

# The Redstart Primary School



Friday 9th February 2024

## A message from Mrs Collins

What a busy term we have had! I hope that, like me, you are starting to enjoy the lighter evenings and feel able to look forward to spring finally arriving after what has felt like the longest winter ever.

We have entered a new phase in the Redstart journey which has been quite momentous in some ways but has barely caused a ripple in other ways. As of January 1st, we joined a new Trust - Cabot Learning Federation. As far as the children are concerned, this has purely meant new rainbow-coloured lanyards. As parents, you might have noticed new signs. But otherwise, it is business as usual. The ethos of the new Trust is very much supporting schools to run effectively through standardising operational systems but at the same time appreciating the importance of local context and allowing us to remain truly ourselves. We feel we have a strong identity at Redstart with staff who really understand and care for the children. This is important to me and I'm glad that we are able to retain this identity.

You will start to notice a few changes happening as we become more solidly part of CLF. For instance, they are in the process of building a new website for us. Also, they have a design team who are keen to support us with our newsletter and other communications. All changes should be for the good and should be very exciting.

I am very sad that we are having to say goodbye to our SENCO, Mrs Lewis, who has been with Redstart since 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank her for her hard work and commitment to Redstart in both class teacher and SENCO roles and wish her well as she starts her new adventures. She will be working with a local charity and continuing to do sterling work in supporting the young people of Somerset.

Unfortunately, we haven't yet been successful in recruiting a new SENCO, but we are being well supported by our new Trust. If you have any SEN queries, please come to me in the first instance and we will be able to ensure you and your child continue to feel supported.

I am looking forward to next term which I am sure will be another action-packed one for us all to enjoy after a busy January with the Planetarium, stargazing and trips to the library and Numatic factory. A quick look at the calendar ahead shows a visit from an Olympian, a reading evening for our younger children, a visit about fire safety, a Year 5 trip to the Fleet Air Arm museum, parents' evenings and a day of tennis for KS2. More information on all of these will follow soon.

**Value:** Consideration.

**Quote:** "Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life." Jackie Chan

## The Photo of the Week



This school is part of the The Redstart Learning Partnership, a Multi Academy Trust of primary schools in Somerset.

## Dates for your Diary

- 12th-16th February- Half Term
- 23rd February-ForS Disco
- 26th February-Sport for School Olympian visit
- 1st March-Year 3 Cake Sale
- 7th March-World Book day
- 7th March-YR 1—YR3 reading 5pm-6pm
- 13th March-Mid -Year report cards
- 15th March-Red Nose day
- 20th March-Optional Parents evening in Schools
- 20th March YR5 Fleet trip
- 22nd March ForS Easter Bingo
- 28th March-ForS non-uniform

Redstart Primary School, Redstart Road, Chard,  
Somerset, TA20 1SD  
01460 67457

redstart@redstartpartnership.co.uk  
www.theredstartprimaryschool.co.uk

# Nursery

The nursery children have really enjoyed the topic Jungle animals and the core books linked to the theme. The story Tanka Tanka Skunk has encouraged the children to think about designing musical instruments and to engage in different sound making.

The children have been very interested in mark making car tracking across paint and making marks using large gross motor movements with various mediums. The children have been developing their fine motor skills through the art workshop using various tools, scissors and hole punchers.

The older children are now enjoying the set phonics sounds writing their name in small groups.

Thank you to all the parents who have attended meetings with key workers. We continue to have regular meetings sharing your children's learning and development.





# Reception

What a brilliant start we have had to the new year! The children have enjoyed our learning in Geography by taking a little trip around Redstart Park where we met some of our neighbours and their dogs. We also talked about road safety, practised crossing the road safely at the light by the school and had a visitor come in to tell the children about being safe on the road. Our most recent story, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, got the children acting out the story, making puppets, making highly experimental sandwiches of jam, lettuce and cheese that surprisingly, most children thought was delicious! At the moment, the children are being engineers and architects as they design and build bridges, making them stronger and longer. When the children come in, they now have a writing or maths challenge as well as some drawing that they do on whiteboards. They really have enjoyed this and are improving their independence skills to complete a task. Please continue to check Tapestry for weekly updates about what we are doing. We wish you all a restful half term!





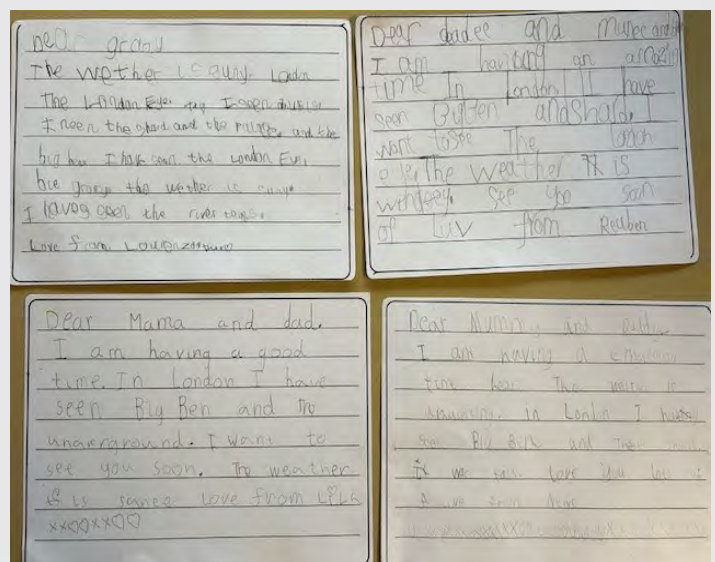
# Year 1

We have had a really busy half term! The term started with both classes visiting the library. The children all walked so sensibly and had a great time, sharing stories and joining in with a song. We were very impressed with their excellent behaviour. It has been great to hear that some of the children have persuaded you to take them back!

In Geography, we have been learning all about The United Kingdom. Ask your child if they can tell you the four Countries, and their Capital Cities. This work has linked to our Writing. We have been finding out all about London. The children have written and illustrated some amazing postcards, which are on display in the classrooms. They know so much about the London Landmarks and have really enjoyed this topic.

In Science, we have continued to learn about The Seasons. The children have enjoyed spotting signs of Spring in the playground, even though it is still Winter! They have produced some beautiful and careful Art work based on a tree in all Seasons.

In your child's book bag, we have sent home a pack of set 3 phonic sounds. You should also have received a link with information on The Phonic Screening Check, which will take place in May. It is essential that your child can recognise the 'special friends' within an unfamiliar word. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.





# Year 2

Our writing lessons have been inspired by the story; The Tin Forest. The children have been learning to use adjectives to write expanded noun phrases so they can include them in their story writing. To launch our new topic, we recycled toilet rolls and made models of animals to live in a tin forest. The children wrote questions to ask the main character in the story - the old man. It was quite a surprise when he visited Snowy and Barn Owls to answer their questions! The children have created and written descriptions of their own imaginary world and the characters who created them.

In our Maths lessons, our focus continues to be multiplication and division, with a particular emphasis on the two, five, and ten times tables. You can support your children at home by helping them to learn their two, five, and ten times tables. The children have enjoyed playing times tables games on the computer and the iPads. Here are some links to websites we have used in school to support the learning of these Times tables.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqbg87h/articles/zc7ygdm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqbg87h/articles/zw8qxfr>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqbg87h/articles/zq3rk2p>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/504/Super-Maths-Bowling-Multiplication>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Here is a link to a free app to download onto phones, tablets etc where not only times tables can be practised but also Number Bonds.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

We have been impressed with how so many children have embraced learning their spellings through Spelling Shed. Please keep checking back and seeing what spellings we are doing each week. It is really helping the children's learning. We have also got a 'Spelling Bee' teddy, who will be spending the week in the classroom of the children who have the highest number of hatched eggs. This is achieved by playing games on the app whilst logged in. Which class will have the 'Spelling Bee' after the half term?





# Year 3

The children had a fantastic morning in the Planetarium last week and hopefully were able to tell you all they learnt about the universe. The brilliant Simon also helped the children consolidate their previous learning about light. In Science we are currently learning about forces and magnets. The children have used their scientific enquiry skills to create some fantastic experiments to test the strength of magnets. They also thoroughly enjoyed using their newfound knowledge to create magnetic games and puzzles.

In geography we have been finding out about The Arctic and Antarctic. We have been looking at the animals that live in these parts of the world as well as the landscapes and people. Ask your child if they know some of the differences between the Arctic and Antarctic.

In our writing lessons we have taken inspiration from our geography learning to try and write non-chronological reports about arctic animals. We have used fictional creatures, such as unicorns, to help the children really fly with their ideas and creativity. They have been excited to share their amazing creatures with their classmates and show off their brilliant writing.

In maths we have been learning about multiplication and are starting to explore some formal methods, such as short multiplication. Learning their times tables really helps with this. By the end of Year 3 the children are expected to know the  $\times 2, 3, 5, 8$  and  $\times 10$  times tables.

In art we have been learning about sculptures and the human form, inspired by the work of Antony Gormley and Henry Moore. You may have noticed some little pipe cleaner mannequins make their way home, and this week the children will be exploring the human form using clay. Lets hope all their sculptures make it home safely!

We are almost halfway through the year now and the children are becoming increasingly independent. However, lots of children still will benefit from reading with an adult at home to increase their understanding of what they're reading as well as their fluency when reading aloud. It is a school expectation that children show they have read four times a week on their reading logs. Please ensure that you or your child records any reading at home. After half term children who are not regularly reading at home will have the chance to read every Friday at a lunchtime reading club.





# Year 4

We have all really enjoyed our topic this half term based on the work of William Shakespeare. This links on nicely on from our fantastic Tudor Topic last half term. The children really enjoyed the teachers' shortened version of 'Macbeth', especially Mr Hunt dressing up in various dresses and crazy wigs! We have then based our Literacy work on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' writing setting descriptions for the forest and character descriptions of people in the play. We loved making our own mini theatres as part of our Design and Technology work. We also created some backdrops and scenery for these in our Art lessons.

Thank you so much to all of you who were able to attend our 'Shakespeare Performance' showcase this afternoon. It was lots of fun to produce and the children really enjoyed it. Also, this half term, we had a very interesting visit to Numatic International and an informative road safety talk from the visiting road safety officers. The children were impeccably behaved throughout both visits.

In Maths, we have looked at both multiplication and division this half term. We have just finished a few lessons looking at angles (see if your child can remember the differences between right angles, acute angles and obtuse angles). After the half term break, we are moving on to learn more about decimals and then fractions.

Please do continue to encourage your child to read at least four times a week at home. Regular reading really does have a huge impact on children's academic achievement across all subjects. They also have spellings to learn over half term and please, please get them to go over their times tables knowledge at some point so they don't forget them.

We are lucky to have the support of two trainee teachers, Miss Crudge and Miss Kerwan with us until just before the Easter holidays.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you all again after the half term break.





# Year 5

It was lovely to see the parents at the open afternoon session on Wednesday. Thank you for your on-going support.

This term, in Maths, we have been revising written methods for multiplication and division as well as learning about co-ordinates. This learning has been supported by Maths homework which acts as revision. It is still vital that you encourage your child to learn and practise times tables. Great web sites to help with maths are <https://corbettmaths.com/> and <https://myminimaths.co.uk/year-5-mini-maths/>

In Literacy, we concluded our unit inspired by the book 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce and enjoyed writing about a new adventure for the characters. We then went on to learn more about Tim Peake the astronaut and have created a newspaper article about his mission to the ISS.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic about space. The planetarium was amazing and we learnt loads of facts from Simon who presented the show. Simon did say how impressed he was with not only the superb behaviour at Redstart but the fantastic scientific questions. After the holiday, we will start our new topic about flight, and we will be visiting the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

We are just finishing off our Retro futurism Art study and children really enjoyed using different techniques to create different textures with paint to create a space sky.





# Year 6

Year 6 children are coming to the end of their volcano and earthquake geography work and we are very impressed with their topic books. They have learnt so many facts about the subject, including being able to explain tsunamis. We have seen some incredible cross-section diagrams drawn in their books. We have found out about Krakatoa, Pompeii and the San Francisco earthquake, as well as enjoying the Hawaiian myth of the Volcano Goddess. Next term, we continue our topic work with the focus being on the continent of North America.

In Literacy, we have been writing our own volcano adventure stories, mixing setting description, characters and speech to create some really exciting fiction. We are working very hard on our Grammar and Spelling knowledge - thank you to all of you who have been supporting your children with this.

In our Maths lessons, we have just finished a unit of work on fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have been taught how to calculate with fractions and their recent homework has been consolidating these calculations. Next term we will move onto working with decimals and some algebra. Please continue to support with times table facts if your child is not secure with these.

In P.E. We have been so proud of the progress both classes have made in their tag rugby skills. More and more tries are being scored each week - some of the Six Nations players would struggle to catch them!

The children have shown equal skill in Art, where their Krakatoa Skies paintings have been admired by many teachers.

Have a lovely half-term and please encourage your child to do some reading and fill in their reading record. We are really looking forward to next term, especially our visit to Holyrood to watch the dress rehearsal of Shrek.





# Forest School

## Forest School

We have enjoyed mixed weather at Forest School recently - we haven't had any significant snow, but we have had plenty of rain, some very windy days and some very cold days.

Now we are in February we have enjoyed watching the snowdrops appear and watching lots of daffodils beginning to shoot out the ground. The older children have been working very hard clearing the garden area in front of the Y1 classrooms. The aim is to clear it and then put some wood chip down and build some benches. The aim is to have a space where children can sit when they don't want to be part of the running around games that happen at break times.

We have also been busy removing bramble growth from the lower part of the meadow. This is an important part of the children learning about maintaining and nurturing a natural space. Some Year 5 children have been introduced to the joys of whittling too. Please remember to make sure all children have a coat and a pair of welly boots for their Forest School days.



# Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at The Redstart Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Rebecca Collins and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Joanne Margetts, Mrs Tara Duke and Mrs Rachel Lewis. The DSL for Nursery is Mrs Caroline Miller.

We have recently updated our Safeguarding policy in light of the new Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 guidance. You can find our policy on the website in the Safeguarding section.

[www.theredstartprimaryschool.co.uk/449/safeguarding](http://www.theredstartprimaryschool.co.uk/449/safeguarding)

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow this link to help keep your child safe.

Our main Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is available on our school website and can be accessed here. This gives information regarding the measures we have in place to safeguard every child at The Redstart Primary School.

All staff and volunteers are trained in how to recognise signs of abuse in children and the internal processes for the reporting of such concerns. Whilst all members of staff are on hand and willing to speak to children who may be upset or concerned, we also have child -friendly posters displayed around the school with photographs of the Designated Safeguarding Leads who the children may also ask to speak to.

Should any of our parents/carers have a concern about any child, you may also contact a member of the safeguarding team.

Alternatively, you may report your concern directly to Somerset Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224.

Where parents and children become aware of abuse happening within a school setting, it is also possible to contact the NSPCC helplines:

Help for adults concerned about a child: 0808 800 5000.

Help for children and young people: 0800 111



# Attendance

## School Attendance - information for parents/carers

As per our attendance policy, the school undertakes regular monitoring of attendance to ensure that, where required, help and support is offered at the earliest opportunity.

In order to ensure parent/carers are kept up to date with their child's attendance record, the school will send out letters at specific intervals, for example, where there have been frequent absences or where attendance has fallen below a certain percentage. This is regardless of whether absences are authorised or where the school has been kept fully updated with the reasons for absence.

We do appreciate that it can be frustrating to receive a letter when your child has suffered absences which could not be helped i.e. where there is a rule to stay at home for 48 hours. Where the school identifies concerns (unexplained, sporadic or lengthy absences or continued lateness) parents/carers will be invited in for a meeting to discuss what support the school can provide to improve attendance.

Descriptor	Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100% - 99%	0 - 2	0 - 10
Good	98% - 96%	4 - 7.5	20-37.5
Requires Improvement	95% - 91%	9.5 - 17	47.5 - 85
Persistent Absentee	90% - 86%	19 - 27	95 - 135
Critical	85% - 80%	28.5 - 38	142.5 - 190

We thank all our parents/carers for continuing to update the school office where your child has been unable to come into school.

If your child is unable to attend school due to a medical appointment, please ensure you provide us with evidence of their appointment. This could be a letter from a hospital or GP or even a screenshot of an appointment email or text.

Also, please do not inform the school that your child has an appointment or is sick if you are, in fact, going on holiday. At Redstart we teach the children the importance of integrity and this is undermined if you ask them to lie about where they have been. It is most likely that we will find out anyway since children like to talk about their lives outside of school. We would rather you were honest and we can code your child's absence correctly and know that they are safe.

## A message from FoRS

Thank you to everyone who recently attended the school's Stargazing event and enjoyed a hot chocolate around the campfire.

You helped to raise £90 which will be used to support the school and buy extra equipment for Science lessons.



## Discos—Friday 23rd February

Collect a permission slip from your teacher, fill it in, then come and find us on the playground after school on Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd to pay your £3. Please speak to a member of the FoRS team if you are unable to make any of these days.



Cake sales have again proved to be very popular this year.

Thank you to everyone who has supplied delicious treats and supported us by calling in after school to buy for your families.

The last one was Year 2 which raised £185. Year 3's turn next on Friday 1st March.

- \* **Friday 1st March:** Y3 cake sale
- \* **Friday 22nd March:** Easter Bingo (see poster for more information)
- \* **Thursday 28th March:** Non-uniform Day



 <p>Raise donations for FoRS when you shop online!</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause">www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause</a> and search for Friends of Redstart School. Select us as your cause to support and the school will benefit at no extra cost to you.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="821 1579 1005 1736"> </div> <div data-bbox="1061 1579 1332 1736"> </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Draw every Saturday @8pm</li> <li>* Cash winner from Redstart every time</li> <li>* £25,000 jackpot for all six numbers</li> <li>* <a href="http://yourschoollottery.co.uk/s/193048201">yourschoollottery.co.uk/s/193048201</a></li> </ul>
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A vibrant poster for an Easter Bingo event. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. At the top, there's a border of green grass and white daisies. In the center, a wooden sign with the words 'EASTER BINGO' is surrounded by green grass, white daisies, and two large pink Easter eggs. Two colorful striped Easter eggs are in the foreground. Below the sign, the date 'FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024' is written in green. Below that, 'DOORS OPEN 6.00PM EYES DOWN 6.30PM' is written in red. Further down, the ticket bundle details are listed in black. At the bottom, the venue and charity number are provided. The bottom border features a row of pink and white flowers.

**Friends of Redstart Primary School  
Presents Prize Family Bingo**

**EASTER  
BINGO**

**FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024**

**DOORS OPEN 6.00PM EYES DOWN 6.30PM**

**£10 Bundle includes;  
1x Book of 6 Games, 1 x Flyer 1x Raffle Ticket**

**Booking Advisable, Please contact a member of FORS.  
Raffle Tickets, Hot Dogs, Snacks ,Bar & Refreshments  
available to purchase**

**Redstart School Main Hall  
Registered Charity Number  
1019906**

## The Redstart Primary School calendar dates Spring term 2024\*

*Highlighted dates involve potential parent participation*

Wb 15/1	16 <sup>th</sup> January: Y4 (Ospreys) visit to Numatic 16 <sup>th</sup> January: Y1 (Kingfishers) visit to library 17 <sup>th</sup> January: Kilve parent meeting at 3.15 pm 18 <sup>th</sup> January: Y4 (Buzzards) visit to Numatic
Wb 22/1	23 <sup>rd</sup> January: Under 9s Tag Rugby tournament
Wb 29/1	30 <sup>th</sup> January: Mobile Planetarium visiting Y5 and Y6 30 <sup>th</sup> January – 5 <sup>th</sup> February: Scholastic Book Fair in school 30 <sup>th</sup> January: Stargazing evening Y4-Y6 at 6.15 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> February: Y2 cake sale at 3.15 pm
Wb 5/2	5 <sup>th</sup> February: Road safety talks for all year groups 6 <sup>th</sup> February: Under 11s Tag Rugby tournament 7 <sup>th</sup> February: Drop-in parent session at 3.15 pm to look at children's books 9 <sup>th</sup> February: FORS non-uniform day (£1 donation) 9 <sup>th</sup> February: Y4 Shakespeare parents' performance at 2.30 pm
HALF TERM	
Wb 19/2	23 <sup>rd</sup> February: FORS Disco. Reception 2.30-3.10 pm; Y1-Y3 3.30-4.30 pm; Y4-Y6 4.45-5.45 pm
Wb 26/2	26 <sup>th</sup> February: Sport for School Olympian visit 1 <sup>st</sup> March: Y3 cake sale at 3.15 pm
Wb 4/3	7 <sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day – dress up as a character 7 <sup>th</sup> March: Reading evening Y1-Y3 5.00-6.00 pm
Wb 11/3	13 <sup>th</sup> March: Mid-year report cards 15 <sup>th</sup> March: Red Nose Day (non-uniform)
Wb 18/3	20 <sup>th</sup> March: Optional parents' evening in school 22 <sup>nd</sup> March: FORS Easter Bingo
Wb 25/3	28 <sup>th</sup> March: FORS non-uniform (£1 donation)

\*all dates are accurate at time of distribution (15<sup>th</sup> January 2024)

Any queries, please email main office on [info@rps.clf.uk](mailto:info@rps.clf.uk) (note new email address)



# Local Events



## *Fun Time*



*Fantastic Fun in South Somerset since 2009*

CELEBRATE VALENTINES & PANCAKE DAY

TUES  
13TH FEB

WITH

9-3PM

## **FUN TIME DAY TIME**

ALL THE USUAL FUN TIME FAVOURITES  
| PANCAKE MAKING | VALENTINES  
CRAFTS & LOTS MORE TO BE  
RELEASED ON FACEBOOK EACH WEEK

Chard Young People's Centre  
TA20 1RH

PRE-BOOK BY 10TH FEB    ON THE DAY

£16

£20

PRE-PAID LUNCH    LUNCH ON THE DAY

+£4

+£5

Email [pete.may@alsyouth.org.uk](mailto:pete.may@alsyouth.org.uk)  
for sibling discounts & to book



## MUMS & MUNCHKINS



**CHARD COMMUNITY HUB**  
**THURSDAYS**

**10AM - 11.30AM**

Toys & Activities | Peer Support | Refreshments  
All Welcome | Free to Attend

Kindness | Collaboration | Positivity



## Half-term at Ham Hill



**Tuesday 13th February  
10am - 11.30am**

### Fairy Folk Craft Morning

Join us for a selection of crafts using natural materials to make your very own masterpieces to take away with you! Decorate a stick to turn it into a magical wand, or why not create a mystical wizard from a piece of hazel? Aimed at families with children aged 4 - 7.



**Friday 16th February  
10am - 11.30am**

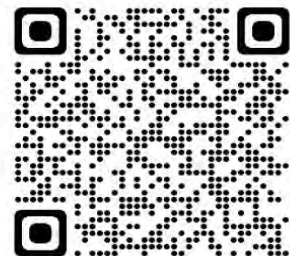
### Roman Centurions Unite! - Craft Morning

Get creative with these craft activities and make masterpieces to take away with you. Create your very own brave Roman soldier from a piece of hazel, or use paper to make a roman mosaic. Why not decorate your own medal to wear like a real centurion soldier? Aimed at families with children aged 7 - 10.



**£6 per child ticket. Booking essential for all events. All children must be supervised by an adult at all times.**

**See full details and booking on webpage. Follow link or scan QR code.**



**<https://www.visitsouthsomerset.com/events/nature-and-wildlife>**



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**



# Local Events

## Youth Indoor Nets Starts Friday 8th March 2024 6-9pm

Holyrood Sports Hall Chard



Girls and Boys Yrs 3-5      6-7pm

Girls Yrs 6+ and Ladies      7-8pm

Boys Yrs 6-9      8-9pm

£3 Per Session

Contact Dan- [Youthcricket@chardcricketclub.com](mailto:Youthcricket@chardcricketclub.com)

07846661220







## Holiday Breakfast Scheme.



Holiday Breakfast Bags are arriving this Half Term Holiday.

Do you think it may help you and your family to start the day with a good solid breakfast?

We will give you a free, no questions asked bag/s, to last a week, which will contain everything that is needed, regardless of your family size.

Just turn up at the St Mary's Centre on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb between 8.00 and 10.00

Anyone from the family can come to pick them up.

