

**Head Teacher:**  
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20 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

**From**

**All the Staff at school**

I do hope you have enjoyed all the Christmasy events this week. The nativity plays were both amazing, I can't believe how well the children said their lines and sang. I have had so many of the senior citizens who attended the party on Monday comment on how well the children did and how much they enjoyed themselves. I have also had some lovely feedback about the choir's performance on Sunday at the village carol service. Well done to all the performers this week and to the staff who have supported them to achieve all they have. It was so lovely to have so many people join us for yesterday's Carol Service, I am sorry there weren't more seats, but I hope the singing kept you going! As always, Mrs Brading excelled herself with her leading of the singing and choice of songs.

Kite class had a wonderful trip to 'We The Curious' in Bristol. The children came back full of all they learnt, and many have been trying to persuade their parents to take them back! It seems the planetarium was amazing and that there is just so much to do there. The children behaved brilliantly, and this was commented on by the staff there, which is always lovely to hear.

There will be no clubs in the first week of term, they will start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Next term we will have Gymnastics on Mondays for Year 1 and 2, Razmataz on Tuesdays for Yr 1 – 6 and Dodge Ball on Wednesdays for Y3 – 6. As well as choir on Thursdays. Think about what club your child would like to do, remember if they sign up for it we do expect them to turn up each week unless they are ill. Club places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

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## **Village Crib Service**

This will take place in Long Sutton Church at 3.00 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December

Children of all ages are welcome to come along and enjoy a Festive celebration on Christmas Eve.

## **Lego**

We are hoping to do some lego groups next year and are wondering if anyone has lego sets with instructions that they have finished with and are not wanted, if they would be willing to donate them to school it would be greatly appreciated.

## **PTFA**

I want to say a huge thank you to all the PTFA for all their hard work this term running events, supporting the school and providing lovely things for the children. We are so fortunate to have such a proactive and supportive PTFA.

## **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

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

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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](http://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.

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.](#)

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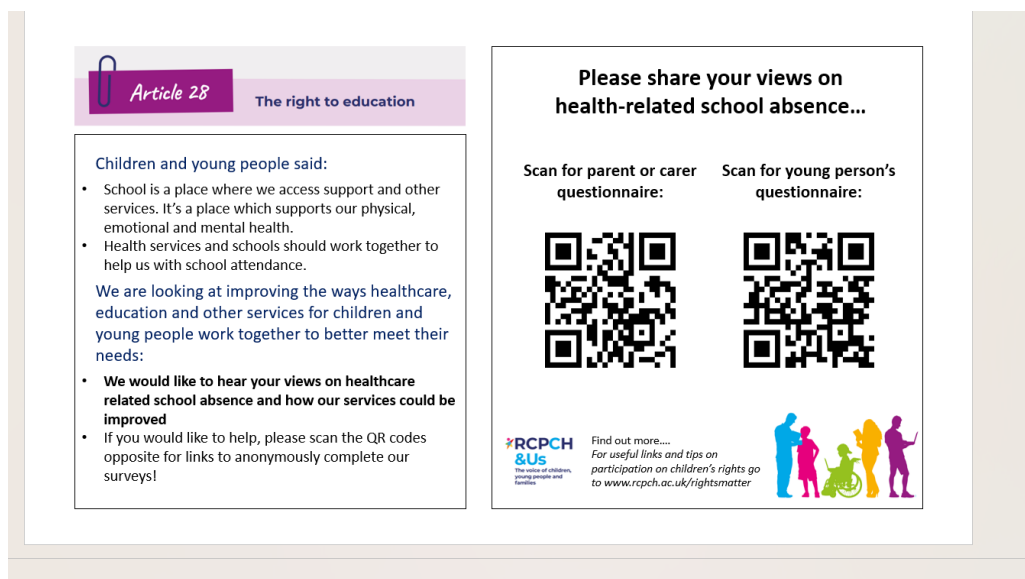


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## Is my child too ill for school?

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](http://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

Christmas Holiday  
Inset Day  
Start of Spring Term

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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).**

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Best wishes  
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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