



October News Update!

Friday 10th October 2025

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the October news update. I hope you and your families are well.

I think it is fair to say that we are well and truly into the autumn term! The weather, the leaves and the learning are all in full swing, and it has already been a busy half-term.

There is always a buzz of joy whenever I visit the nursery - it does not matter which room you are in, the children are having a lovely time and taking time to learn the important skills as they grow. Thank you to everyone in the team, including all families, for supporting the transition into the school's care. It is truly a wonderful addition to the school!

The new Reception children have settled brilliantly into their routines and learning - it feels like they have been here a lot longer than a month (in a very good way, I might add!).

Year One learning is going well, and I know there is an opportunity after half-term for parents/carers to learn more about the school's approach to learning phonics and early reading (a letter about this will be sent in the coming weeks).

Year Two pupils are enjoying their new classes, with learning across the curriculum going really well.

In Year Three, there is the added bonus of swimming on a Friday, which has started well.

It has been lovely to hear the Year Four children singing in preparation for their iSingPop concert later this month - they are doing an amazing job and rehearsing is going well!

Year Five have visited Bovington Tank Museum this week to further deepen their learning about World War II. An amazing experience was had by all.

Year Six have already enjoyed a day at the river (Delph Woods) and will also be looking forward to other trips and visits later this term. It is - as always - all go! There is never a dull moment!

The school's main office

We are very sad to inform you that Mrs Knight is no longer working at the school. Mrs Knight has been a part of the school since July 2017 and has provided a safe pair of hands to all the administration that helps the school run. Over the years, Mrs Knight has been a key member of staff and a port of call for so many of the school's services. She will be much missed by everyone, and I am sure that you will join the staff and children in wishing her well in her next adventure.

On this note, please bear with the school office team as we recruit in the coming weeks. Every effort is being made to ensure we continue to provide the usual service.

Coats

Last week in particular, we were caught by some sharp showers and downpours. It is the pattern of the weather this time of year. Please can you ensure your child has a named coat for school - even if they do not necessarily wish to wear it into school, they do need it as we go out to play in pretty much all weathers! **Named** coats are essential!

ABW Holiday Club

As you know, the old 'Oscars' wraparound provision is now part of the school's offer. We are really pleased to be able to offer the October Half-Term Holiday Club. We have very limited and exclusive spaces for the week of half-term, so if you are interested, please contact the school (or see below for more details).

After-School Wraparound Care

Just a reminder that the school is also offering wraparound care for all families after school (in the old 'Oscars' provision). For more information about our Wraparound Care, please click this link¹.

Safeguarding Alert! (From Dorset Safeguarding Team)

We have been made aware of the following information regarding a set of children's books:

¹<https://www.archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk/breakfast-club-and-oscars>

The books involved are the series Spy Dogs/Pups and Spy Cat books written by Andrew Cope. These books contain a link to a website which contains highly pornographic content. The book asks children to explore the website to find more about the characters in the book. It appears the website identified (on the back or inside page) has now been compromised and takes users to a pornographic website with no age verification. If you have any further concerns about this, please contact the school.

Dates for the diary...

Wednesday 15th October - Class Worship: Dolphins (Y5)

Wednesday 22nd October - Year 4 iSingPop @ Salisbury Cathedral

Thursday 23rd October - Flu immunisation day (packed lunches only on this day)

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October: Half-term break

Monday 3rd November - Inset Day - school closed for all pupils

Tuesday 4th November - All children return to school

Friday 7th November - Individual school photographs

Wednesday 12th November - Class Worship: Sea Otters (Y3)

Wednesday 26th November - Class Worship: Jellyfish (Y4)

Monday 1st December - Y6 Trip to the Houses of Parliament

Thursday 18th December - Christmas Service @ Blandford Forum Parish Church

Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd December: Christmas break

Monday 5th January 2026 - Inset Day - school closed for all pupils

Tuesday 6th January - All children return to school

*As always, all dates are subject to change, but we will do our best to provide as much notice as possible.

Many thanks as always for your continued support of the school.

Best wishes,

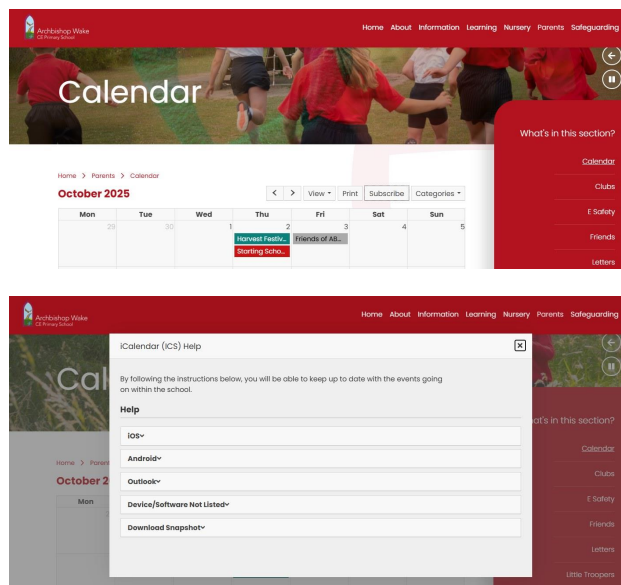
Mr Carter

Headteacher

Subscribe to the school's online calendar...

The school calendar is the easiest place to see what is taking place in school. You can see the calendar on the school website using this link².

You can also subscribe to the calendar on your phone or device. The screenshots here show you how to do it: simply click 'Subscribe' and then follow the instructions.



ABW Holiday Club

I am very pleased to confirm details of the Archbishop Wake Wraparound Holiday Club, which will be running over the October half-term break (Monday 27th – Friday 31st October).

This club is for all children who are primary school age, that is: a child currently attending Reception, through to, and including, age 11 (under 12).

Sessions:

The club will be running every day across the week, and session times are as follows:

Morning session: 8 am - 12 pm

Afternoon session: 12 pm - 4 pm

All-day session: 8 am – 4 pm

Costs:

²<https://www.archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk/calendar/?calid=2,3,4,5,6,7,8,1&pid=152&viewid=2>

Morning session: 4 hours = £14 (£3.50 per hour)

Afternoon session: 4 hours = £14 (£3.50 per hour)

All day session: 8 hours = £28 (£3.50 per hour)

Snacks will be provided throughout the day. If your child is staying for lunch, they will need to bring a lunchbox. Please note: there is a strict 'No-Nut' policy due to allergies.

Numbers and Booking:

There are limited numbers for this holiday provision. There are **16** spaces only.

To book a place, you will need to book through Arbor.

For children who are not attending Archbishop Wake, you will need to contact the school office directly (office@archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk³).

If you require any further information, please contact the school.

Flourishing @ ABW: Harvest

A huge 'Thank you!' to everyone for the contributions for this year's Harvest.

Blandford Forum Parish Church hosted a beautiful service last week, which included a very generous donation of food and items which have gone directly to Nourish - the Blandford Food Bank.

Reverend Chris led worship earlier in the week, where he spoke about success = giving, and this linked beautifully with giving to Nourish as well as being thankful for what we have.

Thank you to Reverend Chris, to Megan and to the church team for their support and hosting our celebration. Thank you to the parents, carers and friends who also joined us.

If you wish to know more about Nourish, please use this link⁴.



³<mailto:office@archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk>

⁴<https://faith-works.org.uk/locations-across-dorset/nourish-blandford/>

Parent/Carer Council

Thank you for your most recent questions to the school/feedback.

Sports day - please could the sack race sacks be repaired or replaced, as some were completely open at the bottom.

Thank you for your feedback regarding the sack race sacks from Sports Day. We really appreciate you bringing this to our attention. We'll make sure the sacks are either repaired or replaced before the next event to ensure all the children can participate safely and enjoyably.

Some of PE shorts the girls wear are extremely short and skin tight, and not seen as very appropriate.

We totally agree with you. We do provide guidance on a suitable PE kit as part of our uniform policy. We kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that their children come to school wearing the correct and appropriate PE uniform. This helps us maintain a respectful and inclusive environment for all our children.

There appears to be very little for children to do whilst on the playground at break times. Is there a way to change this?

Our priority recently has been to make our field a more purposeful and engaging play space for our children, as we now spend time there throughout the year. Recently, we've been in discussions with 'The Friends' about how we can begin transforming parts of the playground to make it more fun and stimulating for the children. Of course, we need to approach this thoughtfully, as the space also serves as an important area for PE lessons.

Thank you for the positive feedback

On sports day, it was so lovely to see Mr Carter jumping alongside a girl who was struggling in the sack race to encourage her to keep going and finish the race.

Thank you to the staff who volunteered for the sponge throw at the fair. The school day is so full of rules and expectations, so for the children to see the teachers' more fun and relaxed side was really lovely. It was a really fun element to the fair, which went down a storm with the kids.

Thank you to Mr Carter for taking the time to do Beat the Goalie - it was much appreciated and the kids loved it.

Mr Potts - what a trooper. We couldn't have done the summer fair without him. He went above and beyond to help the Friends throughout the day and out of hours. Thank you.

The work that has been done on the field to expand the play facilities for the children is much appreciated.

YOUR VIEWS MATTER!



Friends Of ABW News!

We were really pleased to kick start our year with a fantastic turnout for our AGM, so thank you to everyone who attended both in person and online; it was especially great to see so many new faces too.

The Co-Chairs and Treasurer provided their annual summary for 2024/25, covering some of the highlights, giving an overview of the financial success of our fundraising activities and the various experiences and items we have provided as a result for our children. Thank you to everyone who has supported an event both by volunteering and by attending.

The committee for the year were then voted in with Cerian and Becki continuing as Co-Chairs and Emma continuing as Treasurer; the Secretary position remains open. A huge thank you to those who have unelected roles and who also confirmed they are happy to continue these vital roles; the Friends could not do the amazing work it does without these behind-the-scenes heroes.

We are very much looking forward to what we can achieve this year, both in terms of organising some fun events and perhaps even better, what exciting things we can spend it on!

We had a lovely time greeting all the new starters' parents on their first day at the school, handing out some welcome packs for the parents/carers and providing a book for each child, plus enjoying a cuppa/cake and a natter in the hall after with some of you too.

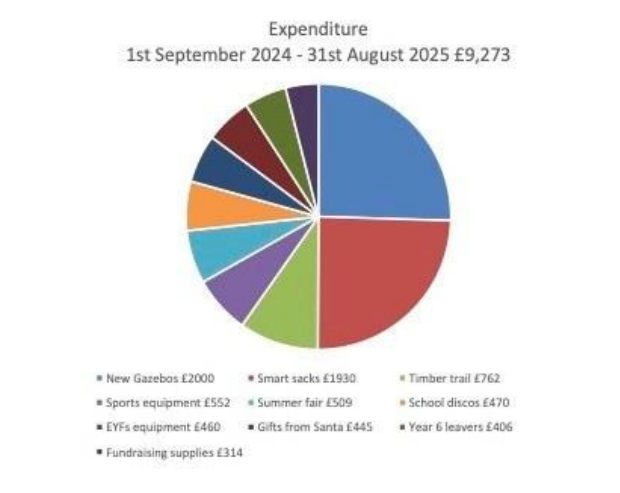
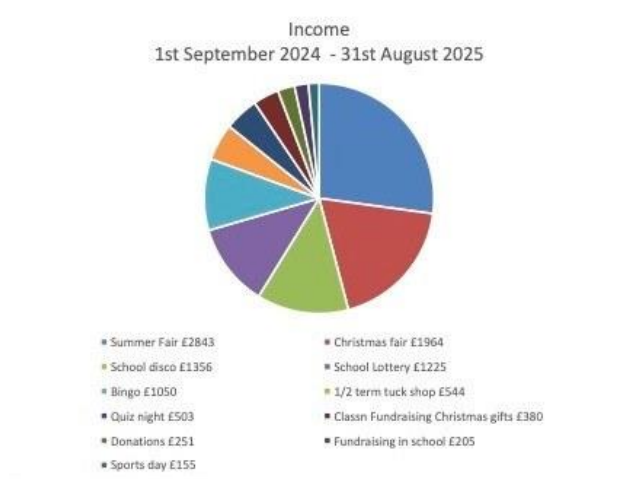
Thank you to everyone who braved Storm Amy to attend our first event of the year, the ABW Quiz on the 3rd Oct, we raised a fantastic £279!

With half-term swiftly approaching, our second event is nearly here. We will be selling our ever-popular sweet bags for £1 in both the outdoor classroom and at the reception gate on

Wednesday, 22nd Oct (any leftover bags will also be available to buy when you pop in for parents' evening!).

Our next meeting will be at school on the 14th October, 6 pm, do feel free to come along or join us online using this link:

<https://teams.live.com/meet/9338699118540?p=r0PNJ61v2gcKXeBAOL>



Shoebbox Appeal!

We are pleased to announce that we are taking part in the shoebbox appeal. This is a wonderful charity that sends your selected gifts to someone in need at Christmas. This year, we will be creating our shoebboxes together as a class. This means that you will only need to contribute one item for your class's shoebbox.

We will be collecting your gifts between the 6th October and the 17th October.

If you would like to create an entire shoebbox as a family, you are more than welcome. Labels can be found in the office.

Suggested items to fill your Shoebbox

Cars, trucks, balls, complete jigsaws, books, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, Lego blocks, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, building blocks, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, playdough/plasticine and cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens/gloves, hats, harmonica, games and cards.

Please DO NOT include the following.

Food, sweets, chocolate and drinks, battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols (e.g., deodorants & hair spray), seeds or any other living material, or automatic washing machine powders.

For safety – Please securely Sellotape the tops of liquid containers.

Please do not include anything sharp.



Slushies - a health update

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) warns about ice slush drinks containing glycerol...

The Food Standards Agency (FSA)⁵ issued a warning earlier this summer about the dangers of ice slush drinks ('slushies') containing glycerol.

The FSA advises that children under the age of 7 should not drink ice slush drinks containing glycerol at all, and that children aged 7-10 should drink no more than one 350ml slush drink with glycerol a day.

These slush ice drinks or 'slushies' contain glycerol

- Children under 7 should not consume these drinks
- Children under 10 should have a maximum of one 350ml 'slushie' per day – that's about the size of a fizzy drink can.

Glycerol can cause sickness and headaches in young children

More information on glycerol:

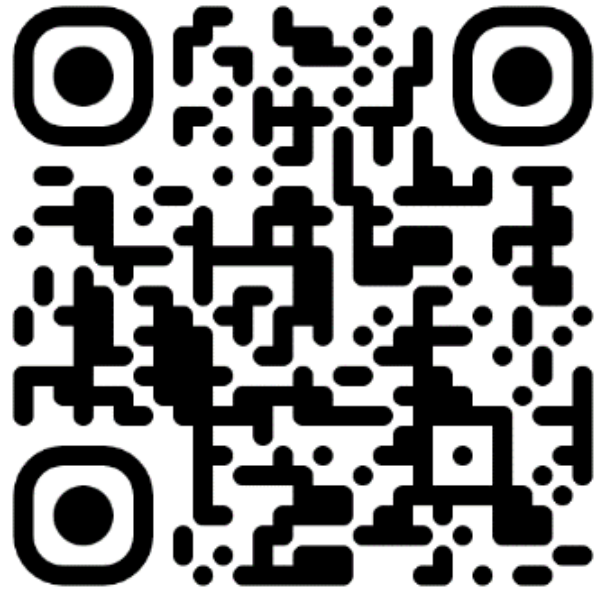
- Visit [food.gov.uk/glycerol](https://www.food.gov.uk/glycerol)⁶
- Scan the QR code

There is further, more detailed information available on the school website - please use this link⁷ (look under the 'Autumn' tab).

⁵<https://news.service.education.gov.uk/B2E6CF21621B2CF0529E69A39F3B59F7686D16A2F4E6A46E6D5531B0D1BB6359/DA7D9D68AB1B15313D99D29AE0AAE16C/LE35>

⁶<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.food.gov.uk%2Fglycerol&data=05|02||6795b0456fc547e75b8008ddad793296|8a1c50f901b74c8aa6fa90eb906f18e9|0|0|638857458249603131|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslAIiOjXaW4zMilSkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=sesbJlvQMbwIGmAi7CsNtuu%2BG%2B03i%2Fr4DouMOzKrx6w%3D&reserved=0>

⁷<https://www.archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk/school-letters>



Mental Health in Schools Team

There are some excellent opportunities to be involved with some online events, which will support childhood anxiety:

Supporting your child with symptoms of anxiety (Year 7 and over):

Wednesday, 15th of October at 12.30 pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/965b43fb-f869-4ca9-bbf8-4746216161bd@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Thursday, 16th of October at 6.30 pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/6a99a516-6648-4d35-a6d2-0a1be0ad8e07@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Supporting your child with symptoms of anxiety (Year 6 and under):

Wednesday, 22nd of October at 12.30 pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/3d6b97f7-b69e-47fa-91da-5dea62aab393@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Thursday, 23rd of October at 6.30 pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/b4ff2b27-ad11-474c-9aeb-32998dd6c9ad@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Supporting challenging behaviour for parents/carers of children in Year 6 and below:

Wednesday, 5th of November at 12.30 pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/3609d3bb-7414-4949-a42c-b0b9a70f3144@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Thursday, 6th of November at 6.30 pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/99db0456-18d5-4144-a3d7-af88106339b1@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>



Supporting Challenging Behaviour for parents/carers of children in Year 6 and under

Wednesday 5th November 12:30-13:30

Thursday 6th November 18:30-19:30

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools for North and East Dorset will be running an online webinar for parents.

This session provides information on how to respond to children when their behaviour becomes challenging. The sessions covers the theory of behaviour as communication, the importance of play, and the power of positive praise to encourage behaviours parents would like to see more of. It includes practical tools that parents can use to support children when they are dysregulated.

We will also provide information of more detailed support sessions the MHST provide for parents.

To sign up for Wednesday
5th November at 12.30,
please go here:



To sign up for Thursday
6th November at 18:30,
please go here:



Supporting your child with symptoms of anxiety for parents with children in Year 6 and under

Wednesday 22nd October 12:30-13:30

Thursday 23rd October 18:30-19:30

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools for North and East Dorset will be running an online webinar for parents.

This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support your child with symptoms of anxiety. The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support your child with managing worries.

We will also provide information of more detailed support sessions the MHST provide for parents.

To sign up for Wednesday
22nd October at 12.30,
please go here:



To sign up for Thursday
23rd October at 18:30,
please go here:





Supporting your child with symptoms of anxiety for parents with children in Year 7 and over

Wednesday 15th of October 12:30-13:30

Thursday 16th of October 18:30-19:30

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools for North and East Dorset will be running an online webinar for parents.

This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support your child with symptoms of anxiety. The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support your child with managing worries.

We will also provide information of more detailed support sessions the MHST provide for parents.

To sign up for Wednesday the 15th of October at 12.30, please go here:



To sign up for Thursday the 16th of October at 18:30, please go here:



Let's Talk SEND Event



**You're invited to
Let's Talk SEND
Week 2025!**

Join us for a free information event, for you and your family to:

- Meet and talk to organisations and services and ask them questions
- Relax and enjoy a free tea / coffee
- Chat to other parents and carers

No need to book

Monday 13 October 2025 - 10am to 1pm
Kingston Maurward House,
Dorchester DT2 8PY

In partnership:

Free parent/carer session: An introduction to Autism



**Free Parent/
Carer session:
'An
Introduction to
Autism'**

What is the session about?
The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and the impact it can have on children/young people
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children.

Who can attend?
Any parents / carers who:

- Have an autistic child
- Have a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- Are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?
The Vale Family Hub
22B Butts Pond, Sturminster Newton,
Dorset DT10 1AZ

Friday the 14th of November 2025 -
9:45am until 11:15am

To book a place, please scan this QR code
or click on this Link to Register

Sturminster-Newton An
Introduction to Autism -
Parent/Carer Autism training



The session will be delivered by
either an Educational Psychologist
or a Specialist Teacher from
Dorset Council

Access Wellbeing



Come and meet us !

New Access Wellbeing drop-in spaces are open in North Dorset offering free mental health and wellbeing support to anyone aged 18 and over, with no appointment needed.

The new drop-in services in North Dorset are provided by Dorset Mind, as part of a collaborative partnership with other charities and the NHS. Visit: [Access Wellbeing Dorset](#)

Whether you are looking for support or simply an informal chat, drop in and see how we can help you improve your wellbeing – completely free of charge. You can find us at the following venues:

Blandford - Contact Kat on mob: 07367 449737
Blandford Leisure Centre, Milldown Road DT11 7DB
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am till 3pm

Gillingham - Contact Clare on mob: 07366 686096
RiversMeet Leisure Centre, Hardings Lane SP8 4XH
Every Monday from 10am till 4pm
And at the Citizens Advice, Newbury Court SP8 4QX
Every Thursday from 10am till 4pm

Shaftesbury - Contact Laura on mob: 07367 465944
St Peter's Church Hall, 5 Gold Hill, Shaftesbury SP7 8LY
Every Wednesday from 10am till 4pm

Sherborne - Contact Alex on mob: 07366 687333
Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3AA
Every Tuesday from 10am till 4pm
Every Thursday from 10am till 1pm

Sturminster Newton - Contact Millie on mob: 07307 318124
The Vale Family Hub, 22a Butts Pond Industrial Estate DT10 1AZ
Every Tuesday from 10am till 4pm

Dorset Play Matters - Your views are important...

Play matters: Building a brighter future for Dorset's children

Play is essential for children's health, happiness, and development. Dorset Council will be working closely with residents and communities to produce a Play Strategy, aiming to make Dorset an even better place for children and young people to live, learn, and thrive.

We're asking families, children, and young people to share their views and ideas to help shape this strategy. Whether it's time in the park, sports with friends, or just hanging out, your experiences will guide a plan that works for real lives.

Why play matters

Play isn't just fun – it's proven to support children's health, learning, and wellbeing. When children play, they're more active, happier, and better prepared for school.

Research from the national Everything to Play For report⁸ shows outdoor play has declined by 50% in a generation, and this decline links to rising childhood obesity and mental health issues.

Investing in play now can reduce future costs in health and social care, improve school readiness, and create stronger, safer communities. It's about making the most of our spaces and ensuring every child has the time and freedom to enjoy being a child.

Through our Children, Young People and Families Plan⁹, Dorset Council wants every child to have safe spaces to play, welcoming communities, and the freedom to enjoy childhood. Play should be part of everyday life – at home, in parks, schools, and neighbourhoods.

We'd love to hear from you

- What does play, recreation, or free time mean for you and your family?
- What do you enjoy – and what would you like to do more often?
- What gets in the way of play?

Cllr. Clare Sutton, Dorset Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, and Skills, said:

"Play is vital for children's happiness, health, and development. We want every child in Dorset to have the time, space, and opportunities to play. This strategy will be shaped by the voices of children, young people, and families – so please get involved and tell us what matters to you."

⁸https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ckOdG4Rf7tdUUv4B2P6C7BoP5ei_ferT/view

⁹<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/children-young-people-and-families-plan-2023-to-33#our-plan-best-place-to-live>

Please share your views by emailing: play@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk¹⁰



October Half-Term Art and Sport

**ART
SPORTZ+**

October Half Term 2025

School holiday arts and sports events
for Dorset children who need additional support

**Bookings close
Wednesday 8 October**

Dorset Council Artz+ Sportz+ is funded and organised by Dorset Council
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz

The poster features a central graphic with the text 'ART SPORTZ+' in a stylized font. Below this, it announces 'October Half Term 2025' and describes the events as 'School holiday arts and sports events for Dorset children who need additional support'. The poster includes three images: a group of children and adults posing outdoors, a woman sitting on a chair playing a drum, and children playing in a swimming pool. A purple banner at the bottom right of the poster states 'Bookings close Wednesday 8 October'. At the bottom, the Dorset Council logo is displayed alongside the text 'Artz+ Sportz+ is funded and organised by Dorset Council' and the website address 'dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz'.

¹⁰<mailto:play@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

October Half-Term Netball Camp



**October Half Term
Netball Camp**
Tuesday 28th October

 Dumpton School, Wimborne (Indoor Hall)

 9.30am-12.30pm Year 2-Year 6 (Minis)	1pm-4pm Year 7- Year 11 (Juniors)
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 £20 per person



Email or message us to book!
Coachingfuturestarsdorset@gmail.com

Local Food Links Christmas Jumper Competition!

It's back...Christmas Jumper Competition Time!

Ho-ho-ho, get ready for some festive fun! In celebration of 'Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day', we're inviting your little Picassos to design their very own Christmas jumper!

Let your child's imagination run wild, draw a Christmas-themed design on one A4 piece of plain paper (no jumper templates, please!)

Entry is totally FREE!

Your child could be the proud owner of a jumper sporting their very own design this Christmas Jumper Day!

How to enter:

- Grab a sheet of A4 paper and start creating, paint or draw your design
- Include your child's name, age, class, year, and school in the email
- Send your Christmas masterpiece to comps@localfoodlinks.org.uk¹¹

Deadline: **Friday 14th November**

¹¹<mailto:comps@localfoodlinks.org.uk>

Accepted file types: PDF or JPEG

We cannot wait to see all the incredible, festive creations!

Important notes:

Children of LFL employees cannot enter. Only children at the 59 schools we supply meals to are eligible to enter. T&Cs apply.

DESIGN A
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER

Last years winning entries

In honour of this years 'Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day' we need your child's help – by drawing or painting the design for a Christmas Jumper.

The only things we ask are: the image represents the theme of Christmas, it is A4 in size, please do not use a jumper template as we need the image to be printed onto a jumper and the work of art should be sent to us via email – other than that your child can be as creative as they want!

It's totally free to enter and your child could **win their design printed on a jumper ready for Christmas Jumper day.**

What to do:

- 1 Draw your Christmas design on an A4 piece of plain paper. Please **DO NOT** use/draw a jumper template.
- 2 Please include your child's name, age, class, year and school on your email.
- 3 Email your design to comps@localfoodlinks.org.uk by **Friday 14th November.**

We will accept the following file types: PDF or JPEG

Contact details

Archbishop Wake CE Primary School and Nursery

Black Lane

Blandford Forum

Dorset

DT11 8SW

01258 453 120

nursery@archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk¹²

Facebook: Search for 'Archbishop Wake CE Primary School'

Visit us on the web at <https://www.archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk/>



¹²<mailto:nursery@archbishopwake.dsat.org.uk>