



Weekly Update: 31st January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 29th January	MFL Day: Chinese New Year (Mandarin language)
Thursday 30th January	Water workshops for Discovery, Camelot & Blenheim
Thursday 30th January 9am	PFSA Drop-In Cafe
3-9 February	Children's Mental Health Week: Express Yourself Days: Monday- Pippin; Tuesday- Gala & Discovery; Wednesday- Maigold; Thursday- Camelot; Friday- Blenheim
4-10 February	Book Fair (4 th /7 th Front Playground; 5 th /10 th Back Playground)
Monday 10th February 9.15am	Maigold Sharing Morning
Tuesday 11th February 8.50am	Gala Sharing Morning Cake sale
Thursday 13th February 8.50am	Pippin Sharing Morning
Thursday 13th February 3.15pm	Pupil Cake Sale- Mia, Brooke and Evie charity fundraiser
Friday 14th February	STAFF INSET DAY- School closed to pupils
17th-21st February	HALF TERM
Tuesday 4th March	Shrove Tuesday- Pancake Day- PTA Pancakes for 50p or 1 PTA bus
Wednesday 5th March	Pippin Class Trip to Magdalene Farm; Ash Wednesday Service 9.15am (All welcome)
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day (Info to follow)
7th-16th March	Science Week 'Change and Adapt'
Wednesday 12th March 2pm	SENDCo and PFSA Drop-In Cafe
Thursday 13th March	CLP Cross Country (Years 3-6) Info to follow from Mr Bridgeman
W/B 17th March	ASSESSMENT WEEK
Thursday 27th March	Maigold Class Trip to Carymoor Environmental Centre
Thursday 27th March 8.50am	Camelot Sharing morning
Friday 28th March	PTA Mothers' Day Pop Up Stall
Saturday 29th March	PTA Family Bingo at the Village Hall
Monday 31st March	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 1st April	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 2nd April 6-7.30pm	Information Session for Parents/Carers: Online Safety & Social Media. Book via: https://forms.gle/6ZT7kJBEgD5h8Xk17
Thursday 3rd April	Last Day of Term; Easter Service at St Andrew's Church (9.15am); PTA Easter Raffle
Friday 4th April	INSET Day (School closed to pupils)
4th – 21st April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Tuesday 22nd April	First Day of Summer Term
23/24 April	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 12th June	Discovery Class Trip to Vivary Park

Dates and INSET Days for Academic Year 2024/25

- Spring Term (First half): Tuesday 7th January- Thursday 13th February
- INSET Day: Friday 14th February 2025 (Community Learning Partnership Joint INSET)
- HALF TERM BREAK: 17th-21st February
- Spring Term (Second half): Monday 24th February - Thursday 28th April

Headteacher
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- INSET Day: Friday 4th April 2025 (Same as Huish Academy)
- EASTER BREAK: Monday 7th April- Monday 21st April
- Summer Term (First half): Tuesday 22nd April- Friday 23rd May
- HALF TERM BREAK: Monday 26th May- Friday 30th May
- Summer Term (Second half): Monday 2nd June- Wednesday 23rd July

Homework Policy Reviewed and being Relunched TODAY

It is important that our homework policy is evidence based. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is a well-respected research organisation. In the EEF research paper, 'Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning' it says:

'Children who regularly complete homework have better school outcomes than children who do not. This association is stronger at secondary school than primary school, where the evidence base is also more secure. Homework has a number of potential benefits including consolidation of what has been learned in lessons, preparation for subsequent lessons and tests, and the development of independent learning skills. At primary level, the evidence is strongest for short and focused homework tasks.'

At Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School, we believe homework can have the following benefits:

- support learning and embeds skills;
- prepares children for the next stage of their education (particularly secondary school);
- helps develop life skills and patterns of positive behaviour (organisation and self-discipline);
- develops parental involvement in their child's learning.

This policy aims to:

- Reassure parents
- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Ensure teachers, parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and pupils.

Key Principles:

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school so the amount of homework increases.

Reading:

We believe that the most important homework activity is regular reading. Suggested reading times are 10 minutes in Reception/Year 1 increasing to 20 minutes by Year 5 & 6 (Children also read in school everyday). There is an expectation that reading at home will happen at least 5 times a week and preferably daily. It is important for parents/ carers **read to** their children, **read with** their children and **listen to** their children read as well as discuss books, pictures and stories, even when they are in Year 6.

Parents and children should use the school reading records to record reading completed at home. This will be checked by staff. If children are not reading regularly, the English subject leader/Head Teacher will follow

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up with pupils and parents/carers, offering encouragement, guidance and support. ***We are starting a half termly Head Teacher café to reward the children who read regularly.***

For children in Reception and Key Stage 1 who are reading phonics reading books, parents/carers follow the '123 approach' (1- focus on decoding; 2- focus on comprehension and understanding; 3- focus on fluency and prosody/expression).

All children reading 5 times a week will rewarded with a dojo (Merit).

Spelling:

Children in Year 3-6 are set weekly spellings on EdShed This homework will match learners' abilities and will be set through the use of the on-line platform 'Spelling Shed' ([www.spellingshed](http://www.spellingshed.com)). Log in details will be provided by the class teacher and are in reading diaries. ***Children are expected to complete 3 games a week.***

Maths:

Years 2-6 will have access to Times Tables RockStars, for practising times tables. Children are encouraged to use this program regularly at home to reinforce the number fluency that they learn in school. Log in details are provided by the class teacher and are in reading diaries. ***Children are expected to complete 3 assignments a week*** (No more than 5 minutes an assignment).

Is homework compulsory?

We regard homework as a vital part of the school's programme for learning; Reading is regarded as compulsory for all year groups and whenever homework is set in Year 6 it should be regarded as compulsory and must be completed as and when required by the teacher. This will be made very clear to the children and we ask that parents play their part in supporting their child's learning by: taking an interest in the homework if possible; helping to provide conditions where the homework can be done effectively and ensuring it is returned on time. We will try to ensure that your child is stretched in their learning but not over-burdened, and if you feel problems are arising please let us know. In developing good 'homework habits' children are preparing for future years of learning and developing the skills of personal responsibility, independent learning and initiative that will serve them in later life. Homework is a vital activity in which home and school work together for the children's good. Homework will not be set in the holidays, but we expect children to continue reading to avoid a slump in their reading ability each September.

Year 6:

SATs Revision homework is compulsory to reflect the development of their independent studying skills needed ready for secondary school. If a child has a particular difficulty with homework, they must speak to the class teacher as they can work together to find a suitable solution. It is advisable for children to start homework early in case support is needed.

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Reporting to Parents/Carers

Teachers will report to you on homework in each relevant area (Reading, Spelling and Times Tables) at parents' evenings and in short and end of year reports.

Devices

We appreciate that Spelling Shed and Times Tables Rockstars are on-line homework platforms. If your child does not have access to a device to complete on-line homework, please inform the class teacher so that paper copies can be provided.

The lack of a device is not a barrier to homework being completed.

Overview:

Pippin Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular reading (Daily at least 5 times a week) Diaries to be signed by parent/carer• Sharing Book once a week• Occasional tasks set by the teacher on 'Tapestry' linked to the EYFS curriculum.
Maigold Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular reading (Daily at least 5 times a week) Diaries to be signed by parent/carer• Sharing Book once a week• Spellings on Spelling Shed (Year 2) 3 games a week• Times Table Rockstars (Year 2 From Summer Term) 3 assignments a week
Gala Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular reading (Daily at least 5 times a week) Diaries to be signed by parent/carer• Sharing Book once a week• Spellings on Spelling Shed 3 games a week• Times Table Rockstars 3 assignments a week
Discovery Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular reading (Daily at least 5 times a week) Diaries to be signed by parent/carer• Spellings on Spelling Shed 3 games a week• Times Table Rockstars 3 assignments a week
Camelot Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular reading (Daily at least 5 times a week) Diaries to be signed by parent/carer• Spellings on Spelling Shed 3 games a week• Times Table Rockstars 3 assignments a week
Blenheim Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular reading (Daily at least 5 times a week) Diaries to be signed by parent/carer• Spellings on Spelling Shed 3 games a week• Times Table Rockstars 3 assignments a week• Revision for SATs (From January)*

**Whilst SATs revision books being completed, there is a break from Spelling and Shed and TT Rockstars*

Please note: Additional homework may be set by the class teacher to address areas requiring development or to support enrichment of the curriculum. E.g additional Maths worksheets or a History project.

Sharing Mornings

You will see that we have planned many class sharing mornings where you can come along to the hall (or classroom) and have a hot drink (Served by the PTA) and your child has a chance to share their learning with you- you will notice that we are starting a little earlier (in most classes) so that you are not having to hang around and get cold- we hope this is an adjustment to make these sessions even better. Please check the start times in the 'dates' section of this update.

Wessex Water

Sam Russon from Wessex Water ran workshops in Upper School on Thursday. Camelot learned about Water Filtration / Water Footprint / Climate Change; Year 4 found out about Changing States / Water Cycle / Dripping Taps and Year 6 'Climate Change and Our Water'- thank you to Mrs van Cole our Senior Teacher and Science Subject Leader for organising this opportunity. Here is what the children thought of the sessions:

"I thought it was good that it taught us about how much water we are wasting and we can decrease our water usage. I really enjoyed seeing how they purify water so we can drink it." Belle

"I thought that it was brilliant. It taught us about all sorts of things like water cycle and how you can purify water, and how the world is changing. I also enjoyed the ice-cube experiment." Toby W

"I enjoyed doing an experiment. I learnt how much water it takes to make things E.g. 12,000 litres of water to make a smart phone!" George A

"I think it was very inspiring and got me thinking of what we can all do to help. I enjoyed listening to how much water we use in food and whilst brushing our teeth and leaving the tap on. I learned that if you put cotton and large gravel together you get a sieve and you can filter the water. It was fun and we learned a lot." Daisy

MFL Day

Thank you to Miss Kilner for organising this year's Modern Foreign Languages day, where children learned about Chinese Culture, Chinese New Year and the Mandarin language. There was also some food tasting enjoyed by all! (Thanks to the PTA for gifting the food).

"I enjoyed trying new food and I learnt some Mandarin numbers." Wilf

"I enjoyed making Chinese lanterns." Ophelia

Message from the PTA

We hope you have all received your event lists for this term! If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please reach out to your class rep or email us at curryrivelpTA@outlook.com.

We are also still looking for prize donations! If you have any items to contribute, please drop them off at the office. We welcome:

📦 Food and drink with a long best-before date

📦 Beauty products

📦 Games and toys in excellent condition

Thank you for your support!

Express Yourself Non-Uniform! 3rd-7th February

We are supporting Children's Mental Health Week 2025 with our Express Yourself Non-Uniform Days! This year's theme, "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself," encourages children to reflect on who they are, build self-awareness, and celebrate their growth as individuals.

To help us mark this important week, children are invited to come to school dressed in outfits that reflect their unique style and personality. Whether it's:

✂️ Costumes

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□ Capes

🏆 Sports kits

😊 Bright colours

👗 Funky patterns

🎨 Face paints

Or anything else that makes them feel amazing—it's all about celebrating who they are!

Each class will have their own special day to shine:

- Monday 3rd: Pippin
- Tuesday 4th: Gala and Discovery
- Wednesday 5th: Maigold
- Thursday 6th: Camelot
- Friday 7th: Blenheim

No need to bring in any money! Instead, we kindly ask for donations of:

🍬 Sweets and chocolate

🥪 Snacks

🎁 Small gifts

These donations will go toward our Easter Raffle, helping us raise funds for exciting school activities.

Children's Mental Health Week reminds us of the importance of emotional well-being. By taking part, we're helping children explore how to express their feelings in positive ways, embrace their personal growth, and celebrate self-expression.

Let's make this week creative, fun, and meaningful!

Non Uniform

Express Yourself!

Children's Mental Health Week

Dress in whatever makes you feel comfortable

Monday 3rd Feb - Pippin
Tuesday 4th Feb - Gala and Discovery
Wednesday 5th Feb - Maigold
Thursday 6th Feb - Camelot
Friday 7th Feb - Blenheim

No money needed just donate sweets, chocolate, an easter egg or other gift for our Easter Raffle.

Please no nail varnish or hair dye.

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The Book Fair is coming next week


We are excited to share that the Book Fair will be open on Tuesday, 4th at 3:15 PM! This is a fantastic opportunity for children to explore new books and develop a lifelong love for reading.

The fair will feature a fantastic selection of books for all ages, including popular series, new releases, and educational materials—there's something for everyone!

Why Visit the Book Fair?

 Encourage Reading – Help your child discover exciting new stories and foster a love for books.

 Support Our School – Every purchase earns rewards that allow us to buy more books for classrooms and the library, benefiting all children.

 Use Your World Book Day Voucher! – Each child can use their £1 World Book Day voucher toward a purchase at the fair.

Children will be able to preview the selection of books during the week and may have a few favorites in mind!

Thank you for supporting our school and helping to inspire a love of reading. We look forward to seeing you there! We will be accepting cash or card.



Curry Rivel PTA

BOOK FAIR

Tuesday 4th February - Monday 10th February
Cash and card accepted

- Tuesday 4th
Front playground
- Wednesday 5th
Back playground
- Friday 7th
Front Playground
- Monday 10th
Front playground

Free books for our school when you buy books

Fair will take place in the lobby if wet weather

Book covers featured:
- FINDING BEAR by Hannah Gold (£7.99)
- GEORGE and the MINI DRAGON by George Webster (£6.99)
- DOG MAN: BIG JIM BEGINS by Dav Pilkey (Hardback £9.99)
- DORK diaries: Sister Showdown! (£7.99)
- DIARY OF A FUTURE BILLIONAIRE by Pamela Butchart (£7.99)
- My Bum is SO CHEEKY! by Dawn McMillan (£2.99)

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Trombone Day



Special guest tutors Matthew Lewis and Richard Watkin
join the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
Trombone Ensemble, directed by Ed Jones.

Join us for a fun, exciting day of ensemble playing,
concerts and more!

Sunday 2nd February 2025

10.30am - 5.30pm in Cedars Hall

Hosted by Wells Cathedral School

Admission is free to BTS members / £10 for non-members
Open to all ages and abilities

To book your place:

<https://wells.cathedral.school/tromboneday>
music@wells.cathedral.school



Sponsored Walk to School for Cancer Research UK

If you live or pass through Fivehead in the mornings you may have seen 3 children in purple uniform waiting for the school bus, well on 7th February instead of getting the bus to school, we will be walking 4 miles to get there! In the cold, dark, most probably rainy and across the certainly very muddy bridleways and footpaths, leaving at 6.45am to make it in time for the start of the school day! We have loved ones whose lives have been affected by cancer and would like to support Cancer Research UK in saving lives. Please sponsor us.

Thank you, Sienna (aged 10), Rose (10) and Emily (8)

Our fundraising page can be found via the QR code below or link here:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/sarahs-giving-page-19671577>



[Donate here](https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/sarahs-giving-page-19671577)

MIS All P.U.K

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Lates

We are aiming to reduce the number of pupils who arrive late.

Class	Number of lates last week	Number of lates this week
Pippin	0	1
Maigold	4	2
Gala	1	3
Discovery	3	3
Camelot	2	1
Blenheim	3	4
TOTAL	13	14

Please remember that being late can lead to your child:

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons making them fall behind
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future
- The impact of being just a little late can accumulate to a loss of learning time.
- The wellbeing and progress of our pupils is our priority, and we know that absence from school is often a sign that additional support may be needed.

The impact of being just a little late can accumulate to a loss of learning time.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days

Overall attendance (School target 96%): 94.19%

Highest attendance: Pippin (98.8%)

Most improved: Gala

Celebration

We were able to welcome parents/carers to our celebration assembly today. Well done to the following pupils:

Class Cup Awards

Pippin: Mila
Maigold: Arlo
Gala: Brody-Luca
Discovery: Oscar
Camelot: Lily H
Blenheim: Paige

Lunchtime stars

Pippin: Kaleb
Maigold: Eddie
Gala: Thomas
Discovery: Noah
Camelot: Ruth
Blenheim: Leo

50 Dojos

Pippin: Annabelle, Finn, Hazel, Rosie,

Maigold: Noah

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Gala: Thomas, Arthur, Eddie, Sonny, Trixie

Camelot: Lizzie, Riley, Oscar, Megan, George, Freddie, Lexi-Mae, Seth

Blenheim: Elcie, Harrison, Brooke-Bailey, Leo

100 Dojos

Discovery: Izabelle

Camelot: Darcey

Achievements outside of school

Gymnastics/Dance- Ellie S (Discovery)

Have a good weekend.

Ali Pook, Head Teacher

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