



North Petherton community Primary School newsletter

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Staffing, SEND Support, and School Funding Pressures

We want to take this opportunity to keep parents and carers informed about some of the wider challenges currently affecting schools both locally in Somerset and across the country.

Like many schools nationally, we are continuing to experience significant pressures around staffing and funding, alongside an increasing need for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) support. These challenges are being felt across the education system and are placing additional demands on school teams, local authority services, and resources.

Staffing and workload pressures

Schools are working extremely hard to staff the school and retain staff while also managing rising expectations and increasing levels of need within classrooms. Our staff remain fully committed to providing high-quality education, but the workload pressures across the sector are widely recognised and are continuing to grow.

SEND support demands

There has been a marked increase in the number of pupils requiring additional SEND support, both locally and nationally. While we are committed to meeting every child's needs, the availability of external specialist services and funding does not always match the level of demand. This can sometimes lead to delays in assessments or additional support being put in place.

Funding and long-term planning

School budgets continue to be tightly constrained due to wider economic pressures and historical funding arrangements. Rising costs (including staffing, utilities, resources, and specialist provision) mean that careful long-term financial planning is essential to ensure we can continue to deliver a stable and supportive learning environment.

We are also mindful of the cost-of-living challenges faced by families, and we aim to ensure that all children have access to rich and meaningful learning opportunities, trips, and experiences wherever possible.

Our commitment

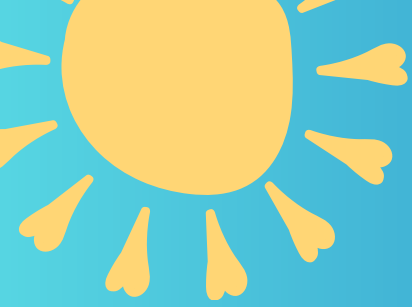
Despite these pressures, our focus remains firmly on providing an exceptional education and positive school experience for every child. Staff continue to work incredibly hard to ensure pupils feel safe, supported, and inspired in their learning.

We are proud of the dedication shown by our team and the strength of our school community. Your continued understanding, support, and partnership make a real difference. We will continue to keep you updated and work closely with families to ensure the best outcomes for all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Melanie Lawson



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YEAR 6

You Are More Than a Test

SATs are coming, that's true, they say,
Papers and pencils, a week in May.
But before you worry, fret, or frown,
Let's flip this thinking upside down.

These tests might ask what verbs you know,
Or how to find X in a grid or row.
But they won't see your brilliant smile,
Or the kindness you give all the while.

They won't hear how you sing so sweet,
Or watch your football-dancing feet.
They won't know how you care, how you try,
How you dream big, or reach for the sky.

You're artists, friends, explorers, stars—
Way more dazzling than tick-box bars.
The test is small, just one short week,
But your greatness? That's what we seek.

So walk in proud and do your best,
Then laugh and play and get some rest.
You're more than scores or what you do—
The world shines brighter just 'cause of you.



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ROBOTICS

Year 3 and Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed an exciting robotics workshop provided by Hyett Education on Wednesday. The children built and coded their own robots through a range of hands-on programming and problem-solving activities.



THANK YOU SMILERS



We were delighted to receive a generous donation of 3 tonnes of soil today from Smilers. The children have been busy transferring it to our raised beds in the polytunnel, ready for planting and growing in the weeks ahead. This was definitely thirsty work!



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UNIFORM

Forest School Clothing

Please make sure your child has the correct clothing for Forest School, this is essential for fun and safety!

A waterproof bag will be needed...

- A pair or of leggings/jogging bottoms, legs must be covered-no shorts!
- Waterproof trousers
- Wellies or closed toe shoes, feet will get wet!
- A long-sleeved top, fleece and coat, arms need to be covered even in summer, this can be a light weight top
- Suncream in summer
- Sun hat in summer
- Warm beanie hat winter
- Warm jumper/fleece in winter

All children need appropriate clothing for Forest School please. Now we have the better weather (hooray!), FS has grown considerably-especially the nettles. All children should have arms and legs covered to minimise nettle stings.

This also applies to the Skill Set Groups run by Maria Hillman

Thank you everyone!





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DAVID ATTENBOROUGH 100



To celebrate David Attenborough turning 100 today, every class has been creating a picture of the animal linked to their class name. The artwork is looking beautiful and will be proudly displayed in the hall for everyone to enjoy.



NETBALL



Last week, NP enjoyed a fantastic friendly netball match against Kingsmoor. With the sun shining and team spirits high, it was a wonderful afternoon of sport. We were so grateful for the supporters who came along to cheer the team on – and even brought oranges, the ultimate netball snack!

The children played brilliantly, showing superb defence, quick passing down the court and great teamwork throughout the game. It was wonderful to see skills from training put into practice so confidently, leading to a well-deserved 4-0 victory. We were incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, sportsmanship and determination.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SCOUTS

Well done to the Scouts 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' and Thank You for Your Effort and Commitment We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our recent fundraising efforts at the Scouts Birthday Party on Friday and to the PTFA for raising money for the school on a bank holiday weekend. Your time, energy, and generosity have made a real difference to the scouts, school and wider community.

At a time when many schools are facing increasing challenges and limited resources, your commitment to raising vital funds is more important than ever. Because of your efforts, we are able to continue providing valuable opportunities, resources, and support for our children. From organising events to volunteering behind the scenes, and from donating to simply spreading the word—every contribution has played a part in our success. Your dedication truly shows the strength and spirit of our school community.

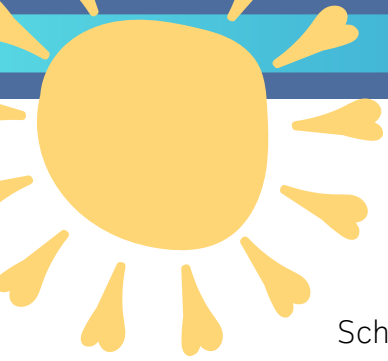
Together, we are making a meaningful impact. Thank you for standing with us and helping to support our school.

With sincere appreciation,

It was really lovely to see so many of you at the Scouts birthday party on bank holiday weekend. Thank you to Mrs Hillman for allowing Mr Lawson and myself enjoy a game of axe and shuriken throwing. It was fair to say I was not incredibly skilled in this sport, however really enjoyed seeing all the children and families having a lovely time.



The PTFA made a profit of £167.03 at the Scouts Birthday Party for the school! Well done to everyone that helped!



THANK YOU

School Environment Improvement - Thank You & Appeal for Further Support
We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Abs, Nicky Ardren, Louise Dennis, and Mr Lawson for their fantastic efforts in helping to make our school environment a tidier, more welcoming, and more enjoyable place for everyone. Your hard work—both during school hours and after school on Friday, as well as your generous weekend commitment—has made a noticeable difference. The improvements have helped create a safer, more pleasant outdoor space that benefits all pupils and staff. Over the coming weeks we will all be working hard to ensure our school looks and feels more presentable, with long term plans to replace furniture, decorate key areas and provide safe and welcoming spaces for all of our children.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers and local businesses who have kindly supported us with donations of plants, trees and forest school materials over the past few months. This facility is such a benefit to all the pupils and wider community.

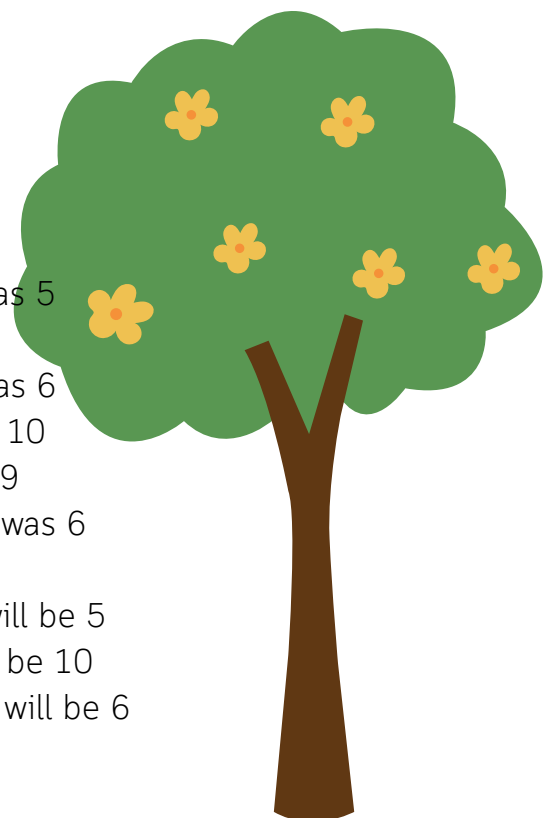
We are now asking for further support from parents and carers. If you are able to volunteer your time, contribute materials, or support future projects in any way, it would be greatly appreciated. Even small contributions can make a big difference as we continue to improve our school environment. We are in desperate need of picnic benches, and outdoor seating, can you help? Your generosity is helping us transform our school grounds into a space we can all be proud of. Please contact the school office if you can help.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and community spirit.

BIRTHDAYS



- 😊 Henry from Duckling class who was 5
- 😊 Kiaan from Fox class who was 7
- 😊 Lily from Bumblebee class who was 6
- 😊 Ethan from Kestrel class who was 10
- 😊 Sophie from Otter class who was 9
- 😊 Harry from Bumblebee class who was 6
- 😊 Joseph from Owl class who was 9
- 😊 Rupert from Duckling class who will be 5
- 😊 Xavier from Kestrel class who will be 10
- 😊 Andreea from Butterfly class who will be 6





CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



Class	Child	Celebrating
Lamb	Ernest	Helping me to organise Lamb class and always
	Lacie	Her amazing effort with phonics and reading.
	Roman	His outstanding effort with his learning all of the time!
Duckling	Mason	For his fantastic maths, especially doubles.
	Oakley	His super effort in phonics and reading.
	Rupert	For always being ready to learn.
Butterfly	Delilah	For her independent story 'The snake who came to
	Olivis	For amazing effort with her phonics and her reading
Bumblebee	Alex	For amazing effort with his handwriting and written
	Sanyi	For being a super star in mathematics.
Fox	Joey	For making a huge effort in his handwriting and
	Mercedez	For being a lovely friend and role model.
	Mavis	For her perseverance with her writing and always being
Frog	Jaxon	Making fantastic choices in class and on the playground
	Honour	Always being ready to start her learning
	Amelia	Always working hard and fantastic listening



UPCOMING EVENTS:

May

11th May- SATs week

13th May- Yr2 Fun Maths session 2.55pm

14th May- Yr5 Fun Maths session 2.55pm

19th May- Yr1 Fun Maths session 2.55pm

20th May- Yr4 Fun Maths session 2.55pm

21st May- EYFS Fun Maths session 2.55pm

22nd May- Rainbow Bingo

June

1st June- Inset day

4th June- Summer Disco

5th June- Frozen Fridays returns

10th June- Bikeability Lion Class

11th June- Bikeability Lion Class

16th June- Yr6 Photos

19th June- KS1 Sports Day 1.15pm start

20th June- Car Boot Sale

July

3rd July- Summer Fair

10th July- KS2 Sports Day 1.15pm start

14th July- Yr 6 Production

15th July- Yr6 Production

16th July- Bikeability Leopard Class

17th July- Bikeability Leopard Class

17th July - Whole-school French day

21st July- Yr6 Leavers' Fest 2026

22nd July- Yr6 Assembly 2.00pm



CAR BOOT SALE

🚗📦 The Friends of North Petherton Community Primary School warmly invite all members of our Community to join us for a Car Boot Sale 📦🚗

Whether you're looking to declutter and turn your pre-loved items into cash or hunt for treasure and a bargain or two, this is the event for you!

For Sellers*: Please reserve your spot by emailing northpethertonpta@gmail.com.

Small cars/vehicles are chargeable at just £10 per pitch. For commercial sellers, please request further information.

The Mill Street entrance of the school will be open from 9am to allow sellers to set up, but further information will be provided upon booking.

For buyers: Gates will open at 10am, so make sure you are the first through to grab a bargain! Entry is just £1 per adult with all accompanying children admitted FREE of charge. A selection of refreshments will be available to purchase.

This promises to be a fantastic opportunity for both sellers and buyers alike and we cannot wait to see you there 😊

THE FRIENDS OF NORTH PETHERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENT:

CAR BOOT SALE

ENTRY: £1 PER ADULT. KIDS GO FREE!

SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2026
OPEN FROM 10AM (SELLERS 9AM)

NORTH PETHERTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, TA6 6LU

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK AN OUTDOOR PITCH (£10) PLEASE SCAN THE QR LINK ABOVE OR EMAIL [NORTHPETHERTONPTA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:northpethertonpta@gmail.com)

SYT@BAC  SOMERSET YOUTH THEATRE

Where New Theatre Begins



Starts 7th May

Age 10 -16

Thursdays 4:30 - 5:45pm

SYT@BAC is a young person **takeover** of Bridgwater Arts Centre. A space for bold ideas, original stories, and performance making alongside professional theatre makers

Pay What You Choose, Sibling Discount & Fully funded spaces available

 info@somersetyt.com  07918425923 [Book Here](#) 

Somerset Youth Theatre c/o in partnership with Bridgwater Arts Centre



FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH CHANGE & SCHOOL TRANSITIONS:



WHEN?

- 13:00-14:30 17th June 2026
- 18:00-19:30 18th June 2026
- 10:00-11:30 23rd June 2026

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

- ✓ How we can support our children through their emotional ups and downs when moving schools
- ✓ How we can help our children to prepare for and manage change



Workshops are open to any parent/carer in Somerset. You will just need to provide the name of your child's school on registration