

**Head Teacher:**  
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7 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Well done to all the children who made potatoes in the shape of their character. It was lovely to talk to some of the children about making these and why they had chosen the character they had. The other children really enjoyed looking at the potatoes and deciding which book they were from. We had Dominic Fallows in from Tea Pot Agency, who are a creative digital agency, who worked with each class, sharing a book and talking about his work, this is part of our careers work and partnership with local companies. The children enjoyed this and had plenty of good questions to ask. They also enjoyed being able to choose a book or two to take home and read. It was nice to introduce children to a new author or two or let them find their favourite one! I hope they enjoy these books.



### Village Coffee Morning in Aid of Toy Box

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and donated produce, it was really well supported by Toy Box families and the local community. It raised an amazing £834.14 which is amazing! Toy box will receive

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£689.10 and the church £145.04. A brilliant amount that will go a long way to paying for the double glazing windows.



## Hair

Please can children have any shoulder length hair tied back with only simple blue or black hair accessories. No headbands with ears, big bows etc these just end up as toys and are a distraction. Keep it simple and functional.



We have decided to support Comic Relief this year. It is its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and I felt this should be marked due to the huge amount of good this charity has done over the years. It is on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March. So with that in mind, to do something 'funny for money' I thought a 'Bad Hair Day' might be in order! The children can come in their own clothes and do something silly with their hair if they want and bring a donation into school.

We will be doing a poetry and music performance for parents on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 3pm. Each class will be performing.

## A plea from Toybox

Toybox are looking for shape sorter toys or any type of toy that involves posting. If you have any that you are willing to donate please hand in at the office or to me at the gate.

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## Online Safety information for Parents



Are free games and apps really ‘free’?

While some games and apps cost money, most are free to download and use. But are they actually ‘free’? Online companies use clever tactics to make money through products and services they market as being free. These tactics are not always obvious, and some can be very persuasive, especially those aimed at children. The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) portal offers resources dedicated to understanding marketing in games. It explains how marketing strategies are embedded in online games and apps and offers practical advice on how to recognise these tactics and

help our children understand them. By using these tools, parents can better protect and guide their children while they are online.

Visit the Better Internet for Kids website to learn more: <https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en/learning-corner/parents-and-caregivers/marketing-games>

### Courses available that some of you may find useful

#### Mental Health Support Team

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/mhstwebinarsspring2025>

#### SEN Workshops

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. Click below to book on to them.

[WISE Up Workshops](#)

#### 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.

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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](#)

The infographic is divided into two main sections. The left section is titled 'Article 28 The right to education' and contains text about children's rights and a survey invitation. The right section is titled 'Please share your views on health-related school absence...' and features two QR codes for parent/carer and young person questionnaires, along with the RCPCH & Us logo and a link to their website.

**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: [QR Code]

Scan for young person's questionnaire: [QR Code]

**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.

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## Dates for the diary

Y5/6 Swimming at Huish  
Comic Relief – Bad Hair Day  
Poetry Performance  
Height and weight checks (YR & Y6)  
Parents evening  
Parents Evening  
Easter Service  
Easter Fair

Wednesdays Spring Term  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 3pm  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

**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://SOMERSETDIRECT)

Best wishes  
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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