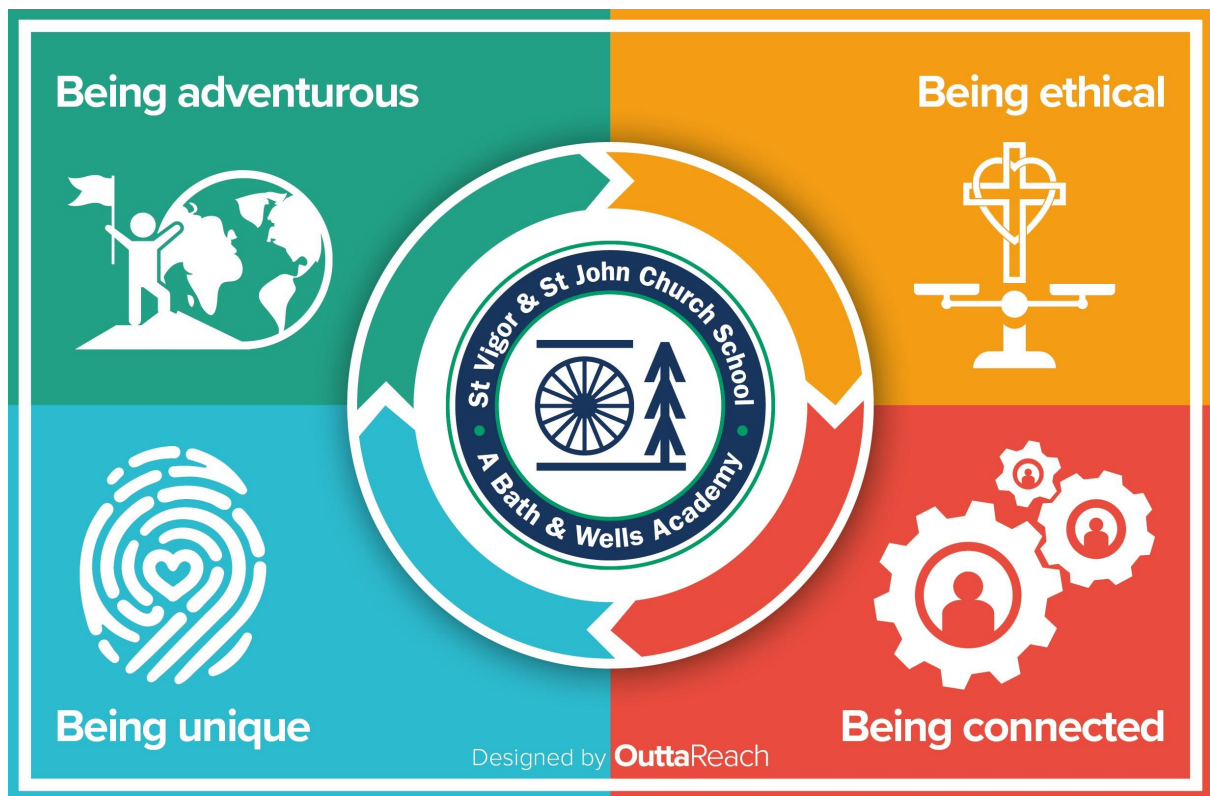




Spring Term 4 2026

Thursday 2nd April 2026

St Vigor & St John Church School



1 - Being Adventurous



2 - Being Connected



3 - Being Ethical



4 - being Unique

A note from Mr C and Mrs S.





What a wonderfully busy few weeks it has been in school! In what feels like a very short space of time, we have packed in an incredible amount of learning, creativity and enrichment. We began with Book Week, swiftly followed by Science Week. Alongside this, many of our pupils have taken part in the Wells Dance Festival and Dance Umbrella, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm.

We were also delighted by the fabulous Mary Poppins performance at Downside, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and took part. Year 4 had a brilliant time on their school camp to Greatwood and were a credit to the school with their resilience and behaviour. We have celebrated numerous sporting events and achievements across the school. It really has been a whirlwind of activity and we think we could all do with a well earned rest!

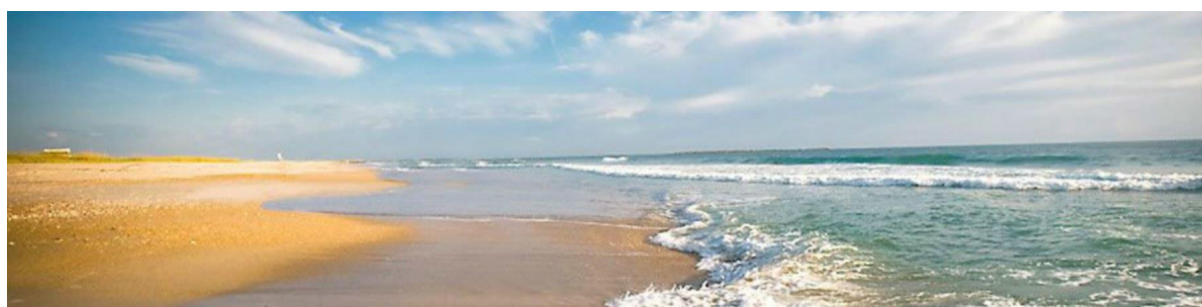
As we approach the holidays, we would like to remind families about our school garden clean up on Saturday 18th April. We would love to see as many of you there as possible to help keep our outdoor spaces looking their best.

A huge thank you to our PTFA for organising such fun events this term. The Easter chocolate bar Golden Ticket initiative brought great excitement, with some fantastic prizes, thank you for your continued support, and we hope the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

During World Book Week, we celebrated 100 years of Winnie the Pooh, which was a real highlight. The PTFA also ran a wonderful bookmark design competition, with three winning entries professionally printed and gifted to every child, such a special keepsake. In addition, all entries were carefully laminated so that each child could take home their own creation. Thank you to the PTFA for the time, effort and care that went into making this happen.

We wish you all a very happy and restful Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 20th April.

Attendance and Holidays



Attendance Matters

Attendance continues to be a key focus for us as a school and across the Trust. Recent government guidance, alongside national statistics, highlights a continued concern around pupil absence, particularly where term time holidays are involved. This is also an area of

focus for the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust, as regular attendance is closely linked to positive outcomes for children.

We do understand the dilemma families face. The rising cost of holidays during school breaks is significant and, genuinely, no one understands that more than those of us working in education. We also recognise that family time is important and that travel can offer valuable life experiences for children. These experiences absolutely have their place and we do not disagree with that.

However, there are already 13 weeks of school holidays each year, and we kindly ask that, wherever possible, holidays are taken within these times.

Historically, our school has had strong attendance, and we have taken a supportive and understanding approach. That said, we are seeing an increasing number of term time holiday requests, and this is beginning to have an impact.

Research is clear that even relatively small amounts of missed school can affect learning. The Department for Education notes that pupils with attendance below 90 percent are significantly less likely to achieve expected standards. Even missing a few days can mean gaps in understanding, particularly in subjects where learning builds step by step. Children can find it difficult to catch up, and this can affect both confidence and progress.

You can view your child's attendance at any time using Arbor. We encourage all parents to keep an eye on this.

A gentle but important reminder that if a child has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence (equivalent to 5 days) within a 10 week period, this may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice. This is currently set at £160 per parent, per child and is issued by Somerset County Council.

We hope this message strikes the right balance. We understand the pressures families face and will always aim to be reasonable and supportive. At the same time, regular attendance really does matter, and we appreciate your support in helping ensure children are in school, ready to learn, every day.

Learning Outside the Classroom



Campion's Forest School

The children took a trip off site to Priddy Pool to take a look at the toads and spawn. A fascinating experience for all.





Downside's Mary Poppins

Well done to all the children who committed months of effort to be part of this wonderful production. We are delighted and grateful to have this partnership and I know Downside are already thinking of next year.....



Year 4 Camp to Greatwood

Elder Class had an unforgettable and adventurous few days on their residential trip to Greatwood Camp. The children embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity, truly representing the school with their excellent behaviour, teamwork, and positive attitudes.

From exploring the stream and working together to help save 'BillyBob', to developing new skills in archery, the children showed determination and resilience throughout. The children got the chance to have a quiet reflective moment during the day, when they lay on the ground and looked up at the trees, taking time to pause, reflect, and feel at one with nature.

A special well done to our Stars of the Week, Arty and Ruby, (selected by the Greatwood staff) who both demonstrated fantastic teamwork, kindness, and a brilliant attitude throughout the trip.











Wells Dance Festival and Dance Umbrella

The start of spring appropriately always seems to coincide with our dance festivals. The children shone like the stars they are at Wells Dance Festival and the Dance Umbrella at Bath Forum.









Sporting Achievements





TeamSVSJ in Term4: Wells Netball Champions, Wells Tag Rugby Champions, MSN Y3-4 Football runners-up, MSN Y6 XC Champions, 4 pupils selected to run for BANES at Schools County XC Championships, Y4 pupils @ Bath Rugby Development Day, Y5 pupils @ Bath Uni sports leader program, Y4 pupils raced @ UK Schools Biathlon Championships, Y4-5 Netball Team at Downside, Girls Football Teams qualified for quarter-finals of BANES Cup, Y6 Boys bronze medal at Millfield XC relays, 2 x netball teams qualified for quarter finals of BANES cup, 7th overall at South West ESSA Swimming Relays, MSN Netball Champions..... Phew! Well done to you all.





5 - Wells netball tournament













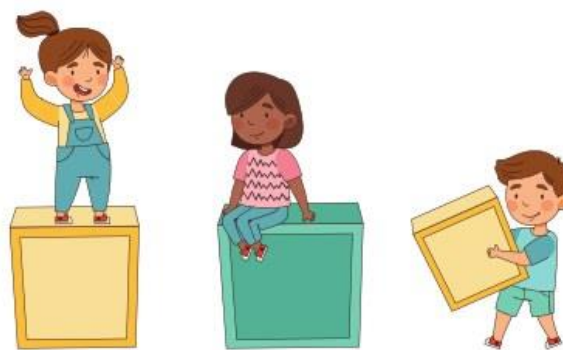


Personal Development Passports



My Personal Development Passport

Name: _____



Hopefully you have had the opportunity to take a copy of your child's Personal Development Passport before the end of term. Easter is the perfect time to get some of the activities ticked off! We are looking forward to seeing many more PD achievements in Term 5.



Adventurous Building Blocks

Learn a new sport/physical activity	Perform to an audience	Overcome a challenge	Stay overnight somewhere new	Share with your class
Try a new food	Teach someone a skill	Join a new club	Learn an instrument	Challenge yourself in a lesson
Try a new way of travelling	Go on a long walk or bike ride	Design something new	Build a den	Play with someone new



Ethical Building Blocks

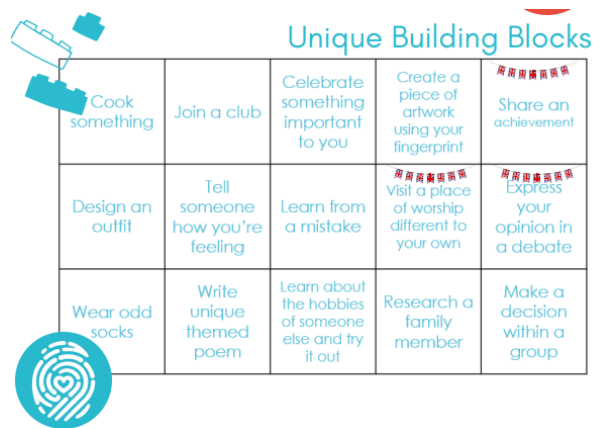
Watch the sunset	Volunteer	Watch the clouds	Go stargazing	Check in on a friend
Donate to a food bank	Fix something instead of throwing it away	Help an adult with a task	Make a wildlife home	Visit a place of worship
Celebrate yourself	Promote ethical behaviours	Go bird-watching	Create a game	Research an endangered species



Connected Building Blocks

Fundraise for a global charity	Learn what a citizen is	Learn what fair trade means	Watch a performance	Learn about another culture
Visit a local landmark	Research your local area	Take part in a vote within your community	Visit a friend or relative	Write a letter to someone
Take photos somewhere new and share them	Use a map to navigate	Look after an animal	Listen to a new genre of music	Trace your family tree





Staff News



We say goodbye today to Sam Ashman, who has supported the school in a range of roles at SVSJ, including in EYFS, across Key Stage 1 and as a midday supervisor. Sam has been a valued member of the team and has built strong relationships with both pupils and staff. We wish her all the very best in her new role, she will be greatly missed.

We are delighted to share that Mrs Mounter is expecting a baby in September. She will continue teaching Year 6 and will remain with the class until the end of the academic year.

Miss Harris will be returning from maternity leave towards the end of July and will be back in class in September. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back.

We will also be appointing a new member of staff to join the team, and we look forward to welcoming someone who will help our children continue to thrive.

Special Education Needs



6 - Mrs Mapstone

School SENDCo

If you wish to contact me then please email me at senco@svsj.bwmat.org or contact the school office. Please be aware that my working days are Mondays and Tuesdays. However, if you have an urgent concern and it is not my working day then you should speak to Mrs Sheppard and Mr Chorley and they will contact me directly.

Attendance

Attendance Ladder



Good attendance habits pay off! More school days attended increases a child's academic success, improves their chances to get better GCSEs, A-Levels, university degree and other important qualifications, so they can earn a higher pay in their careers. Children who frequently attend school feel more connected to their community and develop strong social skills and friendships, which are important life skills. It also means children learn the importance of showing up. 80% of success is showing up!



7 - Important dates

Monday 20th April - Term 5 starts - Y6 parents meeting- SATs & Camp

Tuesday 21st April - PTFA Meeting

Wednesday 22nd April- Arum & Gentian heights and weights measure/ Y4 Cricket Festival, Glastonbury

Thursday 23rd April - Bath City Girls Football Festival

Monday 27th April- Pickleball & Tennis Festival, Millfield

Tuesday 28th April- Dogwood Ancient Egypt Day/ County Netball Finals, Bristol/ MSN Tag Rugby Tournament

Wednesday 29th April - Arum Trip to Chew Valley Animal Park

Saturday 2nd May- Exmoor Challenge

Wednesday 6th May- MSN Y4 Games Festival

w/b May 11th - SATs Week

Friday 15th- Monday 18th May - Y6 Residential, Osmington Bay

Thursday 21st May- BANES Hockey Tournament

Friday 22nd May - END OF TERM 5