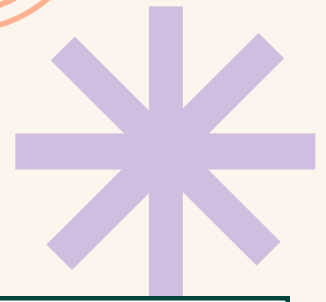




Newsletter



Message from Mrs Pocock

I can hardly believe that this is the final Banwell newsletter that I will be writing! It has been an absolute privilege to be the Headteacher here for the last 11 years and I will miss so much about being at Banwell. I would like to thank all families for their support during this time, the staff for their commitment and dedication to the school and most importantly the children for being the highlight of the job. I will miss you all!

As previously informed, Mr Venn, Miss Bartlett, Miss Trego, Mrs Dale and Mrs Shilova will also be leaving at the end of this term. In addition, Mrs Claire Trego (Office Manager) will be finishing with us on Friday. I would like to send my personal thanks to these members of staff and wish them all well for the future.

Mrs Simpson (Executive Headteacher), Miss Wyatt (Y3/4 teacher), Mrs Shield (Y4/5 teacher) and Mrs Jones (SENDCo) will be joining the Banwell staff team in September. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them well in their new roles.

This term has brought many special events which the children have enjoyed participating in. We have had trips out in the local area, sports day, performances – the list could go on! It is always so nice to enjoy these events together as a community.

As we prepare to begin our summer break, please take the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends. We will be back to school in the blink of an eye! For those families and children leaving us this week we wish you the very best of luck for the future.

Once again, thank you for your kindness. I hold very fond memories of my time at Banwell.

Best wishes,
Claire



Newsletter



School Term Dates 2025 -2026

2nd September Inset Day
3rd September Inset Day
4th September School Back
23rd October End of Term
24th October Inset Day
3rd November Inset Day
4th November Back to School
18th December End of Term
19th December Inset Day
5th January Back to School
13th February End of Term
23rd February Back to School
6th March Inset Day
2nd April End of Term
20th April Back to School
4th May Bank Holiday - School Closed
22nd May End of Term
1st June Back To School
22nd July End of Term

School Patrol Crossing

We are very grateful to Banwell Parish Council for providing a Zebra Crossing Escort to help keep our school children safe while crossing the main road. They are always looking for new volunteers to support this important service. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering, please contact: clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk.

Keeping Active

New Physical Activity Programme: Activate with Joe Wicks

We're excited to share that the Government has teamed up with fitness coach Joe Wicks to launch a brand new physical exercise programme called Activate.

This initiative is part of the Government's Plan for Change programme and is designed to help children stay active and healthy through short, fun workouts. Each session is approximately 5 minutes long and is available for free on YouTube.

The workouts are ideal for KS1 and Lower KS2 pupils and can be done at home or in school - perfect for getting children moving during the day or over the summer holidays!

👉 Click the link below to access the first Activate session:

[Joe Wicks and government join forces to get children moving - GOV.UK](#)

[NEW!!! Try my EPIC AstroBurp Challenge | Activate with Joe Wicks - YouTube](#)

Let's keep moving and make fitness fun!



Newsletter



Attendance and Absence Notifications

We kindly remind all parents and carers to inform the school office in advance if your child will be absent due to an appointment.

If your child is unwell, please ensure you leave a message on the school answerphone or email the office each day they are absent.

We have noticed an increase in absences not being reported, and as part of our safeguarding responsibilities, it is essential that we know the whereabouts of all our pupils during school hours. Your cooperation helps us fulfil our duty of care and ensures the safety and well-being of all children.

Thank you for your continued support.

ParentPay

Please can we kindly ask all parents and carers to take a moment to check their ParentPay accounts and settle any outstanding balances.

Clearing any debts over the summer helps us keep everything running smoothly and ensures your child can continue to access school meals, trips, and other activities without disruption.

Thank you for your attention to this and for your continued support.

Class Photo's

The discount deadline for ordering your school photos is Monday, 21st July. Please place your order this week to ensure you receive the discount.



School Grid



SchoolGrid Important: School Dinner Ordering from September

We're moving to School Grid for school dinner ordering starting in September.

You should have received an email from School Grid with all the details. If you haven't seen it, please check your inbox and spam/junk folders.

If you're still unable to locate the email, please contact the school office and we'll be happy to help.



Newsletter



Penguin

What an incredible year it has been for Penguin Class! From those very first days of school, a little bit nervous, but ready to make new friends and explore their new environment. The children have gelled beautifully as a team, supporting each other in their learning and play. A happy memory for them all, I am sure, will be climbing aboard the coach with excitement and independence for our school trip to Bristol Zoo Project. They have designed and built obstacle courses, planted and cared for flowers and vegetables in the garden, made biscuits and fruit salad and begun their journeys as confident mathematicians. Reading and writing is an important part of our daily routine, and the children embrace this challenge with enthusiasm.

Starfish

What a fantastic year we have had in Starfish Class! We've made new friends, worked with new adults and have enjoyed exploring and investigating, as well as accessing some more formal learning too. We have started to read chapter books and have learnt and written our own stories. We've thoroughly enjoyed a range of activities this year, from clay modelling hedgehogs to Easter baking with Mrs Venn, singing and dancing for our Nativity performance, yoga sessions in the Hall and who could forget our brilliant trip to The Bristol Zoo Project. We have had so much fun together and have made memories I am sure will never be forgotten.

Dolphin

Dolphins have had a fantastic year! In Maths we have worked on securing our knowledge of math problems using 3-digit numbers, fractions and decimals, and shape. In English we have enjoyed studying a variety of texts, with writing outcome including poetry, narrative and instruction texts. Most recently we have written our own fables! We have done Art projects around pattern and display. In Opening Worlds we have learnt lots about the origins of Christianity and Islam in History and RE, as well as exploring our wider world in Geography. In Computing we have practised and honed our programming skills, and in Music we have learnt how to play the recorder. We have particularly enjoyed DT which has allowed use to build our own instruments out of recycled materials, bake biscuits and sew our own needle holders! Perhaps the biggest highlight of our year was our school trip to We The Curious. We immensely enjoyed our ability to put our scientific enquiry skills to work at the museum, and have continued to use this knowledge as we built working electrical circuits in class this term!!



Newsletter



Sea Lion

What an incredible year it's been in Sea Lion Class! From exciting trips to hands-on projects, the children have grown in confidence, curiosity, and creativity. Here are just some of our favourite highlights from the year:

Life Skills Adventures we had a brilliant time on our life skills trip, learning how to navigate everyday tasks with independence and teamwork.

Drumming Workshops our weekly drumming lessons brought rhythm and energy into the classroom, helping us build coordination and confidence through music.

We The Curious Visit a hands-on day of science discovery and fun! The children explored exhibits, asked great questions.

Biscuit Baking we put our measuring, mixing, and decorating skills to the test while baking delicious biscuits – a tasty way to practise maths and teamwork!

RSPCA Visit we learned about helping our local wildlife & environment we did a litter pick around the school up and crafted hedgehogs.

In our geography lessons, we explored the mighty Mount Everest – its extreme weather, brave climbers, and the science behind mountains.

Our English lessons have taken us into the world of *Beowulf enjoyed retelling the epic story and exploring its themes.

In computing, we've started using Micro:bits to learn the basics of coding and problem-solving

Shark

What a time Sharks have had this year! They have been so busy in and out of class. For me the highlight for the year was our camp to Ultimate Adventures in Devon. It was wonderful to see the children enjoy themselves doing adventure activities which really tested their confidence and teamwork. In addition to this, how can I talk about highlights without mentioning their amazing SATs results; the children worked so hard in preparing for them and were so calm when talking them. I really enjoyed seeing the children's performance on the Playhouse stage as part of the dance festival. The children had worked so hard in preparation for the performance and it was brilliant to see the two dances come to fruition. In class, the children have worked so hard in improving their grammar skills, Opening World's content and learning and they have thoroughly enjoyed the different sports we have played in P.E.

My final highlight must be the production of Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits. The performances were fabulous and the children really showed what stars they are!



Newsletter



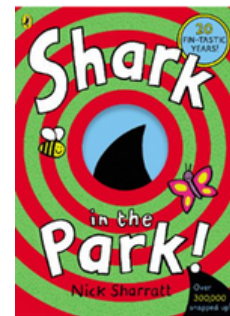
Reading Corner



Here are a few recommendations to inspire the children to read over the summer holidays.



Penguin & Starfish



For more reading recommendations for KS1

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/>

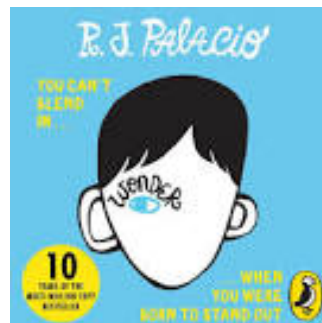
Dolphins



Sea Lions

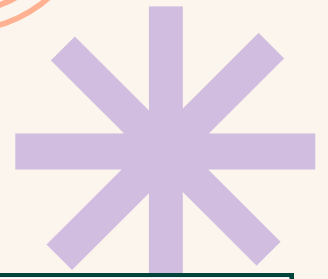


Sharks





Newsletter



Summer Reading Challenge

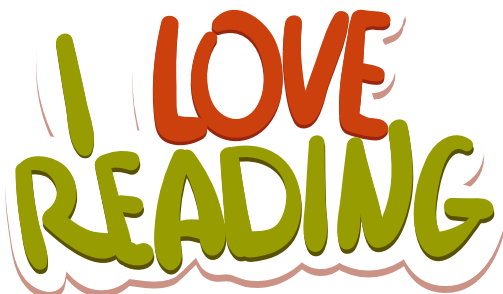


We're delighted to tell you that the Summer Reading Challenge is back in North Somerset Libraries this year! The Summer Reading Challenge is a great way to encourage four to 11-year-olds to keep reading books over the summer and help them boost their reading skills. Last year over 2500 children took part in North Somerset, and we want to reach even more this year. We are also inviting pre-schoolers to take part this year, with a special mini challenge.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge features artwork from award-winning illustrator Dapo Adeola, whose stunning illustrations will bring the Story Garden theme to life; creating an enchanting world where children can find magical creatures, plants and flowers to inspire their next reading adventure.

Recent research shows that children's enjoyment and engagement in reading is in decline, despite research from the OECD showing that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more important than either parents' educational background or household income. The Summer Reading Challenge supports children to get excited about reading throughout the summer, helping to maintain their reading at a time when engagement can often dip.

- It's totally free to take part.
- Children can sign up in North Somerset Libraries from Saturday 5 July
- If they read any 6 library books of their choice, they will collect a sticker per book for their challenge folder.
- If they complete the challenge by Saturday 13 September, they will receive a certificate and medal while stocks last.



Story Garden

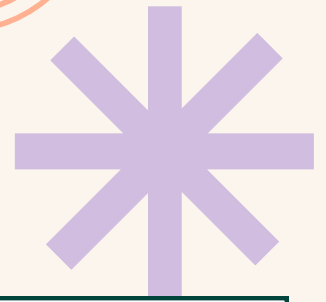
Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors



summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



Newsletter



Site Safety

Please can we stress to all parents to take note of our Site Safety Rules. It not only protects the children but all visitors to school, Banwell Buddies and members of the public

Please make yourself aware to any signage around the school site

No Mobile Phones at anytime. This means mobile phones the minute you enter the school gate needs to be kept in bags/pockets. If visiting school you will be asked to handover your phone at reception.



No Smoking/Vaping



5mph Speed Limit



Staff only Parking on Site

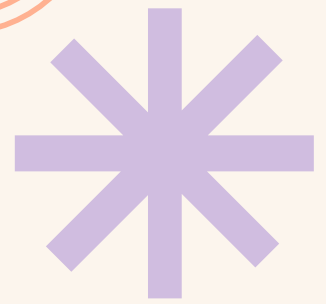


Please remember to close the gate when entering and exiting the school
Do not let anyone onto school grounds when you are exiting, they must use the intercom so we know who is on site

Thank you for your understanding



Newsletter



Certificates

Congratulations and Well Done to all our children who have received certificates



Outstanding Progress Awards

Penguins – Bonnie, Austin

Starfish – Ozzy, Maya

Dolphins – Jasline, Lucca

Sea Lions – Oscar, Zelda

Sharks – Remi, Freddie



Outstanding Behaviour Awards

Penguins – Jase, Thalia

Starfish – Evie, Olya

Dolphins – Abdulsalm, Mila

Sea Lions – Sydney, Berkley

Sharks – Mikey, Amelia



🎉 Congratulations to Daisy! 🎉

A huge well done to Daisy, who has been awarded a certificate for achieving 100% attendance throughout the entire school year!

What a fantastic achievement – we're so proud of your dedication and commitment!





Newsletter



Friends of Banwell

The PTA have had a fantastic year, with several new events added to the calendar and lots of the old favourites too. We have loved interacting with all the parents and children at these events and hope that everyone has enjoyed them as much as we have. We already have lots of ideas for next year and look forward to growing the community, raising funds for the school and providing some core memories for the children at Banwell. If you would like to get involved with the PTA in any way please email friendsofbanwell@gmail.com

The main event this term was the Summer Fair. We are immensely proud of how the day went and are hoping that this will now be an annual fixture at Banwell. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank our amazing teachers for giving up their time on a weekend; it is really appreciated.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers that helped with setting up and running stalls, all of the stall holders and community groups that came along on the day and all those who donated items for the raffle and tombola. It was lovely to see so many families there and enjoying themselves.

Could we also say a huge thank you to Tesco who kindly donated lots for prizes for our Tombola and the bread rolls.

We raised £1394.50

Event Dates

Family Bingo - Friday 26th September 6-8pm
AGM - Thursday 2nd October (after school)
Social at the Brewers - Friday 3rd October (after school)
Bake Sale - Monday 6th October (after school)
Tuck Shop - Friday 17th October (after school)
Halloween Disco - Thursday 23rd October (after school)

Easy Fundraising

You can now support Friends of Banwell PTA while shopping online! We've partnered with easyfundraising, allowing you to raise free donations with 8000+ retailers. Sign up now: Details can be found on the poster attached or you can download the easyfundraising app.



ARE YOU ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS?



The Department of Education provides FREE activity days for children who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals

These activity days take place across North Somerset during Easter, Summer & Christmas Holidays



All Reception to Year 2 children will receive free school meals but you could also be entitled to Income related free school meals



**SCAN TO APPLY FOR
FREE SCHOOL MEALS**



Bookings go live on 10th June at 9am
#HAF2025



www.wema.org.uk

Music lessons are available to children in year 3 and above. If your child is moving up to year 3 in September and would like them to start music lessons please let the office know as soon as possible.

The tutors currently visit our school and offer one to one or grouped lessons, 2-3 children that must all be at the same level. The lessons are held during the school day and are billed at the start of terms 1, 3 & 5 - 10 lessons in total over two terms.

If your child would like to sign up for music tuition from WEMA or you would like further information please contact the school office.

**01934 822498 or
office@banwell.extendlearning.org**



You are invited to be
part of our

FESTIVAL PARADE

14:30 ON
SATURDAY, JULY 19

AT WINSCOMBE COMMUNITY CENTRE GREEN, BS25 1JA

Activities from 12:30

Mask Making

Singing Workshop and
Performance!
Wreath and Flower
Crown Making

Badge
Making

Competitions

Best Dressed

→ Best Mask

Best Dressed
Family
& Plenty More!!

Dress Code!

Dress fancy or
Feathers dress!

Neon ✓

Glitter ✓

Sparkles ✓

See you in your festival best!

Performances from 12:30

Diedre Darling DJ Miss Radida

Michael Loader Bexx

Ella Jenevieve Olly Biggs





19TH JULY 12.30-18.00

WINSCOMBE COMMUNITY CENTRE GREEN

ALL
AFTERNOON!

Winscombe
MINI.

FREE!

Festival

OF ARTS AND NATURE

MUSIC: DJ MISS RADIDA

DIEDRE DARLING

ELLA JENEVIEVE,

AND FRESH FROM GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL:

BEXX <INTERACTIVE POP-LIVE LOOPS>

STORYTELLING: MICHAEL LOADER & GUESTS

WORKSHOPS:

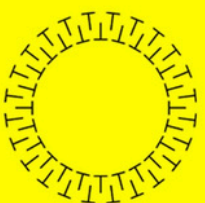
MASK & BADGE MAKING, ROCK PAINTING

CIRCUS SKILLS <FUSE PERFORMANCE>

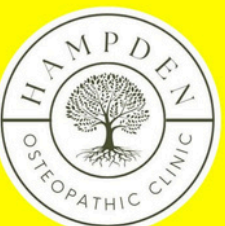
SINGING WORKSHOP <JANNAH WARLOW>

FANCYDRESS PARADE

BAR: FAT HEAD BREWERY



TRIGGER





You're invited to Castle Batch ParkPlay

We'd love to welcome you and your family to play with us.
Free, fun, inclusive and active games for everyone.

We play every Saturday morning, 9.30-11am, and you're
invited.

[Park-play.com/register](https://park-play.com/register)



#MeetMovePlay

Join ParkPlay!

Make friends, have fun, get moving.
FREE every Saturday morning.

#MeetMovePlay



Portishead ParkPlay

**Come and meet your PlayLeaders at Merlin Park
Every Saturday from 10:00am**

ParkPlay welcomes everyone, so turn up for games, activities
and fun with your local community.

Register today!

park-play.com/register