



St Nicholas Church School

School Newsletter

22nd July 2024 Term 6 Newsletter 6

Dear Parents & Carers,

So that wraps up another brilliant year at St Nics! There have been so many highlights over the last 11 months that we couldn't possibly name them all, but the positive standouts would have to be: our Good Ofsted inspection; opening the revamped library; the 'best Christmas Fair ever!' and Christmas plays; instrument lessons in school; developed links with Bath Rugby; the wonderful work of the Pupil Leadership Team; and the amazing Dance Umbrella performances to name a few! Not only that, as we scanned through the St Nics Facebook pages from this year, it highlights so many of the opportunities we have endeavoured to give the children: over 25 school trips to enhance learning experiences; numerous visitors to school, exploring subjects such as faith, historical knowledge and sport; hundreds of awards and certificates given out and a huge 30+ sporting events attended across the year!

Of course, there have been many challenges along the way, with the weather proving to be our greatest nemesis this year. But not even the severe flooding in January and the destructive wind in March could dampen our spirits, and everyone managed to muddle through the awful illness season we had at the end of winter as well.

As always, none of this amazing work is possible without a hugely dedicated team of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to give the children at St Nics the best opportunities possible. A massive thank you to you all—you deserve a well earned rest this summer. Thank you also to the governors, who work so hard behind the scenes to support staff and leaders to be the best they can be. Thank you to the incredible PTFA who always put on the best events and raise so much money for the school. Thank you to the parents and carers of our St Nics school community whose positivity and kind words keep us going. And last but most importantly, thank you to the brilliant St Nics children who never fail to bring smiles to our faces every single day!

We hope you manage to have a relaxing summer break and look forward to hearing all about it when we return in September.

Mr Low & Mrs Simmons

REMINDER: THE CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER.

Our Spirit of St Nicholas Award Winners Term 6

Well done everyone!

Cam	Isabella N	Mells	Lauren H
Somer	Fabian D	Yeo	Mak H
Dart	Olivia H	Hartlake	Leo B
		Midford	Zayben L

Leo's Journey

We couldn't finish the year without a celebration of someone who, it would be fair to say, has had a tougher year than most. We are so, so proud of Leo in Year 6 who has overcome immeasurable challenges and who has shown incredible bravery on every step of the way. This is his story in his own words.

My Journey, by Leo

"In October, I started to feel ill with headaches, double vision and feeling sick and I ended up going into hospital. The first day they did different checks on me like moving their finger to see where my eyes moved and seeing whether I could tap my fingers. I could look left and right but looking up made me feel a bit ill. I went back in the next day, on the Tuesday, they did a proper eye test like they do at the opticians. After that a nurse put a canular in my arm so they could put dye into me whilst I had a MRI scan. About half an hour later, they told us that I had a tumour. They called Bristol hospital to see if they had a bed, which they did so I went straight there. When I got there, a nurse took me to my bed on Bluebell ward. The bed was comfortable which was good! I made a friend whose bed was opposite mine.

The next morning, I got taken to Daisy ward and lots of my family were there to see me: there was my mum and dad, uncle, my auntie, my nanny, my grampy and my grandma. I was in Daisy ward for a couple of days and I wasn't allowed to eat or drink because I was due to have a brain operation. They then did an emergency operation because the pressure in my head was getting too much. The operation passed in a blink of an eye because I was anaesthetised. After the operation, I was wearing an eye-mask because I still had double vision and I couldn't look at the light so most of the time my parents had to sit in a dark room with me! About a day after the operation, I got told by the doctors I had cancer. Me and my dad both shaved our hair off because I was going to have chemotherapy, I didn't want to shave my hair but I thought I'd be more sad to see my long hair fall out than to shave it off. I got taken back to Bluebell ward after 4 days in Daisy ward. In Bluebell ward, they tried to take my blood 2 – 3 times a day but because I was ill it made it very difficult for them. In Bluebell ward, just before my chemo started, they drained fluid from my head so they could test it and the same day they finally managed to get bloods. On the Friday I had my hickman line operation ready for chemo. This looked a like a phone charger in my chest which they used to give me medications and take bloods. When my chemo started, I was eating quite a bit for the first two days. On Starlight ward I was allowed to eat whatever I wanted, even pizza for breakfast!

I did a stem cell harvest after my first chemo. My stem cells got stored in a special lab until I needed them after my high dose chemo to help me get better quicker. I went home for about 2 weeks then went back to Bristol for another 5 day round of chemo which went better than the first round.

I found it really hard being away from school as I'm never ill. I really missed my friends and teachers because I'm always with them. It was really hard but all of the pictures and messages they sent to me made it easier.

I then had another 2 week break at home then went back to Bristol for 2 rounds of high dose chemo which was really difficult because it made me really ill. I also wasn't allowed to leave my room as I had a cold and couldn't risk letting other children get ill. I did make a couple of friends from a distance though. I had to stay in hospital for 7 weeks but was allowed to go home for a few hours Christmas Day which made me really happy. All of my nurses and consultants were really supportive and kind and helped me get through my chemo. They're all amazing people. I completed all my chemo on New Years Eve but still had to stay in hospital for a few more weeks until I was well enough to go home.

The chemo shrunk the tumour but there was still a tiny piece left. At the end of January I had 13 hour brain surgery to remove as much of the left over tumour as they could. Two weeks after, I did a mile 1/2 walk, my legs ached for a few a few days after but I wanted to get fit again.

On 6th February, I left hospital to recover and wait for the swelling to go down before going to London to prepare for my Proton Beam Therapy treatment. I had my mask made up which involves warming up a special plastic which then gets moulded around my face and head. It was hot for a few minutes but then it cools and goes hard. A artist paints your mask for you in any design you like. I had a Lakers Basketball jersey design with my surname and favourite players number.

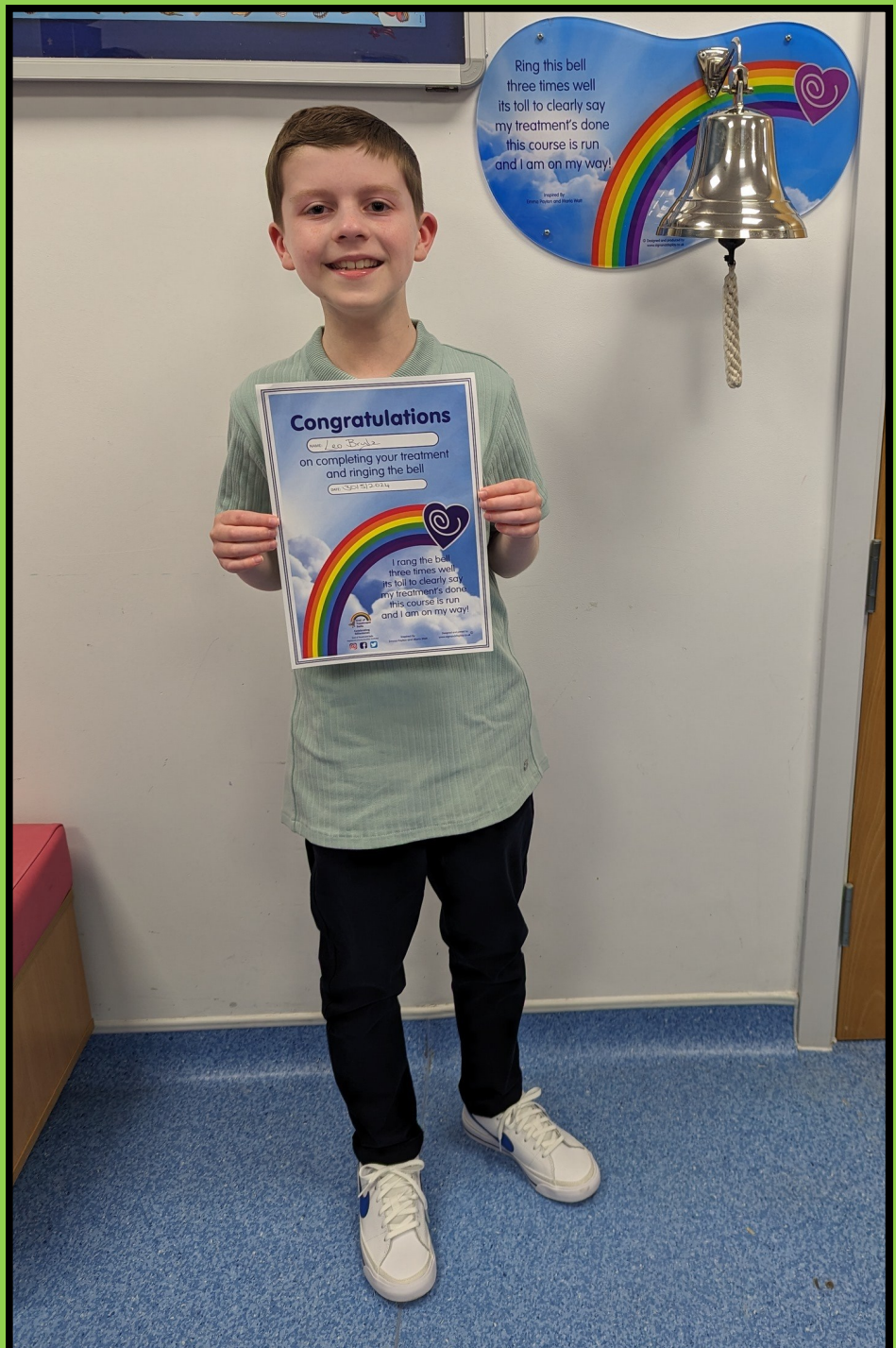
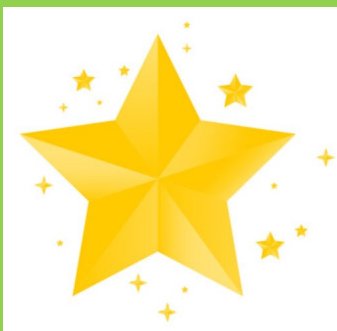
In March, I moved to London for 6 weeks with my Mum, Dad and sister. We stayed in a apartment on Camden Lock; it was really nice. Proton treatment took about 10 minutes a day, you can't feel anything whilst having it done. I responded to the treatment well with little side effects so I could also go to hospital school for 2 hours a day. After treatment I would sometimes rest or go sightseeing with my family, my favourites were the London eye and Science Museum.

On 18th April, the day finally came and I was well enough to go back to school. It was weird putting on my school uniform as I'd not worn it for ages. I was really happy to be back as I missed everyone a lot.

At the end of May, I had another operation to remove my hickman line and finally got to ring the end of treatment bell! Lots of nurses, play therapists, consultants and hospitality staff came. It felt great to be done with my treatment, I had lots of happy tears!

My journey has inspired me to work in science for cancer research when I grow up and my consultant said he'd employ me!"

Leo - your strength and bravery has inspired every single one of us at St Nics and we wish you all the very best for your time at secondary school. We are all cheering you on! Good Luck!





Staff Leavers

Mrs Kett

At the end of this term we say a fond farewell to Mrs Kett! Mrs Kett has worked at St Nics as both a cover teacher and as a Year 5 class teacher and has been an invaluable member of the St Nics teaching team. Her passion in developing the music provision at school cannot be underestimated and thanks to her hard work, we have more children playing instruments at school than ever before. Mrs Kett is leaving to pursue her talents in graphic design, something she worked on before becoming a teacher. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours.



Mrs Edwards

The wonderful Mrs Edwards is so embedded in the life of St Nics, that when she announced her retirement earlier this term, no one actually knew what to do? Even the most senior staff can't remember a time when she hasn't been in school and her youthful spirit and boundless energy meant no one quite believed this day would ever come. The education landscape has become so challenging over the last 10 years that very few people manage a full career in a school. However, **Mrs Edwards has been working at St Nicholas for a staggering 38 YEARS!!!**

She started her time at St Nics in 1986 working as a dinner lady under the then Headteacher Peter Bates. She also took on the role of lunchtime supervisor before finally settling into the role of teaching assistant.

Mrs Edwards is known for her love of partying and can be found most weekends either taking part in her favourite pastime of line dancing, or getting dressed up for a special occasion of one sort or another. She won't mind us saying that she still has the best social life of all the staff at the school!

She is the most kind, caring, patient and supportive member of staff and hundreds, if not thousands, of children and staff have had the joy of working with her over the years. She has served the St Nics community with unwavering dedication and deserves a well earned rest in retirement!

Mrs Edwards—we are so lucky and blessed to have had you working with us at St Nicholas Church School and you will be greatly missed by both children and staff. We know parents and past students will join us in wishing you all the very best for your retirement.



Staff Leavers

Mrs Smith (TA)

Mrs Smith joined our school as a teaching assistant this year and in the short time she was with us, she made a huge impact on the children. Her specialism with SEN pupils meant she was able to support many children in making huge progress. We wish her all the best for the future.

Miss D

Miss D has been on secondment at Christchurch School in Frome this year and she has made the decision to take up a permanent place at the setting. We thank her for all of her efforts at St Nicholas over the years and wish her all the very best for the future.



PTFA

We have made it to the end of another academic year, and what a busy one it has been! We want to thank all of the parents, carers, staff and children for all your support and help, we have only been able to achieve everything we have done this year thanks to you – from the £5000 worth of books for the library, to the benches in the playground.

And as always, we really appreciate all the help you have given us at the events that we ran this year, every extra pair of hands makes such a difference – and if you are interested in helping, or in joining the committee, please do get in touch with us, you would be very welcome.

We will be sending home a little gift with every child, to say thank you to them all for being so enthusiastic, polite and helpful at every event we have held. We hope you all have a fantastic summer, and look forward to another busy, fun-filled year of fundraising for our school community.

100% Attendance

Achieving 100 % attendance is something we hope all of our children aim for but we know that illness, accidents and sometimes just bad luck often prevents this. So to reach 100% is quite an achievement and quite rightly should be celebrated! A big congratulations to the following children who have reached this milestone

this year:

POPPY B

ZARAH H

SIENNA U

Well done girls!

Outside of School Achievements

Well done to Brooke DG who has been awarded a certificate for swimming 12 metres.

Congratulations to Florence D who has completed her ballet exam (distinction).

Well done to Sophie C and Chloe B who have both completed Race For Life.

Congratulations to Caydn M who has passed Level 5 & 6 in swimming and to Evie C who has passed Level 12.

Our KS2 Award Winners

	Star	Maths Magician	Reading/Oracy	Wizard Writer
Avon	Zarah H	Bronwen K	Shemmy David V	Ivy-Rose C
Mells	Kyra J	Leo R	Ava-Grace L Francesca B	Phillip B
Yeo	Sienna U	Summer H	Briera B Lukas T-S	Blake R
Hartlake	Harry B	Ronny DB	Carter H Elsie-Leigh T	Jay R
Midford	Lexi DW	Jaycub K	Caydn M Brooke DG	Korey B

Attendance

Cam	93.9%
Somer	94.5%
Dart	94.1%
Avon	95%
Mells	95%
Yeo	95.5%
Hartlake	92.9%
Midford	91.7%
Wellow	90.9%

Overall attendance is: 94.3%

Time to Talk

Cam	What was your favourite sea creature at the aquarium?
Somer	How many of the months of the year can you spell correctly?
Dart	How tall did you manage to make your marshmallow tower?
Avon	What is a calligram?
Mells	Tell your grown up how you created your own switch for a circuit.
Yeo	What would be your first policy if you were Prime Minister?
Hartlake	What you are most looking forward to over your last few days of St Nicholas?
Wellow	Tell your grown up something that you are looking forward to in September.
Midford	

Have a great summer holiday everybody! See you all in September.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 23rd July

9.00am Leavers Service

End Of Term 6 - Please note we will be finishing at 12.40pm

(Midford + Wellow finish 1:00)

Monday 2nd September

INSET Day

Tuesday 3rd September

INSET Day

Wednesday 4th September

Term 1 begins for students

PLEASE SEE NEW TERM DATES AND INSET DAYS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Class Photos

Class photo proofs have been sent home. You will be able to order the photos online or by cash. If you need any assistance, please contact the photographer direct. Orders will be returned to school in September. Thank you.

2024-2025 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

Including INSET DAYS

TERM 1	
Start:	Monday 2nd September
Finish:	Friday 25th October
TERM 2	
Start:	Monday 4th November
Finish:	Friday 20th December
TERM 3	
Start:	Monday 6th January
Finish:	Friday 14th February
TERM 4	
Start:	Monday 24th February
Finish:	Friday 4th April
TERM 5	
Start:	Tuesday 22nd April
Finish:	Friday 23rd May
TERM 6	
Start:	Monday 2nd June
Finish:	Tuesday 22nd July
INSET DAYS	
Monday 2nd September 2024	
Tuesday 3rd September 2024	
Friday 25th October 2024	
Monday 6th January 2025	
Wednesday 18th June 2025	



NEW PLAYERS

WANTED

Holcombe are launching a new U8's team for the 24/25 season.

If you have a child currently in year 2 looking to join a family friendly club then get in touch.

Contact us
Holcombeyfc@gmail.com

Search Holcombe FC on Facebook or contact our club secretary Luke via email

Bath & North East Somerset Libraries

Gift a Costume

Donate your unwanted kids costumes to us!

We're creating dressing up corners in our children's libraries and we'd love some costumes to get us started!

Where can I donate?

- Bath Central Library
- Keynsham Library
- Midsomer Norton Library



What do we want?

- Good quality, clean kids costumes such as princess dresses, mermaid tails, tutus, pirate/superhero/police/nurse/vet outfits.
- Accessories in good condition such as wings, tiaras, capes, masks, swords, hats, deely boppers etc

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Please hand your donations into a
member of staff from 27 May - 29 June.

STAY SAFE ONLINE

1

Don't share your personal information



2

Only talk to people that you know



3

Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online



4

Only accept friend requests from people you know personally



5

Always think carefully about what you post



8

Report inappropriate content immediately



6

Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts



7

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are



9

Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing



10

Never share your passwords





The Summer Reading Challenge is a **FREE** holiday activity for children aged 4 - 11, so visit Midsomer Norton Library to:



Join the library, it's free!



Sign up to take part in the challenge



Enjoy our **FREE** Summer Reading Challenge Craft Events

Find out more online!

Just pop in to your local library or sign up at:
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



Sunday Social



Sundays 3 - 6.30pm,
free food, tea & coffee

**OLD
PRINTWORKS
ARTS** Radstock

Old Printing Works - behind the Radstock Museum
Bath Old Road, Radstock, BA3 3HA

W E N D E D



**DO
FIX
MEND
REPAIR
REPURPOSE
RE-ENERGISE**

A practical meet-up for men

Wednesdays 10am - 2pm @ Old Printworks Arts

Bath Old Road, Radstock, BA3 3HA Must be aged over 16 years



FESTIVAL DECOR MAKING

Drop in 10 - 2pm
22nd - 26th July
Everyone welcome,
family friendly

@Old Printworks Arts

Monday - Thursday
12-3pm

Week 1 - Space

Weds 24th July Beacon Field, Peasedown St John BA2 8SN
Thurs 25th July Whiteway Green, Bath BA2 1PB



Week 2 - Pirates

Mon 29th July - Southfields, Radstock BA3 3NZ

Tues 30th July - Alice Park BA1 7BL

Weds 31st July - Town Park, Midsomer Norton BA3 2UH

Thurs 1st Aug - Play Out Wild, Broadmoor Lane, Newbridge BA1 4JY

Week 3 - Superheroes

Mon 5th August Paulton Memorial Park BS39 7LW

Tues 6th August Springfield Park, Meare Road, Foxhill BA2 5PP

Weds 7th August National Playday, Pennyquick Park, Twerton BA2 1NW ("£3 entry per child")

Thurs 8th August Play Out Wild, Entry Hill BA2 5NA

Week 4 - Fantasy

Mon 12th Aug Kelston Road, Keynsham BS31 2JL

Tues 13th Aug Norton Hill Rec, Westfield BA3 4AY

Weds 14th Aug Roundhill, Mount Road, Southdown BA2 1LF

Thurs 15th Aug Bloomfield Open Space, off Wellsway BA2 2AB

Please Note:

- Parents: Stay close, supervise, or join in!
- Wear old clothes for messy play and water slide.
- Don't forget water bottles, sun cream, coats, and umbrellas.
- TOILETS: Only at near or near certain sites

National Playday

£3 entry per child

- Straw Bale Dens | Spin Painting | Archery | Swingboats | Messy Play | Drumming | Bungees | Construction | Scrap Adventure | Woodwork Adventure | Samba Band | Inflatable | Games | Chair'Planes | Ringworld

Pennyquick Park, Newton Road Bath BA2 1RW

Limited Parking

Please walk, cycle or take a bus if you can



Activities

- Play Days: Messy, Sensory, Creative play; Bouncy castle, and Football.
- Play Out Wild: Nature-based play, Den building, rope activities, and mud play.



A campaign led by Play England
Reg Charity # 1013897



WHILST THESE ARE FREE WE REALLY APPRECIATE DONATIONS OF £2/3 PER CHILD PER DAY



www.bapp.org.uk | Call Us (01225) 832479

Bath Area Play Project

FAMILY Playdays 2024

12-3 pm

24TH JULY - 15TH AUGUST

Inclusive & SEND Friendly

We are very Grateful for Financial Support From Town & Parish Councils & The Ludlow Trust

Families with children aged 5 to 11 years (younger ones welcome!)

Team Games



Construction Fun



Play is the best way to learn and discover new things!



Inflatables



Messy & Creative Play



Play Out Wild

JOIN IN A SUMMER OF FUN FOR CHILDREN & PARENTS

- Active games
- Messy & Sensory Play
- Imaginative & Creative
- Den Building
- Construction
- Clay
- Football Coaches
- Inflatables
- Waterslide
- Smoothies
- and Much More!

Playdays are "More Fun Than the Whole of Summer!"
Come & have fun together with the fantastic BAPP Playworkers!



Bath Area Play Project

www.bapp.org.uk | Call Us (01225) 832479

FREE family cycle training

This Summer B&NES Council is pleased to offer free family cycle training in Midsomer Norton at Free Rangers Forest School Nursery.

This one to one course is designed to instruct the lead family member how to shepherd the group with road safety tactics. It also aims to improve children's cycle skills and road awareness while having fun with parents! The first hour will introduce basic cycle skills and will take place under a barn. Then, the group will have activities on a cycle lane and carefully selected local junctions under guidance of our instructor.



There is no minimum age but to attend this course, all riders must be able to ride a bike (set off, pedal, slow down and stop). If required, we can offer **bike & helmet loans free of charge.**



To see available dates and book a space,
scan the QR code or email: bikeability@bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



The Summer Reading Adventure



Get involved in our
FREE event



Ask me
now for
more
details



[Facebook- Poppets Summer Reading](#)

Bath & North East Somerset Libraries

WRITING COMPETITION

100 Years Writing Competition

To celebrate our 100-year anniversary, we're launching a Centenary Writing Competition!

The competition theme is 'One Hundred Years.'



Who Can Take Part?

The competition has three categories. Children up to the age of 11 years, 12-17 years, and adults.

Prizes include a £20 Mr B's Book Token, with runner up prizes of up to £10 in Book Tokens.

Word Count

There is no minimum, but a maximum of 2,500 words.

The competition runs from 3 June – 31 August 2024.

For full details visit:

<https://baneslibraries.co.uk/100-years-writing-competition/>

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



Scan for more info

PADDLESPORTS

On The River Avon



BATH
Schools
Discount
20% OFF
Use Discount Code
BATHSCHOOLS20

CANOE, KAYAK & PADDLEBOARD HIRE

Opening Hours:
Jul 26th - 1st Sep 2024
11.00 - 17:00 Fri - Sun

To find out more and to book, visit
livefreeadventures.co.uk

Discover our boathouse beneath the globally renowned Dundas Aqueduct, Monkton Combe. Located just a 5-minute journey from the heart of Bath. We provide an easily accessible escape into nature. Regardless of whether you're a seasoned water sports enthusiast or a curious beginner, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more picturesque setting.



8x1111

Family Holiday Activities

at Wells Cathedral

August Art Adventures

From giant nests to super-sized seeds, graffiti to guardian angels, be inspired by the Wells Art Contemporary (WAC) exhibition in the Cathedral this summer with our creative workshops for families:

Seeds of 2024 – Thursday 8 and Monday 19 August

Model a seed from clay and make an origami seed packet

Nest – Friday 9 August

Make a nest for a toy or a home for bees

Peaceful Space – Tuesday 13 August

Design and create with textiles

I Was Here – Wednesday 14 and 28 August

Use different techniques to record your graffiti ideas

Corpus – Tuesday 20 August

Explore symmetry through collage and printing

Guardian Angels – Tuesday 27 August

Make your own collage or peg angel to take home

Pick up a trail and explore WAC's exciting exhibition throughout August, with large installations and a gallery show in the Cloisters!



Sessions in Wells Cathedral Education Room

10.00–12.00 and 13.00–15.00

Admission: FREE with adult entry; no need to book— just turn up on the day! NB. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult, and only assistance dogs are allowed at our family activities.

EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER



Free Healthy Family Courses

Wellbeing Service B&NES



For families of children and young people aged 5-17, who are above a healthy weight*

1-1 support in person or via video call. Sessions run throughout the year.

Lots of fun & exciting local activity opportunities for young people and their families to choose from.



FREE 5 week cooking course for families of children and young people 0-17 years

Virtual or in person courses, discover how to make easy, healthy recipes and learn new cooking skills

Dates:
Upcoming dates in September TBC



HENRY Healthy Families: Right From The Start

8 week course along with a creche

Everything you need to help your little one get off to a great healthy and happy start. Includes topics; Parenting strategies, nutrition, child development, food labelling, portion size, sleep, and emotional wellbeing

For parents and carers of children aged 0 to 5 years. Available virtually or in person.

Dates: Keynsham- Tue 1st October- 26th Nov, 9.30am-12pm

Online- Thursday 3rd Oct- 29th Nov, 1-2pm

HENRY Fussy Eaters Workshop

Online workshop

Support for parents of under 5's to understand fussy and selective eating and encourage your child to try new foods- and enjoy them!

Dates: 12 Sep: 7.45-9.15pm
14 Nov: 7.45-9.15pm

HENRY Eating Well for Less Workshop

Online workshop

Top tips will help you keep to a budget and help the whole family eat more healthily- healthy choices don't need to be expensive choices

Dates: 10 Oct: 7.30-9pm
5 Dec: 7.30-9pm

HENRY Starting Solids Workshop

Online workshop

Introducing solid foods at 6 months- What foods to start with and how to make it enjoyable!

Dates: 26 Sep: 10-11.15am
20 Nov: 1-2.15pm



To book contact the Community Wellbeing Hub:

t: 0300 247 0050

e: BATHNES.thehub@hcrqcaregroup.com

w: bathneshealthandcare.nhs.uk/childrenshealthyweight/

*Referral criteria apply