# Ditcheat Primary School

*Inspiring a Love of Learning for Life*

Thursday 22nd October

Dear Parents/ Carers

Autumn now feels well on its way, with the temperatures finally dropping and rainfall, which we are not used to any more! We had our first wet play this week in months and the children loved the novelty of being inside and playing games; its good to see the old-fashioned board games are still popular. The Harvest festival was enjoyed by the children in church and it was lovely to have such a great turnout of parents. Thank you for all your generous food donations – please see the thank you letter below from the local food bank. Well done to Jack and CeCe's mum, Sara for transporting it all to the food bank for us. At our Harvest celebration, we were proud to present Mrs Cox a special certificate for 27 years of continuous years in education in Somerset – quite an achievement and we hope she can clock up many more years to come! This was delivered from Somerset County Council with a gift. Willow class also enjoyed getting their responsibility badges for Eco team, Wellbeing champions, Librarians, ICT monitors and School Council – all valued jobs in our school – they proudly line their badges up on their ties.

The Colour run was a huge success, at the end of September, while the weather was still warm and sunny. Aimee and Fods did a great job organising the event, sponsored by Roderick Thomas estate agents and they raised
over £1200 for FODS. The children loved the excitement of getting covered in coloured paint, being cheered on by family and tasty refreshments afterwards. Continuing the running theme, the cross-country runners did well at Millfield with the biggest ever Ditcheat team. The next run is at Downside, details to follow. We are excited that Fods are ordering a new running kit so hopefully available soon.

Year 2 enjoyed their annual sports festival at Ansford this week, held in the big sports hall and assisted by Year 10 and 11 lead PE pupils. Year 5 have a dance festival after half term. Ansford host many sports events through the year for Ditcheat and other local primary schools to get involved with. Mr Musson ( HT) came to school and took assembly on Monday, when he and two pupils spoke about their school. Did you know Ansford is unique with under 500 pupils and has a dog and goats! Year 6 are already visiting secondary schools and making choices for next year; the time in Primary school whizzes by.

Year 6 have visited Wells this week for the annual Wells Literacy Festival and attended an author talk in the Cedar Hall by Helen Rutter. They were able to buy signed copies of the books and ask questions. The theatre was full with over 150 Primary pupils from the local area. The Literacy Festival host school events over several days and really work hard to support the love of reading in local Somerset Schools. Our popular book club is supported by the group, who buy the books for the children to keep; they also visit and ask the children about the book. They also host a visit to Wells bookshop for some children to experience choosing and buying their own book. With reading in mind, well done to the huge number of children who completed the Summer Reading challenge in the Summer holidays. Remember all the libraries are open over half term so do go and visit and choose a different book – there are lots of Halloween activities going on for the children to do- a great rainy day trip.

Thank you to the parents who came along to the coffee morning open morning today. We welcomed lots of new families who were interested in Ditcheat School as a Reception choice for September 2027. Year 6 did a wonderful job of showing the families around and were a credit to our school. We have another open day on Friday November 20th so do tell your friends – Ditcheat School is a little tucked away and we can't keep it a secret!

The staff would like to wish all our families an enjoyable Autumn half term break. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday 1 st November, ready for the half term up to Christmas!

Best wishes,
**Mrs Cosser and Mrs Bisset**

# FoDs Colour Run 2026





A great afternoon in the September sunshine, lots of colour and Fods raised over £1200, thank you for your support.













Wellbeing Tip
Autumn Treasure-
Autumn is a great time for getting out in the fresh air for a walk
Can you find any treasure hidden under the fallen trees?
Conkers, acorns or pinecones



Cross Country – well done to the team who ran so well at Millfield.
Next venue Downside School after half term.









Willow Class Dance Workshop =Octagon theatre









## Castle Cary Children's Carnival

Carnival club dressed up and paraded round Castle Cary Town in costume. Well done for an overall 2nd place and 1st prize for Props. Theme- Hubble Bubble.









Well done to everyone that completed this year's library's summer reading challenge




## Year 2 Ansford Sports Festival







Willow Class Wells Literature Festival

Willow class were invited to the Cedar Hall in Wells to hear Helen Rutter (author) speak about her life and books. There was a chance for them to buy her books at a reduced price and get them signed in person.
Wells Literacy Festival supports local schools with author visits and with our weekly book club in KS2. The children then walked to the Bishops Palace for lunch and some exploring before getting back to school.









Mrs Cox  27 years of service

Congratulations to Mrs Cox for receiving a special certificate of appreciation for 27 years of continuous service for Somerset County Council, in Education. Ditcheat school is her favourite school to work in!



Earrings

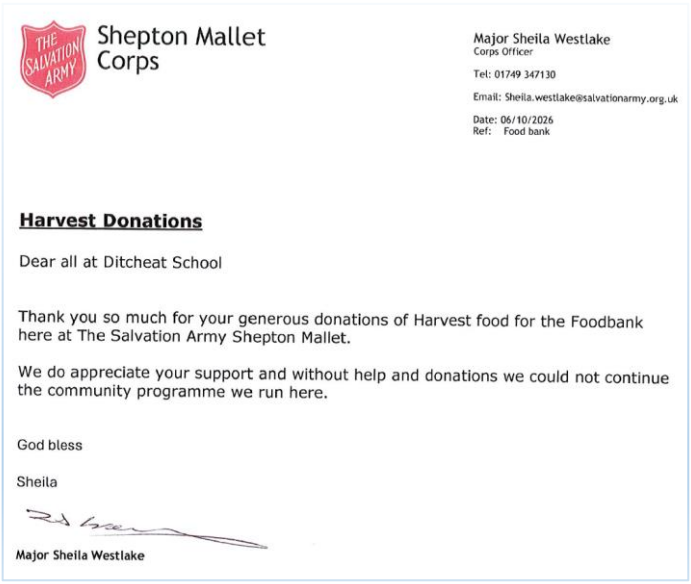
There are changes to the national advice on earrings in PE. It states that:

- All jewellery, including earrings, should be removed before PE and sporting activities and that taping earrings is not recommended because it does not remove the underlying risk of injury.
- Staff should not remove or replace earrings for pupils.

  As a result of this new guidance, please can parents remove earrings on PE days-this will also prevent earrings from being lost.




Harvest Festival- Thank you



Shepton Mallet Corps

Major Sheila Westlake
Corps Officer
Tel: 01749 347130
Email: Sheila.westlake@salvationarmy.org.uk
Date: 06/10/2026
Ref: Food bank

**Harvest Donations**

Dear all at Ditcheat School

Thank you so much for your generous donations of Harvest food for the Foodbank here at The Salvation Army Shepton Mallet.

We do appreciate your support and without help and donations we could not continue the community programme we run here.

God bless

Sheila

Major Sheila Westlake

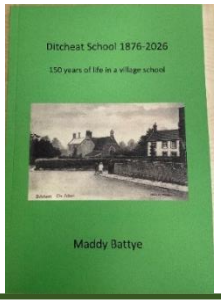
Advise for separated and divorced couples, courses available:

https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/support_for_separated_parents

Parent wise up Workshops

https://somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/

Maddy Battye has written a fabulous book all about the 150 year history of Ditcheat Primary School. Copies are available to buy for £9.99 from the school office, all the profits will be going to FoDs.










Online Safety Information see this link for parents:



https://www.childnet.com/resources/parent-and-carer-toolkit/

Three resources that offer practical tips and advice on different aspects of keeping your child safe online.

Abbey Farm Drive next to school
Please do not walk down Abby Farm drive to get to and from school. This is a private drive way.
Thank you






Please remember to book your lunches on Scopay ready for the start of term
Thank you

DITCHEAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

inspiring a love of learning for life





*"Pupils feel a sense of belonging at this nurturing place to learn"-Ofsted 2026*

## Open Mornings 22nd October 9.15-11.00am

## 20th November 9.15-11.00am

At Ditcheat Primary School your children will be part of a learning environment which offer:

- ✓ Ofsted rated expected in all areas (January 2026)
- ✓ Part of the village community
- ✓ Family feel
- ✓ Weekly outdoor learning/forest school
- ✓ Before and after school wrap-around care
- ✓ Specialist PE provision and competitive sports
- ✓ Rich, varied, exciting and engaging curriculum
- ✓ Regular trips, visits and real-life learning
- ✓ Part of the East Somerset Federation
- ✓ Specialist ICT equipment and 3D printer
- ✓ Whole class music and individual music lessons

Please see our website or contact us for more information

**01749 860329**

**ditcheatoffice@eastsomersetfederation.co.uk**

**www.ditcheatprimary.co.uk**





