



Dear Parent/ Carer,

We warmly welcome two new members of staff this term, Mr Bottomley into Class 5 and Emily Lodge as part of our Pre-school team. We are currently advertising for another member of teaching support staff and another apprentice. Mrs Pyne will be leaving us at the end of January to develop her baking career! We wish her well and thank her for the energy and enthusiasm with which she has supported so many children during her time with us. Congratulations to Miss Davy who is expecting a baby later this year!

Please see the adverts on the school website if you are interested in joining our team or share if you know anyone who might be. <https://www.milvertonprimary.co.uk/about-us/Vacancies>

We are very excited to have a musical treat for the children on the 6th February. In collaboration with Milverton Concert Society we are able to welcome Stringfever to school for all of the children to enjoy. Stringfever are also performing in Langford Budville in the evening – please see page 4 for more information. We kindly ask for a £2 donation per child to help fund this event. Please send a donation into school on Friday 6th February. <https://www.stringfever.co.uk/video>

Also, this half term we have visits from Somerset Road Safety Team who will be speaking to the children in assemblies about how to keep themselves safe on the road.

Show you care, PLEASE park elsewhere!

We are placing cones on the turning circle to enable the school bus to safely enter and exit without being blocked in or having to move around parked cars.

The turning circle should only be used to drop children off who are old enough to see themselves safely into school. **No car should be parked and left on the turning circle. No car should park on or block the zebra crossings outside the school or in the carpark.** We are very fortunate to have a large carpark. Please use it safely and considerately to help all our children arrive safely.

Also, please do let your children run around the staff carpark before school. Although staff have parked by this time, contractors and delivery drivers will enter the carpark presenting a significant safety hazard to small children running around.

Mrs Stoddart



In Class 5, we have been enjoying learning about Earth and Space in our Science lessons. This week we have been getting hands-on in our learning, making scale models of the solar system to understand the relative size of the planets (check out our 'playdough planets') and the relative distance of planets from the sun. Feel free to test us on

what we have learned so far! Ask us if we can remember the order of the planets in our solar system, or if we know which planets are rocky and which are known as gas giants.

Mr Bottomley



Diary Dates

Forest School Thursdays

Pre-school 22nd January

*Class 4 29th January

Class 5 5th February

*Class 6 12th February

Class 3 26th February

Class 2 5th March

*Change of dates since last newsletter

PINS Parent Session

Wednesday 28th January

Year 5 & 6 Bournemouth

Symphony Orchestra at Great Hall, Exeter

Friday 30th January

Year 5 & 6 Trip to We The Curious, Bristol

Tuesday 3rd February

Stringfever Concert

Friday 6th February

Year 4 Sports Festival at Blackbrook Pavilion

Monday 9th February

Year 5 First Aid Trainings

Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th February

Half Term Break

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

Year 5 Sports Festival at Kingsmead

Friday 6th March

Parents' Evening 1

17:00—19:30

Thursday 5th March

Parents' Evening 2

15:30—18:00

Tuesday 10th March

*Change of dates since last newsletter

House Points	Weekly Total	Half Term
London Plane	969	969
Cork Oak	807	807
Blue Cedar	465	465
Horse Chestnut	791	791

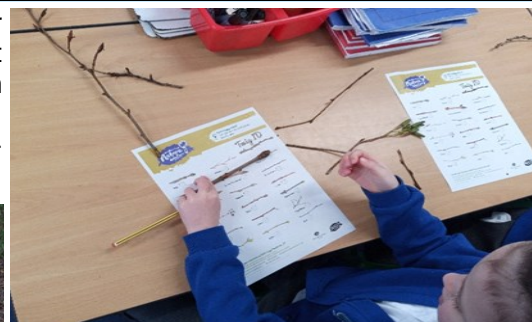
OUTSTANDING LEARNERS OF THE WEEK

Preschool	Livaya for the amazing increase in your confidence this week.
Class R	Margot for your excellent writing in your literacy book.
Class 1	Dylan for all your effort in phonics and writing.
Class 2	Otto for your focus and determination in English. Lyla for working hard on your spellings.
Class 3	Aria and Nina F for demonstrating resilience in your learning.
Class 4	Erin for being so inquisitive and knowledgeable during our history walk around school.
Class 5	Brodie for your excellent focus and progress with our multiplication work.
Class 6	Mr Coupe's maths group for the progress and confidence you are showing!

AWESOME!



Class 1 enjoyed a winter walk around our school grounds. We looked at the different buds and catkins and identified some of them using the Woodland Trust identification sheet. We also saw some early signs of bulbs including ones we planted in the autumn. *Ms Boullin*



You may like to take part in The Big Garden Bird Watch which happens on the 23rd-26th January. You can access free resources to help you identify the birds. A lovely opportunity to enjoy nature, learn about garden birds and take part in a nature survey. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Big Garden Birdwatch

Ms Boullin

Class 2 have had lots of fun this week using drama to help learn the story of Little Red Riding Hood.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS

We are delighted to share our parent group which is part of the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project.

This group is a friendly place to come and meet other parents in your school who also have children with additional needs (your child doesn't need a diagnosis to attend).

We will be joined by reps from Somerset Parent Carer Forum. We hope that these groups will be a place to meet other parents and share experiences.

Parent Coffee Session

Milverton Community Primary School

Wednesday 28th January 9.30-11am
Please RSVP to the school office.

Class R had a very wet Forest School this week! We had a lot of fun building dens, jumping in puddles and looking at living/non-living things which linked to our topic that we have been learning about this week. We also thought about what plants need to grow and what happens to them during the winter.



Miss Murray

Holidays in Term Time

All children have a legal right to suitable, full-time education. There is no entitlement for children to have time off from school during term-time for the purposes of a holiday, recreational or protest activity. Milverton Community Primary and Preschool expects all pupils to attend regularly.

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 set out the statutory requirements for schools:

- All references to family holidays and extended leave have been removed, including the removal of the H code for approved leave,
- Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are "exceptional circumstances",
- Headteachers do not have any discretion to authorise up to ten days of absence each academic year.

Where those unauthorised absences hit the national threshold, Milverton Community Primary and Preschool will normally submit a penalty notice request to the Local Authority. Penalty notices may be issued to any parent/carer that the school believes enabled their child to take the leave from school. Please see our Attendance Policy for further and more detailed information. Our School Attendance Policy reflects the requirements and principles of The Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance for maintained schools, and local authorities: Working Together to Improve School Attendance. Please read Appendix C for information on national thresholds and penalty notices for unauthorised absence—below.

Information for Parents about Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absence from School

Following the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised absences recorded after 19 August 2024. This information refers to penalty notices that are considered for irregular attendance and unauthorised term-time leave.

All penalty notices are issued within the [Somerset Penalty Notice Code of Conduct](#).

Who can be fined?

Penalty Notices can be issued to each parent/carer of each child whose unauthorised absence meets the national threshold.

For example, in a family with two parents and three children taking unauthorised term-time leave, each parent could receive a penalty notice for each child absent from school, resulting in six penalty notices being issued.

The National Threshold

Schools are required to consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate when a child has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. 10 sessions would typically be the equivalent of five days.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be a combination of any unauthorised absence codes (G, O, N or U).

The rolling ten school week period can span terms, school years and schools.

The First Offence

The first time a parent is issued with a penalty notice in relation to a child's absence, they will be able to pay the reduced amount of £80 if they pay within 21 days, otherwise the full amount of £160 is payable within 28 days.

The Second Offence

If a parent is issued with a second penalty notice within three years the amount payable will be £160 within 28 days. The reduced amount will not be available.

The Third Offence

If a parent becomes eligible for a third (or more) penalty notice within three years of the first being issued, a penalty notice can not be issued and the Local Authority will consider other measures to address attendance concerns. This may include prosecution, which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and the parent having a criminal record. If convicted, the offence will also show on any future DBS checks.

Not Paying a Penalty Notice

Penalty notices are only issued to parents when they have committed the offence of failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

A penalty notice gives the parent the chance to write the offence off without needing to go to court.

It is not an offence not to pay a penalty notice, but the Local Authority may then prosecute the parent for the original offence.

The Law

Penalty notices are issued in line with Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 when a parent has failed to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

Penalty notices can only be issued when:

A child's absence meets the national threshold
Support has been attempted (if appropriate)
Issuing a penalty notice is compliant with the Somerset

Penalty Notice Code of Conduct

Stringfever



*Classy musicianship, contemporary sounds and
comedic timing, all in one.*

Friday 6 February 2026 7pm

Langford Budville Jubilee Hall TA21 0RL

Tickets: www.milvertonconcerts.org

Extraordinarily brilliant!

Bring your friends and family to a show stuffed full of classical and popular favourites, performed on electric stringed instruments in the hands of consummate professionals.

Stringfever has performed over 2000 shows in 40 countries since 2004, from private performances for the British Royal Family to a packed audience at Madison Square Gardens.

Something a bit different for all ages. Comfy seating, plenty of parking and a bar.