Churchstanton Primary School

Head Teacher: Mr. M Watson
Churchstanton Primary School
Taunton, Somerset
TA3 7RL

November 2026

Headteacher comments

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue through another busy and rewarding term, I remain incredibly proud of the way our children embody the values that make our school such a special place. At Churchstanton Primary School, our vision is to ensure that every child flourishes through **Excellence, Resilience and Compassion**, with **Inclusion** as the golden thread running through all that we do. We strive to create a nurturing environment where children feel valued, inspired and empowered to achieve their very best.

A particular highlight of recent weeks was our residential trip to **Okehampton**, which I had the privilege of attending. The experience provided a wonderful opportunity for children to develop independence, build confidence and embrace new challenges. From the moment we arrived until the journey home, our pupils were a credit to themselves, their families and our school. Their behaviour was truly exemplary, demonstrating kindness, respect, resilience and enthusiasm in every aspect of the trip. It was a pleasure to see them supporting one another, stepping outside their comfort zones and making the most of every opportunity on offer.

These experiences bring our vision to life, helping children to grow not only academically but also as confident, caring and responsible young people. Thank you for your continued support in helping us nurture these qualities both at school and at home.

To learn more about our school's vision, values and aspirations for every child, I encourage you to read my message on the school website: **Churchstanton Primary School: Headteacher's Message**.

Warm regards,



Matt Watson

Headteacher

Excellence • Resilience • Compassion
Inclusion as our Golden Thread

Parent Notice Board

November 2026



School Value and Learning Focus

Our school value this term is **Excellence.**

At our school, excellence is not about being perfect. It is about having a positive attitude, taking pride in everything we do and always striving to be the very best version of ourselves.

Excellence means showing determination when learning becomes challenging, demonstrating kindness and respect towards others, and taking responsibility for our actions.

We encourage all children to embrace excellence by working hard in lessons, presenting their work to a high standard, listening carefully and persevering when things do not come easily.

Attendance:

Hedgehog Class:94.3%
Squirrel Class: 96.5%
Badger Class: 96.7%

Who to contact

If you want to contact your class teacher, please use the following email addresses:

hedgehog.class@churchstantonps.co.uk
squirrel.class@churchstantonps.co.uk
badger.class@churchstantonps.co.uk

For urgent matters please contact the school office:
school.office@churchstantonps.co.uk

Important

Remember to pack a **healthy snack (fresh fruit or veg)** and a **refillable water bottle** daily.

In the morning, teachers will collect the children from their respective gates at **8:40 AM.**

Please ensure students are at bus stops **5 minutes early**.

All transportation changes must be communicated to the front office by **noon** on the day of the change.

School Highlights

November 2026

This month at a glance

⭐ **Whole school celebration:** Headteacher Awards, Outstanding Presentation Award. This is shared each week via our Facebook page so please make sure you follow us.
Here is the link: Facebook

⚽ **Sporting news:** Our Football Club was a tremendous success last half term, with pupils showing great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout. We are delighted to be offering the club again in the spring term, with the exciting prospect of a friendly match against one of our Orchard Partnership schools.

🌳 **Outdoor learning:** Seeing, Smelling and Sensing. During this project, children learn that humans are a type of animal known as a mammal. They name and count body parts and identify similarities and differences. They learn about the senses; the body parts associated with each sense and their role in keeping us safe.

Photo of the Month



In October, Badger Class enjoyed some lovely weather up on Dartmoor as part of their residential trip to Okehampton.

Upcoming events and activities:

Parents Evenings.

KS1 Nativity.

Class Highlights

November 2026

Hedgehog Class

We have had an exciting half term in Hedgehog Class, filled with lots of engaging learning opportunities and wonderful experiences. In Science, the children explored the properties of different materials and enjoyed carrying out investigations to test which materials were most suitable for different purposes. Taking our learning outdoors helped bring our investigations to life and encouraged the children to think scientifically about the world around them.

Our history topic focused on **childhood in the 1950s**. The children were fascinated by comparing their lives with those of children from the past. We were lucky enough to look at artefacts from **Somerset Museum**, which helped us understand what everyday life was like during this period. As part of our learning, the children wrote letters to elderly relatives and family friends, asking about their childhood experiences. We received some lovely responses, which helped bring history to life and provided valuable first-hand accounts of growing up in a different era. The children were highly engaged and enjoyed sharing the stories, memories and experiences they discovered.

Squirrel Class

Welcome back to a new half term, I hope everyone has had a lovely break and Halloween! In the spirit of Halloween, Squirrel Class have been learning about skeletons in their science lessons! The children have enjoyed organising animals into vertebrates and invertebrates and looking at the advantages and disadvantages of having an endoskeleton, an exoskeleton or no skeleton at all!

We have enjoyed learning about food and cooking this term in which the children have been chopping, seasoning and cooking chips and they have also made fillings to their fajita boats. Delicious!

In History, the children have been introduced to the Bell Beaker People and are moving their learning beyond the Stone Age and into the Bronze Age. The children have been exploring what life was like in the Bronze Age, learning about the importance of the Bell Beaker People's arrival to Britain and their impact in Britain during this period. In Art, the children will be creating their own Bell Beakers out of clay and learning about why these objects were so precious during the Bronze Age.

Badger Class

We had a very exciting half term in Badger Class which culminated in our residential trip to Okehampton. We had a fantastic time doing lots of exciting activities, which included grass sledging, canoeing, archery, high ropes and weaselling on Dartmoor to name but a few. We were also treated to some incredible dance moves at the residential disco! The children were amazing, and as always, it was a great chance for the 'new' Badger Class to get to know each other properly.

Back at school, we are learning about forces in science (starting with gravity), fractions in Maths and investigating our world in geography. We are also continuing with our history project all about the Tudors. We have been finding out about the six wives of King Henry VIII and what happened to them. This topic has crossed over into our English lessons this week, as we prepare for a piece of narrative writing in the imagined voice of a prisoner of the Tower of London – something which seems to be firing the children's imagination!

Pictures











Information for Parents

November 2026

Dates for the Diary and Updates:

Events:

Monday 2nd November - Reception Parent Consultations (from 1:30pm)

Monday 2nd November - Whole School Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day

Friday 13th November - Children In Need Day

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 25th – Thursday 26th November – Parents Evening

Tuesday 8th December - Nativity (at 2pm)

Tuesday 15th December – Christmas Meal, Christmas Jumper & Presents

Thursday 17th December – Carol Service at St Peters & St Paul's Church, Churchstanton TA3 7QE

Policy Updates:

- The School's Allergens Policy is now published on our school website. This can be requested as a hard copy or email document at any time.
- Churchstanton Primary School: Policies

Community Matters

November 2026

PTA Information and Community Matters:

The PTA online Preloved school uniform shop is now live! Click on the link below to order. When multiple identical items are available, the best quality one will be given - parents are welcome to view items first if they prefer - just contact the PTA Chair/Treasurer (Anna/Neil Nutt). Clothes with any damage/stains will not be listed.

https://churchstanton-school-pta.sumupstore.com/category/preloved-uniform

🎄 🎅 CHRISTMAS MAGIC AT THE YORK INN! 🎅 🎄

Get into the festive spirit and join us for a little Christmas cheer, all while raising money for Churchstanton PTA! ❤️

🎬 KIDS' CHRISTMAS FILM AFTERNOON

Settle down with a festive favourite – Arthur Christmas! 🍿

Suggested donation £3

🍖 Our tuck shop will be open, selling film snacks and drinks, with proceeds going to the PTA.

🥂 PARENTS' SOCIAL

While the kids enjoy the film, parents can head downstairs, relax and enjoy a catch-up and a festive tipple!

BUT - your kids are your responsibility and will not be supervised by the PTA - please arrange your minding rota with other parents.

📍 Where: The York Inn

🗓️ When: Saturday 5th December

⏰ Time: From 3.30pm

🚚 AND THE FESTIVE FUN DOESN'T STOP THERE!

Why not stick around afterwards and watch the spectacular Devon Truck Show Truck & Tractor Christmas Convoy roll through Churchinford later that evening? 🎄 ✨

So join us for a festive afternoon of films, fun and community spirit! Let's make some Christmas memories while raising money for our school! ❤️ 🎅

Additional Information

November 2026

Churchstanton, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7RL

Head Teacher – Mr Matthew Watson

Tel: 01823 601354 Email: school.office@churchstantonps.co.uk

http://www.churchstanton.somerset.sch.uk/

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our commitment to promoting kindness, respect and inclusion, we will be taking part in **Anti-Bullying Week**, which will run from **Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November**.

This year's Anti-Bullying Week theme is **"Break the Silence"**, encouraging children and adults to speak up about bullying, listen to one another, and work together to create a kinder and safer environment for everyone. The campaign highlights the importance of talking about concerns, seeking support, and standing up for others when they need help.

To mark the start of the week, we invite all children to take part in **Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November**. Children are encouraged to wear odd socks with their usual school uniform. Odd Socks Day is a fun and simple way to celebrate what makes us all unique and to remind us that our differences should be valued and respected.

Throughout the week, pupils will take part in a range of age-appropriate activities designed to promote friendship, kindness, respect and understanding, while reinforcing the message that bullying is never acceptable and that everyone has a voice.

For more information about Anti-Bullying Week 2026, this year's theme **"Break the Silence"**, and Odd Socks Day, please visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance website: **https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk**. The website contains resources and information for parents and carers on how to support children in understanding and preventing bullying

Kind Regards

Karina Holt

Deputy Head/EYFS Lead/DSL

Additional Information

November 2026

