North Petherton community Primary School Newsletter



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic week at NPCPS! From sporting success and mathematical challenges to important work on school improvement and online safety, our pupils continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, resilience and ambition. Here are this week's highlights!

Fantastic Maths!

Our Year 6 mathematicians continue to rise to the challenge, showing great determination and confidence in their learning. We are also delighted to celebrate their involvement in the Queens Maths competition in Taunton this week, giving pupils the opportunity to stretch their thinking, solve problems and put their skills to the test. Well done, everyone!

We're through to the county final! Well done girls!

A huge congratulations to our girls' football team, whose teamwork, determination and sporting spirit have earned them this fantastic achievement. They have represented our school brilliantly, showing that success comes from hard work, resilience and supporting one another. We are incredibly proud of you, girls – good luck in the final!

School Improvement: Always Striving for the Best

This week, we welcomed colleagues for a positive and informative School Improvement Partnership (SIP) visit. We reflected on our strengths and explored how we can continue to develop our provision in line with Ofsted's evaluation criteria.

Our focus remains clear: high-quality teaching, ambitious learning and better outcomes for every child. Through professional collaboration, reflection and a commitment to continuous improvement, we are working hard to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to flourish.

Online Safety: Growing Up in a Digital World

Keeping children safe online has never been more important. Andri Nicolaou from Avon and Somerset Police has delivered online safety training, supporting our work with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, alongside staff training.

With AI, apps and online platforms becoming part of children's lives at increasingly young ages, we want our pupils to understand both the opportunities technology offers and the risks it can bring. We will focus on recognising online dangers, understanding age restrictions, protecting personal information and knowing when to ask for help.

Parents and carers can support this work by talking regularly with children about their online experiences and checking the age ratings and parental controls on apps and games. Together, we can help our children become confident, responsible and safe digital citizens.

North Petherton community Primary School Newsletter

Mobile Phones: Making Safe Choices

We continue to reinforce our expectations around mobile phones and digital devices, ensuring that children understand the importance of privacy, respectful communication and personal safety. Working together, we can help keep technology in its place and learning at the heart of the school day!

If your child brings a mobile phone to school, they will need it to be switched off and handed into the school office. They can collect their phone at home time. Thank you for your support with this.

Mobile phones, visits, meetings and safeguarding

Important Notice to All Visitors

To help ensure the safety and security of everyone on the school site, all visitors will be required to hand in their mobile phones upon arrival.

Phones will be securely stored for the duration of the visit and returned upon departure.

We appreciate your understanding, cooperation and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all pupils, staff and visitors.

Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are attending a meeting where minutes need to be taken, we will explain the arrangements to you. Where appropriate, we will ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place, whether minute-taking is required by the school or requested by you.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to maintain the safety and security of everyone on the school site.

Kind regards

Melanie Lawson and NPCPS Team

YEAR 6 MATHS CHALLENGE

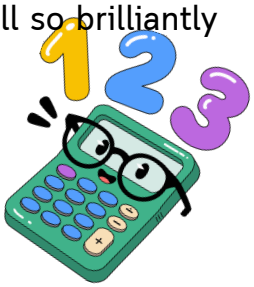
On Thursday, 8 Year 6 pupils proudly represented our school in the Queen's College Maths Challenge. They demonstrated outstanding resilience, teamwork and determination as they tackled a range of demanding mathematical problems against other schools.

The children dedicated a huge amount of time to prepare for the challenge in advance, attending practise sessions and developing their problem-solving, reasoning and communication skills. Throughout the competition, they worked collaboratively, supporting one another and persevering when faced with particularly challenging questions.

We were extremely proud of the positive attitude, commitment and maturity shown by all eight pupils. Their willingness to embrace challenges, think creatively and work as a team was a wonderful reflection of our school values. Well done to everyone involved for representing the school so brilliantly! 🌟➕🧠

Thank you to the fabulous Mrs Woodrow and Mrs Hillman who supported them all so brilliantly on the day!





JOB VACANCY



Midday Supervisor Assistant (MDSA)

Thank you for taking the time to have a look at this great opportunity in our lovely school!

We are looking for a friendly, reliable lunchtime supervisor to join our lunchtime team. This role combines pupil supervision with practical kitchen support to help ensure lunchtimes run smoothly and safely.

Duties will include serving meals (ensuring that children's dietary needs are met), cleaning in the school hall and kitchen, sorting out cutlery and crockery.

This is a fixed-term role initially to 31/08/2027.
You will be working Monday to Friday from 11.45am-1.30pm.

The role is paid at £13.28 per hour. You will work during school term-time.

Please take a look at the job description for more information and send an application form to recruitment@npcps.co.uk. Please note we are unable to accept CV's.
If you have any questions about the role please call the school.

Closing date Ongoing
Interview date TBC
Start date As soon as possible

This post requires an enhanced criminal background check via the Disclosure Procedure. The post for which you are applying is exempt from Section 4(2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exemptions) Order 1975 which requires you to reveal any information concerning spent or unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings excluding youth cautions, youth reprimands and youth warnings.

MUSIC LESSONS

Guitar & Ukulele Lessons Available from January 2027

We are pleased to announce that there are a limited number of spaces available for guitar and ukulele lessons starting in January 2027.

Lessons are available to pupils in Year 3 and above and will take place on Mondays during the school day.

The following lesson options are available:



🎵 Large Group Tuition Package (5 or more pupils)

£34.25 per 30-minute lesson

🎵 Individual 20-Minute Lesson

£15.50 per lesson

🎵 Individual 30-Minute Lesson

£23.25 per lesson

🎵 Shared Lessons

· 20-minute lesson for 2 pupils

· 30-minute lesson for 3 pupils

· £7.75 per lesson



Whether your child is a complete beginner or already has some experience, learning the guitar or ukulele is a fantastic way to develop musical skills, confidence and creativity.

If you are interested in your child starting lessons in January 2027, please use the link attached and complete the form the request lessons. Fergus Walker Individual and Small Group Music Lessons for 2026-27 - Fill in form

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at somersetmusic@somerset.gov.uk

BIRTHDAY TREATS

We would like to remind everyone that sweets, treats, birthday favours and other food items must not be brought into school to be distributed to children in the class. This includes sharing food with other children at the end of the school day.

We understand that these gestures are often made with the kindest intentions, particularly when celebrating birthdays or special occasions. However, food sharing can present significant challenges for children and their families due to allergies, intolerances, medical and health needs, religious and/or cultural beliefs.

Even small or seemingly harmless treats can pose serious health risks for some children and can place families in difficult and uncomfortable positions when deciding whether an item is safe or appropriate for their child.
In line with our commitment to keeping all children safe, included and respected, and our duty to uphold Benedict's Law, we ask all families and staff to support this approach consistently.

Please ensure that:

- Sweets, cakes, chocolates, biscuits and other edible treats are not brought in for distribution to classmates.
- Birthday bags, party favours or gift bags containing food are not given out in school.
- Food is not shared with other children at the end of the school day, even when offered as a kind gesture.
- Birthdays and special occasions are celebrated in ways that do not involve distributing food or treats to other children.

We want every child to feel included and able to participate in school life without risk to their health, without feeling different or excluded, and without their family being placed in a difficult position.

There are many thoughtful ways to celebrate a birthday or special occasion without food, and we encourage families to consider these alternatives.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and continued support. By working together, we can help ensure that our school remains a safe, inclusive and considerate environment for every child and family.

Benedict's Law: What Schools Need to Know - St John Ambulance

SEASONS CHANGING

As the weather is becoming colder, wetter and increasingly unpredictable, please ensure that your child brings a suitable coat to school every day.

We have had a significant change in weather today, and we want to make sure that all our children are warm, dry and comfortable throughout the school day. A waterproof raincoat is particularly important, as children continue to go outside for playtimes and activities whatever the weather.

Please also remember to check that coats are clearly named, as this helps us return any misplaced items quickly.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe, warm and ready to learn.

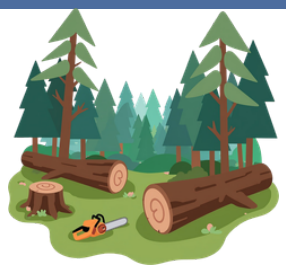






FOREST SCHOOL DAY

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER



We are excited to be holding a Forest School Day on Friday 23rd October, giving the children the opportunity to enjoy learning and exploring outdoors.

Forest School provides children with many benefits, including developing confidence, independence and resilience, while encouraging teamwork, problem-solving and creativity. It also gives children the chance to connect with nature, develop practical skills and enjoy learning in a different environment.

🌲 What to wear:
Children should come to school wearing their Forest School clothing on the day. Please ensure they have suitable clothing and footwear for being outdoors and getting muddy!

💚 Suggested donation: £1
We would be grateful for a suggested donation of £1 per child, which will help us to continue providing and developing our Forest School activities and resources.

🍂We are looking forward to a fun-filled day of adventure, exploration and outdoor learning! 🌳

Mrs Dawson-Cable and Mrs Hillman

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT! POLITE REMINDER..

Please can adults help to ensure they are supervising their child/ren at the end of the school day. The witches hat (rope climbing frame) near Frog class is very high and we do not want children to fall!!!

Thank you for your help in making sure everyone is safe.



EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT

Supporting children's emotional wellbeing is a key priority for us. We are pleased to offer a range of support for pupils who may need help with their feelings, relationships, confidence or resilience.

PFSA (Parent and Family Support Advisor)

Lauren Ward is our school PFSA, providing support and guidance to children and families, helping to remove barriers to learning and wellbeing both in school and at home.

ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants)

Lauren Ward, Jackie Winter and Nikki Ardren are our qualified ELSA practitioners. Lauren and Jackie are currently delivering tailored ELSA programmes across the school. ELSA interventions are short-term, targeted programmes that help children develop emotional literacy, build resilience and manage challenges such as anxiety, friendships, self-esteem, emotional regulation, bereavement and social skills.

ARTiculate

We also offer ARTiculate, a creative 1:1 wellbeing programme that supports children's confidence, self-esteem, emotional awareness and wellbeing. Through activities such as art, Lego, sand tray work and discussion, children are provided with a safe and supportive space to express themselves and develop positive strategies for managing emotions.

There is a waiting list for any sort of emotional support in school, but if you feel this would be something your child would beenfit from, then please fill in the below form:

ELSA/ARTiculate Referral Form - Fill out form

Young Somerset (MHST)

We are pleased to be developing our partnership with Young Somerset as a Mental Health Support Team (MHST) school. They provide 1:1 and group support for children experiencing anxiety and low mood, as well as workshops for parents. The team will be visiting school soon to share more information with staff and families, and we look forward to working together to further support children's emotional wellbeing.

THE MHST are pleased to share details of a series of free online webinars being delivered by Somerset's Mental Health Support Team (MHST) this Autumn term. These practical sessions are designed to help parents and carers support children's emotional wellbeing, resilience and mental health at home.

Topics include:

- Supporting Your Child's Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Supporting Your Child's Big Feelings
- Helping Your Child & Teen Sleep
- Boosting Self-esteem & Resilience
- Coping with Exams: Supporting Your Child

The webinars are free to attend and open to any parent or carer in Somerset. Registration is required at

https://canva.link/mhstautumn2026

We encourage anyone interested in supporting their child's wellbeing to take a look.





REPORTING AND REQUESTING ABSENCES

A reminder that all absences must now be reported to us via MCAS (My Child at School). This includes reporting sickness absence, or requesting time off for medical appointments, etc. Please enter notes into the text box to give a reason for the absence to allow us to record your child's absence with the correct code.

HARVEST TIME!

We would like to invite you to North Petherton Community Primary School harvest.



EYFS - Tuesday 20th October, 1.30pm in the main school hall
Year 1 & Year 2 - Wednesday 21st October, 1.30pm at St. Mary's church
Year 3 & Year 4 - Monday 19th October, 1.30pm at St. Mary's church
Year 5 & Year 6 - Thursday 22nd October, 1.30pm at St. Mary's Church

We are asking children to bring in dried. tinned goods and other non-perishable foods on Monday 19th October. This will be donated to Bridgwater foodbank.
Thank you!

NO OUTSIDERS

This week in our No Outsiders assemblies, children explored the story of Fiona the Sheep, a sheep who spent two years living alone at the bottom of a cliff in Scotland. Through Fiona's story, pupils discussed themes of loneliness, isolation, belonging and inclusion. They considered the difference between choosing to spend time alone and being made to feel like an outsider, and reflected on how everyone can help others feel welcome and valued. The assemblies encouraged thoughtful discussion about different viewpoints, empathy and the importance of ensuring that there are No Outsiders in our school community.

NO OUT SIDERS
'All different, All welcome'

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Class	Child	Celebrating
Hedgehog	Teo	For making every effort to read regularly and quiz! Great scores! Well done!
	Mercedez	For reading regularly at home and quizzing! Great efforts and super scores! Well done!
	Coby	For amazing effort in reading and writing. Having a go and realising he can! Well done!
Hare	Obie	For producing some great work in English and using a brilliant range of vocabulary
	Lola	For brilliant work in Maths and showing great problem-solving skills when working out questions
	Luca	For being a super role model in class and always showing our class values.
Owl	Jamie	For beautiful handwriting and creative story writing
	Maya	For being a positive role model in the class
Otter	Alfie	For always showing fantastic listening and being a super role model
	Felicity	For making fabulous contributions to class discussions and being a reading superstar.
	Marcel	For being a super kind, respectful and hard-working member of the class.



2027 NEW STARTERS



We are already looking forward to meeting our 2027 EYFS children.
Below are the dates for children and their parents to come nd look around our school and meet the teachers.

Monday 19th October - 9.30am to 10.30am

Please contact the office on 01278 662442 if you would like to book a visit



BIRTHDAYS





🙂 Jacob in Lion Class turned 11!
🙂 Aiden in Owl class is turning 9!
🙂 Laurence in Lamb class is turning 5!
🙂 Ava in Lamb class is turning 5!

Happy Birthday



UPCOMING EVENTS:

19th October - Please bring dried. tinned goods and other non-perishable food
19th October Harvest - Year 3 & 4, St. Mary's Church 1.30pm, parents welcome
20th October Harvest - EYFS in main hall 1pm, parents welcome
School open days for 2027 starters - Monday 12th October - 9.30am to 10.30am
Monday 19th Ocotber - 9.30am to 10.30am
21st October Harvest - KS1, St. Marys's church 1.30pm, parents welcome
22nd October Harvest - Year 5 & 6, St. Mary's Church 1.30pm, parents welcome
23rd October - Forest School Day
Last day of term: Friday 23rd October
2nd November - INSET DAY
13th November - Year 6 Flu immunisations
Saturday 14th November - North Petherton Carnival



https://www.pta-events.co.uk/northpetherton/index.cfm?event=upcoming-events



COMMUNICATION

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of using appropriate communication channels and following the school's policies and procedures when raising questions or concerns.
We are increasingly receiving communications that appear to have been generated or significantly developed using AI. Whilst AI is an incredibly useful tool, it can sometimes overcomplicate simple or personal matters and may introduce policies, legal terminology or processes that are not relevant to the situation. This can make it more difficult for staff to understand the individual circumstances and the parent's own perspective, as well as taking valuable staff time to respond.
Where possible, we encourage parents and carers to communicate concerns directly and in their own words. This allows us to better understand your perspective and respond in a more personal and effective way.
Please also remember that all communication with school staff should remain polite, kind and respectful, as we endeavour to communicate with you in the same way.

Working together as a team to support all children

It is important to emphasise that in most cases the relationship between parents and school is extremely positive, and concerns are usually swiftly resolved. It is of course only right that parents should be able to raise concerns with schools if and when they arise, and that there is a clear a process for schools to respond to these.

We welcome the focus of this guidance below on solving problems in a positive manner, and particularly welcome the advice to parents to keep complaints away from social media, and to not to use AI to draft complaints. As the advice says, abusive and aggressive language will never be tolerated and could lead to parents being banned from school grounds in the most extreme cases.

In most circumstances we are able to resolve issues with the class teacher, middle management Mrs Gibbons EYFS, Mr Bell KS1 or Mr Nicolaides KS2

Thank you for your on-going commitment to the school, kindness and respect for our staff and helpers who do the very best for your children always.

Parent Guide to School Complaints.pdf - Google Drive

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Could Your Child Be Eligible for
Free School Meals?

Good news! From the 2026/27 academic year, all children whose household receives Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of household income.

Even if you're unsure whether you qualify, it's worth checking. Applying could unlock valuable support for your child and bring additional funding into our school.

Who Can Apply?

Your child may be eligible if your household receives:

Universal Credit (regardless of income)

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

The Guarantee Element of Pension Credit

Support available to some families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Why Apply?

Free School Meals provide more than just a nutritious lunch. Eligible children may also receive access to:

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Food vouchers through the Household Support Fund

Additional funding for our school through the Pupil Premium

Even if your child already receives a meal at school, registering their eligibility helps us secure extra resources to support learning and wellbeing.

How to Apply

Option 1: Apply Online

Visit the Somerset Council Citizen Portal and complete the application online.

Option 2: Apply Through School

Pick up a Free School Meals application form from the school office and we will be happy to help.

Please remember: Eligibility is normally checked each year, so you may be asked to provide updated information annually.

Not Sure If You Qualify?

It only takes a few minutes to check, and you may be surprised. If you think your child could be eligible, we encourage you to apply.

Speak to the school office for support or find out more on the Somerset Council website: Free school meals.

Every eligible application helps support both your child and our school community.


RENEW
EDUCATION
Reset. Rebuild. Renew.
OCTOBER
HALF-TERM CAMPS
£25 per child, per day
SPACES LIMITED
Monday 26 October 2026
Ages 8+
Timewarp
Cinema trip
Cinema snacks
9:30am – approx. 3:30pm
Bring a packed lunch
Tuesday 27 October 2026
Ages 7-12
Halloween crafts
Squishy making
Pizza making
Pumpkin carving
Bowling (2 games)
MESSAGE US TO BOOK A PLACE
Reset. Rebuild. Renew.


THE WALNUT TREE HOTEL, NORTH PETHERTON
Christmas Market
The Walnut Tree Hotel North Petherton
TA6 6QA
Friday 4th December 2026
16:00 - 20:00
Join us for Christmas with our annual market. Whether your making a start to festive shopping or just picking up some last minute gifts. Have a browse from local traders and crafters with some fabulous makes and bakes.
Some treats to enjoy
Mince Pies
Roast Pork, Apple & Stuffing Rolls
Chunky Chips
Hot Chocolate
Tea and Coffee
Mulled Wine
THE WALNUT TREE HOTEL, NORTH PETHERTON. 01278 662255.
www.walnuttreehotel.com


TESCO
Express
North Petherton
Senior Citizen
Christmas Coffee Morning
Wednesday 2nd December
10am until 12:30pm
At North Petherton Community Centre
North Petherton Community School Choir Performing at 11:30
Free Raffle on Entry


Krazy Kimmy
CHILDREN'S DISCO PARTIES
HALLOWEEN PARTY!
GET READY FOR A NIGHT OF HALLOWEEN FUN!
FANCY DRESS ENCOURAGED!
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2026
6PM – 9PM
NORTH PETHERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
FUN GAMES & PRIZES
BEST DRESSED PRIZES
TRICK-OR-TREAT GIFT FOR EVERY CHILD ON ARRIVAL!
BAR OPEN THROUGHOUT THE EVENT!
CHILD £10
ADULT £2
UNDER 2s FREE!
BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!
WHATSAPP KIMMY 07449 323832
OR
FACEBOOK MESSAGE ME ON MESSENGER

HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

EYFS – 20TH OCTOBER
KS1 – 21ST OCTOBER
KS2 – 22ND OCTOBER
1:30 PM

HELP US SUPPORT BRIDGWATER FOODBANK

Please bring donations of tins, dried goods and other non-perishable foods.

Every donation helps local people in crisis.



Bridgwater Foodbank – Helping Local People in Crisis

Remembrance in North Petherton

We remember, we honour, we give thanks.

Remembrance Service

at The Minster of St Mary's North Petherton

Sunday 8th November 2026
starting at 10:45hrs

Act of Remembrance

in North Petherton Memorial Park

Wednesday 11th November 2026
starting at 10:50hrs

LEST WE FORGET

INSPIRED SCHOOLS

FUN FRIENDS ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE!

OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMPS

26th to 30th October

Northgate

SPORTS · CREATIVE ACTIVITIES · FUN CHALLENGES · MAKE NEW FRIENDS · AND MORE!

BOOKING NOW AVAILABLE

https://inspiredschools.ipalbookings.com/app

hello@inspiredschools.co.uk

PLAY LEARN EXPLORE BE INSPIRED

FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Hosted by Somerset's Mental Health Support Team



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

WHEN?

18:00-19:30 8th October 2026
13:00-14:30 13th October 2026

REGISTER AT:

canva.link/mhstautumn2026

In this 90 minute workshop hosted by Somerset's Mental Health Support Team, we will...

- Learn how positive mental health supports your child's happiness, confidence and success at school and beyond.
- Recognise the early signs that your child may be struggling and understand how to respond.
- Discover practical, everyday strategies to support your child's emotional wellbeing at home.
- Find out where to access help and support for your family when it is needed.

SCAN ME





Based at Eden Hair and Beauty
Prockters Farm
Taunton
TA2 8QN

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY

TENNIS-Extreme

SCAN ME

OCTOBER H/T HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS 2026



Avenue TC
Monday 26th October
9.30 - 12.30pm (4 - 12 years)
(£18.00)

Bridgwater TC
Tuesday 27th October
1.00 - 4.00pm (4 - 12 years)
(£18.00)

Online booking and payment available at

www.tennis-extreme.com

(Sibling Discounts available)
For further details about the Camps please contact Tim Seymour on 07887 723554 or e-mail tennisextremeuk@gmail.com

The Avenue Tennis Club

Somerset Council ChatHealth

