

Backwell Federation Newsletter

Term 3 Federation Value - Respect

Important Dates - Term 3 / 4

- Tuesday 24 January - WL Enrichment Morning
- Monday 30 January - WL Book Fair week
- Tuesday 31 January - WL Reception height and weight check
- Thursday 09 February - 4JC Class Assembly @ 10.15am (BJS)
- Friday 10 February - End of term for both schools
- Monday 20 February - Start of Term 4 for both schools

(Federation Value for Term 4 is Responsibility)

Inset days for Next Year - 2023/2024

- **Monday 04 September 2023**
- **Tuesday 05 September 2023**
- **Friday 20 October 2023**
- **Friday 17 November 2023**
- **Monday 19 February 2024**
- **Monday 03 June 2024**

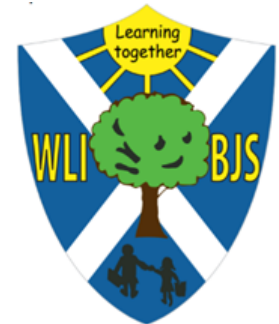
2023 - 2024 Term Dates

- * **Term 1 - Monday 04 September to Fri 20 October**
- * **Term 2 - Monday 30 October to Wednesday 20 December**
- * **Term 3 - Thursday 04 January 2024 to Friday 09 February**
- * **Term 4 - Monday 19 February to Thursday 28 March**
- * **Term 5 - Monday 15 April to Friday 24 May**
- * **Term 6 - Monday 03 June to Tuesday 23 July**

All these dates can be found on the Federation website



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



On our website - Links

[West Leigh - Letters to Parents](#)

[BJS - Letters to Parents](#)



The Federation of West Leigh Infant School and Backwell C of E Junior School



www.backwellfederation.co.uk

Local Governing Body

Chair of Governors: Justine Stafford

Dear all,

January 2023

Local Governing Board – opportunities to become a governor

If you're looking for a new challenge in 2023 and want to find new ways to use your skills to support the work of our schools, then becoming a governor could be the opportunity you are looking for. We have some exciting vacancies to join our Local Governing Board.

The role of the Local Governing Body, working with and providing support to the Head Teacher and the leadership team, focuses on three core areas (which are defined within the Department of Education's governance framework).

- *Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction*
- *Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and*
- *Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.*

The governor roles:

1. As part of our governing board development, and ongoing succession planning, we are looking to recruit some specific skills. We are particularly interested to hear from people who have experience, past or present, in the following areas:
 - **Curriculum/education** - especially primary
 - **Leadership** – such as experience of running committees/boards, and who would consider a chair or vice chair development path.
2. Alongside this we are looking to run an election for a **Parent governor** – we have particular interest in **having representation from West Leigh**.
 - As a parent governor you play a vital role in ensuring that the board is connected with, and aware of, the views of parents and the local community.
 - A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children.
 - Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills.

Becoming a governor is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who have a good dollop of passion, curiosity, confidence to ask questions, as well as time to invest in the schools. It is a chance to both share your skills and develop and learn as part of a board.

So, what would you need to do?

- Attendance at local governing board meetings which are held once a term – typically on a Tuesday evening (can be held virtually or face to face) |



The Federation of West Leigh Infant School and Backwell C of E Junior School



www.backwellfederation.co.uk

- Monitoring the school as part of your agreed link governor role - to monitor and report back to the local governing board. Expect about 3 visits a year, which would usually be organised within school hours.
- Commitment to training for your role – typically you would expect a maximum of 3 training sessions a year- including governor induction training which is run by the trust.

How to apply:

- If you would like to express an interest in applying, please do drop myself, or our clerk Clair Gardner, an email by the **27th Jan 2022**: jstafford@backwellfederation.co.uk / cgclerk@backwellfederation.co.uk
- For the parent governor role we ask you fill in a nomination form (Appendix 1).
 - If there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting forms will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.
- At the end of this letter, it summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor (Appendix 2).

I know we have a talented community, with much passion, capability, and strong voices, so I hope we can tap into some of that to support the work of our schools. We are also always happy to hear from non-parents to support our board, so if you do know someone who would be a great fit do please share this opportunity with them.

The high level of challenge and support the governors give in discharging their duties was something called out in the recent OFSTED report from West Leigh, and I want to thank all our governors for their time and dedication. I want to say a big thank you to Lucy Livings, Angus Urquhart and Cath Twine who are finishing their terms as governors, alongside a warm welcome to Ellie O'Brien who has joined us as our linked SEND governor.

Yours faithfully,

Justine Stafford
Chair of Governors

For full information, please click on the link below and visit our website:

www.backwellfederation.co.uk

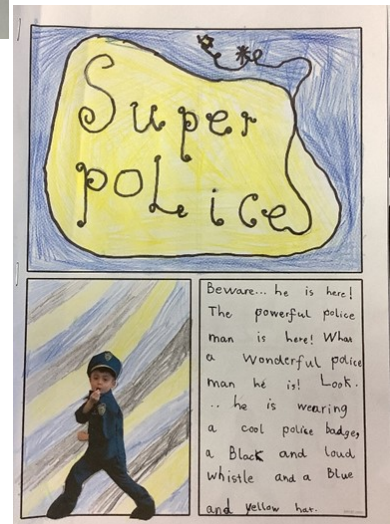
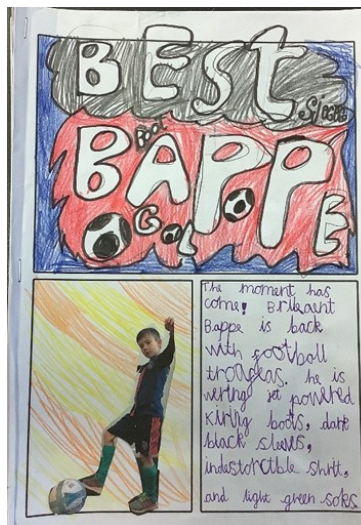
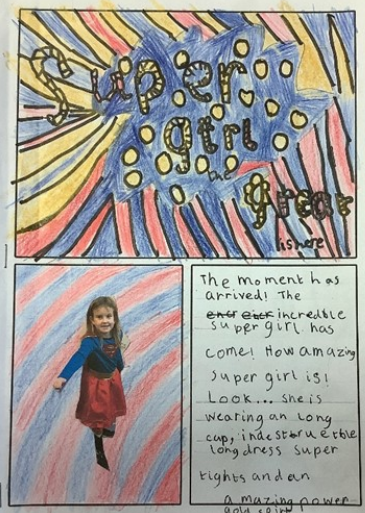
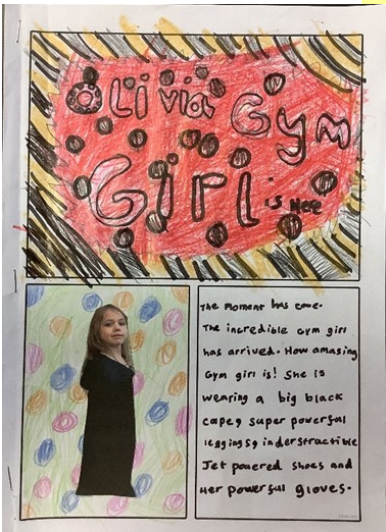
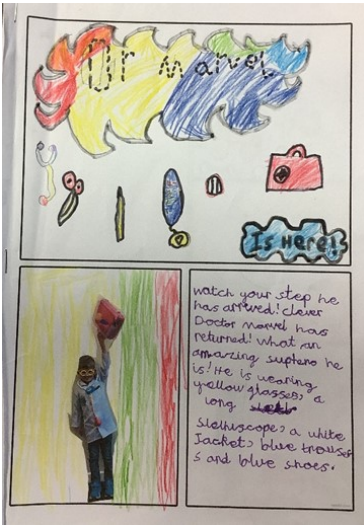
<https://www.backwellfederation.co.uk/page/?title=Local+Governing+Board%3A++Opportunities+to+become+a+governor+%2D+January+2023&pid=410>



Year 2 Wow Day



On Friday 6th January, Year 2 was taken over by superheroes! This term, our English lessons are being inspired by Traction Man by Mini Grey and we are working towards creating our own comic book with ourselves as the superheroes. Our classrooms were filled with many different types of superheroes: We had The Newcastle Jet whose superpower is a supersonic kick travelling faster than the speed of light; Backflip Girl whose superpower is being able to do endless backflips; Emmeline Pankhurst whose superpower is to change people's ideas; and even Boxing Boy whose superpower is a deathly stare! Have a look at a few fantastic examples of our first pages of our comic books.

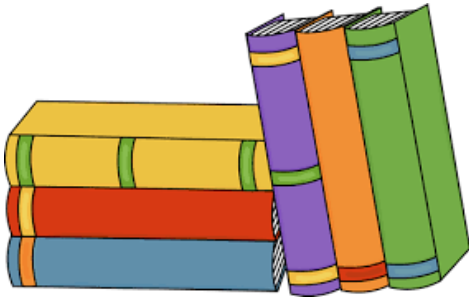


JANUARY

Book Fair at West Leigh

Celebrate Reading at our Book Fair—The Book Fair will be running at West Leigh from **Friday 27 January to Thursday 2nd February, 3.05pm-3.45pm**. There will be a wide range of books including fiction and non-fiction to encourage children to read for pleasure and enjoy the process of choosing their own books.

Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school library!



Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars:

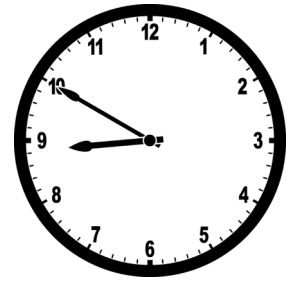
Thursday 12th January
Reception – Frankie, Theo
Year 1 – Matthew, Jack
Year 2 – Bella, Loveday

Thursday 19th January
Reception - Billy, Adam
Year 1 - Thomas, Gracie-mae
Year 2 - Asa, Ezra





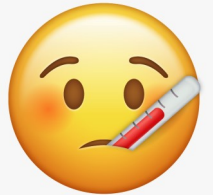
Gentle reminders—please note the classroom doors open at 8.50am and school starts promptly at 9am. Any children arriving after 9am will be marked as late in the register.



Gentle reminders—please note that dogs are not allowed on the school site.



Gentle reminders—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.



Gentle reminders—for safety/safeguarding reasons—when waiting in reception near the office, only school staff are allowed to open the door to other visitors. This is to keep everyone safe.



West Leigh Arts Week

West Leigh's Annual Arts Week will take place 6th-8th February 2023. We are really excited that we will be exploring Latin America. The main focus will be Painting, Drawing, DT, Music, Dance and Geography. There will be a display on Thursday 9th at 3.05 in classrooms, we hope you will come and see all the wonderful pieces of art the children have created. Please feel free to visit other classes to view their work too.

If any parents or carers think they may have any resources/artefacts or skills which might be of interest – we'd love to know!

Please contact Mrs Wilson or Miss Hiscocks if you think you could help. Thank you.



Year 1 Trip to St Andrew's Church

The Year 1 children enjoyed a trip to St. Andrew's Church this week as part of their RE work on how we celebrate our journey through life. They were learning about Baptism and finding out what happens during a baptism service.

Reverend Katy made us feel very welcome at the church and organised a pretend Baptism for us to take part in. We had a congregation, parents, godparents and most importantly, a baby doll to be christened! We enjoyed helping to choose the baby's name.

During the first part of the baptism service Reverend Katy spoke the words of the baptism service and made the sign of the cross on the baby's forehead with some oils blessed by the Bishop. The parents and godparents then went to the font and watched whilst it was filled with water. Reverend Katy used a sea shell to scoop some water over the baby's head as a sign of cleansing. Finally, the baby was presented with a candle to represent the light of Christ. Luckily, the baby was very good during the whole service and didn't cry at all!

A big thank you to the parents who came to meet us and walk us back to West Leigh on such a cold and icy morning.



**THANK
YOU!**



THANK
YOU!

A few polite reminders

- Please be reminded that school starts at 0900. The school gates are open for children to arrive from 0830. The front school gate will close at 0900. Arrivals after this time will be marked as late (this is registered as an unauthorised session).
- Please remember that all children require a warm, waterproof coat to be brought to school every day. With this ever changing winter weather, we need to prepare for every eventuality.
- School dinners from Aspens must be ordered by 0900 every morning. The school office will not cancel any dinners for absent children, so if your child is not attending school, please remember to cancel their school dinner before 0900 hrs, or this will end up being charged for.
- We are still having some parents parking on the yellow zigzags in front of school at drop off and pick up time. Please remember this is a no parking zone and should not be used under any Circumstances. The local police representative has been outside school monitoring this and will be returning on random dates. Safety of pupils and pedestrians is of paramount importance to us.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Pet Service at St Andrew's Church - 18 January 2023

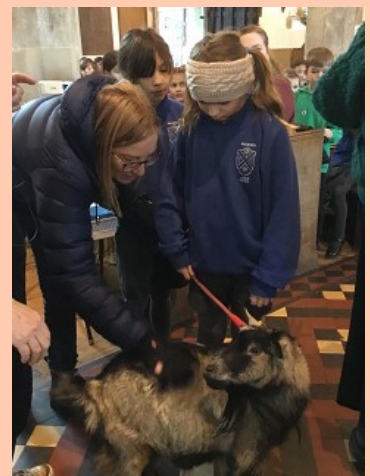
What a lovely start to a Wednesday morning! Our termly service at St Andrew's Church was a Pet service. Children brought along their much loved pets, or a photo of their pets (due to practical reasons). We enjoyed meeting lots of dogs, cats, guinea pigs, Stick insects and even a goat !

Rev Katy and Timi led a fun, inspiring service with a visit from a local retired vet , Mr Ian Wells who spoke to us all about caring for and protecting animals of the world, whether they might be the smallest insects, to our pets, farm animals and wild animals alike.

We all got to meet a new member of the St Andrew's team, Mr Nick Miller, who played the piano and the organ and also taught us a song about God's creatures. We all found this fun and amusing, as we had to make lots of animal noises.

Many thanks to the St Andrew's team, to all the parents and carers who were able to attend and to everyone who brought in pictures of animals, big and small. Thank you for your understanding, that it is not practically possible to allow every pet to attend.

We hope you enjoy some of our photographs.



BJS—Celebration Award Winners

Friday 13 January 2023

Year 3 - Lily & Sonny
Year 4 - Nairn & Bianca
Year 5 - Milly & Rose
Year 6 - Ted & Louie

Friday 20 January

Year 3 - Ayla, Beau & Mimi
Year 4 - Bibi & Tommy G-S
Year 5 - Mikey
Year 6 - Hannah & Fred

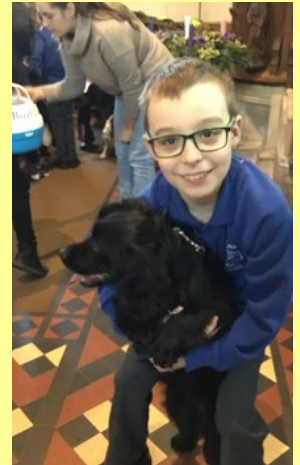


CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Backwell B' awards include:

Be your Best, Be Kind and Be Responsible

Pet Service Photo Gallery



LKS2 - Gymnastics event at Gemini Gym, Nailsea

On Wednesday, 18 January, some very lucky year 3's and 4's paid a visit to Gemini Gymnastics in Nailsea. They grew in confidence and tried lots of movements and disciplines that they had never tried before! Many of the children were inspired to go again and take up gymnastics as a sport. Perhaps Backwell will have famous Olympic gold medalists to celebrate in the near future? All the children did our school proud by being brave, trying new things and showing the other schools and staff present their good manners. Well done! - Thank you to Mr Williams and the staff at Gemini Gym in Nailsea.



Year 6 Christmas trip to Tyntesfield

A Victorian Christmas at Tyntesfield

Shortly before the end of Term 2, Year 6 visited National Trust Tyntesfield to experience life as a Victorian Servant in a big stately home. We all dressed up as maids and boot boys and had to act in character. We were allowed to arrange and clean some Victorian crockery. We had to learn to walk very quietly like a servant would. We had to turn and face the wall if anyone of importance came passed and stay facing the wall until they had left!

We were very lucky to be able to have a guided tour of the beautiful house and learned all about the Victorian family that lived in the manor house. We were even allowed access to some areas that the public don't get to see.

The learning team at Tyntesfield helped us to make Christmas decorations for the trees in the house. We used natural materials, such as wood, acorns, sticks, leaves and some paint and glue. This was so much fun. Our decorations were based on insects: Spiders, Ants, Dragonflies and Butterflies.

By Francesca & Amelie 6M



Book Corner - January 2023



BOOK CORNER

Welcome to our Book Corner where we share everything we love about Reading!

READING AT HOME

It's always a pleasure to see the range of books the children are enjoying at home when we look through the reading records each week.

We just wanted to send a reminder out about our minimum expectation of 5 reads per week and reiterate the fact that this can be a combination of the following:

- Independent reading- children reading to themselves with an adult signing to acknowledge that they've read.
- Child reads to an adult out loud- a chance to check-in on reading fluency and comprehension.
- Adult reading to child- a chance for you to share a book with your child/ children.

When adults continue to read aloud to children at home, throughout KS2, it promotes reading for pleasure which in itself has many benefits- as can be seen on the poster below:

Supporting Readers at Home

Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.

- Read Aloud**: Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.
- Family Reading Time**: Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.
- Book Chat**: Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!

Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.

For more ideas see the OU website: <https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org>

I wonder if...why... what...who...

For further information about supporting reading at home, the OUP Reading for Pleasure website is a great resource: <https://ourfp.org/supporting-rah/>

MONTHLY MUST READS

Each month, we post a selection of 'hot off the press' recommended reads...

These are taken from 'The Reader Teacher' <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/> a fantastic source of reads, reviews and recommendations at KS1 and KS2.

These books are not currently on the 30 Reads list but could be added under the 'your choice' section on the 30 Reads log. These books can also be reserved and borrowed from Nailsea Library ☺

JANUARY		
	 <p>Fiction book of the month</p>	
<p>Interest age: 10+ Independent reading age: 10+ ***A SUNDAY TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR*** Featured on <i>This Morning</i>, <i>Steph's Packed Lunch</i>, <i>Radio 4: Today</i> and <i>Channel 4 News</i> <i>Everyone knows the word 'war'. But very few understand what it truly means. When you find you have to face it, you feel totally lost, walled in by fright and despair. Until you've been there, you don't know what war is. This is the gripping and moving diary of young Ukrainian refugee Yeva Skalietska. It follows twelve days in Ukraine that changed 12-year-old Yeva's life forever.</i></p>	<p>Interest age: 9+ Independent reading age: 10+ <i>Adam has found something incredible in a rubbish dump in London. A mysterious, mythical, magical animal. A TYGER. And the tyger is in danger. Adam and his friend Zadie are determined to help, but it isn't just the tyger's life at stake. Their whole world is on the verge of destruction. Can they learn to use their powers before it's too late?</i></p>	<p>Interest age: 8+ Independent reading age: 7+ <i>Everybody dreams of becoming a superstar YouTube sensation, but for Adam - a penniless, cameraless nobody, with only one friend - it isn't just a dream, it's a COMPLETE AND UTTER, NEVER-GOING-TO-HAPPEN-IN-A-MILLION-YEARS, ABSOLUTE IMPOSSIBILITY! That is until he stumbles across the mysterious Popularis Incrementum website. As if by magic, Adam is thrown into a world of FAME, FORTUNE... But Adam's luck may be running out.</i></p>
 <p>Non-fiction book of the month</p>		
<p>Interest age: 7+ Independent reading age: 7+ <i>Written by award-winning author Jasbinder Bilan with detailed artwork by Nina Chakrabarti, this is a joyful celebration of India and its incredible people, places and wildlife. Watch elephants bathing from a houseboat in Kerala, marvel at ancient cave paintings in Bhimbetka, wander through Delhi's bustling streets, and ride a train through the snow-capped peaks of the Himalaya.</i></p>	<p>Interest age: 9+ Independent reading age: 10+ <i>Longlisted for The Juniper Book Award 2023. Beware the Twig Man, the Twig Man's hex. Beware the Twig Man, or you'll be NEXT! It's been a year since nearly-twelve-year-old Ari's older sister, Lana, ran away. Except Ari knows what really happened. She was taken by the Twig Man, the creepy monster that's haunted the woods for one hundred years. No one else will listen, so it's down to Ari to save his sister. But he had better hurry, as Ari finds himself next on The Twig Man's list...</i></p>	<p>Interest age: 8+ Independent reading age: 9+ <i>Wren lives in an ancient castle in the mountains near the sea. The wind whistles through it and the walls sing to her. Wren is busy inventing things, and her father is busy disapproving. But the castle contains a mystery and as Wren is drawn further into it, she realises the answer lies in the very foundations of her home, foundations that are being shaken to their core...</i></p>



DO YOU WANT TO PLAY CRICKET?

Come and join the fun at Cleeve Cricket Club

CLEEVE CRICKET CLUB IS LOOKING FOR NEW JUNIOR PLAYERS FOR THE 2023 SEASON (Under 11 & Under 13 age groups)

Our family club will also be running All Stars cricket for 5-8 year olds and
Dynamos cricket for 8-10 year olds.



Register at: allstarscricket.co.uk or dynamoscriccket.co.uk

NETS AND TRAINING PROVIDED EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH THE SEASON
COACHES CRB/DBS CHECKED

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT www.cleeve.play-cricket.com

CONTACT cleevecc@yahoo.com / 07980 940892

OR LOOK FOR US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@cleeveccc

Cleeve Cricket Club, Meetinghouse Lane, Cleeve



@CleeveCC



@CleeveCC

Your Mobile Library



Visits Backwell weekly on Mondays:

2023	Monday
February	6, 13, 20, 27
March	6, 13, 20, 27
April	3, 10, 17, 24

H = No service because of public/Bank Holiday
M = Vehicle off road for scheduled maintenance

Stops at:	Rodney Road car park	2:15-4:15pm
Backwell		

Please note that stops and timings may be subject to change during the currency of this timetable.

We would ask that you consider the following, as part of our ongoing efforts to continue to safeguard our staff, customers and volunteers:

- Be mindful of the number of people on board the vehicle and wait outside if necessary or requested to do so by staff;
- Consider wearing a face mask while on board (unless medically exempt);
- Sanitise your hands before entering vehicle;
- Do not use the service if you have symptoms, have tested positive or have been asked to isolate.

Please note that COVID-19 guidance and requirements may change.

For more information please call 01275 888 864 or email mobile.library@n-somerset.gov.uk.
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries



@nslibraries



@NSomLibraries

Backwell School Sixth Form Production of 'The Addams Family'

THE ADDAMS FAMILY, a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story and it's every father's nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family— a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before— keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

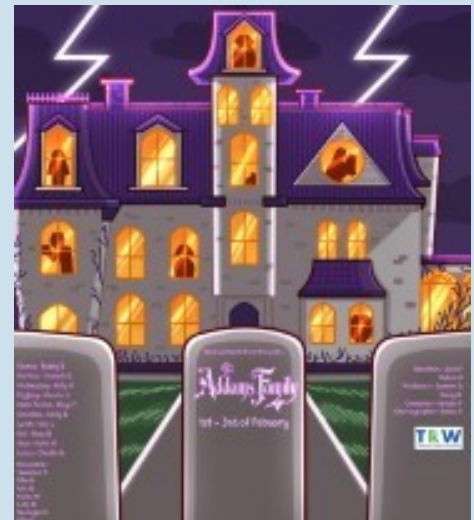
With acknowledgements to Theatrical Rights Worldwide for providing us with this show.

Book: Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice

Music and Lyrics: Andrew Lippa

Tickets available via:

[https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events?
search=backwell+school](https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events?search=backwell+school)



Backwell School Main Theatre

Full Price: From £8

Concession: From £6

Upcoming Dates & Times

1st February 2023

19:00 - 21:30

2nd February 2023

19:00 - 21:30

3rd February 2023

19:00 - 21:30



FEBRUARY
HALF-TERM

PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

Premier Education | **INSPIRING
ACTIVITY**



**SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps

Trustpilot
★★★★★
Based on over 15,000 reviews

YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

Venue: Hannah More Infants & Grove Junior School

Dates: 13th February -17th February 2023

Times: 9:00-15:30 early drop off (8.15) and late pick up (17:00)

Price: £18.95

Ages: 5-11 4 year olds can attend 9-1pm session

Additional info:

PLEASE BRING

- A packed lunch
- Plenty of water
- Suitable clothing
- Loads of energy!

Mix it up this half-term with our multi-activity holiday camps!

These camps are a perfect blend of activities for all ages, combining different sports with a variety of team games.

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from roller skating to fencing, lacrosse to cheer.

Book now for a half-term full of fun!



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

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

Trustpilot
★★★★★
Based on over 15,000 reviews

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

10 - 16 FEB

Taking place at:

**YEO MOOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
(BS21 6JL)

Open to children from any school

WHAT'S ON?

- CREATIVE WORKSHOPS
- MINI FUNDAYS
- MULTI SPORTS FUNDAYS
- INSET FUN DAY (10 Feb)



Shine
MyShine.co.uk

20% OFF
ANY ACTIVITY

Use code:
Early Booker
*offer ends Sunday 22nd Jan

Cooking FOR REAL PEOPLE



Demo'd by professional cook & caterer

- Buy Demo Dishes
- Activities for kids
- Book on Eventbrite £1
- Soup & bread included
- 6 stand alone sessions
- Come to all

OR choose convenient dates

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cooking-for-real-people-tickets-504605758407>

Backwell Parish Hall
Sundays 5-6pm
Starting 22nd January



Supported by Backwell Parish Council and The Meeting Point





Community Children's
Health Partnership

NHS



School Health Nurses Free webinars for parents and carers

**Practical and informative online sessions from
your expert team of local School Health Nurses.**

Our webinars lasts between 30 and 45 minutes, with the opportunity to ask questions throughout. They're suitable for parents and carers of children and young people of all ages.



Topics include:

- Keeping your child happy and healthy
- Healthy eating and physical activity
- Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing
- Eating disorder awareness
- Dental health
- Sleep

Find out more and book your free space:
cchp.nhs.uk/schoolnursewebinars



Service provided by

Sirona
care & health