



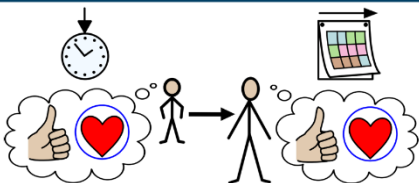
Newsletter



Spring

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"What does a good life look like for me now and in the future"



Message



from



Swavek

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent parent survey. Your voice really matters, and your feedback plays an important role in shaping our school now and in the months ahead. The survey has now closed, and we will analyse the responses after half term. We will share the outcomes with you in the next newsletter.

Your feedback comes at an important time for the school. We have recently changed how we plan and write our School Development Plan so that it now runs from April to April, aligning with our financial year. This means we are currently writing our plan for the next 12 months, and your views will directly inform our priorities, highlighting both our strengths and areas we want to develop further.

You may be aware that, since December 2025, schools have been inspected under a new Ofsted framework, with a new toolkit and report card. Although our next inspection is still some time away, we have already begun preparing. The new framework is more demanding, and early feedback from schools inspected under it suggests that it is challenging to demonstrate the highest outcomes. That said, the time we have before our next inspection gives us a valuable opportunity to refine our systems, review our practice, and align our self-evaluation and school development planning with the new expectations. Senior leaders and governors are working closely together on this, and we will keep you updated as this work progresses.

Over the past two years, we have introduced three half-days per year at the end of each first half-term to support staff training and development. This reflects the increasing level of mandatory training required in special schools, which cannot be fully met within the five allocated INSET days. From the 2026–2027 academic year, we plan to increase this to six half-days per year, one at the end of each half-term and end of term. On these days, school will remain open until 12:30 pm, with transport arrangements coordinated directly with providers, as is currently the case. Children will have an early lunch, and arrangements will remain the same as for our existing half days.

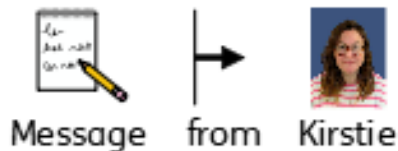
As you know, Fiveways continues to grow. In September, we will welcome 106 pupils, an increase of 6 children overall. Demand for specialist provision remains very high, and we receive around 150 consultations each year, with approximately 6-7 places becoming available. Increasing our capacity allows us to support more children and families who need specialist provision. As part of this growth, we will be opening a new class in September 2026. This does not change the designation or profile of the school; it simply allows us to increase capacity and maintain appropriate staffing ratios across classes. We will be

advertising for an additional teacher and support staff, and we will share updates with you once appointments are made.

We are also awaiting the publication of the national SEND reforms and White Paper, which will set future direction. When this is published, we know many of you will have questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything you would like to discuss or clarify.

As we come to the end of this half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. I wish you, your children, and your families a restful and enjoyable break, with time to spend together.

With my very best wishes, on behalf of everyone at Fiveways and the governing body,
Swavek



Hello everyone,
I wanted to take a moment to share some helpful updates from the Somerset SEND Local Offer that complement the work we already do together at Fiveways to support our pupils.

Somerset has recently refreshed the Local Offer so that information is kept continuously up to date, which means families can now access the latest SEND developments and guidance throughout the year, helping you stay informed whenever you need it.

One of the most useful areas for families is the updated guidance on EHCP Annual Reviews. The website explains that an Annual Review isn't just the meeting that we hold together in school—it's a full process that happens at least every 12 months to reflect on how your child is progressing and whether the plan continues to meet their needs. It also sets out what schools, families, and the Local Authority each do at different stages of the review, and the timescales the Local Authority follows once a review is completed.

At Fiveways, we are committed to making Annual Reviews positive, child-centred, and meaningful, and these updates from Somerset help to strengthen that shared understanding. They provide clear expectations and accessible information that can support the conversations we have together.

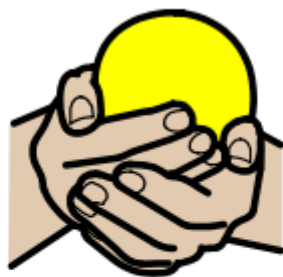
The Local Offer also includes improved signposting to the wider range of support available for children with SEND in Somerset, helping families easily explore services that might complement the support your child receives in school.

You can explore all of this on the Local Offer website:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/>

Kirstie Kerr

SENCo



Safeguarding



Safeguarding children and young people through the school holidays

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the steps that people take to protect children and vulnerable people from harm.

How can you help?

If you ever see anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, please contact **Somerset Direct (Social Care) – 0300 123 2224** or if you feel a child/young person is in **immediate danger (Emergency services) – 999**.

You are not causing problems. It may save a child from harm. It is important to share concerns so the right services can support if necessary.

For all other safeguarding enquiries during the school holidays please email - DSL@fiveways.school Your email will be picked up by one of our team.

If you have any queries, questions, comments...
or just need a brew and a chat ☺ please contact -

Chloe Baker

Safeguarding & Attendance Officer

Tel: 01935 476227

Mob: 07557 671013

Email: cbaker@fiveways.school

Working days: Tues, Wed, Thurs. Term time only.

Thank you for your continued support.



Parent



Training

Behaviour De-Escalation Training

Date: Monday 9th March

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Location: Fiveways School, Top Room of the Sports Hall

Aims:

Understanding reasons for dysregulation

Begin developing a plan to support restoration

Understand the principles of unconscious responses by the body

Consider calming activities for ourselves and our children

To best prepare for the day, please share with the school office if you plan to attend this training.



Calendar



Dates

Friday 13th February – Half Day, school finishes at 12:30

14th February -25th February– Half term holiday

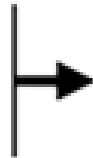
Monday 26th February – Back to school

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Friday 20th March – Comic Relief Red Nose Day and World Down Syndrome Odd Socks day. Any donations will be split between the 2 charities.



Message



from

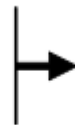


FoFSA

Due to the amazing success of our colour raffle prizes at Christmas, we are hoping to have your support to do it again for our Easter raffle. More information will be sent home soon.



Message



from



Kayleigh

Coffee Morning

Thursday 12th February
9.30am
Fiveways training centre

Need support with ensuring your child's device has the right settings in place to keep them safe online?
Bring a device along and our in house IT guru Michael will be on hand at this session to support with any technical queries, advice and support.

Everyone welcome
Refreshments provided
Optional e-safety quiz included!

Kayleigh – PFSA - KDorricott@fiveways.school



Class



News

Gems



Gems class have really shown a growing understanding of routines, they have been interested in their own learning and wanting to interact with their peers. We are so proud of how far they have come in the first half of this school year!

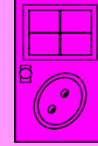
This term's topic is Transport. We have made planes and boats in Art, danced around like different modes of transport in PE, been reading our sensory story 'We All Go Travelling By' and made vehicle shaped biscuits in cooking. We had a fantastic Transport themed Numeracy Day, where we went on a transport hunt (learning directions), decorated a box to make it look like a car (colours) and counted parts of cars (number). We have also been working on naming our emotions, learning about different hygiene routines and been listening, making music and dressing up to the theme of Spy Soundtracks.

In swimming everyone has gained so much confidence, and it is wonderful to see more independence and more gross motor movements in the water.

Well done Gems you have all been amazing!



Buttons



We have had lots of exciting activities this half term in Buttons to coincide with our Transport topic. We have been making vehicle-shaped biscuits in cooking; exploring transport sounds in the sensory story 'We all go travelling by,' in literacy; and using trains to help us to count in numeracy.

On Friday 30th January we had two Olympians join us for a sponsored relay. Everyone joined in and enjoyed exploring the ribbons, rockets and beanbags.

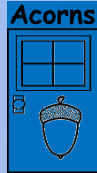




Class



News



Acorns have been thoroughly enjoying our **Transport** topic this half term! In cooking, we had great fun making transport-shaped biscuits. In art, the children explored creating both 2D and 3D transport models using a variety of materials.

We also had an exciting transport-themed numeracy day, where Acorns explored transport playdough, built buses from large cardboard boxes, made our very own car wash with lots of bubbles! And discovered numbers through our sensory transport story.

Well done, Acorns — what a fantastic half term we've had! 🚗 🚚 🚢



Shells have had a fantastic start to the year! They have enjoyed making transport biscuits in cookery. We have also been learning about helping around the house to increase our independence skills.

During art the children enjoyed making lots of different transport models and pictures such as trains, cars, buses and boats.

We also participated in a sponsored circuit session with a para-Olympian and an Olympian.

The children have continued to enjoy PE which has been dance this half term.



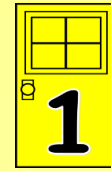
Pebbles



This half term in Pebbles, we have been exploring the activities during Numeracy Day, enjoying meeting and exercising with Paralympians, had fun making biscuits in cookery and learning more about the different modes of transport.



Class 1



This term in Art Class 1 has been learning about contrast, depth and tone. We have explored this by creating a variety of black and white art; we have used masking tape, split pins, chalks and paints to create our art.

We also had a fantastic time meeting and being sporty with the Olympic visitors.



This half term in Class 2 we have been getting out and about, building on our accessing the community skills by going out to the shops on the bus to explore our local area and shops which are further from school (e.g. Morrisons). This has also helped us explore our AQA topic which has been Personal Hygiene as we have been able to choose which soaps, lotions and loofas we like when in the shops.

On top of getting off site we have also been exploring our termly topic of Space (the final frontier) through our sensory stories, PE, art and numeracy. Exploring space in our sensory story, training to visit space in PE, making different sensory planets in art and laughing at whizzy rockets in our numeracy.

We hope that you all have a wonderful half term.

Class 2.





Class 3



This term Class 3 have been very busy! We've been exploring all things personal care for our AQA accreditation. The children really enjoyed our role play dentist and checking their teeth in the mirror.

The children also had a fantastic time with our Olympic fundraiser, joining in with relay races and games.



Class 4



As part of learning for life and cooking the pupils have really liked making cheese and ham toasties this half term and found them very tasty once cooked!

Our artwork has been based on space, and we have enjoyed making planets using different materials and the night sky full of stars.

The numeracy day was a big hit, especially the sensory circuit based around prepositional language.

Finally, the visit from the Olympian was a real treat and there was lots of fun completing the P.E activities.





Class 5



This term has been full of exciting learning experiences for our students! In literacy, they explored different planets, building their reading and writing skills through space-themed activities. On Numeracy Day, everyone enjoyed a visit to the School Space Café, where maths and money came to life in a fun and engaging way. We were also thrilled to welcome an Olympian and Paralympian visitors, who helped student's complete circuits and stay active while learning about teamwork and perseverance.

It's been a fantastic mix of learning, creativity, and movement!



6th Form



This ½ term has seen learners in 6th form start new AQA topics related to caring for the environment. Learners have started an enterprise activity where they have been upcycling large plastic drink bottles and tin cans into planters. Having removed the labels, washed them and then sanded the bottles, learners have started to paint them. We are hoping to decorate them in the coming weeks and then plant them with tomatoes and strawberries.



As well as upcycling learners have been learning about looking after birds, so have been exploring different foods that we can feed them like mealworms, suet, seeds and fat balls. Learners have also made bird feed using fir cones and orange halves, which they will hang in the woodland walk.



Activity Calendar
Community Inclusion and Activity Team
Half Term Holidays
Mon 16 - Fri 20 February

Somerset Council

OUTSIDE A GIRAFFE

For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

The graphic features a blue background with white clouds, a yellow sun, and a snowflake. It includes several photographs of children interacting with animals: a bear, a dog, a giraffe, and a sheep. A snowman is positioned at the bottom left, and a tree is in the center. The Somerset Council logo is in the top right corner.