



Friday 22nd May 2026

Newsletter Summer 1 - 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has been the shortest half term of the year, it has certainly been full of energy and achievement. Our pupils have embraced a wide range of enrichment opportunities, showing curiosity, creativity and a genuine enthusiasm for their learning. We are extremely proud of the progress being made by children across the school. In particular, our Year 6 pupils approached their SATs with determination and maturity, which was wonderful to see. The popular Year 6 breakfast club helped to create a calm and positive start to each day, and we are very grateful to the staff who made this possible.



Next half term is set to be just as exciting and full of opportunity. We have a wonderful range of events and activities planned to keep everyone motivated and inspired. Our Year 6 pupils have a busy and memorable time ahead, beginning with their residential visit to Huish Woods, followed by the chance to shine in their end of year performances for parents, which are always a highlight of the summer term.



There will also be many opportunities for learning beyond the classroom, with exciting trips planned to Sandworld, the Sea Life Centre and the Museum of Somerset. Year 5 and 6 pupils will take part in Bikeability, developing the confidence and skills needed for safe cycling. Transition days will support children as they prepare for the next stage of their journey, while Sports Day will bring the whole school community together in a celebration of teamwork and enjoyment. We are also looking forward to some of our much-loved Kingfisher traditions, including Kingfisher's Got Talent, the Kingfisher Carnival and our ever-popular Summer Fair.

As we look ahead to the final term of the academic year, I'm truly looking forward to continuing our collaboration and celebrating all the exciting moments still to come. In the meantime, I wish you all a healthy, happy, and restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming all children back to school on **Tuesday 2nd June 2026**.

With best wishes,

Mr Daniel Glentworth
Headteacher

Attendance Matters

We're pleased to share that our whole school attendance for **this term** stands at an impressive **96.9%**, with our year-to-date attendance since September 2025 currently at **96.9%** - above the national average of **93.3%**. As a school, we are always striving to keep attendance above **96%**, and we thank all families for their continued support in helping us achieve this goal. Please remember that school attendance is statutory, and every day counts in your child's learning journey.

A big congratulations to **Dragonfly Class**, who achieved the highest attendance this term with an outstanding **98.2%** - Well done Year 1!

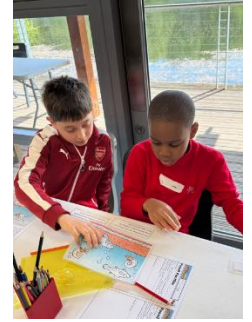
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

After-school childcare: A polite reminder to all our families that the sessions you have booked on ParentPay will automatically cancel if there are insufficient funds on your account. Please ensure that funds are in your account when you book your sessions.

Scooters & Bikes: Please encourage your child to dismount their scooter or bike as they enter the school gates to ensure the safety of those on foot. Thank you.

Year 3 trip to Whatley Quarry

Our Year 3 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting visit to Whatley Quarry to enhance their understanding of rocks and soil. The trip brought their science learning to life as they explored real rock formations, examined different types of soil and discovered how a working quarry operates. Guided by knowledgeable experts, the children had the opportunity to handle a range of rock samples, ask thoughtful questions and observe some of the machinery used on site. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that captured their interest and enthusiasm for geology. A big thank you goes to the team at Whatley Quarry, as well as our parent volunteers, for helping to make the day both educational and truly memorable.



Military Kids Day

In April, we were proud to recognise Military Kids Day in school, a special occasion to celebrate the children and families in our community with parents serving in the armed forces. It was a valuable opportunity to reflect on the unique experiences and challenges service families may face, and to acknowledge the resilience and strength they show. Through a range of thoughtful activities and discussions, we highlighted the important role these children play within our school and wider community. Our military children led a whole school assembly, confidently sharing what it is like to have a parent in the armed forces. A sincere thank you to Mrs Streetin for her continued commitment and support.



Year 5 trip to Abbey Hill Steam Rally

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Abbey Hill Steam Rally at Yeovil Showground, celebrating vintage engineering and traditional family fun. Pupils were fascinated by the impressive range of steam engines, classic cars, tractors and military vehicles on display, offering a real glimpse into the past. The day provided a wonderful chance to experience the sights, sounds and atmosphere of a bygone era, bringing learning to life beyond the classroom. From exploring the exhibits to soaking up the lively surroundings, the visit was both educational and thoroughly enjoyable. It was a truly memorable experience that sparked curiosity and interest, with the added excitement of meeting some unusual reptiles along the way.



KS1 watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Our Key Stage 1 pupils recently enjoyed a wonderful cultural experience attending a live performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at the Westlands Entertainment Centre. The children were fully engaged by the music, which introduced them to a wide range of instruments, rhythms and sounds in an accessible and engaging way. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience the atmosphere of live orchestral music and to begin developing an appreciation for the arts from an early age.



STEM workshops from Leonardo

Our pupils in Y2 and Y6 benefited from an exciting series of STEM workshops delivered by Leonardo in Yeovil. These engaging sessions provided a fantastic opportunity for children to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics in a practical and inspiring way. Through hands on activities and real-world examples, pupils were encouraged to think creatively, solve problems and develop their curiosity about how things work. The workshops helped to bring learning to life and offered a valuable insight into future careers, sparking interest and ambition across the school.



Little Kingfishers planting their beans

Our Little Kingfishers have been busy planting their very own beans in the community garden. This hands-on experience gave the children a wonderful opportunity to learn about how plants grow, the importance of caring for the environment and the patience needed to nurture something over time. The children showed great enthusiasm as they planted and watered their beans and are already excited to watch them grow in the weeks ahead.



Year 5 production – The Wind in the Willows

Our Year 5 production of *The Wind in the Willows* was exceptional in every way and a real highlight of the term. The pupils delivered a confident and engaging performance, with impressive acting that brought each character to life. The singing was equally strong, adding energy and atmosphere throughout. It was clear how much effort and enthusiasm had gone into every detail, making it a thoroughly enjoyable performance and a proud moment for our whole school community.



KS2 Hockey

Our Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to take part in hockey, developing their skills and confidence in a supportive and active environment. The sessions encouraged teamwork, resilience and enjoyment of the sport, while providing pupils with the chance to learn new techniques and build on their existing abilities. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and participation, with many pupils embracing the challenge and developing a real interest in hockey.



Year 5 Pupil Chaplains

Our Year 5 Pupil Chaplains have taken on their role with great commitment, meeting weekly at lunchtime alongside Rev Sarah and Rev John. During these sessions, they take part in thoughtful Bible studies and spend time reading and reflecting on prayers suggested by pupils through the school prayer box. Their dedication to supporting the spiritual life of the school is commendable, and they play an important role in helping to create a reflective and caring community for all.



World Culture & Diversity Day 2026

We were proud to celebrate World Culture and Diversity Day 2026, recognising and exploring the many cultures represented within our school community, including Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Poland, the Philippines, Romania, India and Kenya. The day provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to learn about and appreciate different traditions, backgrounds and experiences. Children were invited to come to school dressed either in the colours of their class country's flag or in traditional dress, creating a vibrant and colourful celebration that truly reflected the rich diversity of our Kingfisher community.



Kingfisher Bake Off for Multicultural Day

Our Kingfisher Bake Off for Multicultural Day was a wonderful celebration of creativity and community spirit. Pupils and families produced an incredible range of cakes, reflecting a variety of cultures and flavours, which were then sold after school. We were overwhelmed by the level of support from our community, with all proceeds contributing to a fantastic total of £263.90, which will be split between Yeovil Country Park & Southwest Children's Hospice. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, baked or supported this special event.



Bake-Off Winners

Mr Green had the difficult task of judging the Bake-Off competition, and he was incredibly impressed by the creativity and effort on display. Our three winners produced truly outstanding cakes, each with a unique story and cultural influence, including a beautifully crafted entry from Poland, an eye-catching design inspired by Saudi Arabia, and a traditional Welsh cake with a fun darts theme. The standard was exceptionally high, making it a real challenge to choose the winners.



Our Kingfisher Community – Support for parents

We were delighted to host our first *Kingfisher Community* session focusing on children's communication and early development, which was a great success. It was fantastic to see such strong engagement, not only from our own community but from families across Yeovil and the surrounding villages. We were also pleased to welcome our local health visitor team, who introduced themselves and shared valuable advice and support with families. The session created a warm and welcoming space for parents and carers to learn, share ideas and feel supported. Following this success, we are looking forward to hosting another session before the summer, focusing on school readiness. A huge well done to Zoe Warren in LKDN for leading the session with such expertise and professionalism.



National Deaf Awareness Week

As part of Deaf Awareness Week, we continued our commitment to helping pupils develop a deeper understanding of different disabilities and additional needs. Across the school, children learned about hearing impairments and what life can be like both in school and beyond for those with hearing loss. They were particularly engaged in learning some basic British Sign Language, which sparked curiosity and encouraged empathy and inclusion. It was a valuable opportunity to build awareness, understanding and respect for others within our school community.



Poetry Workshops Year 5 and Year 6

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in a unique and inspiring poetry workshop linked to the theme *Winds of Change*. We were delighted to welcome Clive, an experienced military poet, who shared a wealth of real-life experiences from his time serving in the British Army. Having travelled widely and written poetry for over 15 years, Clive has worked with thousands of children across England and Wales, inspiring them to express their thoughts and ideas through creative writing. The workshop proved to be a powerful and engaging experience, encouraging pupils to explore their own voices and develop a deeper appreciation for poetry.



Year 4 Art – Collage

Our Year 4 pupils produced some fantastic collage artwork inspired by Maria Riven's piece *Kailani*. Using a range of materials, the children explored bold composition, layering and the use of striking imagery to create their own unique pieces. They embraced the creative process with great enthusiasm, combining different textures and colours to reflect the distinctive style of the original work. The finished collages were vibrant and imaginative, showcasing both their developing artistic skills and their confidence in experimenting with new techniques.



Sports Day 2026



We will be holding our sports day on Friday 26th June. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will compete in the morning and KS2 pupils in the afternoon. Please could children wear t-shirts in their house colour: Sea King – Yellow, Lynx – Green, Wessex – Red and Apache – Blue. If you are unsure which house your child is in, please contact your child's class teacher. Siblings are placed in the same houses. Our reserve date is Monday 29th June. Further details have been sent separately.

Parent Pay Account Reminder



We kindly ask all parents and carers to check their ParentPay accounts and ensure that any outstanding balances are settled **as soon as possible**. This helps us keep school activities running smoothly and ensures your child doesn't miss out on upcoming events and opportunities. If you have any questions or need assistance with your account, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who they believe may be disadvantaged in achieving their best in education. At Kingfisher Primary School, we provide high quality education and enrichment opportunities for all our pupils regardless of ability or background. However, it is useful to receive this funding for all children entitled to it. If your children are entitled to free school meals or a member of the household is currently in receipt, or has been in the last six years, of Universal credit then please do apply through this hyperlink.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>

Important information about After School Childcare

Although we are aware and sympathetic that traffic in and round Yeovil can be terribly busy, please be mindful that late charges will be applied if you are late collecting your child from ASC as staff supervision needs to be always maintained.

Diary Dates



Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Saturday 23rd May

Monday 1st June

Tuesday 2nd June

Wednesday 3rd June (4 weeks)

Thursday 4th June

Friday 5th June

Monday 8th – Friday 12th June

Friday 12th June

Monday 15th June – Tuesday 16th June

Tuesday 16th June

Thursday 18th June

Friday 19th June

Friday 26th June

Monday 29th June

Wednesday 1st July

Wednesday 1st July

Thursday 2nd July

Thursday 2nd July

Friday 3rd July

Wednesday 8th July

Thursday 9th July

Thursday 9th July

Tuesday 14th July

Wednesday 15th July

Thursday 16th July

Thursday 16th July

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July

Tuesday 21st July

Wednesday 22nd July – Wednesday 2nd September

Thursday 3rd - Friday 4th September

Monday 7th September

HALF TERM

Book school lunches for first week back

Teacher Training – School closed to pupils.

First day back to school for all children

Selected Year 5 & 6 Swimming lessons begin

PTA Non uniform Donation Day

Hedgehog Class – Rockstar Day

Year 6 Residential week

PTA EGM

Bikeability – selected Year 5 & 6 children

New Reception Intake Parent Meeting

Kingfisher's Got Talent

Minnow Father's Day Breakfast

Sports Day

Reserve Sports Day

Year 6 to Preston, Westfield & Stanchester transition day

Year 4 to Museum of Somerset, Taunton

Year 6 to Preston transition day

Kingfisher Step up Afternoon

PTA Summer Fair

Year 5 Preston Taster Day (more details to follow)

Reception to Pitcombe Rock Falconry

(more details to follow)

PPAT's Got Talent Final

Year 6 Play to Parents 1pm - more details to follow.

Year 6 Play to Parents 6pm - more details to follow.

Year 1 to Sandworld, Weymouth

LKDN Graduation

Year 2 to Sealife Centre, Weymouth

Year 6 Leavers Assembly - more details to follow.

Last day of term – non-uniform day

Summer Holidays

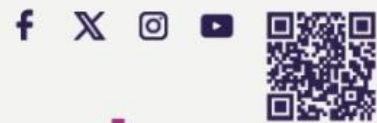
Teacher Training – School closed to pupils

First day of new term





Give the gift of confidence this summer!



Razzamataz Theatre Schools Yeovil invites your child to an action-packed week of singing, dancing, and acting!

More than just performing, it's a chance to boost confidence, build teamwork, and develop communication skills. Expect big smiles, new friendships, and endless fun in a high-energy, supportive environment. **Limited spaces available, book now!**

On: 3rd - 7th August 2026

Ages 4-7: 10am to 1pm, Ages 8-16: 10am to 4pm. Early 9am drop off available. Contact Claire to book your place.

Email: yeovil@razzamataz.co.uk

Call: 07856 273166





Experience the mischief with the acclaimed stage adaptation of Dr Seuss' The Cat In The Hat.

We're delighted to invite your school to experience the magical stage adaptation of The Cat in the Hat, coming to the Westlands Entertainment Venue this June.

From the moment his tall, red and white-striped hat appears, Sally and her brother know that the cat in the hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat they have ever met. With the trickiest of tricks and craziest of ideas, he turns a rainy afternoon into an amazing adventure.

The Cat in the Hat is a **lively and engaging first theatre experience** for young children aged 3+.

FREE MEET AND GREET WITH THE CAT IN THE HAT AFTER THE SHOW!

★ **Special Offer For Schools** ★

Tickets only £10 for school parties of ten or more! For every 10 tickets booked, one teacher place is completely **FREE**. See our 'added extras for schools' overleaf for extra benefits!

Perfect for Early Years & KS1
A fun 45-minute show with no interval – ideal for younger audiences

Performance Times:

MONDAY 15 JUNE | 4:45PM

TUESDAY 16 JUNE | 11AM

TUESDAY 16 JUNE | 2PM

Tickets:

Tickets: £16.50

Concessions: £15.50

Groups 10+: £15

School Party: See above

Family Saver: 4 x standard tickets for £60.00

To book please call our Box Office on 01935 422884 or email us at westlands.groupbookings@yeovil.gov.uk



Added extras for schools!

Storytelling Workshop & Rhyming Story Competition

Story-telling Workshop

This is suitable for younger children. Two actors from the show will arrive at the school and hold an engaging story-telling session.

Rhyming Story Competition

This is suitable for older primary-aged children. Students will be asked to write a short rhyming story in the style of Dr. Seuss. Two actors in costume will come to the school to present the prizes! Three winners will be chosen:

- 3rd place - Keyring & Book
- 2nd Place - Keyring & Book
- 1st Place - Cat in the Hat goody bag with Book, Hat, Keyring & Thing 1 bag

Availability of Actors

For either session, two actors can attend a local school between 2pm and 3:45pm on 15th June. Please note that this is strictly subject to availability and may have to be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

To Take Part

This is free for schools, given we have received a booking of at least 30 students to see the show.

On The Day

As an added bonus, we can also read out a selection of students' stories on stage at the end of the show and give some prizes there!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.



EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.



ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.



BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.



HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.



Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.



TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.



MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some tv shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.



SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH MISINFORMATION ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A research study by Ofcom revealed that children aged 9–15 increasingly use online platforms like TikTok for mental health advice, with 50% relying on social media for information. Unverified medical content online is concerning, with the potential to cause confusion, anxiety, or incorrect self-diagnoses. This guide provides expert strategies to help parents and educators tackle misinformation effectively and ensure safer digital experiences for young people.

POPULAR ONLINE SOURCES

Platforms like TikTok and Instagram are two of the main sources of young people's mental health content. Videos and posts frequently feature unqualified influencers, contributing to misinformation, myths, and oversimplifications. While appealing to young audiences, this unverified content can distort perceptions, and create unrealistic expectations and misunderstandings about mental health conditions.

RISK OF SELF-DIAGNOSIS

Social media's misleading content encourages young people to self-diagnose complex mental health conditions inaccurately. Misdiagnosis can exacerbate anxiety, cause unnecessary worry, or delay essential professional intervention. This has the potential to escalate manageable conditions into more significant mental health issues requiring comprehensive clinical support.

LACK OF FILTERS

Social media platforms struggle to filter misinformation effectively, allowing false content to spread widely and quickly. Without proper guidance, young viewers may not discern fact from fiction, potentially internalising inaccurate beliefs about mental health. This can negatively influence their decisions about seeking professional help or managing mental wellbeing.

IMPACTFUL PAST TRENDS

Historically, online mental health misinformation has led to harmful trends, including inappropriate coping strategies or sensationalised symptoms. For example, past TikTok trends on self-harm or anxiety 'hacks' have spread damaging advice, underscoring the risk when misinformation is not promptly addressed or corrected by knowledgeable adults.

MISLEADING CLINICAL TERMS

Online trends often include the misuse of clinical terms, such as 'trauma' or 'OCD', making serious conditions seem trivial or inaccurately understood. Such misinformation can diminish empathy, and lead young people to misunderstand mental health complexities, potentially preventing them from identifying real mental health issues in themselves or others.

REPLACING PROFESSIONAL HELP

Frequent reliance on digital content can deter young people from seeking professional mental health care, substituting expert support with unverified online advice. This substitution can prolong issues, complicate recovery, and reduce the effectiveness of future professional interventions, ultimately impacting overall mental health and wellbeing negatively.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Regularly review and discuss a young person's online activity, providing appropriate guidance on discerning accurate content. Tools such as parental controls or co-viewing content can help mediate exposure to harmful misinformation, facilitating safer digital habits and informed critical thinking about mental health.

IDENTIFY RELIABLE SOURCES

Teach young people to critically evaluate mental health content by checking credentials, source authenticity, and evidence-based information. Encourage them to refer to trusted medical or educational platforms and to consult healthcare professionals for clarification. This reduces young people's reliance on potentially harmful or misleading online sources.

SCHOOL-HOME COLLABORATION

Strengthen collaboration with educators to integrate digital literacy into the school curriculum, emphasising misinformation awareness. Jointly delivered education sessions on identifying and responding to misinformation can significantly improve pupils' ability to critically assess mental health content, supporting their mental wellbeing effectively both online and offline.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Foster a non-judgemental environment where young people feel comfortable discussing online content. Regularly talking about their online experiences and perceived mental health concerns helps clarify misunderstandings, mitigates misinformation, and builds trust, thereby enhancing their resilience and digital literacy. Model situations where you have sought advice from accurate sources and not solely relied on social media for health advice.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College