

**Head Teacher:**  
Mrs E Reynolds



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24 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you and your children are looking forward to half term as much as we are, it has been a long term but it has been lovely to see the amazing progress the children have made already and how well our Reception children have settled in. Last night we were looking at the children's writing and the teachers were so proud to show off how well they are doing from the excellent vocab being using, to beautiful handwriting and lovely story ideas. I really enjoyed reading their work. Have a lovely half term and send the children back to us well refreshed!

The children really enjoyed their talk from Chris Sperring about Owls, and I know many are keen to take part in the survey. Some classes have enjoyed looking at the owl pellets Chris brought in and seeing what the owls have been eating. Some children have been out listening already and have reported back hearing owls locally too. I will be doing the owl survey on the school site on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30 for an hour and would love any of you and your children to join me for this time to listen for the owls and to report back to the village whatsapp group. Do remember that you can use the following link to watch the Somerset Live Barn Owl Camera  
[Barn Owl Cam Live - Somerset \(hawkandowltrust.org\)](http://Barn Owl Cam Live - Somerset (hawkandowltrust.org))

#### **Wish list:**

I am sorry to come begging to you, but we have a little bit of a wish list of basic things we would love donations of:

Cornflour, salt, flour, conditioner, food dye, balloons, multi-purpose compost, wadding/stuffing to make stuffed toys.

Cygnets are also after some old things for their mud kitchen:  
Old wooden spoons, sieves, colanders, plastic bowls.

We are also trying to make a sensory/soft room for children to use and would love any of the following (they do not need to be new):  
Bean bags, cushions, sparkly lights, fibre optic lamps, volcano lights etc.

If you are able to donate any of these things, please bring them to reception after half term. Many thanks it really does help.

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## **School Council Toy Drive**

The school council have decided to support our Parent Family Support Advisor in a 'Toy Drive'. They are asking children to choose a toy or book that can be gifted to a child who will not get presents at Christmas (the toys will be given to families within our locality who are struggling financially). Children should only bring in 1 thing, and it needs to be new/nearly new or good quality, suitable to give as a present. Please can these be brought in to school in the first week back only.

## **Emotion Coaching Sessions**

Thank you to the parents who attended these and I hope you found them useful. Following on from these, Katie, who ran them has sent me the two padlets below with lots of links that will be useful to you. I will also add these to the website.

[Parent & Carer Wellbeing Toolkit \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com/parent-carer-wellbeing-toolkit)

[Emotion Coaching & Family Support \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com/emotion-coaching-family-support)

## **PTFA UPDATES**

### **The Punkie Party - LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

The Punkie Party is this Saturday 26th October from 4-7pm at Long Sutton Village Hall! Buy your tickets online now at [www.pta-events.co.uk/longsuttonprimary](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/longsuttonprimary). Tell your friends, family & neighbours, the whole community are welcome!

### **Christmas Jumpers**

If you find any outgrown, good condition Christmas jumpers over half term, please consider donating them to the PTFA on 7/8th November. We will be holding a Christmas jumper sale on Friday 15th November!

### **Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools**

We have now raised over £110 through the Asda Rewards app! Thank you to everyone who continues to support this initiative - please remember to use the app every time you shop in Asda!

### **Contacting Teachers:**

Please can this be done through using the [enquiries@longsuttonprimary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@longsuttonprimary.co.uk) email. Teachers will get back to you with 48 hours but may not be able to respond 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.

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Tuning into Kids

To sign up:

<https://forms.office.com/e/EnSAUXcga>



Tuning into Teens

To sign up:

<https://forms.office.com/e/EnSAUXcgaQ>



### Guitar Lesson

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

### 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>



SOMERSET'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM ARE HOSTING A SERIES OF FREE PARENT & CARER WEBINARS

Click the link to find out more & register



**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. **1**



**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. **3**



**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. **4**

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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:

[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](https://www.somerset.gov.uk) on Starting school or changing schools if your child has an Education Health and Care Plan: [Education, Health and Care plans and school placements \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.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 \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk)

[Secondary admissions guide \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk)

In helping children get ready to start school, parents and carers can find advice on school readiness at [www.cypsomersethealth.org](http://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](https://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,

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- 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](#)

### 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 (Please note Cygnet parents to share work date change)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Inset Day                                | Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October               |
| Yr5/6 Sports Hall Athletics              | Monday 04 <sup>th</sup> November at 4pm       |
| Yr5/6 Football Tournament                | Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November at 2pm      |
| Parents to Share Work – Kite Class       | Monday 02 <sup>nd</sup> December at 3.15pm    |
| Parents to Share Work – Cygnet Class     | Monday 02 <sup>nd</sup> December at 3.15pm    |
| Parents to Share Work – Harrier Class    | Tuesday 03 <sup>rd</sup> December at 3.15pm   |
| Parents to Share Work – Kingfisher Class | Wednesday 04 <sup>th</sup> December at 3.15pm |

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Parents Evening  
Parents Evening  
Nativity for Senior Citizens  
Cygnet Nativity – Matinee  
Kingfisher Nativity – Evening  
Kingfisher Nativity – Matinee  
Cygnet Nativity – Evening  
Carol Service  
Mufti Day  
Children’s Christmas Fair  
Christmas Holiday  
Inset Day  
Start of Spring Term

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 3.45pm - 6pm  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 3.45pm - 6pm  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

### **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](http://SOMERSETDIRECT)

Best wishes  
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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