



Headteachers Message

Well, January has certainly brought its challenges with the heavy rain and localised flooding, but neither the staff nor the children have let this dampen their enthusiasm for learning as we begin the new year. Their resilience and positivity have been wonderful to see.

It was fantastic to welcome so many parents and family members to our parent meetings this week. I truly enjoyed hearing the conversations between adults and children as they looked through the children's books together—celebrating successes, recognising progress, and identifying areas to continue developing. These meetings are such an important part of ensuring we can work together to support your child's learning journey.

If you were unable to attend or make an appointment, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange an alternative time.

Dates for your Diary

February

Thursday 5th– Year 3 & 4 CISP Football Event

Monday 9th– Cross Country

Tuesday 10th– Wild Cherry– Gore Farm

Tuesday 10th– Safer Internet Day

Thursday 12th– Silent Disco

Friday 27th– Year 5 & 6 CISP Football Event

March

Monday 2nd-Friday 4th– Year 4 Residential

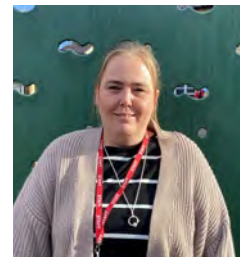
Monday 2nd—Cross Country

Monday 9th– Cross Country

Welcome

Miss Lisa Purchase

Hello, I'm Miss Purchase, and I have been working at Ashlands for around 11 years as a lunchtime assistant. I am very pleased to be beginning my new role and supporting pupils in their learning and development. In my free time, I enjoy reading and going for walks, which help me to relax and stay active.



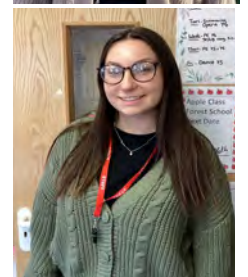
Miss Athena Rendall

Hello, my name is Miss Rendall

It has been lovely to get to know all the wonderful children at Ashlands School!

I am really enjoying my role at Ashlands which is giving me fantastic experience in gaining my BA Honours Degree in Early Childhood and Education which I am currently studying at the Somerset university, alongside working here at Ashlands!

In my free time I enjoy walking my 3 dogs and going to the gym, I also enjoy going to the beach and travelling to different parts of the world.



Mr Simeon Eyres

I start my day by arriving at the school at 7.00am unlocking and checking the site also turn on the heating hopefully!

I check if any jobs request have been made and carry out all the weekly or monthly test/checks that are required to ensure the premises keeps everyone safe.

I moved to Crewkerne 3 years ago from Wellington, so still in Somerset! I spent the first part of my time in Crewkerne renovating my house, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

My interest are historic buildings, the natural environment and gardening and I spent many years working in construction and landscaping. Previously, I served in the armed forces - in the army as a Royal Engineer.



Celebrating Our "Tree of Inclusivity" Success!

Last term, a group of Ashlands pupils with SEND or additional learning needs — along with their siblings — created beautiful handmade decorations for the Tree of Inclusivity, which was entered into the Crewkerne Christmas Tree Festival.

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that our tree was awarded 2nd place in the festival!

To celebrate this fantastic achievement, Stephanie, who organised the event and Caroline Keating who got everyone involved joined us in school on Friday 16th January during assembly. Together they presented **medals and certificates** to all the children who helped design and decorate the tree.

This was a truly meaningful project that highlighted creativity, teamwork, and inclusion across our school community. We were incredibly proud of all the pupils involved and enjoyed recognising their hard work and talent.



Tidy Up Club

The Tidy Up Club has had a brilliant start to the year! This small but mighty team of children has been working their magic all around the Sweet Chestnut classroom. From keeping our learning space beautifully tidy to helping put up fresh new displays, their enthusiasm and teamwork are truly shining.

A huge well done to our wonderful helpers — your hard work is making our classroom sparkle! ✨

- Mrs Jones

Apple Class Build Roman-Inspired Catapults in Forest School

As part of their history curriculum, Apple Class have been learning all about the Romans. Inspired by Roman engineering and inventions, the children had a go at building their very own catapults during Forest School this week. Working together outdoors, they used sticks, elastic bands and plenty of teamwork to create their mini masterpieces.

Here's what some of the children had to say about the experience:

Kyra: "I worked together with Hamza. We got some sticks, and we worked together holding the stick and wrapping the elastic band around it. My hands got muddy, but it was fun."

Lola: "I made mine with Darcie, then I helped someone else. It was hard, but it got easier."

Elliot: "It was very hard to make, and it was very fun. The best bit was making it because you had to try your best."

The children were proud of their finished catapults—and even prouder of working just like real Roman engineers!



Interfaith Day – Wednesday 12th November

["Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" read aloud with author Carol McCloud - YouTube](#)

In November, our school came together to celebrate Inter-Faith Week with a special focus day. The question guiding our learning was “How should we treat others?”

To help us explore this theme, we welcomed five wonderful guests from a variety of religions and worldviews, each sharing their beliefs and values around kindness, respect, and compassion.

Children were fascinated to hear both the similarities and differences in our visitors’ perspectives, and they quickly recognised that every speaker offered something important for us all to learn from.

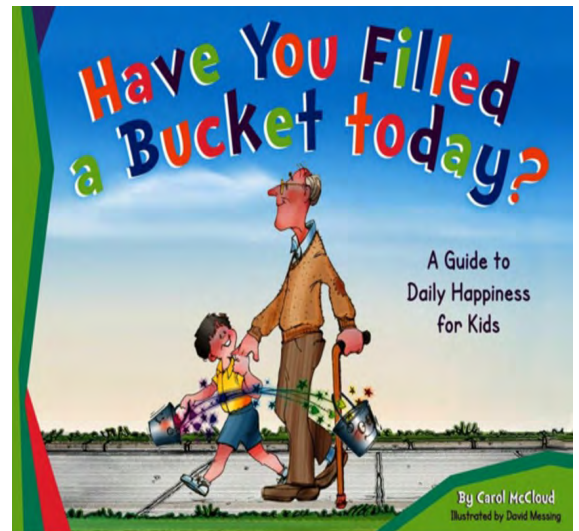
We began the day by sharing the heartwarming book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud.

This story became a golden thread throughout the day, reminding us that our actions and words can “fill” or “empty” someone’s bucket.

The idea of filling buckets—showing kindness, empathy, and care—helped shape all of our learning and discussions.

Throughout the day, children across the school took part in a variety of thoughtful and creative activities. They listened carefully to each of our guest speakers and reflected on how each person’s faith or worldview influences how they treat others.

We then created buckets for each speaker, showing what we had learned from them, before making our own personal buckets to express our own beliefs about how we should treat people.



Archery After School Club

It has been great to see the children participating in archery as part of their after-school club provision. Despite the rainy weather, our Archery Club didn't let the showers stop them from having fun and developing their skills!

Leon shared his thoughts on the challenge:

Leon: “Archery is challenging because you need to hit the target in the centre, but it doesn't always go where you want it to. Sometimes it goes too far or sometimes it doesn't go far enough. I very much enjoy it.”



Somerset Sustainable Futures Event

Last week, eight of our Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to attend the *Somerset Sustainable Futures* event at Yeovil Football Ground. The day brought together schools from across the county to learn more about how we can all play a part in protecting our planet.



During the event, the children visited a wide range of stalls and stands run by organisations dedicated to environmental innovation. They spoke confidently with different vendors, discovering new ideas about recycling, renewable energy, biodiversity, waste reduction, and responsible technology use. Each activity challenged them to think critically about the impact we have on the world around us.



One of the highlights of the day was taking part in discussions and tasks exploring the question: **“Does new technology harm or benefit the environment?”**



Our pupils showed excellent teamwork and thoughtful reasoning as they gathered information, considered different viewpoints, and formed their own conclusions. They then presented their ideas to other schools and event leaders—speaking clearly, respectfully, and with real passion.

The event not only broadened their understanding of sustainability but also strengthened their confidence in presenting and debating important issues. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented our school.

Weather

Please make sure all children are coming to school with a warm coat, hat and gloves. All items must be labelled, thank you.



Pants!

We have a small supply of underwear, socks and tights, should your child have an accident at school. If they come home wearing a pair, please wash and return to school. Thankyou.

No Nuts

Please be reminded we are a no nut school. Please do not send in any snacks or lunch with products containing nuts. Thank you.



Free School Meals

We encourage all families to check their entitlement to free school meals/Pupil Premium. We have a PP offer for all children who are benefit-related FSM. Please click on the link below to access the application. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/free-school-meals/>

If you have recently become unemployed but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals. Please phone 0300 123 2224 for advice.

Wrap Around Care

If your child requires Breakfast Club or After School care please ensure they are booked in by Friday 9am the week before. These can be booked via the Scopay app.

Parent Support



Spotlight Sessions

Informative talks and support with visiting professionals

Upcoming Spotlight Sessions



11/2/2026
Somerset
Parent Carer
Forum

More dates coming soon,
stay tuned!

Next up:
School Nurse
Team –
18/2/2026

If you're a parent or carer of a child with additional needs or disabilities (aged 0-25), come and join us:

- Make new friends
- Share experiences, tips, and gain advice
- Ask questions, or simply enjoy some company



A welcoming space for parents/carers to connect, share, and find support. Practical advice, signposting, and helpful resources. All in one friendly drop-in session.

Every Wednesday
9am-11am
INCLUDING
HALF TERM

A NEW community project run by your friendly Parent Family Support Advisors:

- Jemma Henwood
- Rebecca Larcombe
- Suzanne Morris


- Children welcome
- Refreshments provided
- Spotlight sessions with other professionals
- Parenting resources
- Signposting and form filling support
- Healthy snacks for all

📍 Be A Good Neighbour - Community Church, Barn Street, Crewkerne, TA18 8BP

📱 Keep up to date via our Social Media - search "The Parent Place"



Scan the QR code to find out more and register your interest.
<https://forms.office.com/e/EeZrBvhm7v>



FEBRUARY 2026 Timetable
All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Autism - Improving Communication	2 Feb 10am
Improving Family Communication	2 Feb 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	3 Feb 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Feb 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Feb 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Feb 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Feb 7pm
What is ACT?	17 Feb 10am
Introduction to OCD	17 Feb 7pm
FREE - Reducing the Harm from Screens	19 Feb 7-8pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	23 Feb 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Feb 7pm
Decreasing Depression	24 Feb 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Feb 7pm
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm

online talk by Jane Keyworth

Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes, offering practical support and explaining more about this condition

3rd February 10-11:30am

3rd March 7-8:30pm

Book online

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

£24 or Free with a school membership code



House Points - House Captains and Vice Captains

The House Captains and Vice Captains have been working hard to support the Leadership Team with a fair and consistent approach to awarding House Points. It has been great to see them taking responsibility for collecting the weekly totals, talking to children across the school about their successes, and sharing ideas about how they can help their Houses improve even further.



Congratulations to the following children who received a green leaf this month:

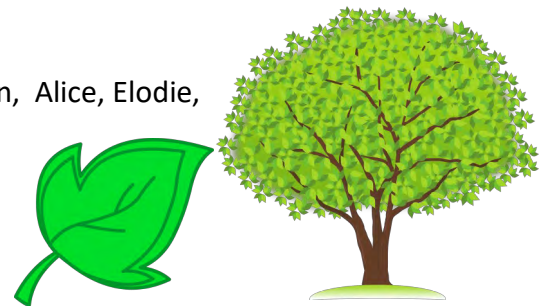
Sweet Chestnut – Year One

Willow – Sara, Jessica, Walter, Elsie, Arthur, Ella, Willow Class, Reuben, Alice, Elodie, Walter

Wild Cherry – Leon, Joshua

Apple – Charlee, Milo, Kyra, Felix, Darcie-Mae, Amartya, Eric, Joshua

Maple – Darcy D, Kaiya, Ashlee, Bobby, Isabelle



Attendance

In January, **Wild Cherry Class (Year 3)** and **Maple Class** achieved the top attendance **every week**—a huge well done to them! They will enjoy a well deserved **biscuit break with Mrs Lawrence**.

Our whole school attendance to date is **93.3%**, which is slightly below our target of **96%**. We will continue working closely with all our families to help improve this.

	School Attendance %
Attendance	93.4%
Authorised absences	2.0%
Unauthorised absence	4.7%
Lates	1.6%



10 days absent = 95% attendance
 19 days absent = 90% attendance
 29 days absent = 85% attendance
 38 days absent = 80% attendance
 47 days absent = 75% attendance



Lateness and Its Impact

Arriving at school on time is very important for children's learning, confidence, and daily routines. Please be aware of how lateness is recorded:

- **Children arriving between 8:55am and 9:00am are marked as late.**
- **Children arriving after 9:00am are recorded as 'late after the register has closed'.** This is classed as an **unauthorised absence** and will therefore impact your child's overall attendance record.

Regular lateness impacts on our children's learning, they will be missing valuable learning time, morning instructions, and opportunities to settle into the school day calmly.

All pupils arriving after 8:55am must be signed in at the office by a parent or carer. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children arrive on time.

If you need any support with lateness or attendance, please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher or contact Tracey Lawrence, our Attendance Lead.

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Milo has demonstrated his 'Love of Learning' by supporting and encouraging others during his computing lessons this week. His enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to help his classmates show true compassion and make our learning community stronger.

Well done, Milo!

#Aspiration #Compassion

16th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



I was very proud when a group of our parent volunteers took the time to write to me and share the wonderful behaviour they observed during the visit to the Panto. They were 'incredibly impressed by how much they saw the children embodying the values of compassion and friendship during the pantomime. They saw lots of instances of children helping their friends without a second thought. A special mention goes to Caitlin, Ashlee, Josh K, and Josh D for their acts of kindness towards others 😊

Well done!

#Love of One Another
9th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Vivienne has had an amazing first week back at school. Mrs Mock has shared her reading and writing skills in Breakfast Club and Mrs Collicutt proudly brought Vivienne to share her morning phonics writing. What a superstar! Keep this up Vivienne I am loving your positive attitude to learning.

#Love of learning
#Aspiration #Trust
9th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

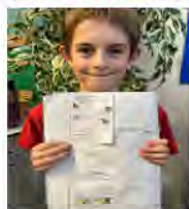


Tupou is shining across all of her learning! She is applying her knowledge and is thinking about how learning in each area can help the other areas too. Tupou's presentation in all subjects is beautiful and I am very proud of her own pride in her work. Thank you and well done Tupou.

#Aspiration

26th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Aaden has been working incredibly hard across the curriculum to demonstrate his love of learning to all. Mrs Millett has shared her pride in his approach to maths. He is proactive with his learning and is engaging well with every challenge. Aaden also brings his wonderful manners and consideration to everything he does. Keep this up Aaden.

#Aspiration #Compassion

22nd January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



I am very proud of our group of Year 6 children, who represented Ashlands at the Somerset Sustainability Event.

Dolly, Star, Darcy, Hermione, Ashlee, Isabelle, Coco and Willow took part in a series of activities and spoke to an audience of their peers on the question of 'Does new technology harm or benefit the environment'. They listened carefully to other people's presentations and also answered questions with respect and an awareness of the issues being discussed.

#Living our vision
30th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Iklimya has really shone this term in maths. She is super focused, is listening and taking on new learning, and is demonstrating that she is not afraid to ask questions. Her errors are explored and she is using her misunderstandings as a learning tool. What a superb role model for learning!

Well done Iklimya.

#Aspiration

19th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

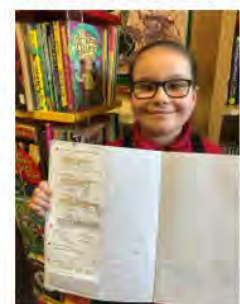


Star has really challenged herself with her maths this term. Star has taken responsibility for practising her number bonds at school and at home and her confidence to recall these has significantly improved. She even found her own programmes to help her play games and practice at home – keep this up Star. You are awesome.

#Aspiration

19th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Amelia is being a superstar in maths this term. She has listened carefully to advice on her presentation and how being more careful with this can support her thinking. The impact on her confidence and progression is fantastic. Well done young lady – you are a superstar.

#Forgiveness #Respect

23rd January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



"I am so proud of Sonny for his thoughtful and passionate response to the question of why, as a society, we spend money on materialistic things while poverty still exists in the world. He challenged why some religions invest heavily in decorating their buildings instead of using those resources to help people in need. I truly believe that as Sonny grows, he will be a powerful voice for positive change in our world."

#Compassion #Agent of Change

15th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



I was incredibly proud of Christopher at the end of last term when he and his mum shared the amazing shoebox he had created to send to children who are less fortunate. He put so much thought and effort into choosing the toys and decorating the box beautifully. His kindness and creativity truly shone through with this thoughtful project.

#Love of One Another
14th January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Elodie has shown courage and resilience this term. As she is facing new challenges, she is looking for support and sharing her own pride in her feelings of positivity towards her learning. This is great to see, and we are all enjoying her journey in Year One.

Well done Elodie 😊
#Respect #Compassion
23rd January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Hunter has really made us all proud with his maths work this term. He has built his skills and understanding and is joining in and showing his understanding of part part whole to 5. He is also using vocabulary confidently and applying his knowledge to respond to maths questions – Hunter confidently showed me he can read numbers from 0 to 9, form them and show me the right number of fingers! Well done!

#Aspiration
23rd January 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



I was very proud when Ethan came to show me his counting work. He is working on recognising and representing numbers to 5 accurately. Sometimes Ethan gets worried about getting things wrong, but today he had a go and was really pleased with his own understanding. It is ok to get things wrong – this helps us to learn!

#Aspiration #Forgiveness
15th January 2026



Swimming Lessons

Apple- 13th, 20th, 27th Jan 3rd, 10th, 24th Feb 3rd, 10th March

Sweet Chestnut – 17th, 24th, 31st March 21st, 28th April 5th, 12th May

Maple- 19th May 2nd, 9th 16th, 23rd, 30th June 7th, 14th July



Forest School - Spring Term

Sweet Chestnut Class– Every Thursday

Willow Class– Every Wednesday

Wild Cherry Class– Every other from Monday (9th, 23rd Feb 9th, 23rd March)

Apple Class- Every other Monday (9th, 23rd Feb 9th, 23rd March)

Maple Class– Every other Monday (2nd, 30th March)



Forest school clothing– Please ensure your child is wearing a long sleeved top, trousers and wellies in a bag. If your child has Forest School in the morning, they will need school uniform for the afternoon, or PE kit if they have PE.

PE Days- Spring Term

EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 – Monday

Year 3 & 4 – Wednesday

Year 5 & 6 – Thursday



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Nicola Ball

Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Kay Dawson & Tracey Lawrence

Governor responsible for Safeguarding –Mr David Harvey

If you have any concerns about a child, please see one of the staff above.

Helpful contacts:

Children's Social Care: 0300 123 2224

Local Authority Designated Officer: Anthony Goble: c/o above



Childline: 0800 1111

Headteacher

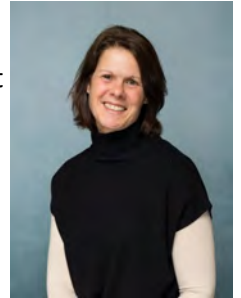
If there is ever a time where you feel you need to pass information onto me directly and would prefer not to go through the school office then please do not hesitate to contact me on my school email address which is:

nball@ashlandsprimary.school

Miss Nicola Ball

If you wish to contact your child's class teacher you can find the contact details on our website by following the link below :

[Meet The Team | Ashlands Church of England Primary School](#)
ashlandsprimaryschool.co.uk



Whats On...

BEAVERS

1st Crewkerne Beaver Scouts need you!



Beavers are for Boys and Girls, aged 6 and 7

They meet every Thursday during term-time, from 5:45 to 7pm at The Scout Hut in Furland Road, Crewkerne

Beavers normally work in teams of up to 6 called Lodges, with 4 Lodges – Willow; Oak; Beech and Ash

They take part in team building games; crafts and other activities that go towards earning Badges. They also have a chance to go to at least 2 residential camps per year

Beaver Scouts help young people grow, helps them develop social skills and skills for life. It helps them make life-long friendships, all whilst having fun

We have spaces for more young people to have these wonderful experiences, if they would like to join us, then please contact Ian Stewart (Mr Toad to the Beavers), on 07946 092277, or email me at ian.13@hotmail.co.uk

Scouting is for everyone, so no young person that wishes to join will be turned away if we have space for them

1st Crewkerne Beaver Scouts are here for you

FIRST 2 SESSIONS FREE

COME SCORE YOUR TRY!

SUNDAYS FROM 10AM
YEARS: RECEPTION - YEAR 6

CHARD RFC
 ESSEX CLOSE
 CHARD
 TA20 1RH

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST CONTACT:
 GORDON HICKTON, MINIS LEAD
 TEL - 07710 231862
 EMAIL - minislead@chardrfc.co.uk

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **star**

YEOVIL TENNIS CLUB
FEBRUARY HALF TERM
TENNIS CAMP

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY, 9AM - 3PM
 AGES 5+ | ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

£34 FOR MEMBERS **£38 FOR NON MEMBERS** **5% SIBLING DISCOUNT**

CONTACT LUKE ANDREWS:
 07437 404242 OR LATENNIS@HOTMAIL.COM

February Half-Term 2026

rama LIFE

Mon 16 th Feb Spaces Available	Tues 17 th Feb Spaces Available	Weds 18 th Feb Spaces Available	Thurs 19 th Feb Spaces Available	Fri 20 th Feb Spaces Available
Aliens and Asteroids	Malory Towers	Polar Animals	Stone Age	Bluey!
STEM & Sci Fi	History & Culture	Animals	History & Bushcraft	Culture & World

Whats On...

WWW.GASTRONAUT.UK

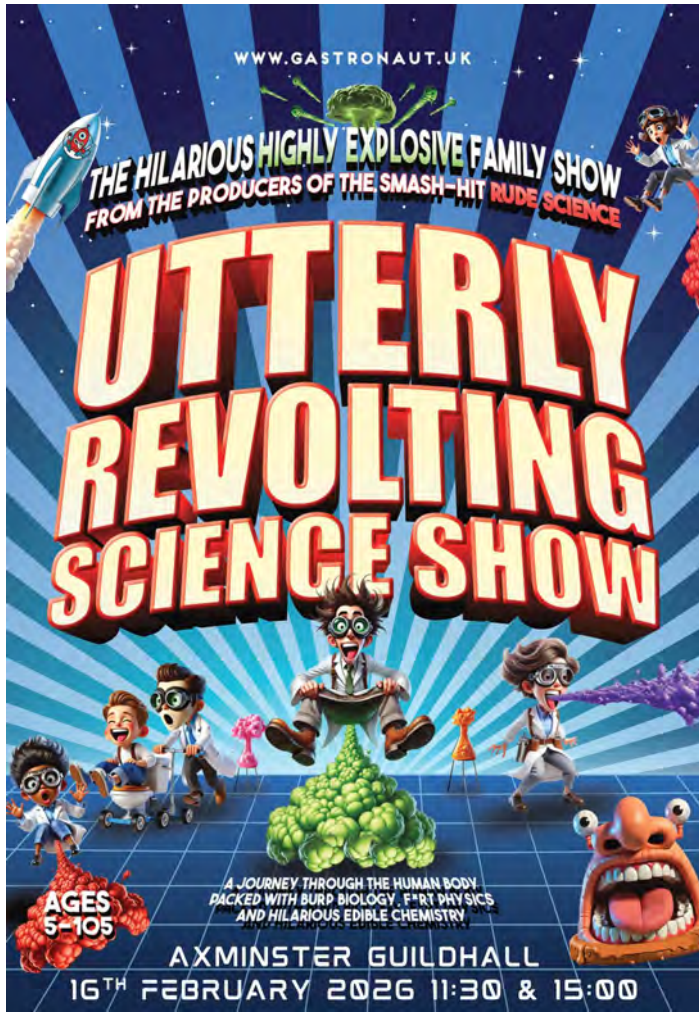
THE HILARIOUS HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE FAMILY SHOW
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF THE SMASH-HIT RUDE SCIENCE

UTTERLY REVOLTING SCIENCE SHOW

AGES 5-105

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HUMAN BODY
PACKED WITH BURP BIOLOGY, F*RT PHYSICS
AND HILARIOUS EDIBLE CHEMISTRY

AXMINSTER GUILDHALL
16TH FEBRUARY 2026 11:30 & 15:00



CREWKERNE CRICKET CLUB

BE PART OF THE TEAM!



Crewkerne Cricket Club is starting new youth teams for the 2026 season: under 10s and under 12s

Training will be on Thursdays starting on the 8th January, 2026 5 P.M. to 5:55 P.M.
@ the Old Sports Hall, Wadham School
Training led by an ECB Core Coach

If you're interested, please contact Tom Briggs at tomdbiggs85@gmail.com



CREATIVE COURAGE FOR LIFE!

Stagecoach Yeovil - Show Term

Delve into the creative arts with our combined singing, dancing and drama sessions.

JOIN US FOR A TWO-WEEK TRIAL

As we move into Show Term, students will begin rehearsals for our production of **Annie JR**, making this a particularly exciting time to join us. This Show will be performed at The Strode Theatre, Yeovil so students get the full experience of performing on stage.

A two week trial costs £25 for Early Stages (4-6 yrs) & £50 for Main Stages (6-18 yrs).
Weekly classes are available on Saturdays at Holy Trinity School.
All teachers are fully trained and DBS checked.

STAGE COACH

CHILDREN'S VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

stagecoach.co.uk/yeovil
07842 944 697
yeovil@stagecoach.co.uk