

South Petherton Junior, South Petherton C of E Infants and Pre-School
'Achieving the best'
'Embracing the Fullness of Life' John 10:10

Federation Newsletter 2

Autumn Term 2026

Focus Value: FRIENDSHIP
'Share your smile with the world. It's a symbol of friendship and peace'.

What a Week at South Petherton Schools Federation!

We are now well and truly back into the rhythm of the new school year. However, as always, there is never quite such a thing as a "normal" week at South Petherton Schools Federation!

This week, all our Infant School pupils returned to church for a lovely service led by Sister Rachel. The service focused on our Federation value of Friendship, and the children were an absolute credit to the school. Their behaviour, participation and respect throughout the service were wonderful to see. We would like to remind parents and carers that they are warmly invited to join us on Thursday mornings for the service, with tea and coffee available afterwards.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils enjoyed an exceptional enrichment experience with a visit to Nothe Fort in Weymouth as part of their History learning. Spending the day immersed in the experiences of wartime evacuees gave the children a valuable insight into this important period of history. Some aspects of the day were quite hard-hitting, helping pupils to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and sacrifices faced by people during wartime.

Photo: Spending hours hand-washing the family's clothes





Photo: Taking cover under a table as air raid sirens sounded.

Meanwhile, our Year 3 and Year 4 classes made the most of a local learning opportunity with a visit to a nearby apple orchard. The children picked apples to support their Design and Technology project and are looking forward to making their own apple crumble next week. We have a feeling there may be some very excited taste-testers!

Alongside these fantastic learning opportunities, our clubs programme has started across the Federation and has already received very positive feedback from pupils. Early favourites include the popular lunchtime Dance Club at the Junior School, Drama Club with Mr Hakim, Forest School, and the Infant Reading Club, all of which have been extremely well received.

A special thank you also goes to our Infant PTGA, who have kindly been offering pre-loved school uniform at the end of the school day this week. Initiatives such as this are a wonderful way to support families while promoting the recycling and reuse of good quality uniform.

It has certainly been a busy and exciting week across both schools, and it has been wonderful to see our children embracing every opportunity on offer. We look forward to another fantastic week ahead!

Congratulations Weekly Stars

Saplings
Maggie

Elm
Jude, Leah & A.J

Birch
Lydia, Florence & Logan

Cedar
George, Thomas & Gigi

Oak
Isabelle, Lloyd & Louis

Rowan
Willow H & Pace

Willow
Fred, Bobby & Millie

Hazel
Josh, Jemima & Teddy

Chestnut
The Whole Class

Sycamore
Erin & Esme



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Important Information
School Applications for September 2027

It is that time of year again! The Somerset Council application portals for school places starting in September 2027 are opening.

Please check the information below to see how this affects your family:

Applying for a Reception Place (Infant School)
Who this is for: Parents of children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 who are ready to start school for the first time. Key Dates: The application window opens on 28 September 2026 and closes on 15 January 2027.

Moving from Year 2 to Year 3 (Infant School to Junior School)
Who this is for: Current Year 2 parents. While we love having your children in our federation, please note that transfer from the Infant to the Junior School is not automatic. You must submit a formal application for a Junior School place. Key Dates: The portal opens on 28 September 2026 and closes on 15 January 2027.

Moving from Year 6 to Secondary School
Who this is for: Current Year 6 parents. The process for choosing and applying for your child's secondary school is now live. Key Dates: The portal is already open and closes very soon on 31 October 2026.

How to Apply
All applications must be made online via the Somerset Council website.

Please visit www.somerset.gov.uk/applying-for-school to submit your preferences.

Please ensure you submit your applications before the respective deadlines, as late applications can significantly impact your chances of securing your preferred school.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the process, please pop into either School Office and we will be happy to help!



NUT FREE ZONE REMINDER

As a gentle reminder, we try to remain a nut-free site as much as we can. To help keep all children safe, please ensure that any snacks or packed lunches brought onto school premises do not contain nuts or nut products.

SAFEGUARDING

At South Petherton Schools Federation, we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. If you have a concern, please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Shan Weston or one of our Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Charlotte White, Mrs Cath Hudson, Mrs Ali Chapple, Miss Lucy May or Miss Hannah Wakely. Alternatively, you can telephone Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224.

DATA

Please can all parents and carers ensure that the data held at the schools is accurate. Please send any changes in writing to the School Office.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Shan Weston - Excutive Headteacher