

**Head Teacher:**  
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17 December 2021

Dear Parent

Happy Christmas to you all. I hope you have a wonderful time and are able to see the family members you want to and enjoy time together. Thank you for all your support this term; it has certainly been an interesting one and at times a testing one, especially where illness of all types is concerned and the impact this has had on the children and staffing. I would like to say a huge thank to all my staff who have gone over and above throughout the term to support the children and each other, along with covering classes, producing nativity plays and everything else that goes with a Christmas term!

Yesterday we had a lovely in school online Carol Service. Each class sang a song as well as having readings and prayers from the older children. There were some technical hitches with sound, but it was really lovely to do something altogether to celebrate Christmas. Let's hope the new year brings some relief and we can soon all gather together again.

**Nativity** - It was so lovely to have a live performance of the Nativity this year, the children really rose to the occasion of having an audience. I always find it so amazing how they can remember all the songs and also their lines, I just don't think I could do this! I do hope those of you able to see this enjoyed it as much as I did.

I want to say a special thank you to Mrs Astington who took on organising the Cygnet Nativity as she was covering the class in Mrs Manzi's absence, but also to all the staff involved in both shows: Mrs Cornthwaite, Miss Patten, Miss Farmer, Mrs Rose in Cygnet class and Mrs Casalis, Mrs Epps, Mrs Long and Mrs Sambel in Kingfisher class.

**Restrictions – COVID-19** - When we return to school, we will still need to keep to the one-way system at both ends of the day, keep our distance from each other and wear masks, I am afraid. I do believe these things, along with keeping children more separated in school and lots of hand washing, have kept our case load down and reduced the spread in school.

**PE Kit** - Children will need their **PE kit in school from the first day of term** as at least 2 classes will have PE on this day. Can you ensure that they have the correct PE kit: **Navy polo shirt**, dark shorts or tracksuit, **indoor and outdoor PE shoes**. KS2 children (Kite and Harrier Class) will also need a **mouth guard**. All children will need **outdoor shoes or Wellies** from the first day too.

**Harrier Class and Kite Class (Y3-6)** – these children will need a **mouthguard in January** as we will be playing hockey. If you do not want them to wear one then you need to email the school to give the permission for them to do PE without this. We will be using proper hockey sticks and hard balls. Without a mouthguard or your permission, they cannot participate in this PE.

*'Learn to love and love to learn'*



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**A useful tool** - This is something I have come across and wanted to make you aware of this brilliant tool. If you click the link below and watch the video, I hope you will see why I felt it important to share this with you all.



Helping to save lives and create awareness R;pple aims to minimise the risks of the internet, while harnessing its potential for good.

R;pple is an interceptive tool designed to present a visual prompt when a person searches for harmful keywords or phrases relating to the topic of self-harm or suicide. These phrases include any words or terminology which have been identified as displaying potentially damaging online content.

**[R;pple Suicide Prevention - Your Toolkit.](#)**

**Mental health is a serious and urgent issue. Online searches for suicide methods have increased by 50% in the last 2 years with searches for suicide support lines also up by 150% since January 2019. (Semrush, 2021)**

To ensure more help and support is given to individuals searching for harmful content online, [R;pple Suicide Prevention](#) has been set up. R;pple is a browser extension interceptive tool designed to ensure more help and support is provided to individuals who are conducting searches relating to self-harm or suicide. R;pple consists of a message of hope as well as a selection of mental health resources in a range of different options (call, text, webchat) from free, established and 24/7 charity services.

[https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/r;pple\\_suicide\\_prevention?utm\\_campaign=648783\\_SCC%20Weekly%20Schools%20Bulletin&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Support%20Services%20For%20Education&dm\\_i=6TC3,DWLR,3PCDBH,1P8ZC,1](https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/r;pple_suicide_prevention?utm_campaign=648783_SCC%20Weekly%20Schools%20Bulletin&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Support%20Services%20For%20Education&dm_i=6TC3,DWLR,3PCDBH,1P8ZC,1)

**Dates to remember:**

Last day of Autumn Term	:	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
Bank Holiday	:	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Inset Day	:	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
Start of Spring Term	:	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Swimming lesson - Thursdays (Harrier Class):	:	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January to 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Inset Day	:	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Half Term Holiday	:	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Additional School Closure Day	:	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Safeguarding**

**If you have any concerns about your child or another please come and speak to myself. Safeguarding is everyone’s business and cannot be ignored. You can always contact Somerset Direct (0300 123 2224) or the NSPCC yourself to share or discuss any Safeguarding concerns you have.**

**Here are some useful websites recommended by our DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead –**

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Lizzie Reynolds or Cheryl Park).

[NSPCC](#) [SOMERSETDIRECT](#)

Best wishes

Mrs Lizzie Reynolds

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