Freshford Church School

Newsletter • Week 5

Friday October 2, 2026

Spirituality at Freshford

This week in Collective Worship, we have been exploring what spirituality means and why it is such an important part of life at Freshford. We discussed how spirituality can mean different things to different people, but at its heart it is about taking time to reflect on our beliefs, values and experiences, developing a sense of wonder about the world around us, and learning to appreciate both ourselves and others.

As a school, we believe spirituality is found in the everyday moments: the awe of a beautiful sunrise, the peace of a quiet reflection, the excitement of discovering something new, the creativity expressed through art and music, and the kindness shown between friends. It encourages us to ask big questions, to be curious about the world, and to recognise that there is often "something more" beyond the obvious.

We talked with the children about the importance of slowing down in our busy lives, noticing the beauty around us, being grateful for what we have, and taking time to listen, reflect and wonder. Spirituality helps us to develop empathy, resilience and a deeper understanding of our place in the world.

At Freshford, we are committed to providing opportunities for children to experience moments of awe and wonder, whether that is through learning outdoors, spending time in our beautiful church, reflecting in Collective Worship, exploring faith and values, or simply taking time to pause and appreciate God's wonderful world. One of our favourite phrases this week has been:

"Stop. Look. Listen. Wonder."

In doing so, we help our children develop not only academically, but also as thoughtful, reflective and compassionate young people.

Care, Believe You Can and Cheer Each Other On

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Building Communities and Exploring Belonging

I had the pleasure of spending another wonderful day with Joyce Class during their Let's Explore learning experience.

The children began by working in mixed groups to create their own island communities. Together, they developed greetings, agreed on shared values, established rules and responsibilities, and designed everything their community would need to flourish, from schools and farms to meeting places and shelters. It was wonderful to see them sharing ideas, problem-solving and working collaboratively with such enthusiasm and purpose. The learning then took an unexpected turn. Inspired by the story *The Island*, the children were asked to consider how their community would respond to a stranger arriving on their shores. Through discussion, drama and a series of powerful freeze frames, they explored emotions such as fear, uncertainty, protection, compassion and acceptance.

What followed was truly remarkable. The quality of discussion was exceptional, with children debating issues of fairness, inclusion, prejudice, belonging and community. One child thoughtfully suggested that perhaps the stranger was not someone to fear but someone who might be tired, frightened or in need of help. This sparked a rich and reflective conversation about empathy, kindness and the importance of not making assumptions about others. I was so impressed by the children's vocabulary, confidence and maturity. They demonstrated an impressive ability to articulate their views, listen respectfully to others and challenge ideas thoughtfully. The higher-level questioning from the teaching team was inspirational and helped deepen the children's thinking even further.

It was one of those special days where you could see meaningful learning unfolding before your eyes. The children were completely immersed, and the depth of reflection, discussion and understanding was extraordinary. A huge thank you to the staff and parent volunteers who helped make the day possible. It was a privilege to spend time with the children in a different setting and to witness their thoughtfulness, curiosity and care for one another. I left feeling incredibly proud of every one of them.

Harvest

It's harvest time again! Once again, the children will be celebrating harvest in St Peter's Church.

All non-perishable gifts will be taken to the Hub in Bradford on Avon, which acts as a Foodbank for those in need in the local area.

If possible, please could you and your child/ren choose an item from the list below that they could bring to school between now and the 12th of October.

Much needed supplies include:
Packet soups, rice sachets, etc.
Cartons of long-life juice and milk
Cans of fruits or vegetables
Tea bags/Instant coffee
Toiletries: Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Soap, Shower Gel, Shampoo, etc

Preferably not pasta, as they already have lots.

Many thanks everyone.

Penny Murray

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Fireworks poster

Just a gentle reminder that we will be collecting the posters next week (Oct 7), so we would really appreciate if you could gently "nudge" your students to get them ready and in time for next week.

The parents of those students who participate in the poster competition are eligible to reduced price tickets on the links below:

https://tickets.matterpay.com/s/rotary-bath/ZXZlbnQ6OTM4NA==/bath-rotary-charity-fireworks-fiesta-2026 or https://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk/whats-on/bath-rotary-charity-fireworks-fiesta-2026-8yzp

How do I use my promo code?

1. Click "I have a promo code". This must be done before you select any tickets
2. Enter your promo code - POSTER
3. Click "Apply"
4. Poster competition tickets are revealed at the bottom of the page. Select your tickets, Riverside or Pavilion
5. Click "Buy Tickets"

Note: You will only be charged for the price of one adult ticket. Additional tickets can be added to your order by selecting tickets from those listed. Only 1 set of poster competition tickets can be ordered per transaction.

Wishing you all a lovely day.

The Rotary Club of Bath.

Vacancies

If you would like to become part of our wonderful team, we currently have vacancies in our After-School Club (after Christmas) 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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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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TLC

Dear parents,

This is to let you know that Sara Buchanan, who has been an invaluable member of the Freshford TLC (Governors) for the last 9 years, has sadly completed the maximum term of office and will be leaving the Freshford TLC at the end of this term.

Sara joined when she was a school parent in 2017 and has been involved in many different aspects of the TLC and school since then. Indeed, many of you will have seen her brilliance in these different roles. She co-chaired the committee between July 2021 and October 2025, tirelessly turning her hand to whatever aspect of the role needed her wisdom and guidance. She will be hugely missed.

On behalf of all parents past and present, we'd like to thank Sara for everything she has done during her time at Freshford and we have set up a collection pot for anyone who would like to contribute to a leaving present - the link for this is below and the pot will close on Monday 5 October. Any contribution is very welcome.

Many thanks in advance,

Caroline and Dudley

https://pay.collctiv.com/saras-leaving-present-31053

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!

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Dates for your diary *Further details (including any booking details) for these events will follow nearer the time.*				
5 October	Lunch Menu week 1		Joyce Class Parent Teacher Consultations **	Mon Nov 9th 1:30-5:30 Wed Nov 11th 3:30-5:30
5 + 6 October	Let's Explore GEORGE Class		Mill Class Parent Teacher Consultations **	Nov 10th 1:20-5:30 Nov 12th 3:30-5:30
7 + 8 October	Let's Explore BTS Class		Ashe Class Parent Consultations **	Nov 10th 3:30-5:30 Nov 11th 1:30-5:30
13 October 9:15—10:15	Open Morning		BTS Class Parent Consultations **	Nov 11th 1:20-5:30 Nov 12th 3:30-5:30
14 + 15 October	Let's Explore MILL Class		George Class Parent Consultations **	Nov 11th 1:30-5:30 Nov 12th 3:40-5:30
21 October 4.30-5.30 KS1 5.30-6.30 KS2	School Disco		23 November	Flu Jabs for children
26-30 October	Half term		11 December 2 pm Village Hall	Nativity
			21 December – 1 January 4 January	Christmas Holidays Children back to school
6 November	Fireworks		21 – 25 June Year 5 and 6 only	Skern Lodge Residential

** Parent Consultations going live on Arbor to book on Tuesday 20th October at 20:00

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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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Bath Philharmonic Tickets

Fancy introducing the family to the incredible sound of a live orchestra? Bath Philharmonic Orchestra has launched two new ticket offers designed to make its concerts more accessible.

Bath Phil Discover – a FREE ticket for anyone experiencing a live orchestra for the first time.
Bath Phil Explore – £6 tickets (£7.50 including per order processing fee) for selected concerts for those ready to come back and discover more.

The 2026/27 season includes five concerts at The Forum in Bath, with the first one on 13 October 2026 featuring virtuoso pianist Mariam Batsashvili. Mariam joins Bath Philharmonic Orchestra for an evening inspired by landscape, light and legend. Experience the breathtaking brilliance of Franz Liszt's First Piano Concerto alongside atmospheric music by Jay Capperauld, Aileen Sweeney and Judith Weir, before Jean Sibelius's magnificent Seventh Symphony brings the concert to a thrilling close.

Find out more about these new ticket offers and how to claim them here:
https://www.bathphil.co.uk/discover

Then head here to book your tickets for 13 October:
https://www.bathphil.co.uk/events/mariambatsashvili

NIHR | Mental Health Research Group

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The Pathways Study is looking at **how children with behavioural and attentional difficulties navigate mental health support in the South West**

You are invited to take part if **your child is aged between 9 and 12**, and meets any of the following criteria:

- Has difficulty following school rules and expectations, which affects their learning
- Frequently experiences school responses to behaviour, such as time out of class, being on a behaviour support plan, or suspension or exclusion
- Often feels frustrated or dysregulated at school

We will be asking children and their families about their experiences of seeking mental health support, and how this affects them. We want to know what support is available for children, where the gaps are, what works well, and what needs improving.

Taking part will help us find ways to make mental health support easier to access & more helpful for children and young people.

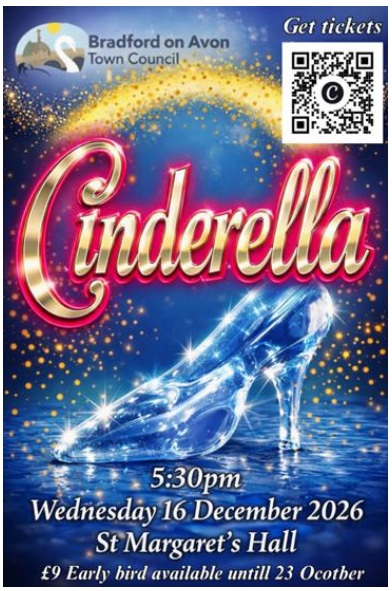
If you take part, a researcher will speak to you for 90 minutes. We would also like to speak to your child for 30 minutes. This is a long-term study, so if you agree we would like to meet up with you every year for 3 years to ask how it's going. The meeting could happen in person, at a neutral location, or online at a time that works for you.

Every family's voice matters so we would love to hear from you.

As a thank you, you will receive £30 by bank transfer or voucher, and your child will get £10, each time we meet up. You will also get a summary of the study findings.

If you are interested in taking part or would like to know more please:

- Sign up for more information here, or scan the QR code and we will get in touch.
- Email the Pathways Study team: pathways-study@bath.ac.uk
- Or call or text Kieran or Rawan: **07980 962364**



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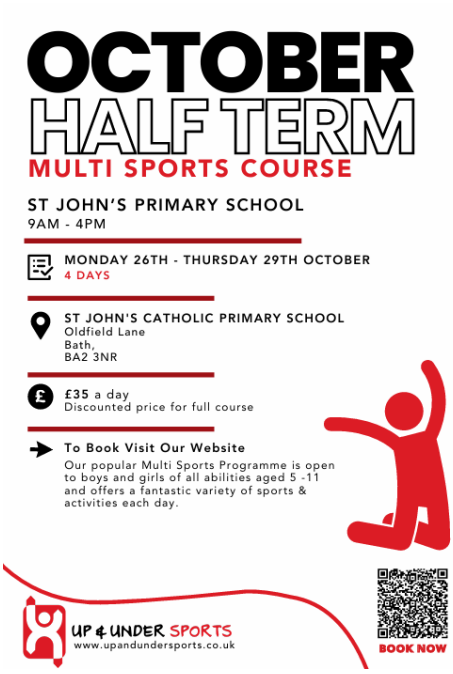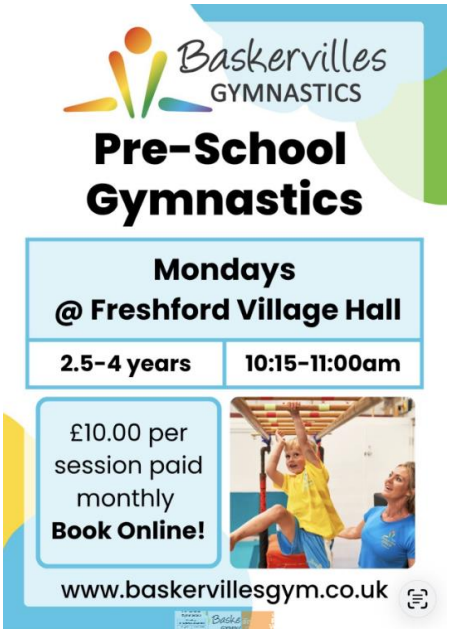
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