



HUGH SEXEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
TOGETHER WE BELIEVE; TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE



WEEKLY UPDATE

AUTUMN TERM - ISSUE 4

CORE VALUE: THANKFULNESS

2ND OCTOBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



Celebrating a Rich Week of Learning

This week has been a wonderful reminder that often, the most memorable learning experiences extend far beyond the classroom. I am incredibly proud of the breadth of opportunities available to our pupils and of the ways in which they are encouraged to connect their learning with the wider world.

The richness of our curriculum has been particularly evident this week. I have witnessed the next generation of writers being talent-spotted by the Shane of the Good News Room (left), future veterinary surgeons being inspired by animals visiting our Science labs, and our budding Year 8 ecologists heading to Watchet to complete the first stages of their fieldwork.

These experiences bring learning to life. They give pupils opportunities to explore possible futures, develop new interests and see how the knowledge and skills they acquire in lessons connect with the world beyond school. Whether examining an ecosystem in the field, encountering animals first-hand or discovering where a love of writing might lead, these moments can spark curiosity and ambition in ways that stay with young people for years to come.

Of course, opportunities such as these do not happen by accident. They require considerable thought, planning and commitment from our staff, both behind the scenes and on the day itself. Thanks to all my colleagues who have helped shape this week's learning. I am immensely proud to be part of a school that places such value on providing a broad, rich and inspiring education. We want our pupils not simply to learn about the world, but to experience it, question it and begin to imagine the part they might one day play in it.

Over the last week, several colleagues have shared concerns with me about the choices of some parents and carers jeopardising the safety of pupils during afternoon collection from the Car Loop. I ask that we all recognise the collective responsibility we hold in keeping all cyclists, pedestrians and car users safe during this busy time of day and acknowledge the following:

- Please do not park in the Staff Parking spaces even if there is one available. This increases the number of cars crossing directly in front of our cyclists and walkers.
- Please refrain from beckoning pupils across the loop to the road or the exit lane.
- Please use both entrance lanes to queue and merge in turn on the bend.
- Please avoid walking up the pavement of the Car Loop itself if you have chosen to park elsewhere off-site, this unnecessarily increases congestion – feel free to approach staff for assistance in locating pupils.

Miss Keep will be available as an additional member of staff at the Car Loop for the foreseeable future so please do ask her any questions if you are unsure of anything.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

I hope you all enjoy some quality time with loved ones this weekend. We look forward to welcoming our year five and year six families to our Meet the Tutor event next Monday.

Best wishes

Matt Drew

CALENDAR 2026

October

- 5th- 6th Y6 Bikeability
- 5th KS2 Meet The Teacher Evening (Online & Face to face)
- 6th Tempest Photography - Sibling photos
- 8th - 9th Y5 Bikeability
- 12th KS3 Meet The Tutor Evening (Online & Face to face)
- 13th Y6 Ashford Water Treatment Visit - Trip 1

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Please keep an eye on the website for updates

[After School Clubs & Activities](#)

New KS2 Art Club - starts Thursday 8th October

UPCOMING SPORTS FIXTURES

Tuesday 6th October - Y8 Rugby v Fairlands @ Fairlands Middle School

Tuesday 6th October - KS3 Cross Country at Millfield (4pm start)

Wednesday 7th October - KS3 County Cup Football Match @ King Alfreds School , Burnham

Thursday 8th October - Y7 Hockey V Wells Blue @ HSMS

Thursday 8th October - Y7 Rugby V Fairlands @ HSMS

Tuesday 13th October - KS2 ESFA Large School Football Tournament @ Strode College

Fixture selection is sent out to Parents/Carers via MCAS and can be found under the messages tab, please complete the consent form as soon as possible via the link provided in the message.

FIRST SCHOOLS FESTIVAL - FOOTBALL

It was great to be able to host our first First School Festival of the year so early in the year, with seven schools attending for an exciting afternoon of boys' football.

Our Sports Leaders were outstanding throughout the event, stepping up to the challenge after just two weeks in their roles. They demonstrated excellent organisation, confidence and leadership, helping the festival run smoothly from start to finish.

We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from First School staff, who praised our Sports Leaders for being supportive, kind and encouraging while providing excellent feedback to participants.

It was a fantastic start to the sporting year, and we are excited to see our Sports Leaders continue to grow and develop on their leadership journey.



HSMS SUPERSTARS

MUSIC

Congratulations to Adam who recently passed his Grade 6 Jazz Saxophone exam with Merit.

An amazing achievement well done



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular attendance makes a real difference. Being in school consistently helps pupils keep up with their learning, maintain friendships, take part in the wider life of school and develop the routines and sense of belonging that support them to thrive.

We are delighted that **405 pupils are still maintaining 100% attendance** so far this year – a fantastic achievement and something to be really proud of.

Our **House Attendance Challenge** is also well underway, with pupils earning points for their House through strong attendance. The results are already very close, so every day really does count as we work towards our end-of-half-term total. We can't wait to see which House will be crowned our Attendance Champions and earn a House-colour mufti day at the end of the half term!

We know that deciding whether a child is well enough to attend school can sometimes be difficult. The NHS has helpful guidance for parents and carers called **"Is my child too ill for school?"**, which gives advice on common childhood illnesses and when children should stay at home.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you, as always, for working with us to support your child's attendance. If there are barriers making regular attendance difficult, please do get in touch with us so that we can work together to help.



NEW Parent Hub

PLEASE JOIN US - NO NEED TO BOOK!

A welcoming space for parents, carers & little ones

- Every Wednesday
- 9-11am
- Coffee @ The Hub (back room)
- with the lovely Holly

Once a month (3rd of the month), Ellen, a fabulous navigator from Somerset Parent Carer Forum (SPCF), will be in to give advice and information – or just share a hot cup of coffee and a chat.

Logos: The Hub, THE SPACE, Somerset Parent Carer Forum C.I.C., Wessex Learning Trust, Connect Somerset

Parent Carer Drop-In Cheddar

Coffee @ The Hub, 9:30 - 11:30
No need to book.

We are delighted to be partnering with The SPACE and Wessex Learning Trust to offer a welcoming and supportive SEND Navigator Drop-In Session for parent carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

Come and meet Ellen, our SEND Navigator, alongside Hollie from The SPACE, and find out how we can help you access the right support, information, and services for your family.

Ellen can help you to:

- Access reliable and up-to-date information
- Find the right people and services to support your family
- Prepare for meetings, reviews, and appointments
- Understand the support and options available to your child
- Complete forms such as DLA, PIP, and grant applications
- Help parent carers build confidence in understanding and supporting their child's needs.

Whether you have a specific question, need guidance, want to meet other parent carers, or simply need a friendly and understanding space to talk, you are very welcome to join us.

2026/27 Dates

- Wednesday 16th Sep
- Wednesday 21st Oct
- Wednesday 18th Nov
- Wednesday 16th Dec
- Wednesday 20th Jan
- Wednesday 17th Feb

Logos: COMMUNITY FUND, THE SPACE, Wessex Learning Trust, Somerset Parent Carer Forum C.I.C.

FIXTURES

HOCKEY

The Year 8 girls opened their hockey season with a strong 2–0 win against Wells Blue. Tilly set the tone early, scoring from the wing after ten minutes, before Bea mirrored the effort with a second goal just two minutes later. Wells Blue pushed back before the break, but a confident save from Olive kept the clean sheet intact.

The second half saw Wells Blue come out fighting, testing our defence with several shots on goal. Olive remained solid, supported by determined defensive work from Harley, Skylar and Elsa. Up front, Flossy, Marina and Charlotte continued to apply pressure, but no further goals were added. A disciplined performance all round and a well-earned 2–0 victory.

POM Skylar

OPOM Tillie

AQUAFEST

It was wonderful to attend the Aquafest swimming competition in Burnham, where our team delivered an outstanding performance to be crowned overall champions.

The event provided a fantastic mix of competitive races and fun team relays allowing all swimmers to showcase their skill, determination and teamwork. It was great to witness some incredibly close races throughout the afternoon, with pupils giving their all right to the finish. There were also plenty of smiles and laughter during the shirt relay, where some very interesting techniques were on display!

Most importantly, our pupils represented the school superbly. They demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship, supporting and encouraging one another while also showing great respect and kindness towards competitors from other schools.



CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to our group of year 5 and 6 pupils who travelled to Millfield for the 1st meet of the year in the Mendip Primary Schools Cross Country League.

Some brilliant performances by all involved. Thank you also to the Parents/Carers who travelled in support with their athletes.



Y8 WATCHET FIELD TRIP

Year 8 had a fabulous trip to Watchet this week, investigating whether we should defend Watchet from the sea. They carried out a fieldwork investigation, including land use surveys, field sketches and even took some time to talk to the people of Watchet to ask their views on the impacts of erosion. They will now use their findings to complete their field work study in lessons, coming up with a conclusion to answer their inquiry question. The behaviour of the students was exemplary and the people of Watchet took the time to stop and tell us how wonderful they all were - particularly how polite they were when carrying out their questionnaires! Thank you to all of the staff who supported this trip and well done year 8!



CELT HOUSE EVENTS

A big thank you to the Celt House Captains and members of the Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) for helping run the Celts house events in school this week, which included a football obstacle course and an IT challenge. Congratulations to all of the pupils that took part and gained 5 points for their houses. Pupils still have time to take part in the 'Reading in Unusual Places Challenge and the drawing competition. The theme of the drawing challenge is Hugh Sexey School or our house system. Both of these events close on Friday 9th October - all drawing competition entries to Miss Wills (art teacher) and photos of the reading challenge to be emailed to the school. Pupils are competing to win a house mufti day and a half term house cup with all points from these events going to the overall total.

HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Congratulations to Vikings, who currently sit in first place for term 1. As you can see, it is really tight so every house point will be crucial. Well done and congratulations to all pupils for the house points they have contributed to their house. This is a direct result of pupils demonstrating our values of Work Hard and Be Kind, which, as a school, we are really proud of.



Current House Point Totals		
1 st		6796
2 nd		6784
3 rd		6729
4 th		6639

A WILD VISIT FOR YEAR 6!

Year 6 had a fantastic visit from Laura from Animals UK, who came into school to support their learning about **classification** in a wonderfully hands-on way.

Laura introduced the children to a fascinating selection of animals, including **Severus the snake**, a **tarantula**, a **chameleon**, **an owl** and **some meerkats**! The children were captivated by the opportunity to see the animals up close and learn more about their characteristics and how they can be classified.

The Year 6 children had a fabulous time and impressed Laura with their **excellent behaviour and fantastic questions** throughout the session. It was a fun, memorable and exciting way to bring their classroom learning to life — we all had a brilliant time!



APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 9 - SEPT 2027

The online application window for places in Year 9 for September 2026 opens on **Monday 14th September 2026**.

To apply for your child's place next phase of education please apply via the link below

[Somerset Council - School Admissions - https://emsonline.somerset.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en](https://emsonline.somerset.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

For further information please follow the link below

[Starting at a secondary or upper school in September 2027](#)

The application window closes on **31st October 2026**

KS2 MEET THE TUTOR EVENINGS

- KS2 Meet The Tutor Evening - Monday 5th October

The booking window for Parents/Carers to book on to the KS2 Meet the Tutor Evening is open until Monday 5th October at 9:00am.

KS3 MEET THE TUTOR EVENING

- KS3 Meet The Tutor Evening - Monday 12th October

The booking window for Parents/Carers Opens on **Monday 28th September at 7:00pm**

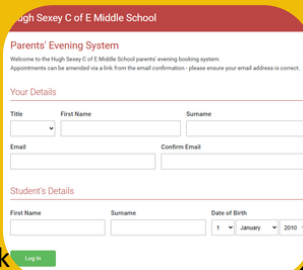
Booking slots are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

All bookings are made through the **SchoolCloud** parents Evening Booking System.

Please follow the link

[SchoolCloud Parent Evening Bookings](#) and enter the details that you have registered with the school.

Any problems please email school@hughsexey.org.uk




ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS ON MCAS

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

Creative Club

Wednesdays 1.00 - 1.30 in Drama
with school chaplain Margaret



NEXT WEEK IN
PICTURE NEWS



HSMS VALUES IN ACTION @ HOME WB 5TH OCTOBER 2026



IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The government has announced plans to make food served in schools across England healthier from September 2027. Under the proposed rules, schools would serve more fruit, vegetables and fibre-rich foods, while deep-fried foods and foods containing lots of fat, sugar or salt would be restricted. Schools would still offer familiar meals, but they would use healthier ingredients and cooking methods.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Who usually decides what your family eats at home? Do you take turns? Does everyone help choose meals?
- What are some of the things you think are important to consider when choosing what we eat?
- If you could suggest one new school meal, what would it be?

Invitation prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for the food we have each day and for all the people who help provide it.

Help us to share with others and care about those who do not have enough.

Guide us to work together, so that everyone can have access to healthy and nutritious food. Amen.

HSMS Christian Value and Virtue next week: Thankfulness & Responsibility

Bible Link: John 6:11-12

British Value and Protected Characteristic: Individual Liberty & Rule of Law & Age

UN Rights of the Child: #24 Health, Water, Food, Environment