

Head Teacher:
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8 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

On Monday some of Year 5 and 6 took part in the CLP Sports Hall Athletics which they really enjoyed and threw themselves into whole heartedly. Mrs Janas enjoyed watching them working together and supporting each other. On Thursday Cygnet Class and Kingfisher Class participated in a Royal Ballet online lesson with schools from all around the country. The children listened intently and enjoyed watching the ballet. Joining in with parts of it as well as seeing all the behind the scenes work. Many now want to be lighting engineers or props makers, although it was the stage sword fighting that captured the most imaginations! Today Harrier and Kite Class have their first Badminton lesson with a specialist coach.

Do remember to take part in the village owl survey next Tuesday or Wednesday – I will be doing this on the school site on Wednesday 13th 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. Sign up to the whatsapp group Owlslongsutton - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IXncKJs0cAK2bcf3sM2Deo>

Next week is another busy one – It is Remembrance on Monday and the children will be taking part in 2 minutes silence at the War Memorial at 11am followed by a short service in the church. It is also Anti Bullying week and I would like to ask the children to wear odd socks on Tuesday.

Advanced warning – Monday 18th November at 3pm – class poetry performance in the hall, do please come and join us.

Many thanks to the children who have donated toys for the Toy Drive. These will really make a difference to some children this Christmas. Any further donations can be made on Monday.

Odd Socks Day – Tuesday 12th November

WHAT IS ODD SOCKS DAY? Odd Socks Day is part of Anti-Bullying Week! To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that children wear odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November. Last year over 13,000 schools took part in Odd Socks Day. Andy Day (CBeebies/ CBBC) and his band Andy and the Odd Socks are partnering

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with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help bring Odd Socks Day to life again this year. Have a listen to the brilliant song they have recorded especially for Anti-Bullying Week, 'Choose Respect'.

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT? The day sends an important message to pupils that they should be allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

Books for Sale for Children in Need

Daisy will be running her book stall for Children in Need again on Friday 15th November.

Wish list:

Thank you to those who have already donated. We now have plenty of stuffing for toys.

If anyone is getting rid of a buggy/push chair, we are in desperate need of one in school – if you had intended to sell it we could make a small donation but urgently need one for Welly walks. Speak to me on the gate if you want further information on this.

We would still love any of the following:

Cornflour, salt, flour, conditioner, food dye, balloons, multi-purpose compost.

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. Many thanks it really does help.

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 \(padlet.com\)](http://padlet.com)

[Emotion Coaching & Family Support \(padlet.com\)](http://padlet.com)

PTFA UPDATES

Christmas Jumper Sale - Friday 15th November

We will be holding a Christmas jumper sale on the school playground on Friday 15th November from 3.20pm. All jumpers will be £2 each. We will also have a small selection of handmade Christmas cards & accessories available.

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Santa's Grotto - Friday 20th December

As per our poster, that was sent out earlier this week, we've got some exciting news to share with you all... Santa is coming to our School Christmas Fair this year, on Friday 20th December!

Visit our magical Grotto for a meet & greet with Santa & his elves, receive a gift & certificate, & take the opportunity to have a photo too!

Booking is essential for this special occasion & there are limited spaces available.

Tickets will not be available on the day. Tickets are available for school pupils & their younger family members only.

Tickets are ON SALE NOW! Just click the link for full details & book your time slot! <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/longsuttonprimary/index.cfm>

Christmas Disco - Friday 6th December

The Christmas Disco is back again on Friday 6th December from 3.30 til 5.00pm.

Tickets are on sale now via the website. <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/longsuttonprimary/index.cfm>

You can easily buy grotto & disco tickets at the same time, so get organised now & ease the pressure in the run up to Christmas.

Guitar Lessons

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>



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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 19th 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.

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

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:

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- 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](#)

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.

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Dates for the diary

Odd Sock Day	Tuesday 12 th November
Yr5/6 Football Tournament	Tuesday 12 th November at 2pm
Poetry Performance	Monday 18 th November
Parents to Share Work – Kite Class	Monday 02 nd December at 3.15pm
Parents to Share Work – Cygnet Class	Monday 02 nd December at 3.15pm
Parents to Share Work – Harrier Class	Tuesday 03 rd December at 3.15pm
YR 4/5/6 Trip to Numatic	Wednesday 04 th December
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
Kite Class Trip – We The Curious	Wednesday 18 th December
Kingfisher Nativity – Matinee	Wednesday 18 th December at 2.30pm
Cygnet Nativity – Evening	Wednesday 18 th December at 6.00pm
School Christmas Lunch	Thursday 19 th December
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

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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