



FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2024

SOMERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The countdown is on to Christmas and we have started our Advent celebrations this week. Please be reassured that whilst this is a really fun time of year, we are still focussing tightly on the children's learning. There are lots of exciting events coming up so please turn your Marvellous Me notifications on for the next few weeks.

Mrs Frampton

S(ELF)-CARE ADVENT CALENDAR 2024

1  Support a local shop or small business.	2 Go stargazing and reflect on something you're grateful for.	3 Make a festive playlist to set the holiday mood.	4 Learn and practice a breathing technique, like "box breathing."	5 Send a thoughtful voice note to a loved one.	6 Write down 5 things you love about yourself.
7 Go tech-free for an evening and enjoy activities like reading, board games, etc.	8  Try a new festive recipe you've never made before.	9 Make or update a vision board for 2025.	10  Share a compliment with three people today.	11  Take a mindful walk and notice 5 things that bring you joy.	12 Create handmade holiday decorations using recycled materials.
13 Write down 10 things you're grateful for this holiday season.	14 Have a "self-reflection night" with candles and journaling.	15 Learn how to make a homemade gift for someone special.	16  Do a random act of kindness for a stranger.	17  Try a fun winter-themed craft (snowflakes, pom-poms, etc.).	18  Take time today to prioritise yourself.
19 Make a hot drink you've never tried before (like mint hot chocolate or cinnamon latte).	20  Take time to talk through or write down any worries.	21 Dedicate time to stretch or do light yoga for 10 minutes.	22  Create a "comfort box" with items that make you happy.	23  Do a self-care countdown by listing 3 things you're looking forward to in 2025.	24  Movie Marathon - watch your favourite Christmas movies.



Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools



Believe in your SELF



@DORSETHMST





Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

Address:
 Draper Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 3AS
Tel: (01202) 485436

Email: office@somerford.dorset.sch.uk
Website: www.somerford.dorset.sch.uk
Facebook: Somerset Primary School
Twitter: @mrsfsomerford
Headteacher : Helen Frampton



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A focus on mental health and wellbeing

Mrs Macmillan is our Senior Mental Health Lead and she leads the Mental Health and Wellbeing Group. This includes staff, governors and parents. If you would like to be involved, the next meeting is 16th December at 2.30pm in school.

We also have pupils who are Wellbeing Ambassadors and they have training from Mrs Macmillan to help support their peers.

Attendance

Our expectation for attendance is 96% or above.

The school will not authorise leave in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Holidays are not considered exceptional circumstances and are likely to result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to each parent for each child. **This has now increased to £80 per parent, per child.**

Attendance for the last week

Year group	Attendance	96% expectation
Whole school	92.79%	below
1	91.98%	below
2	95.41%	Just below
3	92.74%	below
4	90.48%	below
5	93.47%	below
6	91.43%	below

These figures are really disappointing and is a real drop since the start of the school year. We do know winter bugs can hit now but please ensure your child is in school if they are well enough to be here.

Date of next newsletter

Thursday 19th December

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School Closed to children

Our term ends on Thursday 19th December at the usual times. This will be a non uniform day in support of the Foodbank. Their stocks are really low at the moment so we would really appreciate you donating what you can.

Friday 20th December is an INSET day so school is closed to pupils. The staff have all worked the 6 hours of the INSET day in after school training this term so staff will not be in school that day either.

Holiday vouchers

As you know, we issue these to parents on behalf of BCP and they have told us there will be vouchers for this holiday period for all children in receipt of benefit related free school meals.

Mrs Luker will issue these soon—please ask any questions before we close for the holidays as we will not be able to resolve issues over the break. Please note, if you have more than one child receiving a voucher, you need to check your mobile and your email.

Christmas activities

- 2-6 December -Leg it to Lapland week. Please try to walk, scoot or cycle to school each day
 - 3 December—School choir singing at Avon Reach care home
 - 4 December—School choir singing at Somerset Arc
 - 5 December—Open the Book visitor assembly
- 6 December—School Council attending Avon Reach care home's Christmas party
 - 9 December—Carol concert on playground
 - 10 December—Rocksteady performance to school
 - 11 and 12 December—Nativity performances
 - 11 December—Soundstorm Christmas concert
 - 12 December—Y4 at the panto
 - 13 December—Christmas jumper day (£1 Save the Children)
 - 17 December—Highcross Church service
 - 17 December—Christmas parties
 - 18 December—Christmas lunch
 - 19 December—special visitor if we are good!

Return to school

School opens on Monday 6th January at usual times.

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Who are we?

On each newsletter we will share with you a little more about the amazing staff who work at Somerford and how they can support you and your children.

Mrs Cutler



Mrs Cutler is our Finance Officer.

Mrs Cutler has many important jobs in school including:

- Organising our school trips and visits
- Placing orders and paying invoices
- Overseeing school lunches and making sure payments are made
- Managing the process for children who join or leave our school
- Managing Arbor

A typical day for Mrs Cutler may include phoning coach companies to get the best price for a school trip, doing a payment run, placing orders for curriculum resources, linking with Mrs Barnes in the kitchen and helping a parent use Arbor.

If you would like to contact Mrs Cutler you can email on finance@somerford.dorset.sch.uk or call the school office on 01202 485436.

Next time we will find out more about Mrs Vey.....

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