



WEEKLY UPDATE

SPRING TERM 1 ISSUE 7

CORE VALUE: COMPASSION

27TH FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

PUPIL SAFETY

It is sad to start the term with this but I implore you all to check mobile phones this evening in light of the following news article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyzqd42x9do>

Parents told to check phones for 'school war' posts



It is nonsense that I have spoken to pupils in school today, visibly shaken by violent posts shared through TikTok accounts belonging to people they have never met and are likely never to meet. Pupils directly asked "am I safe if I'm named in a group, will 'they' come here?" "what if we play football at one of these schools...?"

I urge you all to consider a complete review of social media access / restriction as a positive step to protect the mental health of our children. I have been

shown pupil devices today confirming Hugh Sexey, along with individual pupils, have accessed this Somerset Wars TikTok group in recent days. I am hopeful it has now been taken down.

By way of a positive response to this growing issue, before half term, some parents met with me to begin discussions around the topic of a smartphone free childhood for our community of children here at Hugh Sexey. It is speaking to worried pupils that affirms to me this is a cause that we must move forwards on together; over the coming weeks, please keep your eyes peeled for opportunities to join our parent community who are leading a change for our children.



On a lighter note, where did the half term break go...?! This week we have returned to school with a bang with some many exciting extra-curricular opportunities on offer. Monday evening saw over 100 visitors join us for our annual stargazing event that followed an interactive afternoon for our year five pupils. Despite a rather cloudy evening, a range of activities including a VR experience, meteorite inspection and a display from a digital telescope kept everyone engaged and looking forward to the near full solar eclipse which is due to occur on August 12th.

We also welcomed the Barmy Composers into school this week to work with our year 5 pupils. This was a great deal of fun and a chance for the pupils to perform and join in with some light-hearted entertainment, lots of laughs were had by all! To complete the schedule of visitors, artist Duncan Cameron was in school on Thursday working alongside Miss Wills and around 50 pupils who expressed a particular interest in Duncan's work and portrait drawing. As head of art at Falmouth University and a parent of children in the Wessex Learning Trust, Duncan was able to share some really valuable insights on careers in art as well as the technical workshop itself. It was fabulous to kick off the of term with such diverse and exciting opportunities. Thanks to all my colleagues involved in the organisation of these events.

In other news, congratulations go to our football team who enjoyed a solid start to the season with win over a local middle school 15-0. Great work girls! You've set yourselves a really high bar for the next match. Sports clubs started kickstarted this week and as always it is great to see so many pupils choosing to stay after school to participate; I look forward to seeing numbers increase as lighter evenings and better weather looms.

I am delighted to be able to share that a long running project to install flood lights to our sports facilities has taken a step forward. Installation will happen take place over the summer break and will mean our offer of extra-curricular clubs and fixtures can remain year-round, through the shorter days utilising fully lit tennis courts and all-weather pitch.

You may have been informed by your children that we had an un-planned fire evacuation on Weds afternoon. The fault on the system led to the bell sounding during the last lesson of the day. Pupils evacuated swiftly and there was no threat of harm – the evacuation at that time of day has led us to rethink the muster point for pupils with the tennis courts unavailable due to parent/carer parking. In order to iron out a new procedure and expectations, we will be practising the fire drill more frequently through the remainder of the year. I will of course explain this to pupils but I appreciate your calm reassurance at home if questions are asked – there is nothing to worry about.

Best wishes,
Matt Drew.

CALENDAR 2026

MARCH

2nd Y8 Weston College Visit - Post 16 Trip
2nd Y6 House matches (P1 & P2) (B:Football/G:Netball)
2nd Y5 House matches (P4 & P5) (B:Football/G:Netball)
3rd Y8 House Matches (P1 & P2) (B:Football/G:Netball)
4th Y8 Cannington Visit - Post 16 Trip
5th Y7 House Matches (P1 & P2) (B:Football/G:Netball)
6th Y8 University of Bath Visit - Post 16 Trip
9th Y5 Bikeability
9th - 13th Y6 Mock SATs

CLUBS

Cancelled
KS3 Netball Club on Tuesday 3rd March
KS3 Football training on Tuesday 3rd March
Due to fixtures

REMINDERS

DRINKING IN LESSONS

As a school, we actively encourage pupils to drink water, as part of a healthy balanced lifestyle. Pupils are allowed their water bottles in lessons but to avoid missing key learning, parts of lessons and to promote personal responsibility, children must fill their water bottles up before school, at break or at lunch. Thank you for ensuring your child has the right water bottle in school on a daily basis, particular as the weather starts to improve in the coming weeks.



EQUIPMENT

Thank you to all pupils that have the correct equipment and are ready to 'Work Hard' in their lessons. When pupils are well-prepared, this facilitates a strong start to lessons and improved outcomes. **Equipment is the responsibility of pupils** and when teachers have to manage a lack of equipment, it takes them away from teaching and learning. Please can you ensure your child has the items listed below, as a minimum expectation. All equipment items are available to purchase on the MCAS school shop.

- 2 Black Handwriting Pens.
- A Pencil.
- A Ruler.
- A Whiteboard Pen
- A Red Pen.
- A Pencil Case.



Thank you in advance for your support on this.

THE 'WELLBEING BLEND' EVENTS AT COFFEE@THEHUB

The Wellbeing Blend is a gentle infusion of community, comfort, and care – crafted through the partnership between [Coffee@TheHub](#) and [The Space Cheddar](#). It's more than a programme of events; it's a warm, steady presence in the Cheddar Valley, offering people a place to pause, breathe, and feel connected. By bringing wellbeing support into an everyday community space, The Wellbeing Blend removes barriers, reduces isolation, and helps people access guidance and companionship without pressure or formality.

It strengthens local relationships, nurtures resilience, and creates small but powerful moments of belonging – helping the Cheddar Valley feel more supported, more connected, and more like home. Coming up.....

Friday 20th March - Parent Talk

Bold Minds, Safe Systems: Understanding through a neurodivergent lens [Eventbrite - Get Tickets](#)



YEAR 5 - ABC BARMY COMPOSERS

Year 5 have had a fantastic beginning to the term, diving into the exciting world of opera over two action-packed days. Thanks to the generous support of Wedmore Arts, pupils were able to take part in workshops led by the ABC of Barmy Composers.

Throughout the experience, the children learned songs, explored fascinating facts about composers from across history and discovered how opera brings stories to life through music. Their hard work culminated in a confident performance to Year 6 at the end of the second day, showcasing everything they had learned.

A brilliant start to the term and a memorable cultural experience for all involved.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026 / SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

World Book Day is coming! We are excited to announce that to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March all pupils are invited to dress up as their favourite book character - muggles from 'Harry Potter' are also welcome! Events will run during Collective Worship and in the library to celebrate all things books and reading.



The Scholastic Book Fair also arrives on World Book Day and will be in the library from Thursday 5th March to Thursday 12th March.

Pupils will visit the Book Fair during their library lessons. They will be issued with a paper wish list to bring home with their book/stationery choice and the price(s) thereof.

If you wish to purchase an item, please:

1. Make payment by visiting the website: www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay or by scanning the QR code on the wish list;
2. Payment needs to be made before 12.30pm on Monday 16th March when the payment link will close; and
3. Ask your child to return their paper wish list to Mrs. Matthews in the library so she knows what you have ordered.

We can only see the amount paid at Travelling Books, not what you have paid for!

Books will be issued to the pupils week commencing Monday 30th March.

Thank you in advance for supporting both events.

HSMS - FIXTURES

KS3 GIRLS FOOTBALL V FAIRLANDS

It was a bright start to the term for the Key Stage 3 football team as they secured a superb 15–0 victory over Fairlands. The girls had barely played together before this match, yet their teamwork, communication and willingness to rotate positions shone throughout. The second half became a chance to experiment, have fun, and even form new friendships with the Fairlands players.

POM = Olive

A fantastic effort all round—well done.



YR5 SPACE DETECTIVES

Wow, what an exciting start to the new term for our Year 5s and a busy couple of days!

On Monday, we had the privilege of welcoming Jo from Space Detectives to answer all of the questions we submitted about everything space related. During her presentation, she helped test and stretch our understanding of the universe, even getting us involved in demonstrations.

Later on that evening, Jo was joined by some fellow astronomers, who brought along lots of interesting things for us to see. Sadly, the cloudy skies meant that we were unable to see the stars for ourselves but we did get to join in with many other activities.

If you haven't already but would still like to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the events, this can be done through Bromcom. The contributions are key to ensure we are able to continue providing a wide range of opportunities.

It was truly incredible to see so many Year 5s, along with their families, come along to enjoy the evening's events and to hear their positive comments about it on the way out. The continued support of the extra-curricular activities is hugely appreciated.



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](tel:01934712211) 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



It's time to clear out your wardrobe and donate any unwanted clothing, shoes, bedding and accessories to our Rags2 Riches collection. Our next collection is on **Tuesday 17th March**. Please deliver your items in a black bin bag or tied plastic bag to our main reception.

No school uniform please, please donate this to the preloved shop

ARTIST VISIT - DUNCAN CAMERON

On Thursday, our year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in an inspiring workshop led by visiting artist Duncan Cameron. The students explored creative techniques, developed new skills and gained valuable insight into the life and work of a professional artist.

Duncan shared his creative journey, demonstrated practical processes and encouraged students to experiment with confidence and originality. The workshops were energetic, hands on, and highly engaging, leaving the students feeling motivated and inspired. It was a fantastic experience for Year 7, and we are incredibly grateful to Duncan for such a memorable visit!



NEXT WEEK IN
PICTURE NEWS

HSMS VALUES IN ACTION @ HOME WB 2ND MARCH 2026



Should school uniforms be the same for everyone?



Dear God,
Thank You for the gift of every person and the reminder that we are all equally valuable and deserving of respect. Give us the wisdom to look beyond outward appearances and the strength to ensure everyone is included and treated fairly. Help us to live out compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience in our words and actions every day. Amen

In the news this week.....

Brynteg School in Wales has said that from September, skirts will no longer be part of the school uniform. Instead, all children will wear trousers or shorts. The school says this will make the uniform more practical and fairer for everyone, but some parents and pupils have different opinions about the change. This announcement has added to discussions about school rules, fairness, and whether uniforms should be the same for all children.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone older at home about your and their experiences of school uniform. Have they changed over time?
- Share your thoughts on the changes Brynteg School is making. Do you feel they are positive changes?
- If you could create your own uniform, what would it look like?

HSMS Christian Value and Virtue next week: Compassion and Caring

Bible Link: Colossians 3:12

British Value and Protected Characteristic: Mutual Respect and Sex UN Rights of the Child: #2 No Discrimination