

Head Teacher:
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13 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

With Christmas fast approaching school has been full of Nativity rehearsals and carols this week. Thank you for attending Parents' Evening, I hope you enjoyed hearing about how well your children have been doing and found it a useful session. Last Friday was the PTFA Disco which the children really enjoyed, never my favourite activity but they do seem to love it! Thank you to the PTFA members who helped out. Very sadly the Panto, which was the PTFA's Christmas presents to the children, was cancelled at short notice on Wednesday due to illness and we are trying to rearrange this for the new year. It is lovely to see all the children in their Christmas jumpers today and having a run at the Santa Dash on the Rec.



Next week is a busy one with The Senior Citizen's Party on Monday where the older people in the village are invited to join us for an afternoon of Nativity, Carols and refreshments. We then have the two Nativity performances on Tuesday and Wednesday which I can't wait to see. Thursday is the school Christmas Lunch followed by the Carol Service at 2.30pm. Lastly, we finish with the Christmas Fair at 2.15pm on Friday, before closing the school and collapsing exhausted!

Christmas Fair

This will take place at **2.15pm** on Friday 20th December. There will be all the usual things: a cake stall, raffle, chocolate tombola, children's stalls, tea/coffee and hot chocolate etc. On top of this, this year we have the PTFA Santa's Grotto.

Donations for the fair – please can you bring any books or toys for the fair to the office next week. On Friday 20th Dec we ask the children to wear non-uniform and to donate either chocolate or cakes. Children in Cygnets please provide a homemade cake donation for the cake stall and Kingfisher, Kites and Harrier class please provide a donation of chocolate for the chocolate tombola.

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Parents are asked to come along at 2.15pm to the front door and then to go to their child's class to collect them. Children can only attend the fair with their parent or another adult that we have been told is responsible for them. If you arrive after 2.30pm, your children will be in Cygnet Class with Mrs Manzi who runs the creche. Kingfisher class will be in The Nest rather than the classroom for collection, due to refreshments being served in Kingfisher room.

PTFA UPDATES

Carol Singing in Long Sutton

Join us for some festive carol singing around the village this Christmas! Meet us in the village hall car park at 6.00pm this Saturday 14th December 2024. Tell your friends, family & neighbours... the more the merrier!

Santa's Grotto - Sold out

Tickets for Santa's Grotto have now sold out! Santa and his elves are looking forward to meeting you all at the Christmas Fair!

Guitar Lessons

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

Admissions Policy 2026/27 Consultation

This year we are consulting on our 2026/27 admission arrangements. We would like to add in a criteria about attending Toy Box. To view and comment on the arrangements please click here <https://sومersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/2026-arrangements> or visit the school website.

The consultation will end on 20 January 2025 and the final determined arrangements will be published on the school website by 15 March 2025.

Mental Health Support Team

Calling all Parents & Carers!

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of FREE helpful webinars over Spring 2025.

- Supporting your neurodivergent child
- Supporting exam and test wellbeing
- Helping your child to thrive: Boosting self-esteem & resilience
- Understanding and supporting anxiety and low mood
- Supporting your child's big feelings

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Find out more & register here: <https://bit.ly/mhstwebinarsspring2025>

SEN Workshops

Also attached to the Newsletter is information about the WISE Workshop booklet which shows all the workshops running this year. If any parents would like to book onto any there is a page that explains how in the booklet. I have also included the link to their website. These include workshops around Dyslexia, Autism, Sensory issues, Social Stories, Emotional Based School Avoidance, sleep etc. They are very good sessions; I recommend booking in on them.

[WISE Up Workshops](#)

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 \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

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:

- 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.

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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
The national children, young people and families

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

Nativity for Senior Citizens
 Cygnet Nativity – Matinee
 Kingfisher Nativity – Evening
 Kite Class Trip – We The Curious
 Kingfisher Nativity – Matinee
 Cygnet Nativity – Evening
 School Christmas Lunch
 Carol Service
 Mufti Day
 Children’s Christmas Fair

Monday 16th December
 Tuesday 17th December at 2.30pm
 Tuesday 17th December at 6.00pm
 Wednesday 18th December
 Wednesday 18th December at 2.30pm
 Wednesday 18th December at 6.00pm
 Thursday 19th December
 Thursday 19th December at 2.30pm
 Friday 20th December
 Friday 20th December at 2.15pm

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Christmas Holiday
Inset Day
Start of Spring Term

Monday 23rd Dec – Mon 6th Jan
Monday 6th January
Tuesday 7th 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](#)

Best wishes
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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