

Head Teacher:
Mrs E Reynolds



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31 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

This week started rather wet, and I know the stormy weekend affected many of you as well as many staff members. It has also led to us not being able to use the field for the first time in years, as it is just too muddy and sodden. Monday evening looked brighter, so our hockey team set off to Huish for a tournament. Their first game went well, and they drew 1 all but the heavens opened, and the tournament was abandoned, I think you can see why! A huge thank you to the children for keeping going and smiling despite the weather!



On Wednesday Kite Class went to Taunton Museum to support their history about Roman Britain. The children had a great day and were very enthusiastic. A member of staff was stopped by a member of the public as they wanted to say how well behaved the children were – not unusual for our children but always lovely to hear this. It has been lovely to see the Reception children out on their bikes this week improving their cycling, although I do think they need stopping practice! A visitor and I had a close encounter!

A reminder that the postponed session on Child Exploitation and County Lines by Escapeline is on Monday 3rd February 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. Please let the office know if you wish to attend.

Please note: Kite class 'Parents to share learning' will move to Wednesday 5th February.

Cake sale

The School Council met with me on Tuesday and have decided they will do a cake sale to raise money to sponsor a WWF animal. The sale will take place on Friday 28th February at the end of school.

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Mrs Manzi has a plea from Cygnet Class. They would be really grateful for any donations of the items listed below. Please drop them at the gate with me or at the School office

- Wire coat hangers
- Cornflour
- Hair conditioner
- Food colouring and food colouring gel
- Baby oil
- Vegetable oil
- Sugar

Parents to Share Learning:

Tuesday 4th February – Harrier and Cygnet Class

Wednesday 5th February – Kite and Kingfisher Class

Hair

Please can all children with shoulder length or longer hair have it tied back each day. Hair ties are to be muted colours, preferably blue or black and understated, no large bows etc. Bands and bows often become a distraction rather than a useful item.

Parking

When dropping off and collecting, please can parents/carers park in the bays located at the top of the car park and leave space for shop customers. Also, for the safety of the children please reverse your car into the space so you can drive out ensuring you can see if there are any children around. There is also no parking in the staff car park for parents/carers unless given permission to do so.

Courses available that some of you may find useful

First Aid

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.

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 and will be held at Hush Academy 9.30 – 11.30 on the following dates :

Thursday 27th February, Thursday 6th March, Thursday 13th March, Thursday 20th March, Thursday 27th March, Thursday 3rd April. If you wish to attend let me or the office know.

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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
Tue 4 th Feb 7 pm-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

WISE Up 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.

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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](#)

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 views on school services 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:

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

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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	Wednesdays Spring Term
Escapeline Session	Monday 03 rd February at 3.30pm
Cygnets & Harrier – Parents to share work	Tuesday 04 th February at 3.15pm
Kite and Kingfisher – Parents to share work	Wednesday 05 th February at 3.15pm
Inset Day	Friday 14 th February
Half Term	Week commencing 17 th February
Back to school	Monday 24 th February
School Council cake sale	Friday 28 th February
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March
Parents evening	Tuesday 1 st April
Parents Evening	Wednesday 2 nd April
Easter Service	Thursday 3 rd April
Easter Fair	Friday 4 th 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://www.somersetdirect.co.uk)

Best wishes
Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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