

Somerset School Newsletter

2024/2025

ISSUE ONE



Heads Welcome



Hello all,

Welcome back to the new school year, we hope that you have all had a really good summer. It has been good welcoming the pupils back to school, it has brought the building back to life again.

We will be sending out regular newsletters this year to celebrate what the pupils have achieved, provide information and share plans with you. One area of

development that I can share with you is the creation of our own Forest School. This is on a area of land that is directly next to school and will be developed with the pupils help over the coming term.

Sadly over the summer we have had a few issues with the timetabling software we use at school, this is currently being resolved, but this has resulted in us not being able to produce individual timetables for print at the start of term. We will get these timetables out to yourselves and the students as soon as we can. I would have preferred to send them out during the summer as the students need to know what lessons they have and at

what times, sadly this has not been possible and I send my deepest apologies.

As highlighted within the newsletter, we have some new staff members joining the team this year. They both arrive with a wealth of experience within a range of education settings and have settled in very well.

Thank you

David

Dates of Interest

4TH SEPT

SCHOOL REOPENS

25TH SEPT

NATIONAL FITNESS DAY

14TH– 20TH OCT

RECYCLE WEEK

Our New Staff Team

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the new members of our staff team.

This year we will be welcoming both Joe and Phil to our team.

Joe will be joining us as Assistant Head responsible for curriculum and learning.

While Phil will be joining us as a classroom teacher. We offer both a very warm welcome and look forward to introducing them to you all.

Somerset School Staff Team 24/25

Leadership

David (Head), Callum M (Dept. Head), P (SENCo), Joe (Curriculum)

Teaching

Alina, Becky, Belinda, Callum B, Charlie, Emma, Henrietta, Jo, Katie, Lisa, Matt, Mel, Mike, Phil, Rosie, Vicky D

Support

Amy, Georgia, Helen, Jessica, Joanne, Jodie, John, Julie, Paige, Trinity, Vicky B

Administration

Kathrine, Ella, Mal

Somerset School Newsletter

Upcoming Changes

We are currently developing a new and improved communication strategy. We are looking to make a few changes to our previous protocols, and expect this to be sent home within the next few weeks. The school has increased student numbers over the last two years and as such we feel we need to adapt our working structures to ensure all parents and carers are able to receive an appropriate level of contact with key staff within school. Please feel free to call and email school when required in the meantime. As always, we

are available to receive safeguarding or pertinent information at anytime and would encourage contact in these regards at every opportunity.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

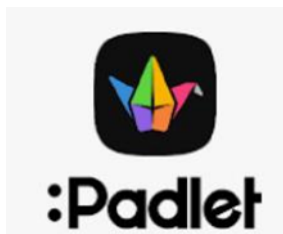


Student Tutors

All students have been attributed a named staff tutor for the 24/25 academic year. For some students this member of staff will be the same as the previous academic year, others have experienced a change. While we try at every opportunity to limit the level of changes within school, sometimes external factors mean that it is unavoidable. The individual needs of students are at the

heart of all tutor partnerships and great care and consideration is taken to match up students with appropriate staff members.

Tutors will be making contact with all parents and careers over the course of the next week and will be looking to introduce themselves at the start of this academic year.



Padlet - Further Support

We have recently created a web based library of further support links solely for the use of parents and carer's. We will endeavor to update this as and when we discover new information.

This can be found on the padlet platform - which can be accessed via the QR code here or via the following link



<https://padlet.com/somersetsschool/additional-support-home-e5gfik5hpbgiwrx>

Attendance

As we start a new academic year, we wanted to take a moment to emphasise the importance of regular school attendance for our children. The table below will give you a clear understanding of the impact of school attendance on the number of potential lessons lost.

| Attendance during one school year | Equivalent days absent | Equivalent weeks absent | Number of lessons missed |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 95% | 9.5 | Approx. 2 | 49 |
| 90% | 19 | Approx. 4 | 98 |
| 85% | 28.5 | Approx. 6 | 147 |
| 80% | 38 | Approx. 8 | 196 |
| 75% | 47.5 | Approx. 10 | 245 |
| 70% | 57 | Approx. 12 | 294 |

So, as you can see, even with attendance at 95%, a large proportion of learning has been missed. The department for education set the national expectation for attendance at anything above 96%; even at this percentage, this is 7 days missed in a school year.

Why Good Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and overall development. Here are a few key reasons why:

- 1. Consistency in Learning:** Each school day builds on the previous one. Regular attendance ensures that your child is consistently building on their knowledge, helping them to grasp new concepts more effectively.
- 2. Social Development:** School is not just about academics; it's also about developing social skills. Regular attendance allows children to form strong friendships, learn to work in teams, and develop essential social skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.
- 3. Building Habits:** Establishing a routine of regular attendance helps children develop a sense of responsibility and commitment, setting a foundation for good habits that will serve them well in their future education and career.
- 4. Identifying Support Needs Early:** Regular attendance allows teachers to identify any additional needs early. This ensures that any necessary support or intervention can be put in place promptly.

Attendance

How You Can Help

- 1. Create a Routine:** Establish a regular bedtime and morning routine to help your child feel prepared for the school day
- 2. Prepare the Night Before:** Lay out clothes and pack the school bag the night before to reduce morning stress.
- 3. Schedule Appointments Wisely:** Try to schedule medical appointments outside of school hours wherever possible.
- 4. Communicate with the School:** If your child is unwell or there are other legitimate reasons for absence, please inform the school promptly for each day of absence.

Support Available

If you are experiencing any challenges that affect your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with other educational partners who will also be able to offer help if needed. We are committed to supporting you so it is important you contact us as soon as you have concerns so we can work together to address any barriers to attendance.

Thank you for your support and commitment. Together, we can ensure that every child receives the full benefits of the school and that it is able to set the stage for a bright and successful future.

Yours Sincerely,

Somerset School



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

| | |
|--|--|
| Chickenpox | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over |
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting | 48 hours after their last episode |
| Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19. |
| Impetigo | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics |
| Measles | 4 days after the rash first appeared |
| Mumps | 5 days after the swelling started |
| Scabies | they've had their first treatment |
| Scarlet Fever | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics |
| Whooping Cough | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics |

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
| Head lice | Tonsillitis |
| Threadworms | Slapped cheek |



41) SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



Be Kind, Be Different, Be You

A M B I A N SOMERSET SCHOOL

C

Term Dates 2024/25

Somerset School
Creech Court
Mill Lane
Creech St Michael
Taunton
TA3 5PX

Phone:
01823 443133

Email:
somersetschooloffice@cambiagroup.com

AUTUMN TERM

4th September - 23rd October

Half Term - 24th October - 3rd November

4th November - 20th December

Christmas Holidays - 21st December - 5th January

SPRING TERM

6th January - 13th February

Half Term - 14th February - 23rd February

24th February - 3rd April

Easter Break - 4th April - 21st April

SUMMER TERM

22nd April - 23rd May

Half Term - 24th May - 1st June

2nd June - 23th July

School Year Ends - 23rd July



**PARENT
LED**

**KIDS
WELCOME**

**For parents & carers of
children/young people
on the autism spectrum &
ADHD.**

**All welcome whether
you have a diagnosis,
are on the pathway
or just want
to learn more
about autism/ADHD.**

Find us on facebook

**A weekly drop in between 9:30 -12,
kids welcome,
free parking,
tea and coffee available x**

**This will be a safe place to find support,
a place to vent or just a coffee with like
minded parents and friends.**

**TERM TIME ONLY
Family meet ups I weekend dates / kids play
dates
For more info text: 07983465478**

**CHECK OUT OUR
FACBOOK PAGE
FOR VENUES AND
TIMES**