Freshford Church School

Newsletter • Week 2

Friday September 18, 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

Safeguarding Training

Thank you so much to all the parents and volunteers who give their time to support our teachers and children. We are extremely grateful for the contribution you make to school life.

As you know, safeguarding is our number one priority. **All volunteers must have the appropriate DBS checks and safeguarding training**. I will be running safeguarding training for all volunteers on **Monday 21st September at 5:30pm**.

The session will cover: the principle that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead, signs and indicators to look out for, what to do if you have a concern, and how to respond if a child makes a disclosure. Please come if you are a current volunteer or anticipate volunteering.

Thank you,

Grant Swarbrooke

After School Club

As many of you are already aware, we said farewell to one of our after school club leaders, Paul, at the end of the summer term. We are now also saying goodbye to Kate, who runs the other two sessions. Both were an asset to the school and have exciting new ventures awaiting them in the world of education which we wish them the very best with.

Fortunately, the community has rallied once again and we are incredibly pleased to share that Beth Ritchie (Rosy Ritchie's daughter) will be leading the club on a Monday and Tuesday and Jacque (our Ashe Class teaching assistant) will be leading it on a Wednesday and Thursday. This pattern will take effect from next week.

We are still looking for someone to take on the club, at 4 afternoons a week or as a job-share, from January so please let us know if you are interested and share this opportunity within the wider community. Full details of the role are available on our website.

Nits

They are in a couple of classes…. Please look and treat accordingly. Head lice and nits - NHS

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Attendance and Punctuality

As we welcome the children back in 2026, the Department for Education has asked schools to place a renewed focus on attendance. This is a national priority, and you may have seen recent coverage about this in the media.

Regular attendance plays an important part in children's learning, wellbeing and future opportunities. Being in school consistently supports academic progress, social development, confidence and emotional wellbeing. The table below shows the impact that missed days can have across a year.

Risk Rating	Percentage Attendance	Days Missed	Weeks Missed*	Lessons Missed**
Low	100%	0	0	0
Low	97%	6*	1	24
Medium	95%	9.5	2	38
High	90%	19	4	76
High	85%	28.5	6	114
High	80%	38	8	152

** Some figures have been rounded.*

*** The number of lessons missed is calculated on the assumption that four lessons are taught per day.*

We understand that children do sometimes become unwell, and when they are poorly their health must always come first. However, when children are well enough to attend, even occasional absences can disrupt learning and routines.

The importance of being on time

Arriving at school on time is an important part of a successful day. Please remember that the school gate closes at 8:50am. If a child arrives late, we will contact you so that we can work together to support punctuality.

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Our Visit to the American Museum to see the Declaration of Independence is in the Bath & Wiltshire Parent Magazine. Copies were sent home but we have more in the office!

news from the schools

Children from **Freshford Church School** welcomed the United States Ambassador to the American Museum & Gardens in Bath as he opened an exhibition featuring an exceptionally rare original printing of the Declaration of Independence.

Warren A Stephens, US Ambassador to the Court of St James's, met pupils from the school before touring the museum's collection of American decorative arts and design. He was joined by museum director Lucy Littlewood and formally opened the exhibition, which marks the 250th anniversary of American independence from Britain. The historic document is being displayed in England for the first time this year.

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Vacancies

If you would like to become part of our wonderful team, we currently have vacancies in our After-School Club and MDSA Lunchtime supervision. If you are interested, please contact the school office for further information.

Helping Hand

If there are after school clubs that we offer that you would like your child to attend but the cost is too much for your family at the moment, please use the form below as we have a fund that can help. This also applies to our school trips. All enquiries will be dealt with sensitively and in confidence. https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/5xsGaU9Ctn

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PTA NEWS

Fireworks night- sponsors needed!!

We are holding our hugely popular annual fireworks event on Friday 6th November at Brown's Field. This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the school year and the proceeds go directly to enriching and supporting all the wonderful opportunities the children have at Freshford, throughout the year.

To maximise the amount we can raise, we ask local businesses to support us by sponsoring the event, to cover the cost of the fireworks and the band. If you run a business, or know someone who does, and are in a position to sponsor us please get in touch with Emily (Hal's mum) on 07876347456 or emilypennantrea@gmail.com. Your support is vital and hugely appreciated!

Cake Sales

- Mill - Friday 2 October 26
- Joyce - Friday 23 October 26
- Ashe - Friday 27 November 26
- BTS & George - Friday 11 December 26 to coincide with Nativity
- Mill - Friday 29 Jan 27
- Joyce - Friday 26 Feb 27
- Ashe - Friday 19 March 27
- BTS - Friday 30 April 27
- George - Friday 21 May 27
- Mill - Friday 25 June 27
- Ashe - Friday 16 July 27

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Dates for your diary *Further details (including any booking details) for these events will follow nearer the time.*				
21 September	Lunch Menu week 2		26-30 October	Half term
September 23 6 -7 pm	Essential Phonics Information Evening for Reception parents		6 November	Fireworks
September 23 7:15 – 8:15	Essential Phonics Information Evening for Year 1 and 2 parents		Joyce Class Parent Teacher Consultations	Mon Nov 9th 1:30-5:30 Wed Nov 11th 3:30-5:30
24 + 25 September	Let's Explore ASHE Class		Mill Class Parent Teacher Consultations	Nov 10th 1:20-5:30 Nov 12th 3:30-5:30
28 + 29 September	Let's Explore JOYCE Class		Ashe Class Parent Consultations	Nov 10th 3:30-5:30 Nov 11th 1:30-5:30
30 September	Tempest Photos		BTS Class Parent Consultations	Nov 11th 1:20-5:30 Nov 12th 3:30-5:30
1 October 7:30 – 9:00 pm	PTA AGM at school		George Class Parent Consultations	Nov 11th 1:30-5:30 Nov 12th 3:40-5:30
5 + 6 October	Let's Explore GEORGE Class		11 December 2 pm Village Hall	Nativity
7 + 8 October	Let's Explore BTS Class		21 December – 1 January 4 January	Christmas Holidays Children back to school
14 + 15 October	Let's Explore MILL Class		21 – 25 June Year 5 and 6 only	Skern Lodge Residential
13 October 9:15—10:15	Open Morning			

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Ever wondered what support is out there for your family?

The Family Support and Inclusion Day is a free event for families across Bath and North East Somerset, bringing together local services, charities and community organisations all under one roof.

Every family has questions from time to time. Whether you are looking for friendly advice, wondering if your child might need a little extra help or simply want to know more about what support is out there, you'll find a warm welcome and plenty of people happy to help.

There will also be free workshops running throughout the day, covering a range of topics to help everyone feel informed, supported and connected.

- Wednesday 14 October 2026
- 9.30am–7.00pm (drop in at any time)
- Apex City of Bath Hotel, James Street West, Bath, BA1 2DA

The event is free to attend, and you can either pre-book or simply drop in on the day (booking will open at the beginning of Sept).

You don't need a diagnosis or a referral to come along.

Find out more at banespcf.co.uk/event/family-support-inclusion-day.

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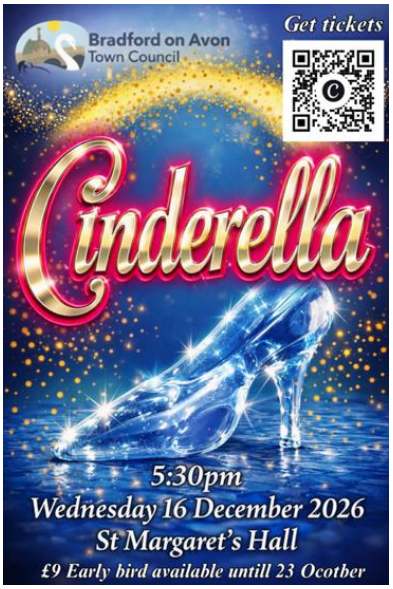
Notification of Road Closure

Tuesday 22 September –

Thursday 24 September

Church Lane, Limpley Stoke



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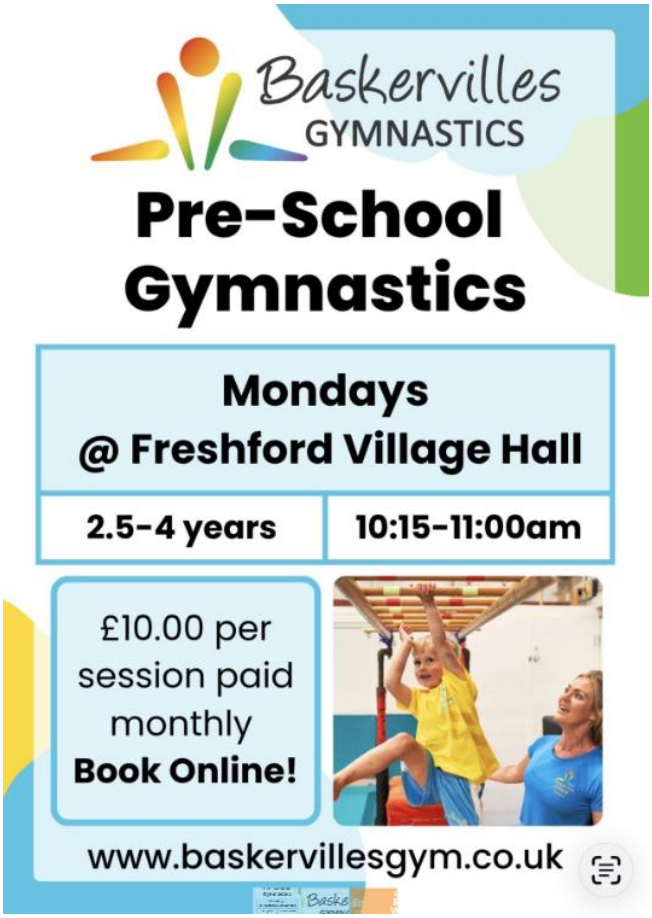
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