

Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 2

On our website - Links

[West Leigh - Letters to Parents](#)

[BJS - Letters to Parents](#)



Our next INSET day will be on:

Friday 16th January 2026



Important Dates – Terms 2 and 3

Term 2

- Monday 24th November – Friday 28th November – BJS Book Fair
- Friday 28th November – BJS Non-School Uniform Day – Tombola Donation
- Friday 28th November – BJS 4PB Cake Sale
- Friday 5th December – BJS Christmas Fair 4.30pm
- Saturday 6th December – WL Christmas Fair 1:30 to 4pm
- Wednesday 10th December – WL Christmas Performance for Reception Parents – 9:30am start
- Thursday 11th December – WL Christmas Performance for Year Two Parents – 9:30am start
- Friday 12th December – WL Christmas Performance for Year One Parents – 9:30am start
- Wednesday 17th December – BJS Carol Service St Andrew's Church 2.15pm
- Wednesday 17th December – WL Christmas Dinner Day
- Friday 19th December – WL & BJS Christmas Jumper/Non-Uniform Day & BJS Christmas Dinner Day
- Friday 19th December – Last Day of Term 2

Term 3

- Monday 5th January – Start of Term 3
- Friday 16th January – Inset Day 4
- Friday 23rd January – BJS 3J Cake Sale
- Wednesday 28th January – National Height, Weight and Vision Checks for Reception Children
- Monday 2nd to Friday 6th February – WL Scholastic Book Fair
- Thursday 12th February – Last day of Term 3 (for Children)
- Friday 13th February – Inset Day 5

Important Notice - Parking at BJS

We have had a huge increase in neighbourhood complaints regarding dangerous parking near the school. Daily, families are parking on the white lines and zig zags outside the school, we have been sent photos of cars and this is a daily occurrence.

This has been reported to the police numerous times and due to resources they are unable to confirm a time that they will be able to patrol this area, it is up to us all to protect our children.

We can't express the devastation that could occur due to parking in a dangerous manner, even stopping to "drop off quickly" is dangerous, and is repeated by the same people every day.

We ask you all to respect the safety of the children.

No parent or staff member wants to be the centre of a disaster that could be completely prevented by parking in a safe manner. If you are unable to get close to school please park further away and walk the last few minutes, don't forget, our gates open at 8.30am and close at 9am, so there is a 30 minute window to arrive safely in school. This also applies to children being taken to Breakfast Club – please park in a safe manner.

Please also speak to your children regarding road safety and ensuring they have a clear safe view before crossing the road.

No rush is worth the cost of a child's life! Please Please Please.....be safe!



NO PARKING



Reminder – School Timings

We would like to remind parents/carers of the school timings for West Leigh Infant School and Backwell Junior School:

West Leigh Infants: Gates open at 8:40am and all children should be in their classroom between 8:50 - 9:00am at the latest. The school day ends at 3:05pm, with gates opening at 3pm.

Backwell Juniors: Gates open at 8:30am and all children should be in their classroom between 8:50 - 9:00am at the latest. The school day ends at 3:30pm, with gates opening at 3:30pm.

Registration is done promptly at 9am, so please ensure you and your child/children arrive in plenty of time, to minimise disruption to the rest of the class.

* **4.5 Lateness and punctuality**

Punctuality is an important skill for life and we want our young people to build good habits as they move into adulthood. Being punctual demonstrates a respect for others in the class as well as for the staff and can also help make a positive start to the school day. A pupil who is persistently late can miss crucial messages, opportunities to socialise with other pupils as well as key learning that happens at the beginning of the school day.

Minutes late	Equates to days lost across a year
5 minutes	3 days
10 minutes	6 days
15 minutes	9 days

* Statistics taken from the Backwell Federation Policy 2025. To view full policy, click here: [Backwell-Federation-Attendance-Policy-2025.374512579.docx](#)

WL Class News – Squirrels

The Squirrels are back for term 2 and so ready to learn. We have enjoyed 'The Three Little Pigs' as a class and completed lots of different work around it. We retold the story in small groups using masks, made wolf and pig finger puppets and even drew a picture to show our favourite part of the story.

We were also really excited to find out our nativity roles and are busy practising the songs and dances ready to perform in a few weeks.



Our New West Leigh School Councillors

At the end of last term, as part of our learning about democracy, the children voted for members of the school council.

This involved a polling station with ballot papers and the children were able to vote for 2 children on their class ballot sheet.

Congratulations to the children below, who were elected to be our new School Councillors:

Squirrel	-	Nola and Harrison
Badger	-	Jinora and Nora
Rabbit	-	Esther and Max
Owl	-	Arabella and Elvina
Hedgehog	-	Nathan and Anna

They will work with Mrs Nash this year to help make our school even better.



Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars

Thursday 23rd October

Badgers – Teddy L

Hedgehogs – Tilly

Owls – Sam

Rabbits – Grace

Squirrels – Otis

Thursday 13th November

Badgers - Ferne

Hedgehogs – Lottie-Mai

Owls – Arwen

Rabbits – Wilf

Squirrels – Nola

Thursday 20th November

Badgers – Elliot

Owls – Lexi & Dylan

Squirrels – Anna-May

Hedgehogs – Theo

Rabbits – Oliver

WL PTA – Important Dates/News














Important Dates:

- Friday 5th December – Deadline for WL raffle tickets to be returned
- Saturday 6th December 1.30- 4pm - West Leigh Christmas Fair












WL PTA NEWS

Firstly, we wanted to introduce ourselves - see below for the PTA members and class reps for West Leigh Infant School 2025:

Your PTA members 2025

					
Amy Finney Co-Chair	Maya Gibbs Co-Chair	Marie Malloy Treasurer	Joanna Stevens Secretary	Greg Pearson General member	Mariam General member
					
Kate Ashby General member	Rhiannon E General member	Holly General member	Laura Watt General member	Anna General member	Sarah M General member
					
Pinks General member					

Your Class Reps 2025

Badger	Squirrels	Hedgehogs	Owls	Rabbits
				
Jacqueline	Aimee	Beth Cara	Kelly	Mike
				
April	Lucy	Hari	Nat	Anna
				
	Sarah M			

WL PTA – Upcoming Events

PTA Christmas Raffle

Your child will hopefully have come home with a book of raffle tickets in their book bags or rucksacks. We'd be very grateful if you could sell them to family and friends. Tickets are £1 each and there are over 30 amazing prizes to be won!

Please return the ticket stubs, money, and any unsold tickets to your child's class teacher or the school office by Friday 5th December as the draw will take place the next day at the Christmas Fair. Thank you so much for your support, and good luck!

Christmas Fair - Saturday 6th December 1- 4pm

Join us for our magical Christmas Fair - the biggest and most beloved event of the year, proudly organised by the PTA and parents. Children and grown-ups alike will enjoy an afternoon filled with games, crafts, a prize-filled tombola, a cosy café, mulled wine and mince pies and, of course, the excitement of the grand raffle draw.



West Leigh PTA
**CHRISTMAS
FAIR**
Saturday 6th December 1.30-4.00pm
West Leigh Infant School



Entry
£1
per family

Santa's Grotto Games Crafts
Festive refreshments Face stencils Tombola

**BOOK YOUR VISIT TO
SANTA'S GROTTTO HERE!** →

Or visit www.pta-events.co.uk/backwellfederationpa



WL PTA – Upcoming Events continued

A visit to Santa's grotto is always a highlight of the day and tickets are now available through the PTA Events website:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/backwellfederationpa/index.cfm> . It's always a sell-out so do book soon.

We'll also need plenty of volunteers to help run stalls and activities throughout the day.

If you're able to lend a hand, please sign up for a 45-minute

slot here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1u2w9SEo91GsIBZuYSUylymdZEMzyPwixPo1AG6v4q80/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Your support makes all the magic happen so thank you in advance! (If you have any issues accessing the Google doc please contact your class rep). Come along, soak up the festive cheer and help us celebrate the season together while raising funds for projects that enrich your child's education.

Secret Christmas Shop – Mon 8th Dec & Mon 15th Dec

Thanks to all those who placed orders. Look out for presents coming home either Monday 8th or Monday 15th Dec – please send in a carrier bag with your child if they have ordered multiple gifts. During the school day, and with the help of volunteers, children will select a gift from a carefully curated selection for each of their loved ones to be taken home, already wrapped and labelled to keep the contents a surprise!

**LOVE PARTIES,
HATE WASTE?**

**HIRE OUR ECO-FRIENDLY
PARTY KIT!**

All the essentials for up to 30 children:
plates, bowls, cups, jugs and serving bowls

Just £5 to hire!
Plus a refundable £20 deposit (when returned clean & undamaged)

**COLLECTION & RETURN:
BACKWELL**

CONTACT: westleighpta@gmail.com

Pre-loved Uniform

As all the kids seem to grow in the blink of an eye, the PTA run a pre-loved uniform shop to raise funds and re-use school uniform. All items are £1. You can place your order and pay for it online, then the uniform fairies will collate and place the items on your child's peg within a week or so.

Please order via this link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/wlsecondhanduniform/home?authuser=2>

If you'd like to pass on any uniform that your child has outgrown, please get in touch - we are short of trousers in sizes 6yrs and older, plus jumpers/cardigans size 7-8yrs.

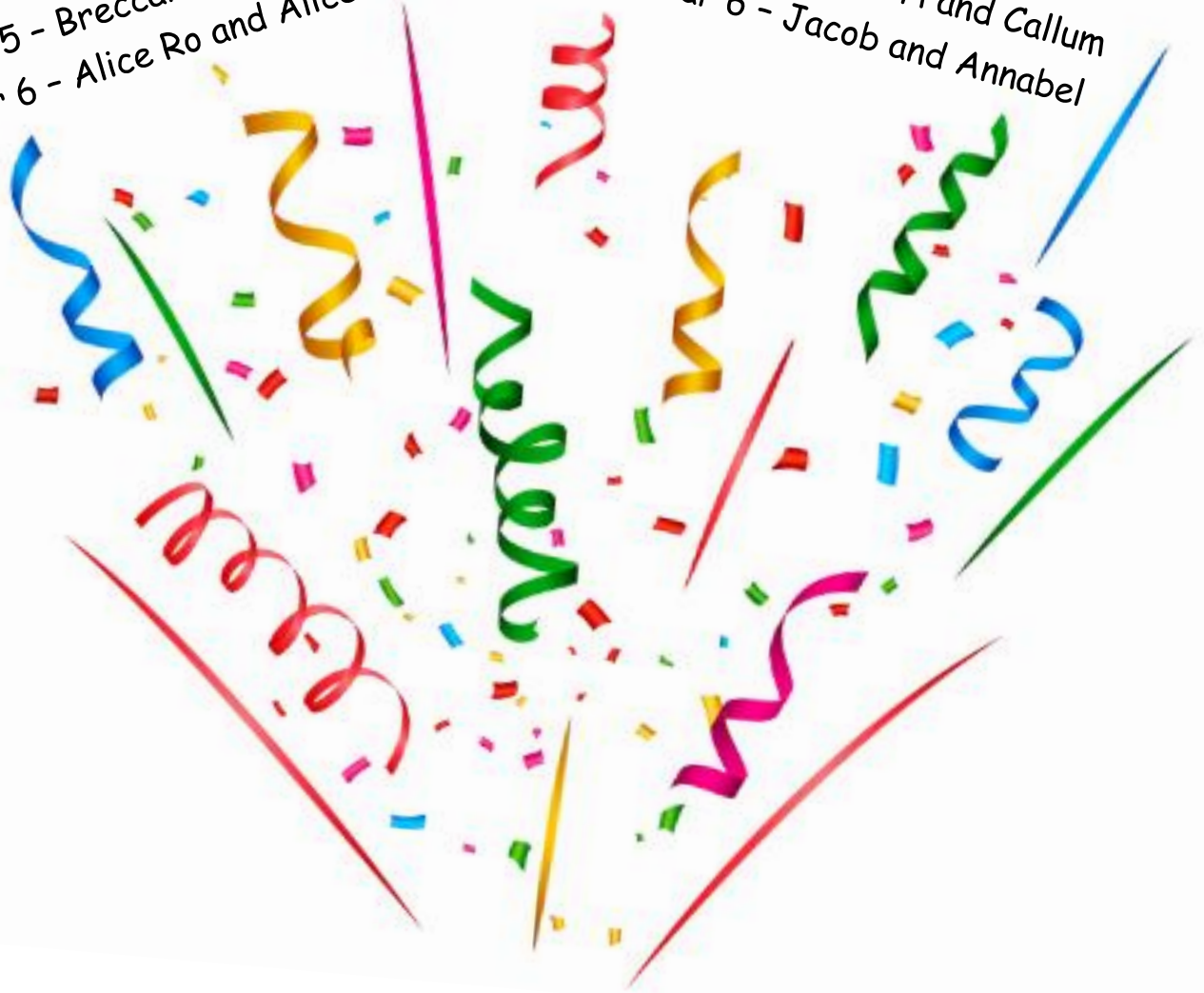


Our Backwell B awards include:

Be your Best, Be Kind and Be Responsible

**Celebration Assembly -
14th November 2025**
Year 3 - Elise, Edward and Saskia
Year 4 - Gracie and Jaxon
Year 5 - Breccan and Theo
Year 6 - Alice Ro and Alice B

**Celebration Assembly -
21st November 2025**
Year 3 - Wilson, Reuben and Connie
Year 4 - Dean and Sophie
Year 5 - Grace H and Callum
Year 6 - Jacob and Annabel



CONGRATULATIONS



Secret Garden at Backwell Juniors

You may recall that before the Summer break Backwell Junior were successful in their Groundworks nomination. Backwell have been awarded £1,500 towards our project of the Gardening Club and sprucing up the 'Secret Garden'

During last year we also received other donations and this has been earmarked for the garden. In total we have £5,400 towards this project, which is amazing news.

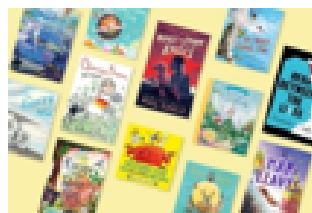
To move this project forward, we would like to create a work party that involves parents, children and staff.

This would include:

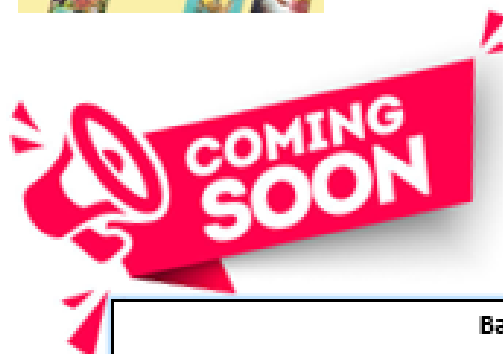
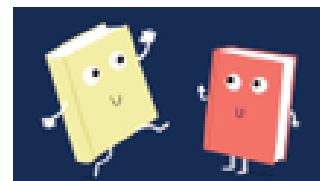
- design of the space that can be used by children and staff
- be involved in digging and preparing the area

If you are interested in being part of this venture, please contact the office and leave your details.





BOOK CORNER



The Book Corner is an opportunity to celebrate everything we love about reading here at Backwell Juniors. From monthly book recommendations to reading support/ updates/ events- it can all be found in the Book Corner!

Backwell Juniors Reading Spine

You may remember that at the end of last year, we decided to replace the 30 Reads Challenge with something new for the 2025/26 academic year.

We love to be able to recommend books to the children here at BJS and so whilst we are moving away from the challenge element of the 30 reads, we would still like to keep those recommendations going. We are in the process of creating a 'Reading Spine' for each year group, consisting of 15 books suited to each year group- taking on board children's top picks, classic titles, new and diverse authors and some linked to current year group foundation subjects. These books will be available to borrow in class.

Further details to follow this term but in the meantime, the 30 Reads 'Top Reads' titles still act as great year group recommendations and these can be found [here](#) on our school website.

AUTUMN BOOK FAIR

The first Book Fair of the year is on its way! Listen out for further information over the next couple of weeks but our

Autumn fair will be running in the school hall from Monday 24th to the morning of Friday 28th November!



LIBRARY



Term 2 will see the re-start of the lunchtime Library Club! Two alternating groups will come along on a Wednesday lunchtime, with volunteers across all year groups.

We will be working hard to give the library a tidy up and thinking of ways in which we can improve it and get the best use out of it!

MONTHLY MUST READS

Each month, we post a selection of 'hot off the press' recommended reads. This month, the recommendations are taken from the 'Books for Topics' website: www.booksfortopics.com where newly published titles suitable for children across Key Stage 2, are reviewed and recommended by teachers and librarians.

As well as being able to purchase from independent bookshops and go-to online options, these books can also be reserved and borrowed from Nailsea Library ☺

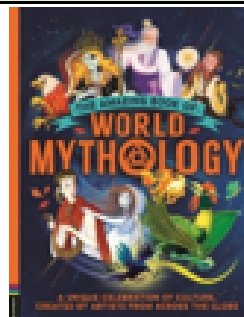
NOVEMBER



Non-fiction book of the month

Created by award-winning duo Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley, the book follows the highly successful format of the previous three titles, with a mix of graphic-style factual comics, as well as Secret Diaries, Bigger Picture pages, and Even Bigger Picture double-page spreads.

From the treasures found in Tutankhamun's tomb and Roald Amundsen's ground-breaking expedition to the South Pole to the uncovering of the first dinosaur, this is a laugh-out-loud guide to the world's most incredible and wonderful discoveries.



The book contains 20 stories as wide-ranging as Theseus and the Minotaur to Thor's Hammer to the Journey of the Monkey King. They are split thematically into six chapters: In the Beginning, Gods and Goddesses, Journeys and Quests, Fantastic Worlds, Monsters and Mythical Creatures and Magic and Trickery.

Featured, for example, are the many weapons used by the gods, the amazing objects collected by heroes and heroines on their quests and the different relics found in the underworld



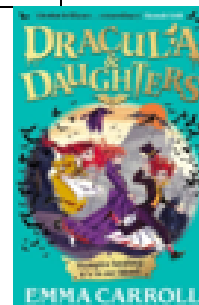
When Danny reveals the dark underside of a company making a new fighting toy gadget, he has no idea of the danger he's in. A gripping sci-fi mystery from bestselling author Alastair Chishalm.

Everyone is desperate to have a Blitzer, the new fighting-game craze. But Danny's Blitzer is broken - it won't fight!

His classmates laugh at him. His brother tells him to wipe the code and start again. But Danny does something different ... and everything changes.



Coming to find you, ready or not! The first title in a **brand-new** middle-grade horror series by the bestselling author Christopher Edge. Goosebumps for a new generation of readers. Nobody knows who started the **Darkive**. It's a database filled with first-hand accounts of strange, unexplained experiences. Ghosts; paranormal entities; weird anomalies. Each one stored with a bank of evidence to prove the story. Are you ready to dive in?



Fiction book of the month

PACKED FULL OF ATMOSPHERE AND DELICIOUSLY GOTHIC DETAIL, the first in a **brand-new** adventure series: when three cousins discover **they're** descendants of Dracula, they combine their powers to form the infamous vampire healing company, DRACULA & DAUGHTERS! Strange happenings are afoot in **Jerston**. Everyone is saying vampires are to blame and the townsfolk have their stakes at the ready. But Mina, Buffy and Bella, three unusual cousins, are about to discover a family secret - and an ancient book - that could change everything.

We'd love to hear from you if you read any of the above! Write or type a book review and hand in to either Mrs Barnard or the school office ☺

Boys Football Tournament

On Monday 24th November a group of Y5 and Y6 boys travelled on a minibus to Weston College for a football tournament which was organised by the North Somerset PE Association. We had a tough start losing our first match 2-0, however we went on to win – the 3rd match we won 3-0 with Oli scoring 1 goal and Herbie scoring 2. Shout out to Albie playing all over the pitch and Arlo's great skills - we all made a great team!

We made it to the final which means we have qualified to continue with the tournament and we all won a medal even though we did not win the final.

We were really happy with the final result as we all thought that the medals were better than the winners trophy!

Written by Jack and Sonny



Wellbeing Support - New SilverCloud CBT Service for Children and Young People

NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire have launched a new online CBT service for local children and young people.

SilverCloud, offers supports for children and young people experiencing low mood and anxiety. Children aged 12-plus can self-refer to the service at feelingmixedup.uk

Support is also available for parents of children aged five-plus.

The service is part of a range of a range of wellbeing support for children and young people that also includes Kooth and Off The Record.

You can find out more about these services in the directory of Mental Health and Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People for your Area, available on the local NHS website at:

<https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/>



Community Notices

Nativity service!
**The
Greatest
Journey**



**Festive
Refreshments!**

Dress up as
a Nativity
character
if you like!



21st December 11am
Everyone is welcome!

**Backwell Sixth
Form Centre**



**Hillside
CHURCH**





Aspens Select

Please remember to book your lunches for the 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.

Community Notices



PRIORITY FOOTBALL

CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL CAMP!

A DAY PACKED FULL OF FOOTBALL FUN AT NAILSEA SCHOOL
MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER

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

A WEEK'S WORTH OF FOOTBALL IN A DAY!

PUMA CAMP DAY (GIRLS ONLY CAMP)

SCAN HERE TO BOOK



£25 per day | Early drop-offs available | KS1 visit from Santa!

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

Get a FREE copy of awesome kids' Science Magazine, Whizz Pop Bang!

It's packed with science news, facts, experiments, puzzles, jokes & more to get your whole family switched on to science!



What's it like to live in space?

Make a marble run!

Cook up some astro-snacks!

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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) / 8:30pm - 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 (OR 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

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



WEST OF ENGLAND
MUSIC
AND ARTS

A musical treat for the festive season!

Holiday Singing Days

Two fun and engaging singing days during the Christmas Holidays. One for children in years 3-6, and one for those in years 7 upwards. With WEMA musician, composer and conductor Joe Galuszka.

Monday 22 December: KS2 Singing Day
Tuesday 23 December: Secondary Singing Day



More Information:
wema.org.uk/music-activities-and-workshops



PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS

MORE fun, MORE friendships, MORE smiles during the WINTER HOLIDAYS!

Book today
premier-education.com



YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

- Venue:** Hannah More & Grove School - Nailsea
- Dates:** Mon 22nd - Tues 23rd December & 2nd January (3 days)
- 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:**



Our Holiday Camps keep children active, safe, and entertained throughout the school holidays.

Join us this Winter as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, performing arts, and games, all at great value. There's something for every child to enjoy as they start 2026!

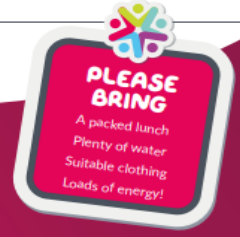
Book now for a holiday full of excitement!

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.





**THE AMAZING
ELF WORKSHOP &
SANTA GROTTTO**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS &
WEEKENDS THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

START CHRISTMAS WITH A BANG!
**THE SOVEREIGN
WESTON SUPER MARE**

BOOK YOUR TICKETS
WWW.WESTONGROTTTO.CO.UK

SOVEREIGN **Action**
Pussycat



END OF TERM

**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

FRI 19TH DECEMBER

**BACKWELL
BAPTIST CHURCH**

3:45PM - 6:00PM

FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 3 - 6

HOT DOGS | GAMES | DISCO | PRIZES

FOR MORE DETAILS
AND TO BOOK YOUR
PLACE, PLEASE SCAN:



**CREATIVE
COURAGE
FOR LIFE!**

**STAGE
COACH**

ENROLLING FOR THE NEW TERM

STAGECOACH LONG ASHTON

Singing, dancing and acting classes for 4 - 18 year-olds

Giving children and young people the Creative Courage to stand up on stage for over 35 years.

ENROL NOW

www.stagecoach.co.uk/bristolsouthwest

07535662445

bristolsouthwest@stagecoach.co.uk





Penny Brohn^{UK}
Cancer wellbeing for everyone

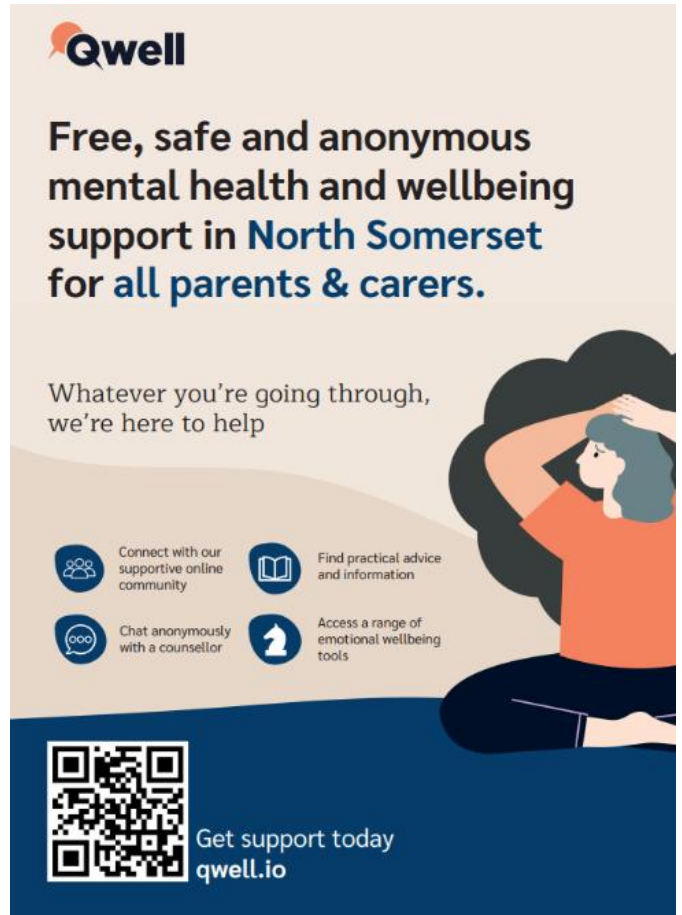
Festive Market

FRI DAY 12 DEC 2025 | £2 adult, £5 child
5pm - 9pm

Christmas gifts, festive refreshments, crafts, Santa's Grotto and NEW for 2025 an indoor reindeer trail - fun for the whole family!

 **Get your tickets**





FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR | Penny Brohn UK, Pill Bristol, BS20 0HH




Qwell

Free, safe and anonymous mental health and wellbeing support in North Somerset for all parents & carers.

Whatever you're going through, we're here to help

-  Connect with our supportive online community
-  Find practical advice and information
-  Chat anonymously with a counsellor
-  Access a range of emotional wellbeing tools

 **Get support today**
qwell.io



JINGLE ALL THE WAY TO SHINE HOLIDAY CLUBS
Book at MyShine.co.uk

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ▶ Merry Mash-Up
- ▶ Cracking Creative
- ▶ Christmas Cookery
- ▶ Shine New Years Party

BOOK NOW FOR 20% OFF
Use Code: **Early Booker**
Offer ends 07/12/25
*Conditions apply

Shine HOLIDAY CLUBS SOUTHVILLE



nested
backwell & naisco

Selling your home? Support your school

I'm really pleased to share a quick update on my pledge to support West Leigh School's solar panel fundraising.

So far, we have four houses sold and waiting to complete, which means once they all go through, I'll be donating £1,000 from my fee and hard work directly towards the school's solar fund.

We're well on our way, but we still need around six more Backwell homes to reach the target – and at this rate, we should be able to raise around £2,500 in total.

If you're thinking about selling – either now or in the new year – please get in touch and let's make this happen together for the school and our community.

