

Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 1



On our website - Links

[West Leigh - Letters to Parents](#)

[BJS - Letters to Parents](#)

Important Dates - Terms 1 and 2

- Friday 26th September – WL Individual Photos
- Monday 13th October – BJS Individual and Sibling Photos
- Wednesday 15th October – BJS Harvest Service St Andrew's Church 2.15pm
- Thursday 16th October – WL Harvest Celebration 2.15pm
- Friday 17th October – BJS 3J Cake Sale
- Tuesday 21st October – Nasal Flu Vaccines for All Year Groups
- Thursday 23rd October – WL PTA Halloween Disco
- Friday 24th October – BJS PTA Halloween Disco
- Friday 24th October – WL PTA Non-Uniform day in exchange for Christmas Fair donations
- Friday 24th October – Last Day of Term 1
- Monday 3rd November – INSET Day
- Tuesday 4th November – Children Return to School
- Thursday 5th November – WL PTA Fundraising Salsa Event (more details in poster below)
- Friday 7th November – BJS 5C Cake Sale
- Monday 10th November – BJS SATs and Morfa Bay Evening 6pm School Hall
- Tuesday 11th November – WL Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 12th November – BJS Parents Evening
- Thursday 13th November – WL & BJS Parents' Evening
- Friday 14th November – BBC Children in Need
- Monday 24th November – BJS Y4 Church Day
- Monday 24th November – Friday 28th November – BJS Book Fair
- Friday 28th November – BJS Non-School Uniform Day
- Friday 28th November – BJS 4PB Cake Sale
- Friday 5th December – BJS Christmas Fair
- Wednesday 17th December – BJS Carol Service St Andrew's Church 2.15pm
- Friday 19th December – BJS Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day
- Friday 19th December – Last Day of Term 2

Important Dates



Our next INSET day will be on:

Monday 3rd November



Backwell Junior School New Vision Statement

We have been looking closely at the Backwell Junior School vision over recent weeks and have thought carefully about what we feel we want to develop in the children at school. As a Church of England School we have developed 3 key areas that we will be focusing on through collective worship, assembly and in class:

The new school's vision

Nurturing God's Image, Growing our Gifts and Sharing in Wonder

is a statement that informs how every member of the community is seen, supported, and inspired.

1. Nurturing God's Image

- **Spiritual Implications:** To recognise God's image in others is to treat them as sacred. It means that every act of kindness, every moment of listening, and every gesture of respect is a form of worship.
- **Educational Practice:** The school cultivates an environment where children are not judged by their achievements alone, but are valued for who they are. Relationships are built on love, empathy, and mutual respect.
- **Community Impact:** This vision extends beyond pupils to include staff, families, and the wider community. Everyone is seen as a bearer of God's image, deserving of compassion and inclusion.

2. Growing Our Gifts

- **Spiritual Implications:** Gifts are not just skills—they are signs of God's presence in our lives. To grow our gifts is to honour the Giver.
- **Educational Practice:** The school encourages children to explore their strengths, passions, and interests. Effort is celebrated, not just outcomes. Pupils are supported to flourish in ways that reflect their unique calling.
- **Theological Balance:** While striving for excellence is encouraged, it is balanced with the understanding that worth is not tied to achievement. This protects children from the pressure of perfectionism and affirms that they are loved regardless of performance.

3. Sharing in Wonder

Wonder is the spiritual posture of awe, humility, and curiosity. It is the response to encountering something greater than ourselves—whether in nature, learning, relationships, or worship.

- **Spiritual Implications:** Wonder is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). It opens the heart to mystery, beauty, and the presence of God in all things.
- **Educational Practice:** The school fosters a culture where children are encouraged to ask big questions, marvel at creation, and engage deeply with the world around them. Wonder is cultivated through science, art, poetry, and collective worship.
- **Ecological Responsibility:** Wonder leads to care. When children see the world as sacred and beautiful, they are more likely to protect it. This links spirituality with environmental stewardship.

Living the Vision Through Virtues

The school's values—the “Backwell B’s”—are practical expressions of this spiritual vision:

• Be Kind

“We act with love, care and respect for others, seeking every opportunity to love one another as Christ loved us.” This value reflects the belief in the sacredness of each person. Kindness is not just politeness—it is a spiritual discipline rooted in recognising God's image in others.

• Be Our Best

“We challenge ourselves to give our best effort in every task, trusting that God will bless the works of our hands, hearts and minds.” This value honours the gifts we've been given. It encourages children to grow and share their talents, not for self-glory, but as a response to God's grace.

• Be Responsible

“We see the world as wonderful, and so we always take responsibility for our choices and seek to protect ourselves, our neighbours and the integrity of creation.” This value connects wonder with action. It teaches children that awe leads to care, and that responsibility is a spiritual calling

Badgers and Squirrels

Wow what an amazing first few weeks it has been. The Reception children have amazed us by how well they have settled into school life. It has been lovely to see children happy, ready to learn and make lots of new friends. The children have also started learning phonics for the first time and have practised writing their name. This term we will be getting to know each other better by discussing our families, pets and learning what makes us special and unique.

Owls

Owl class have had a busy start to the new academic year. We've been enjoying getting to know each other and Mrs BG has been impressed with the confidence of the Year 1s and how responsible our Year 2s are being! We've shared the stories of Stanley's Stick and Billy and the Beast in English. The Owls have enjoyed some outside drama acting out Billy and the Beast and there were some amazing facial expressions! We have also been learning about the Human Body and our five senses in Science and the History of Communication in our History lessons. Well done Owls for a fantastic start to term!

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have had a great start to term in their new class. We have enjoyed reading a book called Stanley Stick and then painting our own sticks, which became all sorts of wonderful things - we had trains, dinosaurs, sharks and hot air balloons, to name a few. The class created some wonderful writing linked to their sticks. Do ask your child what interesting thing their stick became and what adventures they had!

WL PTA - News

The WL PTA Halloween Disco 2025 will take place on Thursday 23rd October 2025. Timings for each year group will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks.

Friday 24th October is a non-uniform day, in exchange for donations for the Christmas Fair. Each class will be allocated items to bring in (list to follow).





YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU

Dear parents and carers,

This is a plea for help from your PTA. Following our AGM last week, we have a strong committee ready to go, but we are missing one crucial role: a treasurer. We cannot continue as an organisation without this role in place, legally, or logistically. As you know, the PTA raises vital funds for the school to provide additional enrichment activities and equipment for the school and we want to keep providing this for our children.

If you can spare just a few hours a month to help us it would be hugely appreciated. This can be a discrete, remote role - you don't need to help with any other PTA goings on - and would also be suitable as a shared role. Please see below for a summary of the role.

We really hope to hear from some of you.

Many thanks from your PTA

westleighpta@gmail.com

PTA Treasurer role

You don't need to be a finance expert – just comfortable with spreadsheets and keeping things organised. Full handover and support provided from our friendly team.

The role involves:

- *Management of the PTA bank account and other payment accounts.*
- *Preparation, collection and banking of cash/floats for events such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs*
- *Maintaining and updating Finance spreadsheet for all income and expenditure (this is set up already and just requires familiarity with spreadsheets).*
- *Preparation of annual accounts for review by PTA/submission to Charity Commission*

The outgoing Treasurer is more than happy to guide the new role-holder through all of this and will be available to handover and support with anything and everything.

West Leigh School Parents Association

Registered Charity number: 1038576

c/o West Leigh Infant School, Westfield Drive, Backwell, BS48 3NG

A PTA fundraising event!

Salsa dancing & Drinks

**Saturday 15th
November,
8pm**

**@Backwell
Parish Hall**

taught by
Stellan

**BYO drinks &
have fun learning
to Salsa!**

**For absolute
beginners.
Adults only!**

**No partner
required, two
left feet
accepted!**

**Absolute
beginners
Salsa class
8 pm till 9 pm
then drinks,
chat & dancing
till 10:30 pm.
Arrive 7:50 pm
for the class.**



**Scan the QR code to book your tickets.
£10/person. All profits go to West Leigh PTA.**

This is open to West Leigh Infant and
Backwell Junior School families, friends and staff

Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars

Thursday 18th September
Hedgehogs – Mya-Leigh
Owls – Brody E
Rabbits – Theo P

Thursday 25th September
Badgers - Maisie
Hedgehogs – Olivia
Owls – Wren
Rabbits – Edie
Squirrels – Ava-Piper



Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

Please support local people facing hardship this Harvest!

Donate food



Donate an item or two from [our shopping list](#), ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

Hot Chocolate _____

Tinned Fruit _____

Tinned Custard _____

Coffee _____

Tea Bags _____

Tinned Tuna _____

Tinned Ham _____

Savoury Crackers _____

Biscuits _____

Tinned Salmon _____

www.clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1163153



Families Worker (Maternity Cover)

The Parish of St Andrew's, Backwell seeks to appoint a part-time Families Worker for a ten-month fixed term contract, starting on 1st October, to cover for the permanent office-holder whilst they are on maternity leave. The work is primarily associated with the Pupil Chaplaincy work at Backwell Junior School and is therefore mainly a term-time role. The work will take around fifteen hours a week (flexible but will need to be able to commit to Wednesdays) and will be paid at the rate of £14 per hour. A full DBS clearance will be required.

For more information and a job description please contact either Timi Booy, the present office holder at childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk or the Rev Sam Norton at revsamnorton@gmail.com

Could You or Someone You Know Be a School Governor?

Dear Parents and Carers

We'd like to ask for your help in spreading the word about a rewarding opportunity within our school community. The Backwell Federation (West Leigh Infant School and Backwell Junior School) needs new governors to join its Local Governing Body (LGB) – we are looking for people who are passionate about supporting local education.

We need parent governors and we've also got vacancies for governor roles that look after safeguarding and health & safety.

Read on to find out more about what being a school governor involves, the different types of governor roles, and how to let us know if you (or someone you know) is interested in applying.

Could you, or someone you know, become a School Governor?

School Governors are part of the largest volunteer force in the country, with over 250,000 people giving their time and skills to help shape the future of young people. You don't need to be a parent or have any formal qualifications – just a commitment to making a difference and the ability to work as part of a team. You can watch this short video to learn more about being a governor – available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRqJ_bFipHk



Who can be a Governor? Anyone over 18 who lives in the UK can apply. There are different types of Governors including:

- **Parent Governors** – elected by parents
- **Co-opted Governors** – appointed by the local governing body (LGB) for their skills or community links (you don't need to be a parent to be **co-opted**)
- **Staff Governors** – elected by school staff
- **Foundation Governors** – appointed to support the Christian foundation of the school, where relevant
- **Headteacher** – if they choose to serve.

We welcome applicants from all walks of life – of any faith or none – and especially value people with a strong sense of community, a willingness to ask questions, and the ability to support and challenge constructively. We'd also love to hear from you if you've got experience in a safeguarding in education role, or health and safety.

Do you have...

- An interest in education and the wellbeing of children?
- The ability to listen, question, and contribute to discussions?
- A collaborative and honest approach?
- A few hours each month to commit to meetings and school visits (around 10 – 20 days each year)?

If this sounds like you – or someone in your family, friendship group or wider network – we'd love to hear from you.

Interested? To register your interest or to find out more, please email Nicola Gilg, Clerk, at NGilg@lsp.org.uk or contact either of the school offices. We'd also be very happy to talk you through what's involved and how to apply.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this – and for sharing it with anyone you think might be interested.

Best wishes

Kate Page and Steve Livings

[Co-Chairs](#) – Backwell Federation Local Governing Body

Celebration Assembly - 'Backwell B' Awards

Our Backwell B awards include: **Be your Best**, **Be Kind** and **Be Responsible**

Celebration Assembly - 19th September 2025

Year 3 - Arthur D and Molly

Year 4 - Fearne and Alex S

Year 5 - Carter and Bella

Year 6 - Cassia

Celebration Assembly - 26th September May 2024

Year 3 - Ethan G-W

Year 4 - Joshua

Year 5 - Anais and Ingrid H

Year 6 - Albie, Emily and David

CONGRATULATIONS!



Welcome to Year 5!

Welcome everyone to year 5. We are very much looking forward to this year and already have lots of things planned to make our learning interesting and fun!

We've hit the ground running this term conducting science experiments exploring the different properties of materials including absorption rates and testing for buoyancy, magnetism and ability to repel water (waterproof status).

In English, we're enjoying reading 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' and extending our writing skills to include adverbials, prepositions and expanded noun phrases. In maths, we're focusing on place value and rounding at the moment. Remember: 5 or more, let it soar – 4 or less, let it rest!

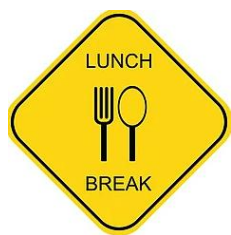
Our art this term is all about illustrators and telling stories through drawings. In PE we are improving our netball skills and strengthening our bodies with circuits. And as for music – well, we apologise now for lots of 80's rock ballads and in particular 'Livin' on a Prayer' that may have been blasted at you at any given moment!

We're also thrilled to tell you about 2 exciting WOW events we have planned.

On the 1st October, Year 5 are heading to Bristol Harbourside to explore the M-Shed and Bristol's trading history alongside a visit to The Matthew where we will have a workshop about Tudor sailors and a trip around the harbourside itself!

Then, the following week on Monday 6th October, we have visitors from Badminton School coming to BJS to help us design, make and then test rockets outside, if the weather is good, or in the hall if not! Who's rocket will go the highest?! We'll let you know.





Aspens Select

Please remember to book your lunches for rest of the term so that the kitchen can plan ahead. Many thanks.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please can you ensure that you leave a message or email the office to let us know by 9.30am on the day of absence and each day thereafter. In your message please could you give a brief overview of the symptoms rather than just saying "unwell". The reason for this is so that we can identify if there is a certain illness that is circulating and take any steps possible to minimise the spread.



Wrap Around Care – Important Information

Please ensure that Premier Education are contacted directly for any amendments to bookings or collection arrangements, all contact details are detailed here:

Backwell Junior School:

Site Phone: 07707878334 - Active between 7:15 & 8:30am for BSC / Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.

Email - c.clarke@premier-education.com for information regarding updates for the day, or collection passwords if somebody different is collecting.

Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.

West Leigh Infant School:

Site Phone: 07707800019 - Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.

Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A term time choir programme where you'll sing everything from folk to pop!
All children from school years 1-7 welcome!
£5 per session, payable termly, bursaries available.

WEDNESDAYS 4-5PM

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BACKWELL

MEET ALISON

Alison is an Oxford University graduate and an accomplished pianist, violinist and singer. She is the founder of 'du Pre Chamber Choir' which gave distinguished performances in Oxford. She was a member of the University Church Choir, Lincoln College Choir and a soloist at Christ church Choir. She has a PGCE from Cambridge University and since has rehearsed and conducted school shows. Fun fact- she taught the young Ed Sheeran!

Alison is a mum of two children, who both enjoy music and performing in various settings from choirs to Soul Bands! She is excited to meet our members, both old and new!



To sign up contact us at admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

The Family Support Fayre



Resources and Information for families supporting children 0 - 25 years with additional needs and/or disabilities

12th
November
2025

Winter Gardens
South Parade
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1AJ



NORTH SOMERSET PCSWT
PARENT CARERS WORKING TOGETHER





OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMPS!

5 DAYS OF FOOTBALL FUN AT NAILSEA SCHOOL

MONDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

Year 1 - Year 8 (9:00am - 3:30pm)

Reception (9:00am - 1:00pm)

STRIKER DAY FRIDAY
FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

PUMA CAMP DAYS
TUES 28TH & FRI 31ST OCTOBER



£25 per day | Discounted multi-day tickets | Early drop-offs available

Book online: www.priorityfootball.co.uk/holidaycamps
Pete@priorityfootball.co.uk | 01275 261 004 | Nailsea School

HAUNTED HOLIDAY CLUBS

FLAX BOURTON

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Forbidden Forest Adventure
- Monster Mash-Ups
- Creepy Creative

BOOK NOW FOR 20% OFF
At MyShine.co.uk
Use Code: Early Booker
Offer ends 05/10/2025
*Conditions apply

Shine HOLIDAY CLUBS

Lego Club

Free drop in Lego club at Nailsea Library

Every Tuesday at 3.45pm - 4.45pm (term time only)

Please note: parents/carers must stay for the whole session

The Rock Project
School of Rock & Pop

AGED 7-11 OR 11-18?

WANT TO PLAY IN A BAND?

GUITAR | BASS | DRUMS | VOCALS AVAILABLE AT THE ROCK PROJECT NAILSEA

MONDAYS
4.15pm - 6.15pm (ages 7-11) / 6.30pm - 8.30pm (ages 11-18)
Whiteoak Academies (Hannah More)

FREE TRIAL SESSION!
Booking Essential

All abilities welcome
Instruments can be provided
Fill in our online enquiry form now (QR code) to be sent full info and then get booked in!
Learn in your lessons - play in a band each week - gig at The Fleece every July!

SCAN HERE to fill out our enquiry form

LEARN - PLAY - GIG

THE ROCK PROJECT BRISTOL & NORTH SOMERSET

BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

LIGHT PARTY

GLOW IN THE DARK
GAMES, SWEETS, CRAFTS,
PRIZES AND MORE...

FRI 31ST OCTOBER **6:00PM - 7:30PM** **FREE ENTRY**

FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 3 - 6

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE - SCAN THE QR CODE




OCTOBER FOOTBALL FUNDAYS

**BOOTS, ASTROS, SHIN PADS AND PACK LUNCH REQUIRED
£16 PER PLAYER**

**Tuesday 28th October
Wednesday 29th October
Thursday 30th October**

9am-3pm

The North Somerset Community Stadium, Clevedon, BS21 6TG

- FUN ACTIVITIES
- LOADS OF GAMES
- ANYONE WELCOME
- SCHOOL YEAR 1-7




PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS

MORE fun, MORE friendships, MORE smiles during the OCTOBER HALF-TERM!

Book today
premier-education.com

Excellent
★★★★★
Trustpilot

YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

Venue:	Hannah More & Grove School - Nailsea
Dates:	Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October
Times:	9-3:30 (Extended day booking 8:15-5pm available online)
Price:	£22.75
Ages:	5-11 (4 year-olds can attend half day 9-1pm)
Additional info:	



PLEASE BRING
A packed lunch
Plenty of water
Suitable clothing
Loads of energy!

Looking for something exciting this October half-term? Our multi-activity holiday clubs are packed with fun, energy, and variety for children of all ages!

Each day brings something new – from archery and fencing to dodgeball, cricket, and loads more. With a mix of sports, team games, and seasonal crafts, there's never a dull moment.

Book now for an unforgettable half-term!

CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO 20% OFF...AND GET 20% OFF TOO!

*T&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.

Excellent
★★★★★
Trustpilot

