

Head Teacher:
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17 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a busy week this week. On Monday afternoon each class had a visit from the road safety team to help them understand how to stay safe on the roads. On Tuesday we had the postponed panto, which was the PTFA's Christmas present to the children. Jack and the Beanstalk went down a treat. The children had great fun, after getting over being too polite to shout 'He's behind you!' in the beginning. The costumes and scenery were some of the best the staff had seen. A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising this. Wednesday saw Y5/6 start their term of swimming at Huish pool and Thursday Kite and Kingfisher had a visit from Wessex Water linked to their science.

Christmas Fayre

A huge thank you to those who supported the Christmas Fayre, we raised a total of £679.42 which will be put towards resources for the children i.e. arts resources.

There is still time to book a place for the session **on Child Exploitation and County Lines by Escapeline** which is **Monday 20th January** at 3.30pm in Harrier class. It is for parents of any age child, and I will be running a creche for children so you can attend.

Snacks

Please can you make sure that your child's morning snack is a piece of fruit or vegetable not processed fruit e.g. fruit winders etc or snack bars.

FIRST AID TRAINING

The PTFA have organised a First Aid Training course, with spaces open to parents, carers & friends of the school.

Thursday 13th & Thursday 20th March 2025
From 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Long Sutton Primary School
£35.00pp
Training will be given by JaLee First Aid Training Ltd.

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Below are a few courses that some of you may find useful.

Tuning in to Kids – Tuning in to Kids teaches adults how to use an emotion coaching way of interacting with children. The program supports those in a parenting role to develop an emotional connection with the child that helps the child learn about emotions to foster their ability to understand and regulate emotions.

This will be run by Victoria Gould, our PFSA. This will be held at Hush Academy 9.30 – 11.30 on the dates below. If you wish to attend let me or the office know.

Thursday 27th February, Thursday 6th March, Thursday 13th March, Thursday 20th March, Thursday 27th March, Thursday 3rd April.

FREE bite-size workshops to help separated parents successfully coparent

These are free, online sessions which aim to help give parents practical tools they can use to help themselves, and their children cope better with their separation/divorce. There are 3 bite-size workshops focused on different topics, you are welcome to come to all 3 – there are 2 of each so you can both attend.

Date & time	Topic	Link
Wednesday 15 January 9:30 AM-10:30 AM	A separated parents' guide to successful coparenting communications	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073000546519?aff=oddtcreator
Wednesday 15 January 2 PM-3 PM	Managing handovers and transitions for separated parents	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073028389799?aff=oddtcreator
Tuesday 21 January 2 PM-3 PM	Helping your children navigate separation and divorce	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073078549829?aff=oddtcreator
Thursday 23 January 9:30 AM-10:30 AM	Managing handovers and transitions for	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073084758399?aff=oddtcreator

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	separated parents	
Wednesday 29 January 7 PM-8 PM	A separated parents' guide to successful coparenting communications	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073016704849?aff=oddtcreator
Tuesday 4 February 7 p.m.-8 PM	Helping your children navigate separation and divorce	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073104998939?aff=oddtcreator

Updated area with information and support for separated parents:

There has been an update to the online web support for separated parents: [Somerset children & young people : Health & Wellbeing : Support For Separated Parents](#)

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

Find out more & register here: <https://bit.ly/mhstwebinarspring2025>

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](#)

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

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please click here <https://somersetcouncil.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.

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
The voice of 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

Y5/6 Swimming at Huish
 Escapeline Session
 Kite Visit – Museum of Somerset
 Kite – Parents to share work
 Cygnet & Harrier – Parents to share work
 Kingfisher – Parents to share work
 Inset Day
 Half Term
 Back to school

Wednesdays Spring Term
 Monday 20th January at 3.30pm
 Wednesday 29th January
 Monday 03rd February at 3.15pm
 Tuesday 04th February at 3.15pm
 Wednesday 05th February at 3.15pm
 Friday 14th February
 Week commencing 17th February
 Monday 24th February

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).

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Best wishes
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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