

Head Teacher:
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18 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Wednesday was a busy day, we had Katie from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in to do workshops with the children about understanding their emotions which the children enjoyed, and the teachers felt were very useful for the children. Kite class then spent the afternoon at the church as part of their RE, doing a treasure hunt to learn all about different parts of the church and what they mean. Mrs Pengelly certainly enjoyed doing her research for this session and the children spotted things they have never seen before like an owl on the rood screen. Harrier class had a visit from Rev Andy on Thursday, again as part of their RE, he was helping them understand about links between science and Christianity. Lots of discussion went on in this session. Cygnet class had a dry welly walk for once and enjoyed splashing in the many puddles there are around.

Today we all had a visit from Chris Sperring, a naturalist and owl expert, some of you may know of him from BBC Autumn/Spring watch. He is talking to the classes about owls and how to recognise each one. We are hoping that families can then take part in a local owl survey that is happening in the village to try to plot where and what type of owls live here. This will be followed by a session in January making owl boxes in the village hall. There is a separate letter coming out about all of this from the Village Environment group.

Children can use the following link to watch the Somerset Live Barn Owl Camera [Barn Owl Cam Live - Somerset \(hawkandowltrust.org\)](http://hawkandowltrust.org)

The School Council have had a busy week. Some of them spoke to the rest of the school about two possible charities to support this year. Evie Mae and Bea put forward The Leprosy Mission, something they had been learning about in RE and Betty put forward WWF, a charity she supports. They all did an amazing job of talking about their charity and answered some very hard questions from the audience. The children have chosen WWF. The School Council will now begin to organise an event each term to raise money for WWF. They have also been organising weekly litter picking around school and pictures to brighten up the toilets.

Following on from the children's workshops all parents are invited on Monday (21st October) to a session on Developing Emotion Coaching with Katie from the MHST. We are running 2 sessions one at 3.30pm and another at 5pm as I believe

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it is so important that all parents attend these sessions. I will be running a creche for your children, so childcare will not be an issue.

School Lunches

Please can you keep a copy of your child's menu so that you know if and when they are having a school lunch and can let them know what it is. Please also talk to them about their choices and if you find that they don't like a particular choice, let us know as soon as possible and we can change it to a different option (we do need a week's notice). It is important they don't come up for a lunch if it hasn't been ordered as this means that we don't have enough for the other children. Please check your menu each day to see if you ordered a lunch or not. Thank you.

Attendance update

You may be aware that there is a huge government drive to improve school attendance following the fall of this after lockdown. There is new statutory guidance which we have to follow, [here is a link](#), should you wish to take a look! As a school we have had to re-write our attendance policy (attached to this letter and on the school website – [link here](#))

'The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.'

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly, on time. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.'

Children missing time in school really does impact their learning whether this is due to lateness or absence. We understand that at times children are too ill for school but they can attend with a cold, sore throat or cough, further guidance can be found at [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#)

If your child is not in school you need to contact the school daily whilst they are not in.

Please take time to read this policy

PTFA UPDATES

Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools

We have now raised over £100 through the Asda Rewards app! Thank you to everyone who continues to support this initiative.

School Lottery

Thank you to everyone who has joined our school lottery! We have had our first two

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draws, and winners and we have already started raising money for our school. The lottery is drawn each Saturday and you can join at any time - Just visit www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for 'Long Sutton Primary'. It's super easy to buy a ticket and you can join at any time!

The Punkie Party - TICKETS ON SALE NOW

There's just 1 week to go until this years Punkie Party on Saturday 26th October from 4-7pm at Long Sutton Village Hall! Buy your tickets online now at www.pta-events.co.uk/longsuttonprimary. Tell your friends, family & neighbours, the whole community are welcome!

Wreath Making - TICKETS ON SALE NOW

There's only a 5 tickets left for this year's Wreath Making Workshop on Friday 6th December. Early bird tickets are £35 until 31st October (£40 after this date) and available to buy on our website.

Contacting Teachers:

Please can this be done through using the enquiries@longsuttonprimary.co.uk email. Teachers will get back to you with 48 hours but may not be able to response immediately due to teaching and training commitments. If you need/wish to meet with them, you can call the office to make an appointment or talk to them on the playground at the end of the day. Remember that when you do speak or contact them that you need to be polite and respectful at all times. Think what you say and how this might impact the teacher, whatever your concerns they can be shared politely and sensitively.

Tuning into Kids

We have sent out a letter about the from MHST, please do read this and respond about what you want as this will form the basis of this for next term. Or click on these QR codes.

Tuning into Kids



Tuning into Teens



Guitar Lesson

We still have spaces if any children in KS2 would like to have weekly guitar lessons. Contact the office for more information.

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The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of free helpful webinars this Autumn.

- Supporting your child's mental health & wellbeing
- Supporting your child's big feelings
- Understanding & supporting anxiety & low mood



Find out more & register here:
<https://bit.ly/mhstwebinars2024>

FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

IN THIS 1 HOUR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP HOSTED BY SOMERSET'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM, WE WILL EXPLORE...

- What mental health is and the importance of good mental health for children and young people.
- How to identify the early warning signs of poor mental health.
- A range of strategies to support your child's emotional and mental wellbeing.
- Where and how to get more support if needed.

WHEN?
 10:00 - 11:00 7th August 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 17:30 - 18:30 15th August 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 10:00-11:00 10th October 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 17:30-18:30 23rd October 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 13:00-14:00 7th November 2024 | [Register here](#)

Workshops are open to any parent/carer in Somerset. You will just need to provide the name of your child's school on registration.

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FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S BIG FEELINGS: AN EMOTION COACHING APPROACH

IN THIS 1 HOUR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP HOSTED BY SOMERSET'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM, WE WILL EXPLORE...

- How to support your child's and teen's feelings in the moment and for the future.
- You will go away with a range of strategies (including emotion coaching) to boost your child's, and your own, emotional resilience.

WHEN?
 14:00 - 15:00 7th August 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 17:30 - 18:30 21st August 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 10:00-11:00 3rd October 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 17:30-18:30 7th November 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 13:30-14:30 3rd December 2024 | [Register here](#)

Workshops are open to any parent/carer in Somerset. You will just need to provide the name of your child's school on registration.

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FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

UNDERSTANDING & SUPPORTING ANXIETY & LOW MOOD

IN THIS 1 HOUR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP HOSTED BY SOMERSET'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM, WE WILL EXPLORE...

- Why young people may struggle with anxiety & low mood.
- How to recognise anxiety & low mood in children.
- A range of strategies to support with anxiety & low mood.
- How and when to seek further support.

WHEN?
 13:30-14:30 26th September 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 17:30-18:30 16th October 2024 | [Register here](#)
 or
 10:00-11:00 4th December 2024 | [Register here](#)

Workshops are open to any parent/carer in Somerset. You will just need to provide the name of your child's school on registration.

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Apply now for your child's 2025 school place

Somerset parents and carers of children due to start school or move on to their next school in September 2025 are being urged to apply for their place online and on time. Somerset parents and carers of children due to start school or move on to their next school in September 2025 are being urged to apply for their place online and on time.

Parents and carers of children due to transfer to Secondary or Upper School can apply for places for their children from now until 31 October 2024. Please visit:

[Starting at a secondary or upper school in September \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk)

Parents and carers of children due to start school for the first time or transfer to Junior or Middle School can apply for places for their children from 30 September 2024 until 15 January 2025. Please visit:

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[Apply to start school for the first time \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk)

There is also information on these pages from [Somerset's SEND Local Offer](#) on Starting school or changing schools if your child has an Education Health and Care Plan: [Education, Health and Care plans and school placements \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

Parents and carers are advised to read the Primary or Secondary Admissions Guides before making an application. The guides can be accessed at:

[Primary admissions guide \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

[Secondary admissions guide \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

In helping children get ready to start school, parents and carers can find advice on school readiness at www.cypsomersethealth.org

Any parent who does not have online access can telephone the Somerset Council customer contact number on 0300 123 2224.

The webpage www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions holds a wealth of related information including a directory of schools, catchment areas and admissions policies.

Attendance – Unauthorised Term-Time Leave

All children have a legal right to suitable, full-time education. There is no entitlement for children to have time off from school during term-time for the purposes of a holiday, recreational or protest activity.

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 set out the statutory requirements for schools:

- all references to family holidays and extended leave have been removed, including the removal of the H code for approved leave,
- headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are "exceptional circumstances",
- headteachers do not have any discretion to authorise up to ten days of absence each academic year.

We expect all pupils to attend regularly. As such, any requests for term-time leave will be considered but only approved if the reasons and circumstances for that leave are exceptional and unavoidable.

[See policy for more details.](#)

Is my child too ill for school?

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. Further guidance can be found here - [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#)

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Article 28 The right to education

Children and young people said:


- School is a place where we access support and other services. It's a place which supports our physical, emotional and mental health.
- Health services and schools should work together to help us with school attendance.

We are looking at improving the ways healthcare, education and other services for children and young people work together to better meet their needs:


- We would like to hear your views on healthcare related school absence and how our services could be improved
- If you would like to help, please scan the QR codes opposite for links to anonymously complete our surveys!

Please share your views on health-related school absence...

Scan for parent or carer questionnaire: Scan for young person's questionnaire:

RCPCH & Us Find out more... For useful links and tips on participation on children's rights go to www.rcpch.ac.uk/rightsmatter



Nut free school (inc. Toy Box)

We have multiple children in school at present with a nut allergy. Please do not give your child food/snacks to bring into school containing any type of nut or nut product, e.g. Nutella and Peanut Butter. Thank you for your support.

Dates for the diary

Parents Emotion Coaching Sessions	Monday 21 st October at 3.30pm and 5pm
KS2 Cross Country Hambridge	Monday 21 st October at 4pm
Inset Day	Friday 25 th October
Yr5/6 Sports Hall Athletics	Monday 04 th November at 4pm
Yr5/6 Football Tournament	Tuesday 12 th November at 2pm
Parents to Share Work – Kite Class	Monday 02 nd December at 3.15pm
Parents to Share Work – Cygnet Class	Tuesday 03 rd December at 3.15pm
Parents to Share Work – Harrier Class	Tuesday 03 rd December at 3.15pm
Parents to Share Work – Kingfisher Class	Wednesday 04 th December at 3.15pm
Parents Evening	Tuesday 10 th December 3.45pm - 6pm
Parents Evening	Wednesday 11 th December 3.45pm - 6pm
Nativity for Senior Citizens	Monday 16 th December
Cygnet Nativity – Matinee	Tuesday 17 th December at 2.30pm
Kingfisher Nativity – Evening	Tuesday 17 th December at 6.00pm
Kingfisher Nativity – Matinee	Wednesday 18 th December at 2.30pm
Cygnet Nativity – Evening	Wednesday 18 th December at 6.00pm
Carol Service	Thursday 19 th December at 2.30pm
Mufti Day	Friday 20 th December
Children's Christmas Fair	Friday 20 th December at 2.15pm
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 rd Dec – Mon 6 th Jan
Inset Day	Monday 6 th January
Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 7 th January

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Safeguarding (Protecting children from harm/keeping them safe)

In school we have a duty to ensure that all children are safe and protect from harm or abuse. If we have concerns about a child's wellbeing it is our duty to look into this, talk to the family, and if need be, report it to Somerset Direct.

If you have any concerns about your child, or another, please come and speak to me. Safeguarding is everyone's business and cannot be ignored. Somerset Direct (0300 123 2224) or the NSPCC are useful points of contact, should you wish to share or discuss any Safeguarding concerns you have.

Here are some useful websites recommended by our DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead – Lizzie Reynolds).

[SOMERSETDIRECT](#)

Best wishes
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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