



WEEKLY UPDATE

CORE VALUE: ENDURANCE

SPRING TERM ISSUE 2

16TH JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

If you think January feels like a particularly long month, spare a thought for Karl Bushby.

In 1998, while in Chile, Karl made an extraordinary decision: he would walk home to the UK. No flights, no cars, no trains. His one rule was simple but uncompromising; he would travel every mile on foot, using no mechanised transport at all. What began as an idea became a journey of almost 36,000 miles across continents, climates and countless challenges.

Now, 28 years later, and as a former Parachute Regiment veteran, Karl is finally nearing the end of his journey and almost home!

Karl's story is a powerful reminder of what resilience, determination and belief can achieve.

His goal did not change, even when progress was slow, setbacks were frequent, or the end felt impossibly far away. Instead, he focused on the next step, and then the next.

This is a message we continually share with our pupils: success is not always about speed, but about perseverance; not about avoiding difficulty, but about learning how to keep going when things feel hard. Whether tackling a tricky piece of learning, developing a new skill, or building confidence, every small step matters.

As we move through the rest of this term, we will continue to encourage our pupils to embrace challenges, to show resilience when learning feels difficult, and to understand that determination over time can lead to remarkable outcomes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in reinforcing these qualities at home.

Reminders

- Kings Y8 Options Evening on Friday 3rd Feb
- School Closed to Pupils for INSET on Friday 13th February.

Have a great weekend.

Warm regards,

Matt Drew

CALENDAR 2025

JANUARY

19th Y8 Parents Evening - In School Face to Face

21st Bagley Baptist Assemblies

22nd Y8 Parents Evening - Online

23rd Kings Leisure - Sports Passport Assembly

26th - 29th Y6 Mock SATs week

FEBRUARY

1st Y8 Production Rehearsal (Sunday)

5th Y8 House Matches (B:Football/G:Netball)

6th Y8 Production - Technical Rehearsal

9th Y6 House Matches (B:Football/G:Netball)

CLUBS

Clubs on Thursday 22nd January may be disrupted due to the Y8 Parents Evening

Please ask the PE department to confirm or check the PE board.



**Kings
Academy**

Year 9 Choices Evening

Tuesday 3 February 2026
5.00pm - 7.00pm

We warmly invite Year 8 Students and Parents/Carers
to attend for September 2026 entry



Welcome meetings will be held in the Main Hall at
5.00pm for surnames A to H and 6.00pm
for surnames I to Z

Subjects will be open from
5.00pm – 7.00pm

You are invited to visit each option subject. Our subject specialists
will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to meeting you

Y8 PARENTS EVENING

The booking window for Parents/Carers to book on to
the Y8 Parents Evening opens at 7pm on Monday 12th
January.

- Y8 Meet the Tutor Evening - In School face to Face -
Monday 19th January 2026 (from 4pm - 6:30pm)
- Y8 Meet the Tutor Evening - Online Appointments -
Thursday 22nd January 2026 (from 4pm - 6:30pm)

All bookings are made currently through the
SchoolCloud parents Evening Booking System (**Not
Bromcom**).

Please follow the link [SchoolCloud - Hugh Sexey C of E
Middle School](#) and enter the details that you have
registered with the school.

**Bookings will close on Monday 19th January at 9am.
Booking slots are limited so please book early to avoid
disappointment.**

Any problems please email school@hughsexey.org.uk



YEAR 6 MAYA DAY

As part of our Year 6 History topic this term, we kicked off our learning journey with a visit from world-renowned storyteller, Clive Pig. He told us stories about the Ancient Maya Civilisation and we found out about their beliefs.

Following his visit, we got to try lots of different food which originated from Mesoamerica. We tasted: Tortillas, salted corn, dark chocolate, butternut squash, pumpkin seeds, black beans and guacamole. We had so much fun and we can't wait to learn more about this ancient civilisation!



HSMS SUPERSTARS

GYMNASTICS

Murrin M and Antonia T from 6AP completed in the regional trampolining qualifier on Sunday 11th January for their Quayside Trampolining team. Both girls did amazingly well with Antonia perfecting and getting her best score yet for her level 1 routine and achieving a bronze for her team and Murrin took on a level 3 routine for the first time achieving a gold medal for her team. In true friendship and team spirit as always both girls cheered each other on giving each other the confidence needed to do their best. They did brilliantly.

Poppy R 6OM also competed with the Quayside team she came in 3rd place and she should be super proud of the progress she has made in the last year.

Poppy competed alongside her teammates who also attend Hugh Sexseys, Ellie K in year 5 and Antonia in year 6. A huge well done to all 3 girls who all deserve a special mention on their 3rd place medals.



BIATHLON

Flossy (7EF) competed in the South West Schools Biathlon Competition at Millfield School. It was a real challenge, but she had a great day. This week she has found out that she has qualified for the Great British Schools Biathlon Championships 2026, being held at the University of Bath in March. This should be a great experience for her, against some top athletes. Wishing her the best of luck!



KICKBOXING

Huge congratulations to Rhys J in 5EM for achieving his Brown III Belt at Kickboxing. Rhys is a member of the Shipham Junior Kickboxing club along with his sister, former pupil Ellie who is a Brown II belt holder. Rhys is now only 3 stages away from a black belt.



REQUEST: MEDICATION NEEDED IN SCHOOL



We kindly ask parents and carers to provide Calpol, Ibuprofen, or any other medication if your child may need it during the school day.

The school does not keep any pain relief on site and cannot supply or administer medication unless it has been brought in by a parent or carer.

If your child requires medication, please bring it to the school office in its original packaging, with your child's name clearly visible.



Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our pupils safe and well.



WEDMORE HOLIDAY CLUB



For ages 5-13 years, from £23* per day, 9.00am-4.00pm, at Wedmore First School grounds



In the winter, have fun doing outdoor adventure activities in the forest school grounds, and enjoy our outdoor swimming pool in the summer!**



Enjoy a jam packed day of playing games, sports, and arts and crafts!



Bring packed lunch, snacks, refillable drinks bottle, outdoor adventure clothing, and weather dependant items (sun cream, waterproofs etc).



Visit our Junior Activities Page here:

Contact Kings Fitness & Leisure at 01934 744939 to sign up NOW!



*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively, £28 per day, if booked after this time frame
**This is a seasonal, weather dependant activity.



HOLIDAY CLUB

At Kings Fitness & Leisure



For ages 5-13 years from £23* per day 9.00am-4.00pm.



Extend the day with early drop-off and late pick-up from £4.50 per session



Have Fun playing games, sports, going swimming, and doing arts and crafts!



Bring packed lunch, snacks, refillable drinks bottle, swimming kit, weather dependant items (sun cream, waterproofs etc).



Visit our Junior Activities Page here:

Contact Kings Fitness & Leisure at 01934 744939 to sign up NOW!



*£23 if booked 3 weeks in advance, alternatively, £28 per day, if booked after this time frame

THE SPACE Parent Club

Being a parent is HARD! Do you sometimes just want to talk to like-minded people without judgement?

Does your child experience school avoidance or have SEN? Or maybe you just need a gentle chat with someone who understands?



We are here for YOU!

Parent Club offers a safe, welcoming space with:

☕ Hot coffee 😊 Friendly faces 🗣️ Support, advice & signposting

📅 Every Wednesday ⌚ 8.30am-10:30am



No need to book — just drop in!

Prefer to reserve a spot? Text 07940 177399

We also have activities to keep little ones occupied!



New THE SPACE Parent Club evening sessions

Being a parent is HARD! Do you sometimes just want to talk to like-minded people without judgement?

Does your child experience school avoidance or have SEN? Or maybe you just need a gentle chat with someone who understands?



Evening sessions available by appointment only

1st Tuesday of every month

From 6pm | Coffee @ The Hub

Please email Victoria

VBoorman@thespacesomerset.org.uk to book your space or text 07841 577848



COFFEE @ THE HUB, 1-2 LOWER NORTH STREET, CHEDDAR, BS27 3HA (OPPOSITE TESCO EXPRESS)

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The Mid Somerset Consortium

BACK TO SCHOOL... AS A TEACHER

Train to Teach Primary with Mid Somerset Consortium – Inspire the Next Generation

- Flexible training designed for busy parents.
- Make a real difference in children's lives.
- Start a meaningful career in your community.
- Earn while you learn with hands-on classroom experience.

Client Testimonials

'I couldn't have wished for a more supportive group of staff and fellow trainees... The MSC team have all been incredible and there is always someone there to talk to should you need it.'
— Danni

'The primary training course has been supportive and practical, allowing me to build confidence and develop invaluable classroom skills. Importantly, it has worked well around being a parent, allowing me to successfully balance training alongside a busy family life.'
— Sarah

'A real strength of the course is the opportunity for primary and secondary trainees to work together'
— Millie

'Placement schools are varied and well chosen, including first schools, middle schools, and primary schools. Being placed locally has helped us build strong networks across the area, which feels invaluable for future job opportunities and professional connections.'
— Millie

Ready to take the next step?

[JOIN MSC TEACHER TRAINING TODAY!](#)

e: office@mscitt.org.uk | w: www.mscitt.org.uk | t: 01458 449418

Tell Us What You Think?

Your input is crucial! We're running four important surveys across our Trust schools to help us understand what matters most and enhance the overall experience for students, parents, and staff. We'd greatly appreciate your time.

03

Parent Survey

The purpose of this questionnaire is to find out what matters to you most about food at your Child's school and how satisfied you are with the service.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Wessex Learning Trust

Y8 POST 16 AND GCSE INFORMATION ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK.

It has been a busy week this week for special guest visitors to our collective worship assemblies. On Wednesday, Georgie Durbin from Weston College visited us again. She came to help explain to KS3 pupils what pathway options they have when they finish their GCSEs (Post age 16). It's great to hear all about T-levels, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, A levels (sixth form), as well as the variety of professional & technical qualifications available locally. Georgie helped the pupils to understand that all the local colleges run Open Days and summer camp sessions that are open to pupils in Y7 and above. For more information about local colleges, search the college website (<https://www.weston.ac.uk/>, <https://www.ucscollegegroup.ac.uk/>). Y8s will also soon receive information about upcoming elective visits to local colleges (Weston and Bridgwater & Taunton) and to the University of Bath.

EXPLORE OUR QUALIFICATIONS

- **Professional and Technical** – 1 subject, equivalent to 3 A Levels
- **T Levels** – Created by employers, equivalent to 3 A Levels giving industry experience
- **A Levels** – 3 subjects
- **Apprenticeships** – Complete your qualification with an employer – earn while you learn



On Friday, Y8 pupils had a visit from Mrs Hopwood, Deputy Headteacher at the Kings of Wessex. She came to speak to the year group about their upcoming GCSE option selection process. Pupils found out about the subjects and courses they are required to continue to study, as well as the courses that they can choose as options. There are some changes this year to which combinations of subjects fall into which selection categories, so pupils are encouraged to set aside time to review the handbook that was sent home with pupils. There is also an upcoming Options Evening at KOW for Y8 pupils and their families to attend. Your child's tutor is available to discuss any questions you or your child may have about the process, and Y8 subject teachers will be pleased to discuss details of the GCSE courses with pupils and their families at next week's parents evening. Mrs Adair (Careers Lead) is also available to meeting with families to discuss any questions or concerns. All KS3 and KS4 pupils are able to access professional careers information and guidance (CIAG) from a trained and certified advisor. If this is something you feel your child needs at this point in their education, please do speak to Mrs Adair, who will put you in touch with Mrs Devilin, who is based at KOW but who also supports Cheddar Valley Middle Schools.



ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS ON BROMCOM

All 'on the day' absence notifications can be sent in to school via the following

- Bromcom app,
- School absence line **01934 712211** or
- email school@hughsexey.org.uk

All future dated absences **must** be sent in via the school email as these need to be approved by the Headteacher.

Many thanks for your continued support

REMINDER: PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL UNIFORM

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that every item of your child's school uniform is clearly labelled with their name.

This includes jumpers, coats, PE kits, shoes, water bottles, and any other belongings brought into school.

Clear name labels help us return lost items quickly and reduce the amount of unclaimed lost property.

Thank you for your support!



POSTER COMPETITION - WESSEX LEARNING TRUST

As part of our commitment to promoting safe and responsible use of technology, we hope you will be celebrating Safer Internet Day 2026 on 10th February 2026. This year's theme is "Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI." With AI becoming an increasingly significant part of children's online experiences, it is vital that we equip our pupils with the skills and confidence to navigate smart technology safely.

To mark this important day, the Digital Leaders Group are launching a **poster design competition** across all our schools. The aim is to engage pupils creatively while raising awareness about safe technology use. We hope to select at least **10 winning posters from across the age groups:** The winning posters will be shared across all schools to celebrate and promote Safer Internet Day.

Key details:

- A4 Portrait Entries will be collected during the week beginning **19th January 2026**.
- Please ensure each poster includes the pupil's **first name, age** and their **school** for identification.

Your support in encouraging pupils to participate and helping coordinate the collection of entries would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and enthusiasm in making Safer Internet Day 2026 a meaningful and impactful event for all our pupils.

WESSEX LEARNING TRUST POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

Poster theme about - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI

COMPETITION RULES:

1. The design should promote Safer Internet Day on February 10th 2026
2. Poster size - A4 Portrait
3. Posters must be submitted to your school by Monday 19th January
4. Winning posters will be shared across all Wessex Learning Trust Schools



On the back of your poster, we need your: First NAME only AGE Name of SCHOOL

NEXT WEEK IN PICTURE NEWS

HSMS Values in Action @ Home WB 19th January 2026



In the news this week.....

Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you think about the new award? Share with someone at home. Do you believe it's important to recognise kind actions?
- Can you think of someone you know who helps others or cares for the world in everyday ways?
- Can you come up with other ways that people can be recognised for their actions?



Dear God,
Thank You for teaching us that faith is about what we do, not just what we say. Please help us to make positive changes in the world every day. Help us to be fair and generous, sharing what we have with those in need. Show us how to love our neighbours through our actions and to never take more than we truly need.
Amen

HSMS Christian Value and Virtue next week: **Endurance & Journey**
Bible Link: **Luke 3:10-11**

British Value and Protected Characteristic: **Mutual Respect & Tolerance / Religion or Belief**

UN Rights of the Child: **# 12 Respect for Children's Views**