## The Redstart Primary School

#### Friday 28th March 2025

### A message from Mrs Collins

Welcome to the Spring newsletter for Redstart. We are so delighted to finally see the sunshine start to make an appearance; being able to use the field during playtimes is a fantastic moment for our children who take full advantage of our fabulous outside space.

It's been another busy term with lots of enrichment activities for the children; we have had Stargazing and our mobile planetarium with a visiting expert as ever impressed with the children's in-depth knowledge of space; children have taken part in performances within school and at Holyrood, showcasing talent with glockenspiels, the guitar, the piano and singing; we have welcomed David Hill, paralympic triathlete and children had a thoroughly enjoyable day learning from him and participating in circuit training; we have also welcomed Chard cricket club to share their cricketing expertise with several year groups; World Book Day saw lots of opportunities for book reading and sharing along with laughing at staff during the traditional Book Day play; we were also delighted to share phonics teaching and reading expertise with the parents who attended reading evening; at time of writing, the Year 5 children are preparing for their trip and we are looking forward to welcoming parents to our Spring parents' evening.

During the year, we have several events where parents are invited, some of which are often well attended, some of which are far less well attended. This year we have had two opportunities for parents evenings, 4 parent drop-ins, stargazing, reading evening, phonics evening, Holyrood roadshow, 2 SEND coffee mornings as well as hosting Tuning into Kids parenting course twice and the Holyrood mental health team supporting parents with children's mental health. We intend to hold a maths evening during the summer term. It would be useful to gain an understanding of when events and which events would be welcome for parents so at some point we will send out a survey to gather this knowledge.

Whilst I have your attention, I would like to bring up the subject of driving and parking around the school site. I really do not want to get to the point where we are sharing tragic news of accidents due to poor driving and this is very much in the control of parents who drive to and from school. I have heard multiple stories of parents illegally parking by junctions, mounting the pavements, blocking residents' drives and driving at dangerous speeds. Nothing is more important than human lives. Please take more care.

One more brief note: we are a nut-free school due to members of staff and children having nut allergies. No member of the community should be bringing in nut products to eat. This includes peanut butter and nutella. Thank you for your support.

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#### Value: Kindness

Quote: Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama.

#### The Photo of the Week





#### **Dates for your Diary**

Dates for your diary

- 4th April-End of Term
- 21st April-Bank Holiday
- 22nd April-First day of term
- 23rd April-YR 4 Swimming Starts
- 24th April—Promo Meal Delicious Desserts
- 25th April-FoRS Family Bingo
- 30th April Tempest Photos (Class Photos)

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

www.theredstartprimaryschool.clf.uk

E-mail:info@rps.clf.uk

# Nursery

The nursery children have really enjoyed the topic 'on the farm' they have engaged well with the core books 'The three Billy Goat gruff, 'The little red hen','Rosie walk" and have been looking at other supporting texts. We have observed and supported the children in lots of conversations about farm animals in small world play and they have engaged in all tactile experiences. The children are now using the correct language when identifying and describing various farm animals. We have provided lots of opportunities for tasting various foods and they have been fascinated by the various vegetables, breads and products which are produced from the farm. We have also been making bread, butter and jam. The children have been involved in many games around farm animals.

The Little Red hen story has given the children the opportunities for further number recognition and counting set amounts. They have enjoyed listening to and following simple counting experiences. The Pre-reception children have started further phonic activities within story time especially around letter sounds.

All the children have been making their easter eggs cards as they are getting ready for the easter holidays celebrations learning about new life and spring. The easter bunny is also coming to nursery and we will be having an Easter egg hunt on the nursery grounds.

We wish all our family a happy holiday.











# Reception

This term has been one of change! We have noticed various changes both inside and outside the classroom. In Forest School, we have been looking for signs of spring and observing how the environment is starting to change. We have studied different life cycles, focusing on frogs and planting sunflower seeds. Every child will be coming home with a sunflower seed in a pot for you to grow at home. We would love to see photos of their progress.

The children have also had the opportunity to explore how ice melts and how different foods change when cooked. In PE, we have done sessions on ball skills and balancing. After Easter, we will conduct some of our PE sessions outside, so the children will need either trainers or daps in their PE bags.

In Maths, we have focused on learning our doubles. See if your child can show you how to make different doubles using their fingers. We have been mightily impressed by the hard work all the children are putting into their reading and writing. It's so lovely to see children attempting to write words and sentences.

Thank you for sending in the baby and toddler photos. The children have been very animated, talking about themselves and noticing the different changes that have occurred.

Have a lovely Easter Break

The Reception Team







We have had another really busy term in Year One. We cannot believe where the time is going.

This half term, we concluded our Geography work on 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 DT, we learnt about the mechanics of a wheel and an axel. The children designed and built their own moving vehicles and learnt a lesson about being resilient – this wasn't as easy as they first thought. They have also really enjoyed our sessions on Computing. Everybody can now log on to the school computer system using a chrome book, which isn't an easy task at all!

Thank you to those of you who gained sponsorship for our Sport for School Visit. We had great fun participating in a very energetic session with David Hill. We were very inspired by his story and his achievements.

You will find a Phonic Screening information pack in your child's book bag. Alongside your usual reading, we would be extremely grateful if you could find some time to work through this with your child.

We have enjoyed a few breaktimes at school now in warmer weather without the need for coats. However, as the weather is so interchangeable, please do continue to send in a coat every day. This is also a good time for a polite reminder to make sure that your child's clothing is named. We've had a few missing jumpers recently! We wish you all a lovely break and we hope that the weather will become more Spring like when we welcome you back.











#### Year 2 March 2025

We hope this newsletter finds you well. March has been an exciting and eventful month at school, filled with engaging activities and memorable moments.

We had a lovely International Day of Maths, which was a tremendous success! The students participated in a challenging activity to show a half, that sparked their curiosity and love for mathematics.

We were delighted to see so many parents join us for our Reading Evening. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for parents to engage with the children's reading journey and share how to help the children progress.

World Book Day was a highlight of the month, with students and staff alike dressing up as their favourite book characters. The creativity and effort put into the costumes were simply amazing! The school was transformed into a vibrant celebration of literature. The array of costumes was a sight to behold, and the students were so excited as they shared stories about their chosen characters. It was a day filled with imagination and fun, and we are proud of the enthusiasm shown by everyone involved.

Thank you for those who have been reading and going on Spelling Shed with their children. Please remember that it is the school's expectation that the children read 4 times at home with an adult. If they do not, they will be invited to Reading Club. On Spelling Shed, if the children 'hatch' then they will receive 2 House Points.

#### Warm regards,

The Year 2 Team





Year 3 has had another amazing term and we have lots to share about their learning!

This term, the children have been mastering the arithmetic skill of division. We encourage home learning to help children show you their new skills and deepen their understanding. Next, we will be focusing on Money, specifically converting amounts from pence to pounds.

Our writing has been inspired by The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. The children have been creating their own giants and writing descriptive pieces using "show, not tell" techniques. In Non-Fiction, they are planning to write letters to the Iron Man from Hogarth's perspective, which will allow them to practice formal and informal letter writing. In Science, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the parts of a plant and dissecting daffodils to identify them. Upcoming lessons will cover seed dispersal, where children will learn how plants spread their seeds to grow new plants.

This week, they will start a Design and Technology project on Cranes, focusing on teamwork and problem-solving as they create a tower crane.

When we enter the Summer Term, we will be doing spelling tests on a Monday, still giving children a full week to practice. Reading calendars will continue to checked on Fridays. If a child hasn't read four times or more, they will attend a reading club during Friday lunchtime to catch up on their missed reading. A polite reminder to ensure your child brings fruit or vegetables for a snack at playtime, as free fruit is not available for KS2.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to more exciting learning opportunities in the Summer Term.

Have a lovely Easter holiday!









Well, it has been another busy few weeks in Year 4!

In Maths, we have been working on decimals, linking this work to money. After the Easter holiday, we will be starting our new unit on fractions, before finishing the year on measure, capacity and time. Please do feel free to complete some Maths over the holidays too, it is then not so much of a shock when the children return to school after a 2-week break! The children will all complete a national Year 4 times table check in June, so any practise at recalling their times tables will really help them with this. There are lots of free websites to further support them, such as timestables.co.uk and Topmarks Maths, which have lots of resources and games the children can access to help their learning.

In Literacy, we have just completed a unit of work writing a story inspired by Mary Shelley, who wrote Frankenstein, and are now working towards creating a biography about her life using everything we have learnt about her this half term. The children are enjoying learning key facts about her life. Thank you to all of those who are reading regularly with their children at home, it really does have a huge impact on your child's progress in all curriculum areas. The children love choosing their next book from our school library. As you read with your children, see if they can find any grammatical features we have been looking at, such as apostrophes, inverted commas, fronted adverbials and subordinate clauses.

Our science and D&T topic this half term has been Electricity. As part of this unit of work, the children have all designed and will be creating their own night lights. They had to create a success criteria for their finished product, which we will use to evaluate their final piece. We will then use the Crumble Kits to programme their night lights to turn on and off. As we've been learning how to use the programming software, it's been lovely to see so many children helping others with their work, either by helping to find solutions if something didn't work or helping with the coding.

Our exciting swimming lessons will start on Thursday afternoons on our return to school after the Easter break.

Have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you all again for the Summer Term











Year 5 Newsletter

The children have had a great Spring term in Year 5 and have produced some super work.

In Maths, we have now completed all our units about number and calculations. We now do weekly mental arithmetic tests in preparation for Year 6 so if you are interested in their scores, just ask after school or during our next drop-in session. Throughout the rest of this year, we will turn our focus to reasoning skills, learning about shape, measures, statistics and position and direction. It is vital that children keep their times-tables knowledge up to speed and please continue to support your child with their homework either by helping them if they are stuck or just checking their answers.

In our writing lessons, the enthusiasm has been fantastic! We've been using the book '*The Lost Happy Endings*' as our springboard for creativity. The children have been mastering various grammar techniques while crafting a new character to introduce to the story. There was a big focus on being able to write and punctuate speech correctly as well as incorporating a reporting clause and character action. We are currently focusing on studying some poetry and we have started to write about our trip to Fleet Air Arm Museum.

In Science, the children have learnt about Space last term and are now learning about Forces. During our Space topic, the children enjoyed the planetarium experience, stargazing evening and a 'space' walk to understand the distances involved in a scaled down version of our solar system. To conclude our current History Flight topic, we have visited Fleet Air Arm Museum where we had a great time exploring flight through the ages.

Before Christmas, the children created a design for a New Year's message from the CEO to all staff in the trust. A big congratulations to Naomi Beer, whose artwork was chosen.

The children have created an art piece based on Retro Futurism and painted a space landscape using a variety of painting techniques. In RWV, the children are just finishing off their topic about Judaism. Our next topic will be Islam. In music, the children listened to some space music and then composed some of their own using digital technology.

World Book Day inspired the children to think about their choice of books and where they like to read as well as enjoying the teachers' play. We really enjoyed working with Holyrood recently during a drama session and had fun with improvising in groups.

Thank you for your support with encouraging your child to read 4 times a week and continue to work hard with their homework.





We are so proud of how hard all the children in Year 6 have been working this term, especially as they prepare for their SATs after Easter. Their progress and dedication have been truly impressive!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed finishing their Geography topic on Volcanoes and Earthquakes. As part of this, they created some fantastic art pieces inspired by Edvard Munch – we were blown away by their creativity! We've now moved on to learning about the Geography of North America. The children have shown great interest in discovering the diverse landscapes, cultures, and landmarks of this fascinating continent.

We recently completed a Science unit on Evolution. As part of this the children took part in an engaging experiment exploring how different birds' beaks have evolved to suit the food available to them – they really enjoyed this hands-on approach to learning!

In English, the children had great fun producing a Survival Guide for a Post-Apocalyptic Earth. Their imaginative and creative ideas were incredible. We are also really impressed with the number of children who have worked hard to be awarded a fountain pen for their beautiful handwriting.

Mrs Rose from Holyrood has now met with all the children to help them feel more comfortable about their transition to Year 7. This has been a valuable opportunity for them to ask questions and ease any worries about the move to secondary school.

We will be sending home some practice SATs papers over the Easter holiday. Please encourage your child to complete them and bring them back at the start of next term. This will really help them feel confident and prepared for SATs week. We'll also be sending out a separate newsletter after the holiday with more detailed information about SATs week.

We hope all the children have a wonderful Easter break, full of rest and fun! We look forward to seeing them back refreshed and ready for a successful term ahead.









# **Forest School**

#### Forest School

Spring is well and truly here at Forest School. Buds are appearing on the trees and our usual array of daffodils and other early Spring flowers have arrived. Although we didn't see the return of frogs to the pond, we do have some large clumps of frogspawn so we know at least some frogs have returned. In recent weeks the children have been practising their shelter building skills, learning new knots and developing their teamwork skills. In the winter storms several trees came down and the older children have been busy cutting up the dead wood for our future Forest School fires. This not only gives us fuel for the fires but also improves the children's cutting skills.

We have had a good run on being ready for Forest School recently with far fewer children forgetting their boots and coats. This makes the start of the day so much easier and calmer. Although there are still two weeks of this term remaining it is a good time to think ahead to summer FS clothing rules:

- No shorts long trousers must be worn for FS.
- No vest tops children must wear a T-shirt that covers the shoulder and upper arm, and must also have a long sleeve top available
- No crocs or sandals children may wear walking shoes/boots or sturdy trainers
- Please apply suncream and give antihistamine (if needed) before coming to school much better than having these in school.

Thank you.

# 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.

#### Our Safeguarding Team

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Rebecca Collins:



Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mrs Joanne Margetts, Early Intervention and Attendance Lead



Mrs Tara Duke, Nurture Lead



The DSL for Nursery is Mrs Caroline Miller:



Mrs Kerri Norma, Senco



# Safeguarding

#### Our Policy

We follow the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is updated in line with the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. You can find our policy on the website in the Safeguarding section. <u>www.theredstartprimaryschool.co.uk/449/safeguarding</u> This gives information regarding the measures we have in place to safeguard every child at The Redstart Primary School. <u>Online Safety</u>

You can find online safety advice on our website – please follow this link to help keep your child safe. Also, please watch out for any online safety information from The National College shared on our social media page.

#### How we keep our pupils safe at 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 and on the main board in the school hall with photographs of the Designated Safeguarding Leads who the children may also ask to speak to. Every child will also be aware of the 'Worry Boxes' in their classrooms where they can write and post their concerns should they wish to do so. Please do remind them of this option

#### What to do if you have a concern

Should any of our parents/carers or members of our local community have a concern about any child, you may 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 11 11.

If you feel you or another child is in immediate danger, please call 999.

# 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 Learn- ing
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.

### **Food Parcel Support**

If any of our families are in need of a food parcel, please contact the school office and ask to speak with our Early Intervention Lead, Mrs Margetts. The food parcel service is provided by the Community Hub in town. Referrals made are treated confidentially. It is a 'no questions asked' service. You do not need to explain your circumstances unless you wish to and there are no income thresholds to meet to qualify. Some families may require a little support for a short time or there may be reasons for longer lasting support.

### **Great Athlete Visit**

We had a visit from David Hill-Paralympic Swimmer & Triathlete on Wednesday 5th March. The Sponsor money is still to be counted but we will let you know the amount raised soon. Thank you to everyone who sponsored. All money raised will help us purchase new sports equipment for the School.











#### SEND

WISE UP Parent Workshops

Being a parent carer of a child or young person with additional needs can bring extra situations which are challenging to know how to handle. To help support parent carers navigate these we have created a range of workshops based on the subjects: ADHD, Autism, Sensory Processing, helping your child through transitions, sleep, anxiety, Dyslexia. The workshops are open to ALL parents; your child/ren do not need to have any formal diagnosis.

Please follow the link to download the workshop booklet. WISE Up Workshops

All Stars Cricket is the best cricket experience for **5-8 year-olds** 

It all starts with

All kids are guaranteed to develop **new skills** while **having fun** and **making friends** 

Participants receive a **personalised backpack of goodies** including a bat, ball and t-shirt!

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Sign up today at allstarscricket.co.uk



#### Calling all 8-11 year olds!

Whether a graduate from All Stars or new to the sport, Dynamos Cricket is an exciting way for kids to **play, learn** cricket skills and make **new friends**.

Participants receive a personalised New Balance shirt with their name and chosen number.

## dynamoscricket.co.uk

Chard Gennis

Club

Sign up

today

#### CHARD TENNIS CLUB JUNIORS

Afternoon Holiday sessions 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April 1-3pm £10 per session

Head Coach Roy Collins
roy\_collins@hotmail.co.uk



TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYSUnder 10 years4.30pm - 5.30pm10 years +5.30pm - 7.00pmContact Roy for a booking form and further information.

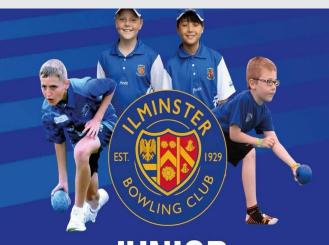






Loads of awesome activities changing each week with: 2 crafts / creative / science activities + 2 sports & games + 1 special activity or snack bar treat at each session!

+ options for some volunteers aged 11-18 to help staff run services For details, contact Corey 07795 183133 corey.white@alsyouth.org.uk Delivered by Active Learning & Skills - with funding & support towards their local services from: Crewkerne & Chard Town Councils + Chard Area Youth Committee



### JUNIOR BOWLS COACHING FOR AGES 6 - 16 YEARS

Every Tuesday 4PM – 6PM

Build confidence Discover a new sport Make new friends Stay active and healthy Looking for an affordable, fun, and social activity for your child? Ilminster Bowling Club offers Indoor Bowls Coaching throughout the winter season for just £1. Our Level 2 Coaches provide a welcoming and safe environment for your children. No equipment or experience needed—just turn up and bring your enthusiasm! Join us this Tuesday and watch your child thrive and have fun!

### Monday

5.10pm - Beginner Junior TKD 5.40pm - Int & Adv Junior TKD 6.25pm - TeenTKD 7.25pm - Adult TKD

### **Tuesday**

5.30pm - 5-6yrs - Ninjas 5.30pm - 7-10yrs - Ninjas 6.20pm - Female Only 14yrs+ Pad work, Fitness & Self Defence 7.15pm - Open TKD

### Thursday

3.40pm - 3-4yrs - Ninjas 4.15pm - 5-6yrs - Ninjas 5.05pm - Junior TKD 6.05pm - Beginner TKD 6.20pm - Intermediate TKD 7.20pm - Black Belts Only

Friday

6.15pm - Open TKD

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FREE

WWW.CHARDTKD.CO.UK

**BUCK HOUSE ACADEMY, HOLYROOD STREET** 



ON-DO

### Rama Life **Holiday Club**

**Frogmary Green Farm** Easter Holidays 2025

Reception - Yr 7

	Mon 7th April	Lights, Camera, Action Design your own award, add your handprints to our "Ramalife Walk of Fame" and join in some fun drama games and movie quiz!		
	Tues 8th April	Around the World: Argentina Bingo, Paper Llamas, Cooking and Fun Facts about the Country famous for the Tango and Football (and much more!)		
	Weds 9th April	59th Paddington in South Petherton Follow his journey from Peru to London, learn about bears in the wild and make some orange flavoured delights!		
		Spring Fling Come along to celebrate Springtime with painting, crafting and outdoor games!		
	Fri 11th Feb	Harry Potter A magical day of spells, potions, mythical creatures and broomstick training!		
	Mon 14th April	Outer Space Help us to create the solar system, make a rocket and learn some galactic facts! Space games finish off a very fun day.		
	Tues 15th April	Ancient Egypt Write in Hieroglyphics, help us create a massive outdoors map and learn about some of the famous Pharaohs and history of Egypt.		
	Weds 16th April	Bushcraft Den building, cook on the fire, nature art and adventure!		
	Thurs 17th April	Easter-Eggstravaganza Egg Hunting, Creative Activities, Games and lots of fun!		

8:45am - 3:30pm (8am-5pm available) From £35 ramalife.co.uk/holidayclub



rama



Visits from Sunflowers of Somerset, the RSPCA and the Easter Bunny Free event | Everyone welcome | Planting activity | Arts and crafts | Refreshments For more info: tgreynoldseholyrood.bep.ac

EASTER CAMPS 2025

iPad creativity, and take-home inventions!



www.nextthing.education

Day 3 Day 2 Day 4 9 am drop off



CRAZY

ost camp





MINECRAFT MINE



4 pm pick up

#### WHAT TO EXPECT:

t Next Thing Education, our goal is to ignite curiosity من المعالية, fuel creativity الله, and empowe young minds Softr the future!

ds on coding & STEM experiences we inspire the next generation of ors, and tech leaders of Led by DBS checked, friendly and supports, Rids will explore STEM through exciting activities and challenges. d, friendly and suppo ivities and challenge

ly child loved every minute - already

sking to come back

"Fun, engaging, and educational - highly recommend!"

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LIMITED SPACES, BOOK NOW! E: info@nextthing.education T: 01442 873150

## **Family Holiday Activities** at Wells Cathedral

### Easter Excitement

### 7, 9, and 11 April 2025

Get ready to celebrate the joy of Easter with our seasonal trail, and crafts to make and take home!

#### **Monday 7: Cross Creations**

Collect beads on our Easter crosses trail and make a necklace or keyring

#### Wednesday 9: Glorious Gardens

Discover the Easter story as you follow our Cathedral map, then make an Easter garden

> Friday 11: Card Crafts Follow our Easter story trail and make a card or decoration

### FREE with adult entry. No need to book - simply drop in on the day!



### Sessions in the Education Room / Wells Cathedral



10.30am-3.30pm

for 12 months from date of purchase, so you can enjoy access to a number of