



Hindhayes Infant school

**Hindhayes Infant
School Attendance
Whole School 95.4%**

**Orchard was the class
with the highest
attendance with
98.3%**

Diary Dates:

Happening soon:

18th Feb: End of half term

Happening After Half Term:

28th Feb: Beginning of
new half term

8th April End of Spring term.

25th April Beginning of
Summer term

2nd May: Spring Bank
Holiday

27th May: School closes for
May Half term

6th June: School opens for
final half term

24th June: INSET day 4

25th July: INSET day 5

26th July: Additional Bank
Holiday for the Queen's
Birthday- School Closed

27th July: School Closed for
summer holidays

At School This Week

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you enjoyed the time at home with your families and that however you may have chosen to celebrate the winter season that you have all had fun and time to make memories together. In some houses and homes I know it was not the Christmas you were hoping for but I am sure that no matter where or what you were doing you made it special for the children.

The children have settled quickly into being back in school and have eased themselves back into classroom expectations over the last three days. I don't know about you, but the shorter week has certainly helped in our house. Dark mornings and no advent calendars to entice out of bed are not helping with the start to anyone's day.

The teachers began the term with an INSET day focused to extend our subject knowledge around the teaching of Science. We were delighted to be able to join with other local schools from the Street and Glastonbury Community Learning Partnership in the morning to remotely hear from a Science specialist who was previously a Head Teacher and who now is a fellow of Plymouth university and who is now working to help teachers understand how to best plan and assess their teaching. In the afternoon, Mrs. Drew, our Science specialist took the staff through updates that were pertinent to our own Science teaching. There was also time for some grown up experiments. Over the last five years, Mrs Drew has worked very hard on the development of our Science curriculum. She is now our Science expert and we are very lucky to have her here as part of our team.

I know that many of you will be aware of the role all schools have in the tracking of pupil attendance. This role starts with the school office and our class teachers being vigilant to pupil absence. Staff will contact families when children are not in school to ensure that we know the reasons why. If we cannot raise families through the telephone we will use our PFSA, Andy Leafe to complete a welfare visit e.g. a knock on the door to check that everything is ok. It is also the responsibility of a senior member of staff to monitor attendance to celebrate where attendance is above the national expectation of 96%. Where a child's attendance falls below 95% we should contact families to let them know this. This week we have written to those families whose attendance is below 90% as we absolutely appreciate at the moment that due to isolation periods etc. children's attendance may be lower than it might have been without the disruption of e.g. COVID. Thank you for your understanding as we work through the expectations placed upon us as we begin to send these letters out to our families. For your information we had almost 50% of our families with attendance falling under 95%.

This week, we have also welcomed a new member of the BAM team to Hindhayes. Fiona Moore has joined Sarah, Tammy and Kerri to help us continue to deliver tasty lunches to the children. She has taken the place of Kim Lavalley who left us just before Christmas. Kim has worked with Hindhayes for a number of years and we are very grateful to her for her commitment to ensuring that the children always had lunch on time. We wish her well in her new adventures and will miss her great cakes!



Lets Celebrate

We would like to congratulate all of the children for settling back in to school so well after our Christmas Holidays.



Messages from the Hindhayes Staff

Designated Absence Line

Please remember that you must report your child's absence to the School Office each day by 9.30am. We have a designated absence line, you will find this by calling 01458 442978, then selecting option 1.

Lunch Orders

Please remember that you are able to view your lunch orders by logging in to your ParentMail account. Go into 'Accounts', select 'Spring Menu' and then 'Statements' at the bottom of your screen.



The Somerset Household Support Fund

The Somerset Household Support Fund is designed to provide short-term financial support (from December – end March 2022) to vulnerable households which are struggling to afford the cost of food, gas, electricity, oil and water bills and other essential costs. The scheme is funded by the DWP and administered by Somerset County Council. The fund is being distributed by Citizens Advice in Somerset, who are assisting the County Council.

How do I apply?

www.hsf.citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk

If you do not have any support and need help to apply: Please call Somerset County Council on **0300 790 6275**. The Somerset County Council team will pass your contact details to your nearest Citizens Advice office who will help you make an application.