

Head Teacher:
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22 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of Anti Bullying week we have been focusing on Respect with the children. Tuesday saw a huge range of odd socks in school and we have had some lovely colourful socks brought in to display in the hall. The children have spent time thinking about respect and what bullying is this week. I am also attaching the parents pack for you to look at, [link here](#).

Please can I remind all parents to show respect to school staff. We understand you do sometimes get frustrated or upset about things but please keep calm and speak to staff respectfully. Thank you.


ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024:
'CHOOSE RESPECT'
CALL TO ACTION

From playgrounds to parliament, our homes to our phones, this Anti-Bullying Week let's 'Choose Respect' and bring an end to bullying which negatively impacts millions of young lives.

This year, we'll empower children and young people to not resort to bullying, even when we disagree and remind adults to lead by example, online and offline.

Imagine a world where respect and kindness thrives - it's not just a dream, it's in the choices we make. Join us this Anti-Bullying Week and commit to 'Choose Respect'. What will you choose?

CHOOSE RESPECT
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



On Monday the whole school went down to the War memorial for the 2 minutes silence commemorate Remembrance Day and then into church for a short service. We were joined by Rev Robin and it was a positive time to reflect and remember those who have fought for our country in the past and present.

On Tuesday our Football team took part in a South Somerset small schools football tournament. The children played well and worked together well. They had mixed results but it was a good day out for all. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Bowditch who took and coached them and to all the parents who supported them.

On Wednesday night I took part in the village owl survey. I was joined by one family and we had a lovely hour out around the school and rec listening for owls. We heard a

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Tawny owl and saw something large in a tree but it was too far away to categorically say it was an owl. It was a beautiful moonlit evening and a very enjoyable time. Other owls were recorded around the village too, mainly Barn owls.

After a meeting with the Mental Health Support Team, I have been asked if we would like to have another Tuning into Kids group run in school. If you would like to attend this brilliant course, please can you let me or the office know and which days/times would suit you. If we can, we will work around this. We do need 5 people to be interested to go ahead. We are thinking Spring or Summer term. Again, say which is best.

PE

As the weather gets colder, please make sure that your children have warm clothes for PE – joggers and a warm top (fleece or hoody). Please can these be navy blue or black. If your child does not want to wear bare feet in the hall, please make sure that they have a pair of indoor daps or trainers that never get worn outside, or special non-slip socks. Just a warning for Harrier & Kite class – the children will need mouthguards for PE in January.

Class Poetry Performance – Monday 18th November at 3pm – in the hall, do please come and join us.

Parents' Guide to Artificial Intelligence

You might have heard about Artificial Intelligence, but we know that Computers can't think. So, what exactly is AI, and how does it affect your family? Whether it's helping with homework, creating art, or answering questions, generative AI may already be a part of your children's lives. Common Sense Media have produced this new guide, which helps parents and carers understand generative AI and make good choices for their families.

It covers key information, such as:

What is Generative AI?

Uses and Examples

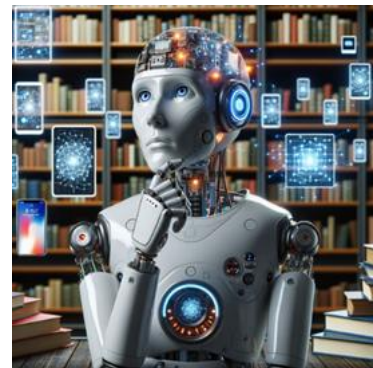
Good and Bad Points

Advice for Parents

Future of Generative AI

Read the full guide at:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-generative-ai>.



Wish list:

A huge thank you for the fantastic push chair we have been given, it had its first outing yesterday and was greatly appreciated!

We would still love any of the following:

Cornflour, conditioner, balloons, multi-purpose compost.

Cygnets are also after some old things for their mud kitchen:

Old wooden spoons, sieves, colanders, plastic bowls.

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If you are able to donate any of these things, please bring them to reception. Many thanks it really does help. Thank you to parents who have already donated.

PTFA UPDATES

Santa & the PTFA need your help!

Unfortunately customs won't allow Santa to bring some of his treasured items with him from the North Pole, so we've put together a little list of everything he needs for his grotto, & we'd be really grateful if you could help us find them.

- Fairy lights
- Good condition Christmas decorations
- Tinsel
- Christmas stockings

If you are able to donate or lend any of these items, or have something else that you think might be useful, please send us a message on Facebook, email lsprimarypta@gmail.com or speak to Chloe Austin in the playground. Thank you!

PTFA FESTIVE EVENTS - TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets for all of these events are ON SALE NOW! Just click the link below for full details & buy your tickets online!

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/longsuttonprimary/>

Christmas Disco ~ Friday 6th December ~ 3.30pm

For school pupils only
£3.00 per child

Wreath Workshop ~ Friday 6th December ~ 7.00pm

Open to the whole community
£40.00 per person (Just 1 space left!)

Santa's Grotto ~ Friday 20th December ~ From 2.20pm at the Christmas Fair

For school pupils & their younger family members £3.00 per child (plus booking fee)

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.

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- 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 13th 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

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.

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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](#)

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

Poetry Performance	Monday 18 th November at 3pm
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
Yr4/5/6 Badminton Tournament	Monday 02 nd December at 4pm
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

If you have concerns about your children’s well being or mental health please contact me (Lizzie Reynolds) as the schools Senior Mental Health Lead.

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://www.somersetdirect.co.uk)

Best wishes
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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