swan	Danny
Kingfisher	Erynn	Puffin	Harry

Team Talk

Throughout this term in **Team Talk**, we are talking about how we can **communicate effectively** whilst considering the strategies that the children can use to support themselves. This week the children practised **explaining their ideas clearly** so that others can understand. They used sentence starters like "I feel ___ because ___" to share their thoughts and feelings with the group.

Snow White Panto!



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Where Every Child Is at the Heart



This week in Preschool!



Our winter inquiry continues through Preschool with us learning about animals that live in cold place and investigating freezing and melting.

Ladybirds have been mark making with their fingers in different media. Bumble Bees have been investigating melting "icebergs" both inside and out. Caterpillars enjoyed marking marks using polar animals whilst Butterfly room were out and about collecting natural treasure for their winter gardens - now we have filled the pots with water and are waiting for them to freeze!





Wessex Learning Trust

We Learn Together

23 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that I will be retiring from my role as Chief Executive of the Wessex Learning Trust at the end of this academic year.

It has been a privilege to grow and serve the Trust, and to work with our schools and settings on behalf of the children and young people in our care. I have been consistently impressed by the dedication of our staff and the strong partnerships we share with families and communities.

I am hugely proud of the progress our schools have made and of the values that underpin our work: high expectations, care for every child, and a commitment to continuous improvement. The Board of Trustees is overseeing leadership succession to ensure stability and continuity, and I am confident the Trust will continue to go from strength to strength.

I would like to thank you for your trust, support, and engagement with our schools. It has been an honour to lead the organisation since 2017 on this chapter of its journey.

With warmest regards,

GAVIN BALL
Chief Executive

Wessex Learning Trust

A: Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ

E: office@wessexlearningtrust.co.uk

W: wessexlearningtrust.co.uk

T: 01934 745363



Cheddar First School

BOOKS AT BEDTIME

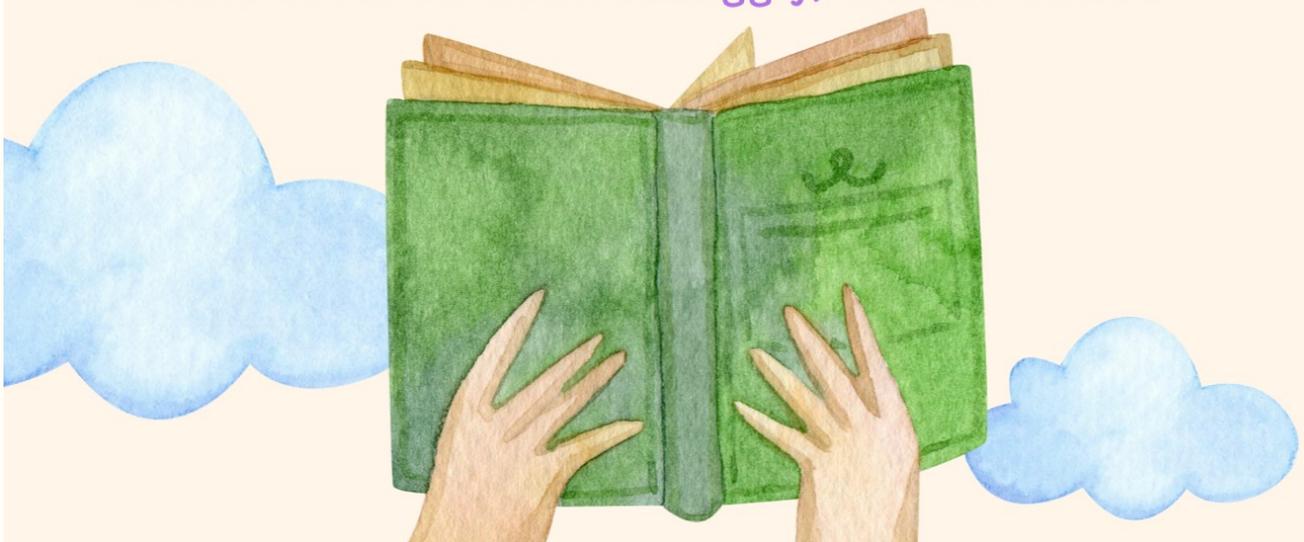
WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY | 5:00–6:00PM

We warmly invite your child to join us for Books at Bedtime!

Staff will be sharing their favourite bedtime stories in classrooms. Enjoy at least three stories, plus a hot chocolate and a snack.

Free tickets must be booked via MCAS to help us plan numbers.

Dress code: warm and snuggly, teddies welcome!



Tell Us What You Think?

Your input is crucial! We're running four important surveys across our Trust schools to help us understand what matters most and enhance the overall experience for students, parents, and staff. We'd greatly appreciate your time.

03

Parent Survey

The purpose of this questionnaire is to find out what matters to you most about food at your Child's school and how satisfied you are with the service.



[CLICK HERE](#)



Wessex
Learning Trust

Sleep Talkers

Domain 3

SLEEP CHALLENGES IN CHILDREN

Date and Venue

28 January 2026

10:00-11:30

Online

SEF areas

We ensure that staff understand how neurodiverse needs can impact a child's behaviour and ability to learn.

We are confident that staff understand the challenges that can exist at home for neurodiverse children that impact their ability to engage well in school. e.g. the impact of reduced sleep and have strategies in place to support this.

Who

Parents

Teachers

Learning support assistants

Offer details

A child who does not sleep well can affect the whole family. Disabled children, and those with certain medical conditions, are more likely to experience problems with sleeping.

This session will discuss some of the common issues and strategies that can be used to support your child or young person.

There will be an opportunity to discuss your personal challenges around sleep and come up with an action plan.

Hour allocation

1 hour

Booking

<https://shorturl.at/B7Q12>



Domain 3

EATING DIFFICULTIES



Date and Venue

12 February 2026

10:00-12:00

Online

Who

Parents

Teachers

Learning support
assistants

Hour allocation

2 hours



SEF areas

We ensure that staff understand how neurodiverse needs can impact a child's behaviour and ability to learn.

We are aware of the prevalence of sensitivity around food and eating for neurodiverse children and have strategies to support children with this.

Offer details

Food and eating can be a huge issue for autistic children.

Sensory issues and anxiety can lead to a person having a very restricted diet.

What can you do to help neurodiverse children with eating difficulties? In this 2 hour session, we will explore autism and food sensitivities.

The session covers -

Sensory sensitivities and their role in eating Anxiety's role in eating.

The difficulties we usually see.

Strategies that work to help a child.

Booking

<https://shorturl.at/PrCNp>



HOLIDAY CLUB

At Kings Fitness & Leisure



For ages 5-13 years
from £23* per day
9.00am-4.00pm.



Extend the day with early
drop-off and late pick-up
from £4.50 per session



Have Fun playing games,
sports, going swimming,
and doing arts and crafts!



Bring packed lunch, snacks,
refillable drinks bottle, swimming
kit, weather dependant items
(sun cream, waterproofs etc).



Visit our Junior
Activities Page here:

Contact Kings Fitness & Leisure at
01934 744939 to sign up NOW!

*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively, £28 per day, if booked
after this time frame





WEDMORE HOLIDAY CLUB



For ages 5-13 years, from £23* per day, 9.00am-4.00pm, at Wedmore First School grounds



In the winter, have fun doing outdoor adventure activities in the forest school grounds, and enjoy our outdoor swimming pool in the summer!**



Enjoy a jam packed day of playing games, sports, and arts and crafts!



Bring packed lunch, snacks, refillable drinks bottle, outdoor adventure clothing, and weather dependant items (sun cream, waterproofs etc).



Visit our Junior Activities Page here:

Contact Kings Fitness & Leisure at 01934 744939 to sign up NOW!

*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively, £28 per day, if booked after this time frame

**This is a seasonal, weather dependant activity.



Term Dates

The term dates for 2026-27 can now be found on our website here:
https://cheddarfirstschool.co.uk/dates-news-letters/calendar_n/

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 27 th January	Reception INSPIRE Sessions 9 - 10am
Wednesday 28 th January	Year 1 INSPIRE Sessions 9 - 10am
Wednesday 28 th January	Books at Bedtime 5 - 6pm
Friday 30 th January	Storytelling Experience (Preschool, Reception & Year 1)
31 st January - 8 th February	National Storytelling Week
Thursday 5 th February	Year 3 INSPIRE Sessions 9:30 - 10:45am
Friday 6 th February	Non-school uniform day for NSPCC Number Day
Thursday 12 th February	Non-school uniform day for Children's Mental Health Week
Thursday 12 th February	Year 4 INSPIRE Sessions 9:30 - 10:45am
Thursday 12 th February	Last day of term
Friday 13 th February	INSET Day
Monday 23 rd February	First day back!
Mon 11 th - Wed 13 th June	Year 4 Residential to Kilve
Wed 3 rd - Thurs 4 th June	Year 3 Residential to the Mendip Activity Centre

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are concerned about a child and would like to talk to a member of staff in private, please make an appointment with one of the team via the office.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs. Smith

Deputy Designated Leads: Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Wade

As parents, you can also contact NSPCC 0808 800 500 and Somerset Direct 0300 123 2224



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First School

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