

Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 3



On our website - Links

[West Leigh - Letters to Parents](#)

[BJS - Letters to Parents](#)



Important Dates – Terms 3 and 4

Term 3

- Wednesday 28th January – National Height, Weight and Vision Checks for Reception Children
- Thursday 29th January – BJS 5B Class Assembly 10.15
- Monday 2nd to Friday 6th February – WL Scholastic Book Fair
- Wednesday 4th February – BJS School Trip to Backwell School to watch Oliver!
- Wednesday 11th February – BJS Ash Wednesday Service 2.15 at Church
- Thursday 12th February – BJS 6S Class Assembly 10.15
- Thursday 12th February – BJS Break the Rules Day
- Thursday 12th February – Last day of Term 3 (for Children)
- Friday 13th February – Inset Day
- Monday 16th – Friday 20th February – HALF TERM

Term 4

- Thursday 5th March – World Book Day 2026. WL and BJS children can dress as their Favourite Book Character
- Friday 6th March – BJS 4W Cake Sale
- Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th March – WL Parents Evenings
- Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th March – BJS Parents Evening
- Monday 16th March – BJS Y5 Church Day
- Tuesday 17th March – BJS Swimming Gala (PM)
- Monday 23rd – Friday 27th March – BJS Book Fair
- Friday 27th March – 6S Cake Sale
- Tuesday 31st March – Spring Sing 2:30-3:00pm
- Wednesday 1st April – BJS Easter Service 2:15pm
- Thursday 2nd April – BJS Easter Festival
- Thursday 2nd April – Last Day of Term

**Our next INSET day will be
on:**

**Friday 13th February
2026**

The Importance of Arriving to School on Time

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing to remind everyone of the importance of students arriving on time each morning. We have seen an increase over recent weeks in pupils arriving after 9am. Even being just **5–10 minutes late** can have a significant impact on a child's learning. These first few minutes of the day are crucial for settling in, receiving instructions, and preparing for the lessons ahead.

When a student arrives late, they miss important information and often start the day feeling rushed or unsettled. In addition, late arrivals can interrupt the flow of the lesson and cause a distraction for the rest of the class.

We appreciate your support in helping all children start the day calmly, confidently, and ready to learn.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with morning routines or punctuality, please feel free to contact us—we're here to help.

Nick Webster

Executive Headteacher

The Federation of West Leigh Infants and Backwell Juniors

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](#)

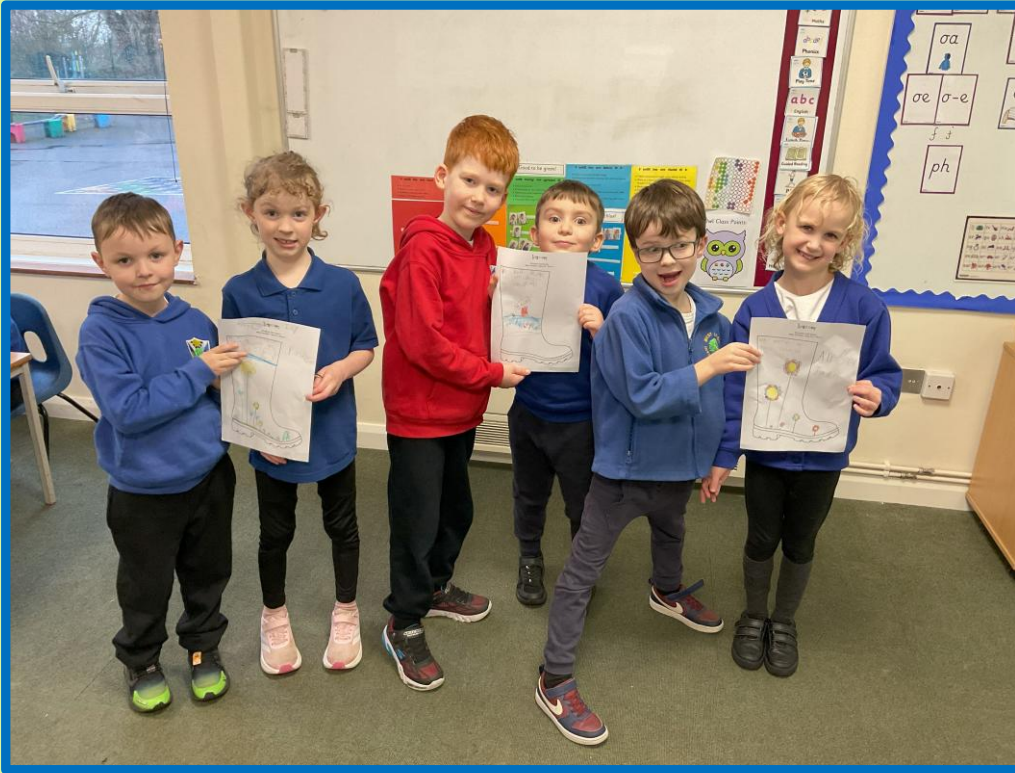
Parking Reminder – West Leigh

We are seeing an increase in parents parking in Westfield Drive, which is creating a risk for pedestrians and other road users.

Please do not park in Westfield Drive at all including for drop off and pick up for Breakfast and Afterschool clubs unless you have prior permission from us to do so.

Help us keep you and your children safe. Thank you.

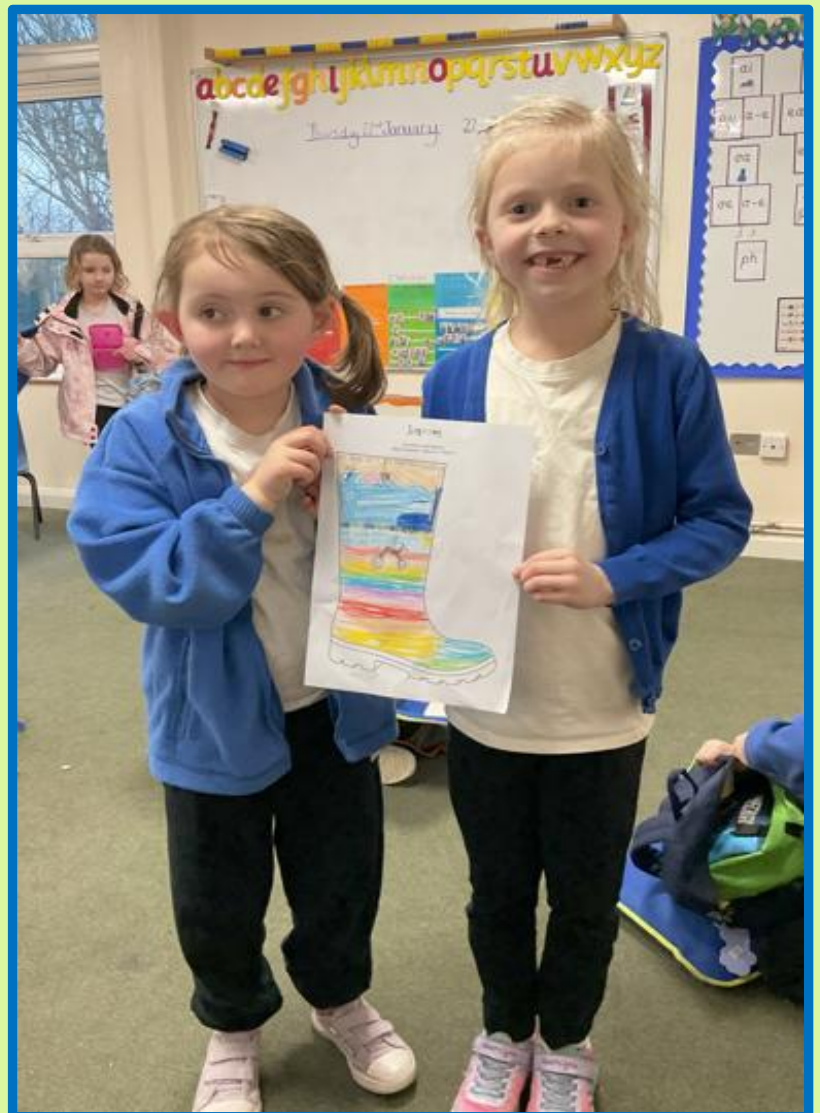


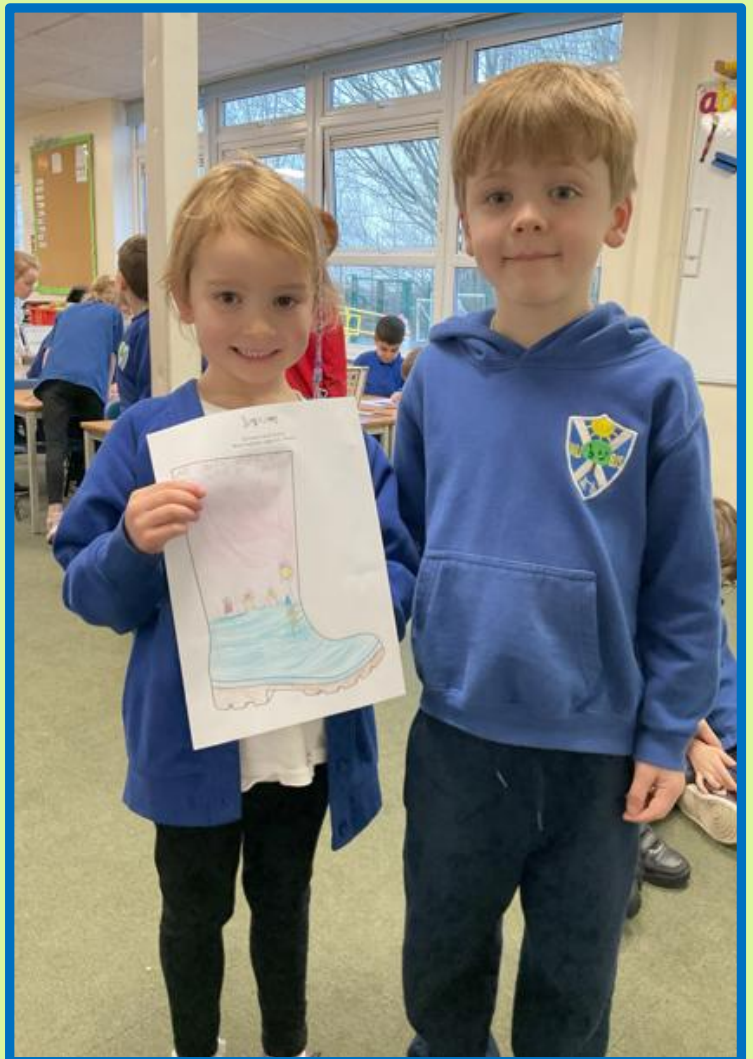
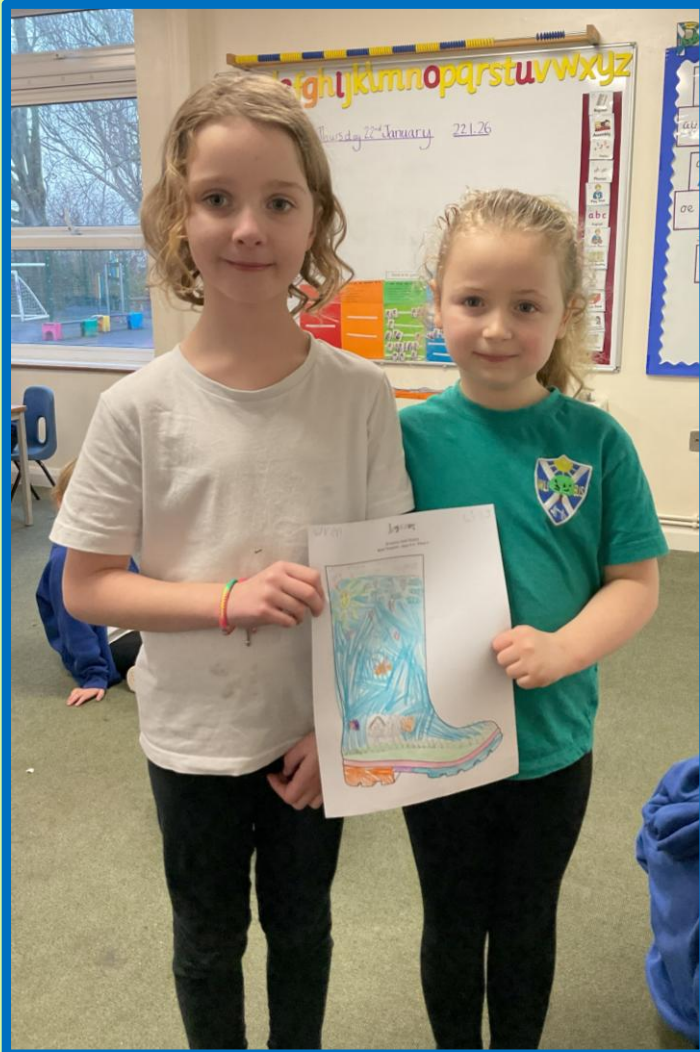


The Owls have had a busy start to Term 3. We are learning about everyday materials in science, and we've been handling different objects and materials. We've used words like bendy, hard, shiny, flexible, waterproof and rough to describe the materials' properties.

In Music, we've been using the glockenspiels to play along to 'I am in the Groove'. The children are enjoying listening to different styles of music and we've covered Blues, Baroque and Latin so far.

The children have also enjoyed looking at maps and photographs of Backwell in our Geography lessons. We are learning about what is located in our local area and the class have drawn maps of local features that are important to them. We are hoping to have a walk around the village to locate some of these features before the end of term.





In our Jigsaw lessons, we've been thinking about setting targets and the steps that we can take to achieve them. We worked with a partner to come up with a target that we both want to work on and wrote it on our welly target which we decorated together.

Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars

Thursday 15th January

Badgers – Sierra

Hedgehogs – Daniel

Owls – Amber

Rabbits – Rosie

Squirrels – Alissa

Thursday 22nd January

Badgers - Olive

Hedgehogs – Nathan

Owls – Finlay C

Rabbits – Erin

Squirrels – Ruben

Party Box Hire

Love parties, hate waste? If you have a birthday party coming up, save money and the planet whilst raising money for West Leigh PTA!

Hire our party kit with everything you need for up to 30 children - plates, bowls, cups, jugs, trays and serving bowls.

Collection and return to Backwell. Hire costs £5, plus £20 refundable deposit when returned clean and undamaged.

To check availability, book a slot or for any other questions contact the PTA at 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 for the PTA and to reuse school uniform. This year, the PTA have set up a new system for buying pre-loved uniform to make it accessible all year round. It has now been streamlined via a website and request form. You can check the stock of items, make your order and then the uniform fairies will collate and place the items on your child's peg within a week or so and payment is made online. Please use this link to see all the info and the items we have in stock:

<https://sites.google.com/view/wlsecondhanduniform/home?authuser=2> All items are £1.

If you have any P.E. items, mainly leggings and joggers, please can you bring them to the School Office – Thank You

Recycle your greetings cards all year round at West Leigh

Please recycle all your greetings cards* in the collection box situated by the school office at West Leigh Infant School, to [Help the Christie](#) and [Help the Planet](#).



Your used cards are gratefully received and turned into new Christmas and Greeting Cards, which are sold to raise funds for cancer patients at the Christie Hospital.

Thank you for your support

* Any greeting cards accepted, all year round.

Our Backwell B awards include:

Be your Best, Be Kind and Be Responsible

**Celebration Assembly -
19th December 2025**

Year 3 - Ivy and Chiedza

Year 4 - Freddy, Claudia and Violet

Year 5 - Ingrid M and Anais

Year 6 - Noah C, Eloise and Peter

**Celebration Assembly -
23rd January 2026**

Year 3 - Aya and Amara

Year 4 - Elin

Year 5 - Joseph and Mason

Year 6 - Juliet, Tadg and Ben



CONGRATULATIONS



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!

Introducing the BJS Reading Spine!

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of the Backwell Junior School Reading Spine for each year group. A recommended reading list of 15 books per year group. The PTA are very generously funding the cost of the books to ensure that they are available in each classroom for all children to access.

When selecting the books, the following factors were important to us:

- Well-known/ loved titles/ authors
- Newer/ diverse authors
- 1 age-appropriate picture book
- 1 x poetry book
- History/ Science titles
- Graphic novels
- Different interests catered for

Children will be able to read the books in class or take them home to read independently or with an adult (a coloured star will be stuck on the spine to identify our lovely new books!). We will have a waiting list in place for popular titles! They might also be selected as a class reader for story time.

Each year group reading spine can be found below:

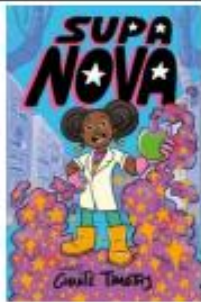
Year 3 Reading Spine							Year 4 Reading Spine							

Year 5 Reading Spine							Year 6 Reading Spine							

Please note, that unlike the 30 Reads, there is no challenge element to the new reading spines, just a recommended reading list which we hope will provide some direction and continue to encourage reading for pleasure amongst our children. Books should be arriving on classroom bookshelves over the next few weeks! Thank you again to our wonderful PTA for making this possible!

BOOKS IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

As a way of introducing some of the newer titles in the reading spine, a number of them have been placed in our reading spotlight below:



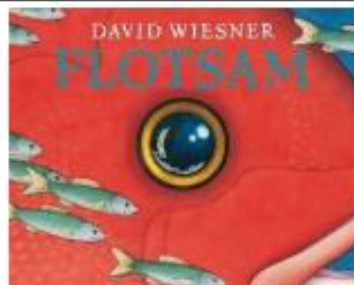
This 'out of this world' graphic novel has lots to like and is a strong first offering from a brand new series of young graphic novels. The story follows Nova, who is from a family of scientists and creative geniuses. Influenced by an environmental problem she sees on the news, Nova rushes to her secret lab to try to find a solution. After a few attempts, she succeeds, and all seems well until things get out of control and she is in a race against time to stop Chomp on his path of destruction. Nova soon realises that she cannot do this on her own and needs to enlist the help of her sister Cassi.



Michael Morpurgo does it again with this heartwarming and sometimes teary tale inspired by the extraordinary true story of the French Drummer Boy of Waterloo. A story of friendship, courage and battles. Cobweb is a puppy in 1815, the story journeys through his life and the adventures it takes him on. A powerful, moving adventure inspired by the extraordinary true story of the French Drummer Boy of Waterloo, *COBWEB* is a stunning tale of courage and kindness - a book about humanity, animals, and the heartbreak of war, from a writer at the height of his powers.



This beautiful text is a longer picture book, and feels more like a large-format chapter book with full-page illustrations, drawing Key Stage 2 readers into a brilliant illustrated adventure with science themes of light, design, discovery and invention. The story follows a young mouse, Pete, on a quest to uncover the mystery of his ancestor's lost treasure, a journey that unexpectedly leads him and an old Professor into the fascinating world of submarine design and the history of invention.



A bright, science-minded boy goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam-anything floating that has been washed ashore. Bottles, lost toys, small objects of every description are among his usual finds. But there's no way he could have prepared for one particular discovery: a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share . . . and to keep. This award-winning wordless picture book offers endless opportunities for discussion. Incredible illustrations that speak for themselves.



Life can be tough in your last year of primary school. Tests to take, preparing for the change to high school. Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS is at his side - they've been inseparable since Nursery. But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, Nate's world turns upside-down. His new teacher, Mr Joshua, sees a spark inside of Nate that's lit by his love of reading and writing and shows him how to use this to process what's going on. But with so much working against him, and anger rising inside him, will this be enough?

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 ☺

Panto – Snow White

We would like to thank the PTA for funding the M&M Production of Snow White, they came to visit us on 20th January.....Oh Yes They Did!!!!

The Hall was full to capacity and the fun, singing, dancing (well done Mrs Pearson and Mrs Phelps!) and cheering could be heard for what I imagine would be miles around they really did give us an afternoon to remember!



Year 6

The PTA are underway in the mammoth task of ensuring all our Year 6 Children end their time at BJS with the most wonderful memories.....you will have received an email with choices for your Leavers Hoodies and destination for the famous Leavers Party – get your votes in now!

The most popular choice will be the winner!

It may seem like a long time away but we ask you to save the date for our much-loved Summer Fair! The joint WL and BJS Summer Fair will be held at BJS on the school field on...

Saturday 13th June



COMING SOON!

12th February – Break the Rules Day

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful PTA for all their hard work and dedication in organising events that the children love and value so much! Their tireless enthusiasm is all for the benefit of your children and all funds raised provide resources and activities that very tight school budgets just cannot provide – giving the children these opportunities is priceless!

If you have a little spare time and feel you can offer to help in any way, please email the lovely team at BJSPTA@backwellfederation.co.uk

Parking at BJS

The school office have yet again been receiving a large number of neighbourhood complaints regarding parking at school and in the surrounding roads. There has been an increase in the number of parents dropping their children off by car directly opposite Backwell Juniors. We'd like to remind everyone that it is not permitted to stop on the painted zig zag lines outside school, but it is also unsafe to park on the road due to the narrowness of the lanes etc.

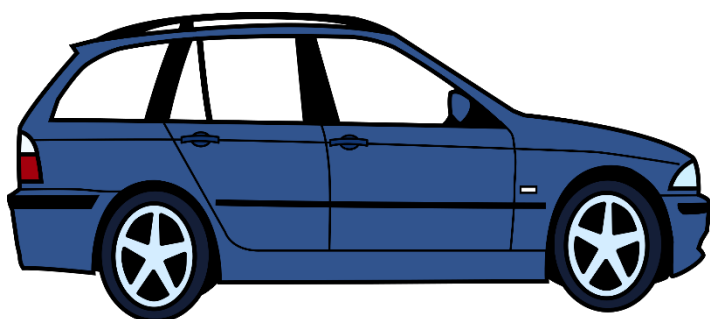
Several children have mentioned that they feel unsafe walking to and from school due to the speed and number of cars on this road and so we politely ask for you to refrain from dropping off in these areas and park on Dark Lane and walk the short distance to school to drop off/pick up. This additional 5 minutes is a small ask given these safety concerns.

Large vehicles have been unable to pass on Church Lane and the congestion level at school times is excessive.

As well as being very concerned about reports of people being rude to other road users and our neighbours we are very concerned that if larger vehicles are unable to pass then emergency vehicles will also be unable to reach a destination in an emergency situation which in turn could have devastating results to the community.

We ask you all to consider your parking – leave a little earlier for a space near school or park a little further away in a safe manner. Community Police have been informed and we have requested assistance in managing this going forward.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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



MINECRAFT CLUB

Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers



Coding with Minecraft

Turn your child's Minecraft passion into coding fun!
A monthly club where your child will use code to build worlds, create mini-games, and bring their ideas to life using Minecraft Education. Your child will develop creative, collaboration and problem solving skills.

Suitable for children aged 8 – 12.

For more information and to register:
codingbug.co.uk/coding-in-minecraft/

WHERE
Yatton Library
BS49 4HJ

WHEN
Saturday 31st January 2026
From 10:00am - 12:30pm

codingbug.co.uk

Email: info@codingbug.co.uk or call 07909226520



 facebook.com/codingbug/

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




Cycling Sessions For Young People



We have availability on Saturdays for FREE 1:1 Cycle lessons for young people.

These sessions are perfect for young people needing an extra bit of support to develop their cycling skills

These 30 minute sessions take full advantage of our fantastic range of bikes, trikes & adaptive bikes to introduce cycle skills & develop further confidence.

Email strawberrylineprojects@gmail.com for more information



future talent

BRISTOL CREATE DAY

With Siobhan Clough

Sunday 8th February 2026
10:30am-3:30pm
Future Talent & West of England Music and Arts

SIGN UP HERE

This Create Day will focus on **Open Scores** - a flexible, creative way of making music that welcomes all instruments and experience levels. Young musicians from **Future Talent** and **WEMA** will join together to explore ideas, experiment, meet new friends, and create new music as a group.

Trinity Academy
Romney Avenue
Lockleaze
Bristol
BS7




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

Book today
premier-education.com

Excellent
★★★★★
Trustpilot

YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CLUB

Venue: Hannah More & Grove School - Nailsea

Dates: Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

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!

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

Join us this February 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 this half-term!

Book now for a holiday full of excitement!

CLUBS 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

PORTISHEAD GYMNASTICS HALF TERM CAMPS
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1 & ABOVE
PARISH WHARF LEISURE CENTRE
 Harbour Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7DD

ONLY £30 PER SESSION




Introducing GymClubs' Fun & Skill-Building Gymnastics Workshops!
 Join us for exciting workshops designed to help your child grow their gymnastics skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Led by our amazing team of experienced coaches, these workshops are perfect for gymnasts of all levels—whether your child is just starting out or looking to refine their favourite moves. With a focus on learning, fun, and confidence-building, we'll work on key skills like:

- ✦ Flicks (back handsprings)
- ✦ Front somersaults
- ✦ Aerials
- ✦ Walkovers
- ✦ Vault progressions for front handsprings and half-ons

Our workshops are all about making progress while having a great time, so your child can take their gymnastics journey to the next level—no matter where they're starting from!

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE. BOOK NOW AT
www.gymclubs.co.uk/workshops

FEBRUARY HALF TERM WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE TO BOOK

Half Term Dates

Monday 16th Feb
 9.30-1.30pm

Wednesday 18th Feb
 9.30-1.30pm

Any enquiries contact Head Coach Bex on 07967 402061

All prices are inclusive of VAT, VAT Registration No. 404812521

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!
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**

School Togs

Please use the link below or log on to our simple to use site schooltogsnailesea.co.uk to order all your School Uniform



schooltogsnailesea.co.uk

West of England **MUSIC & ARTS**

DISCOVERY DAYS

at WEMA Music Centres

Our free-of-charge Discovery Days are the perfect chance to try out our Music Centres, meet new friends, and experience the fun of playing in an ensemble. Bring your enthusiasm and see where music can take you!

Ensembles available for a wide variety of instruments, ages and playing levels.



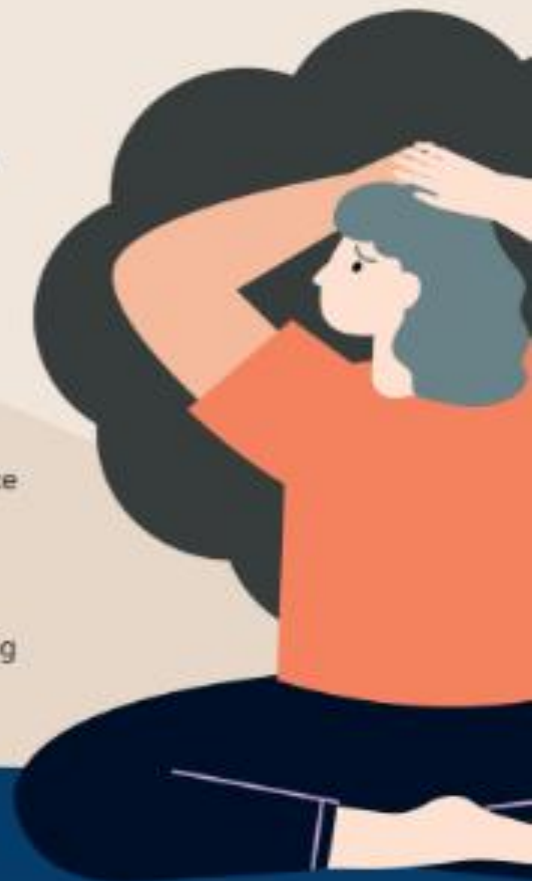
Sign up using the QR code or visit: wema.org.uk/wema-music-centres





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



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.