

HEMINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term 1 - 2026/27

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a super start to the year. Once again, I find myself counting my blessings to be headteacher at such a wonderful school. Our Harvest Celebration yesterday was delightful. Thank you to those who were able to attend and for your very generous donations for Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank. Performance is such a valuable part of building a child's confidence and resilience; standing in front of an audience and overcoming those 'performance nerves' is really important. With Harvest, the Nativity, the carol service and the end of year show, our children perform in front of an audience at least 28 times through their primary career.

I accompanied Year 5&6 to the library today and it was very satisfying to see them immediately bury their heads in the books they had chosen. Once again, this year we will be investing heavily in our own library and we will also be receiving a library grant and training from Libraries for Primaries. Reading is the key to success in all areas of learning and life and developing good reading habits and a love of reading by sharing books at home with a grown-up is vital. Please help your child by reading with them as often as possible. Don't let it become a battle but encourage them to read to you at least 3 or 4 times a week. If they refuse, read to your child and encourage them to read the odd word. With a calm, consistent approach children will grow to love books and see the effort it takes to master reading as worthwhile.

Hemington is such a supportive community. I would like to say a huge thank you for the support we received for two fundraising events this term. We raised £102 for Young Minds, the Mental Health Charity and over £150 for the school on Break the Rules Day.

PTA fundraising makes a huge difference to our children's school experience. Purchases we intend to fund this year with our fundraising include:

- Subsidising school trip transport costs
- Repainting playground markings (eg. hop scotch)
- Buying digital sensors for science
- Replacing headphones/ mice
- Scripts and costumes for school shows
- Costumes for Dance Umbrella

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

A reminder that Thursday and Friday next week (22nd/23rd September), school is closed for staff INSET days and the following week is half term. The new term begins on Monday 2nd November.

Best regards,

Alun Randell

Attendance

Attendance 2026-27

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6	National average
93.2%						95.93%

There has been a bit of illness this term which will obviously impact our attendance figures; however, attendance this term is **significantly** below national rates. Good attendance makes a huge difference. A child whose average attendance is 90% will miss a total of 126 days over their school career which is equivalent to 70% of a school year. Clearly, this will make a difference to a child's progress in school academically **and** socially. We recognise that children when ill may be absent from school; however, if your child is 'under the weather' please bring them in. Usually children feel better as the day goes on. We will ring if necessary. Your child can attend school if they have a 'bit of a temperature' but should be kept off school if they have a high temperature (38C or higher). For more information about when your child is well enough to attend school visit .

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

Punctuality

Good punctuality also makes a difference. Learning starts promptly at 8:45 with staff working 1-1 with children on key skills before the first lesson at 9:00am. Children who regularly are 5 minutes late miss out on these sessions. This can impact their fluency in reading and times tables and consequently their confidence in English and Maths. Children can also feel very anxious if they arrive late. Please try to make sure your child arrives at school on time.

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Governors

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are currently recruiting for new parent and/or community governors to join our joint governing body for Leigh on Mendip and Hemington Primary School.

We are a friendly, dedicated group that meets just once a term for a meeting, alongside a couple of school visits & book looks throughout the year. Whilst there is a time commitment involved, the role is designed to fit around your availability and it offers a wonderfully direct way to help shape the strategic vision and future for our children. This video gives an insight into the work that governors do for our schools.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining us, please let the school office know.

Best wishes,
Katie Payne
Clerk to Governors



Diary Dates

Daily: Breakfast Club from 8am, normal school arrival 8:30am - 8:45am,
learning starts promptly at 8:45am

Last day of term for children Wednesday 21st October

INSET Day Thursday 22nd October (school closed to children)

INSET Day Friday 23rd October (school closed to children)

Half Term School Holiday Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Term starts Monday 2nd November

Friday 13th November: Children In Need - Wear spots to school to support this charity

Monday 16th - Friday 20th November: Anti-Bullying Week

INSET Day Wednesday 25th November (school closed to children)

Friday 27th November: Library visits

Friday 4th December: Reception & Nightingale - "Beneath The Snow" Theatre trip

Monday 7th December: Nativity performance 9:15 am

Tuesday 8th December: Nativity performance 9:15 am

Friday 10th December: "Arthur" Theatre trip

Last day of term Friday 18th December

School Holidays Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January

INSET Day Monday 4th January (school closed to children)

Term starts Tuesday 5th January

Last day of term Friday 12th February

Half Term School Holidays Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

Terms starts Monday 22nd February

Last day of term Thursday 25th March

School Holidays Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April

Term starts Monday 12th April

Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May (school closed to all)

Last day of term Friday 28th May

School Holidays Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Term starts Monday 7th June

Last day of school year and last day of term Friday 23rd July

PTA

Break The Rules Day!



Thank you for the amazing support. We raised over £160!
Children enjoyed the 15 minute classroom swap.

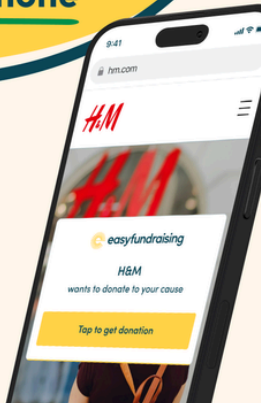
**Raise in seconds with the
Donation Reminder
on your smartphone**

Download the app to get
the Donation Reminder

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

easyfundraising

A smartphone screen showing the easyfundraising app interface. It displays a notification from H&M saying 'H&M wants to donate to your cause' with a yellow button that says 'Tap to get donation'.

Did you know, you can get the #easyfundraising Donation Reminder to find free donations for Hemington Primary School, Radstock, no matter how you shop online? The handy shopping assistant is available for your laptop or computer, and on iOS and android devices. This means Hemington Primary School, Radstock won't miss out on any donations as you're shopping online.

Find out more here:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Term 1

Somerset Miners



Somerset Miners with our commemorative miner's silhouette; now installed in our rockery garden

www.somersetminers.com

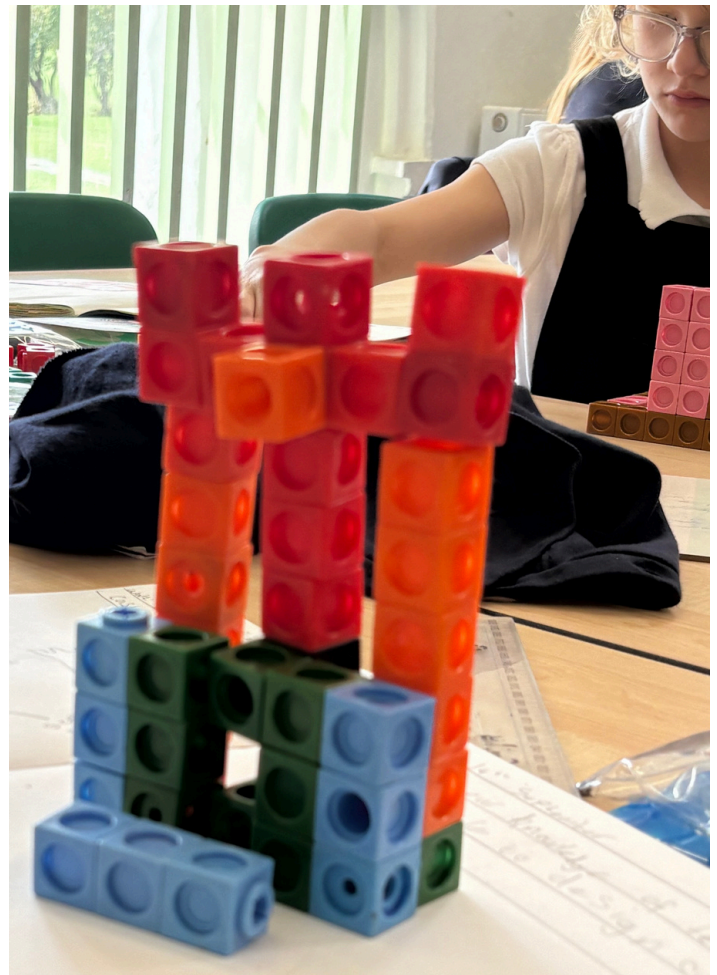
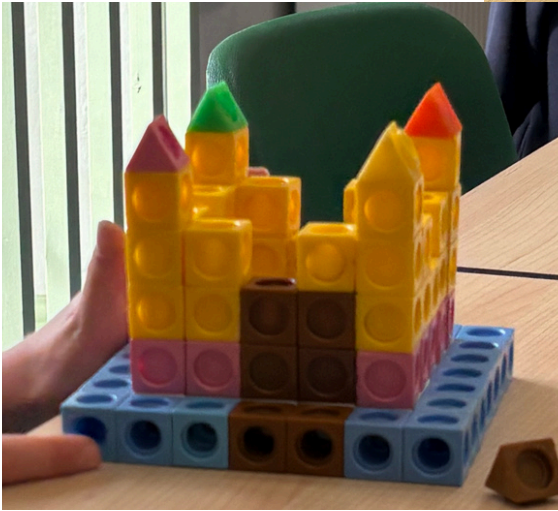
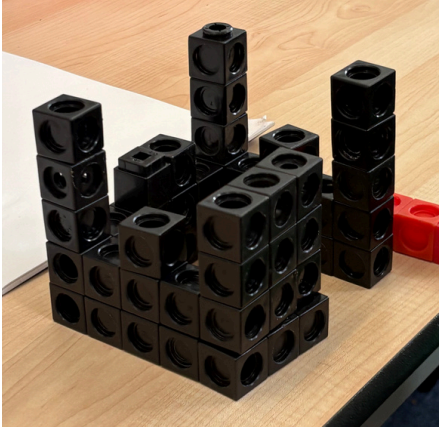
“Although the mines are now long gone, the miners’ legacy remains”.

Somerset coal was worked from the Roman period through to the closure of the last working pit in 1973. The legacy of coal mining in

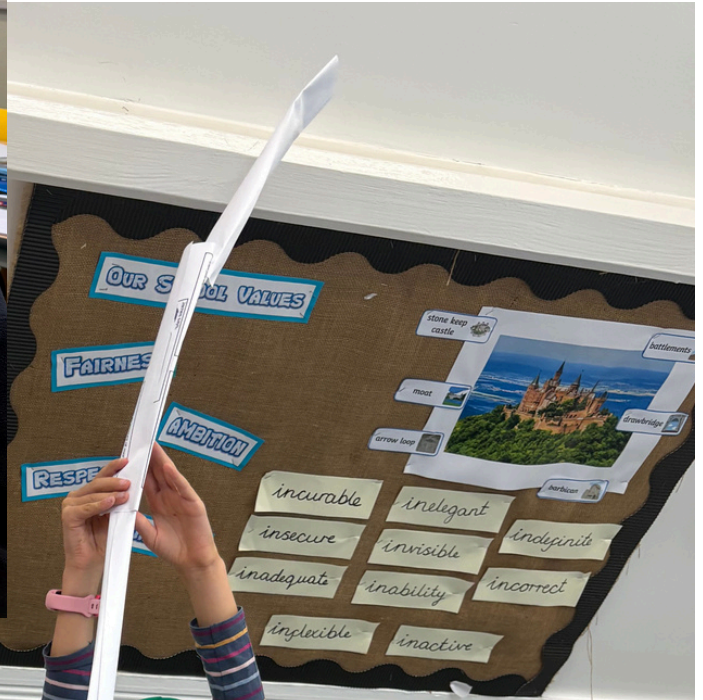
Somerset is visible all around us.

Thank you to Bryn and his fellow miners for helping us connect with the story of Somerset’s coal mining heritage.

Brunel - DT Castles Project



Team Building & Hello Yellow World Mental Health Day



Nightingale RE learning: freeze framing The Parable of The Lost Son



Harvest and Show & Share

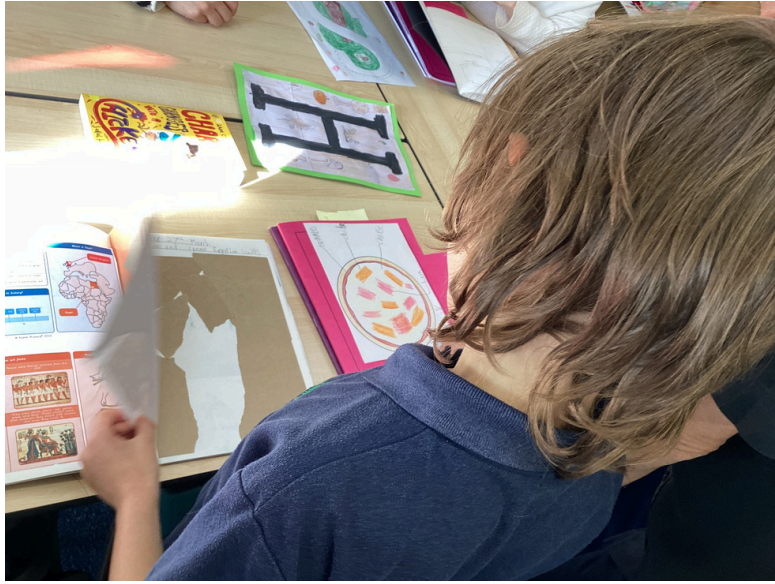


The Trussell Trust supports communities and churches to open foodbanks across the UK.

As a network, we want to see more people helped out of crisis and fewer people needing foodbanks in the future. That's why The Trussell Trust and local foodbanks are working together to develop new ways to help people out of crisis through programmes like More Than Food.

To find out more about The Trussell Trust visit www.trusselltrust.org.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imHp6IotgtE&feature=youtu.be>

Show & Share after Harvest



Harvest learning in Reception and Nightingale: the children made pumpkin soup, Harvest crowns, created poems and did lots of measuring



Making pumpkin soup in Reception and Nightingale



Reading Buddies



Community Notices



NEURO SPORTS COLLECTIVE

Everyone included ● Everyone valued ● Everyone active

Day: Mondays

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Downside School

**£12.50 per session
10% discount for termly bookings**

*Sign up for a free trial session
or for more information,
email us at...*

Team@neurosportscollective.com

***Neuro-
Affirming
Inclusive
Multi-Sports
Club***



**NEURO SPORTS
COLLECTIVE**

get a
free *Kellogg's*
breakfast
every school
holiday*



Morrisons



*From 16.02.2026 - 22.02.2026, 30.03.2026 - 19.04.2026, 25.05.2026 - 31.05.2026, 29.06.2026 - 06.09.2026, 12.10.2026 - 01.11.2026, 21.12.2026 - 03.01.2027. This offer is redeemable all-day Monday to Sunday. Simply say 'Kellogg's Breakfast' at the till point at any UK Morrisons Café to receive breakfast, which includes, a free portion pack of Cornflakes (24g), Rice Krispies (22g) with milk or milk alternative (25ml). Limit of 1 breakfast per customer per day. Offer is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. A recommended balanced breakfast includes a bowl of cereal, plus milk or milk alternative, a portion of fruit and a glass of water. TM © 2026 Kellanova.

Helping Hedgehogs Drop In

October 28 @ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Join us at Secret World Wildlife Rescue this half term for a fun, hands-on hedgehog-themed drop-in session!



Home

Get involved with our events and challenges and help raise money for sick, injured, and orphaned British wildlife. Your support gives animals a second chance at life in the wild.

 Secret World Events in Somerset /

Secret World
New Road
East Huntspill
Highbridge
TA9 3PZ



Wednesday 28th October 2026 | Drop in anytime between 10am and 2pm

Hedgehogs are one of Britain's best-loved garden visitors, but they face many challenges in the modern landscape. Come along to Secret World Wildlife Rescue this October and discover more about these fascinating little mammals and how we can all help them.

Our Hedgehog Day is a fun, family-friendly drop-in event with plenty to see, make and investigate.

All ages are welcome, with lots of hands-on activities for young wildlife enthusiasts.

You can drop in at any time between 10am and 2pm and take part in as many activities as you like.

What can you do?

-  Build a Hedgehog House
-  Get creative with hedgehog crafts
-  Discover how to help hedgehogs
-  See the equipment used to care for hedgehogs
-  See hedgehogs in action
-  Enjoy a drink and a slice of cake
-  Visit the Secret World Gift Shop

Something for all ages

Whether you are a budding wildlife expert, a keen crafter, a hedgehog fan or simply looking for something fun to do during the school holidays, there will be something for you.

Come along, get creative, learn more about hedgehogs and discover some of the simple things we can all do to give these much-loved garden visitors a helping hand.

Date: Wednesday 28th October 2026

Time: Drop in anytime between 10am and 2pm

All craft and activity sessions are free. Additional charges apply if you choose to take a hedgehog house home or purchase a hedgehog house kit or pre-made house.

Refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the drop-in session.

Important information

Secret World Wildlife Rescue is a working wildlife hospital. For the welfare of the animals in our care, there is no contact with rescued animals during this event.

Instead, visitors can learn about our work through footage, demonstrations, equipment and educational activities.

Come along and discover how you can help hedgehogs!