

HEPS News



Week beginning 5.2.2024

The Week Ahead...

	Cocklemoor	Haymoor	Leazemoor	Perrymoor	Portmoor	Saltmoor	Kingsmoor
Monday					Please wear PE kit		Booster 15:30-16:30
Tuesday	Storynory 15:30-16:30	Storynory 15:30-16:30	Secret coders Storynory 15:30-16:30	HEPS Harmonies Secret coders Cheerleading 15:30-16:30	HEPS Harmonies Secret coders Cheerleading 15:30-16:30	HEPS Harmonies Cheerleading 15:30-16:30	Please wear PE kit HEPS Harmonies Cheerleading 15:30-16:30
Wednesday			Please bring PE kit in		Football 15:30-16:30	Football 15:30-16:30	Football 15:30-16:30
Thursday	Please bring PE kit in No clubs or Busy Bees Disco	Please bring PE kit in No clubs or Busy Bees Disco	No clubs or Busy Bees Disco	No clubs or Busy Bees Disco	No clubs or Busy Bees Disco	No clubs or Busy Bees Disco	No clubs or Busy Bees Disco
Friday	Inset day	Inset day	Inset day	Inset day	Inset day	Inset day	Inset day

Quick link to our Twitter Feed:

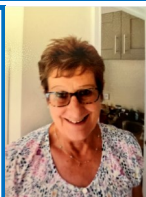
@H_E_P_S



Quick link to Calendar Dates:

HEPS Diary Dates

HEPS Chair of Governors:
Mrs Julia Gadd



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Governor:
Miss Chadbourne
Deputy Headteacher



Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs Doughty Davis
Headteacher



Letters/emails sent out recently or reminders:

HEPS Harmonies (choir)
Saltmoor swimming
Match Day Experience

All pupils
Saltmoor pupils
Saltmoor pupils

School Lunches: Please make your menu choices and/or book and pay on Schoolcomms by 09:00am on Tuesday, 6 January 2024 for meals W/C 19 February 2024 (week 1 menu). You do not need to select a pudding when ordering a packed lunch.

Community garden: We are really pleased to announce that after consultation with the Landmark Langport Trust, part of the garden behind the Town Hall will be opened as a community garden. It has been named as Walter's Garden, as a tribute to Walter Bagehot. No doubt there will be opportunities for the school to support and use this space. There is an email address for anyone who would like more information or to offer help: waltersgarden.langport@gmail.com

World Book Day: This year we are celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024.

As usual, we will be encouraging the children to dress up if they wish. If you would like to get a head start on costumes, our theme this year is 'Picture Book Characters'. Waterstones will be visiting with book token books and other age appropriate books the day after World Book Day on Friday 8th March.

Somerset SCITT: are currently recruiting Teachers for the 2024-25 Teacher Training course and have several events happening across the spring term. Several of the teaching team are SCITT babies, including Mrs Doughty Davis. Please find information about these events here: [All our events and our latest video can be found here.](#)

Donations: We are in need of tights and leggings which will be used as spares for when children need to change. If you have any pairs you can spare, particularly in age 3-4, 4-5, 5-6 or 6-7, we would be very grateful. Please ask your child to give these to the Teacher.

Disco: The School Council have finalised the disco details (see the poster on page 4). We will be having a school disco on Thursday 8 February. The theme is 'red' but this is optional. We ask that age appropriate clothing is worn for a primary school disco, particularly in KS2.

The first disco will be from 17:00-17:45 for Years R, 1 and 2. A parent or carer will need to accompany Reception and Year 1 children. The KS2 disco will be from 18:00-19:00.

Entry will be £2 on the gate; please bring the exact amount. We encourage water bottles to be brought along. There will be a tuck shop selling sweets, crisps and squash. We will also have a tattoo booth. Children must not bring more than £4 into the disco please.

Are you able to volunteer to support the organisation of the disco? Please contact Mrs Soakell in the School Office if you can support this event.

Clubs: There will be no clubs on Thursday evening due to the disco taking place. Busy Bees will be open as usual.

Y5 enrichment: We are thrilled to be able to offer all Year 5 pupils the opportunity to undertake a behind the scenes tour of the Exeter Chiefs ground, a training session with the team and watch a match with the Women's Team. This is offered to all Year 5 children free of charge as part of the school's commitment to ensuring our children experience diverse enrichment opportunities showcasing talented individuals in fulfilling careers. The visit will take place on Saturday 9th March. Please see the letter for more details. If you are able to volunteer, please contact the School Office.

Survey: From page 5 of this newsletter, we have included the survey results and actions received from our new parent survey. We are thrilled that 100% of them would recommend this school! We appreciate parents who took the time to complete this survey as it informs us of how we are doing and where we can make improvements.

Cough sweets: We have been inundated with cough sweets this week which has caused problems and angst. Please keep these for before and after school only. If you would like to discuss this further because you have an exceptional circumstance, please speak with Mrs Doughty Davis on the playground.

Safeguarding: "What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school?" has just been published on The Education Hub blog. Cases of measles are rising across England, including among children. It's an infection that spreads very easily and for some people can cause serious problems. There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is one of the routine childhood vaccinations, so most children are already vaccinated against measles. If your child has received both doses of the vaccine, they are unlikely to have the virus. Here is an explanation of everything you need to know about the rise in measles cases: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/22/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/>

Question on the gate: "Why aren't the children in school next Friday?"

"We have our annual Curriculum Review INSET day on Friday. Children can't come into school as the Teachers and HLTAs meet together to review and suggest improvements for the HEPS 2024-25 curriculum. Subject Leaders listen to the recommendations of their colleagues and the opinions of the children before amending the curriculum. All children participate in pupil voice groups which are undertaken by the Subject Leader throughout the year.

Although February may seem early to consider next year's curriculum, we need time to plan staffing, timetables and buy resources suitable for any new content. We may also need to plan training opportunities, arrange visits/visitors or research new topics.

The curriculum is complex and takes a considerable amount of time to plot in order that each topic shows progression across the year groups and is placed at the correct point to develop complimentary skills in other subjects or areas. Whilst the curriculum review is demanding, it's one of the most important pieces of work we undertake as it leads to incredible experiences, learning opportunities and life-long skills which place our children in the best possible position to be successful in life beyond HEPS."

Sparkle Jar Reading—5 reads a week minimum including holidays

Cocklemoor	Haymoor	Leazemoor	Perrymoore	Portmoor	Saltmoor	Kingsmoor
100%	96%	90%	97%	97%	92%	94%

Dates for your diary

We will put dates in the newsletter at the beginning and end of each term. In the meantime, please click on the pink link on this newsletter on page 1 which will take you to this page on the website. All dates and events are subject to change although as always, we aim to minimise this wherever possible. **Bold type means there has been an amendment since first published.**

Week commencing	Assemblies with parents (top gate 14:55 please)	Bake Sale (please bring cakes into Coronation Room Friday morning, thank you)	Events and information
01/01/2024		Leazemoor	Monday: Bank holiday (no children). No clubs this week. Tuesday: no Early birds. Friday: mufti day for house points for the blue team.
08/01/2024	Friday Haymoor Celebration		Thursday: Y6 parent meeting for SATs.
15/01/2024		Cocklemoor	Monday: Deadline for applying for a primary school place for R24 children.
22/01/2024	Friday Kingsmoor Celebration		Monday, 09:00: Interhouse mini cake decorating competition
29/01/2024		Saltmoor	
05/02/2024			Thursday: School Council event for whole school (to be confirmed) Friday: INSET (no children)
12/02/2024	Half term	Half term	Half term
19/02/2024	Friday Portmoor Celebration		Monday: no Early birds. Friday: mufti day for house points (team unknown). Wednesday: Interhouse cross country (no football club).
26/02/2024		Perrymoor	Monday: no Early birds. Friday: mufti day for house points (team unknown). Friday: deadline for secondary school applications.
04/03/2024	Friday Leazemoor Celebration		Thursday: World Book Day, theme: a character from a picture/ Reception book. Various events (more info to follow).
11/03/2024		Haymoor	Friday: Red Nose Day, mufti for £1 donation.
18/03/2024	Friday Cocklemoor Celebration		Wednesday and Thursday: parents evenings. No clubs this week.
25/03/2024			No clubs this week. Vocab mats sent home.

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

You are invited to HEPS Red
themed Disco



Pay £2.00 on the door for entry. Bring up to £4 for tuck and tattoos.

5.00-5.45 for KS1 (Cockle Moor and Haymoor must be accompanied by a parent)

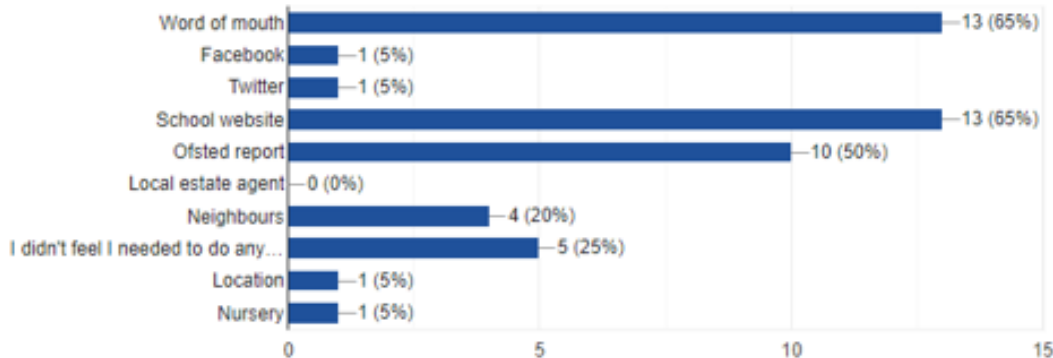
6.00-7.00 for KS2

Survey

New parents, those of children starting in Reception and other year groups, were surveyed before Christmas. Here are the results which were from 13 Reception parents and 7 parents from other year groups:

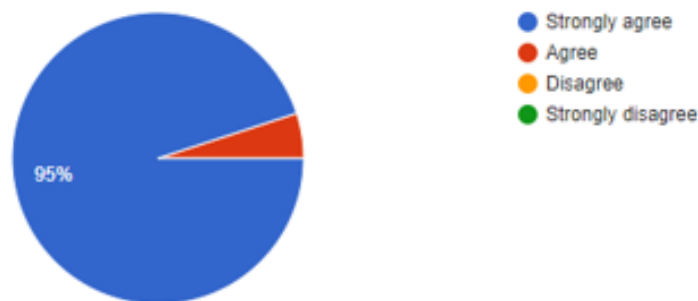
Before applying for a school place, I made enquiries about the school by researching in the following ways (please tick all that apply).

20 responses



When I first contacted the school, the response was warm and welcoming.

20 responses



When I first visited the school, the tour was informative.

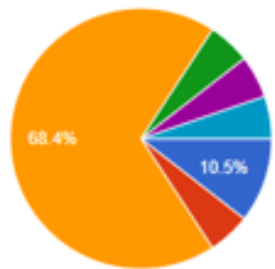
20 responses



Regarding the tour, I would have preferred:



19 responses



- A group tour
- An open day visit where the school has many families visiting
- A single family tour (which we currently offer)
- I had all of the above. It was lovely.
- I was happy with the tour
- Single family tour was superb

I felt well informed during the application process.

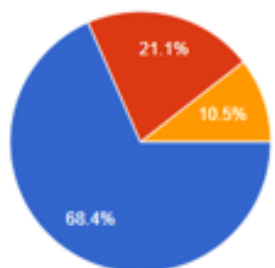
20 responses



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Once my child was accepted for a place (after the school offer day for Reception children), I was well informed about the next steps.

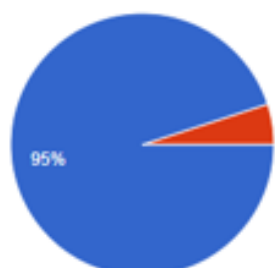
19 responses



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

The transition visit(s), where my child/children stayed for a session, was helpful to them.

20 responses

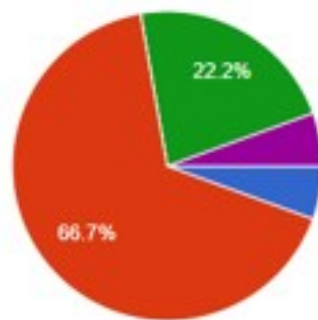


- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

For Reception children, there were:



18 responses

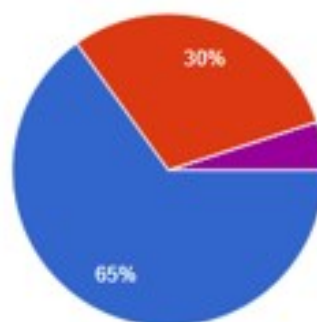


- not enough visit opportunities
- a good amount of visit opportunities
- too many visit opportunities
- My child didn't start in Reception
- I don't have ideas

I felt well informed about what to expect in the first few weeks of my child/children starting at the school.



20 responses



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I feel more information should be sent and repeats

What I would have found useful during the application process or in the first few weeks of school is:

12 responses

Na

Wet weather drop off - for the first time - having a teacher / staff member they knew at the gate so they saw a familiar face.

N/A

Would have benefitted from updates when waiting for my child's place becoming available. And ongoing as I wait for my next child. Being able to order food and childcare before my child's first day. Understanding basic areas my child would be learning to allow me to support her. Having initial assessment results communicated. Helping my child adjust socially.

More information would have been good with regards to the home books, and what to write, sign etc. I only knew that I had to read AND sign each night after speaking to others parents and was surprised when I had a red dot after I read but never signed next to the book title.

After having been given a place it felt like such a long time before you were contacted about things

Definitions on what terms mean example mufti and what it means by inset i had to ask other parents

More information upfront on clubs with regards to how to book. Forms so that I could notify the school easily of medical conditions

Everything was great. The only thing missing was pre warning about how different the process is for drop offs on wet mornings.

The support and advise offered by Mrs Doughty Davis was exceptional.

An update on how my child is settling in.
More info on the smaller things...Sparkle jar info, coloured houses, reasons for mufti etc.
Had quite a few new mums to the school not knowing about the coloured houses and Sparkle jar etc.

Everyone is very helpful

What HEPS does really well during the application process or in the first few weeks of school is:

14 responses

A phone call from teacher

Amazed at how much my child has learnt already. I feel confident you're going to get the very best out of him.

Information pack was so helpful and the school were very approachable to double check, nothing was too silly to ask.

Keeping us updated on the next steps

Feeling of membership / community. Meeting in person. Thorough assessment of needs in the classroom. Great communication between teacher and parent. Great wrap around care provision.

How friendly the lady was on reception whenever I phoned.
The visit with Mrs Doughty-Davies was lovely.
How much knowledge my child seemed to have gained in the first few weeks. Mrs Andrew's home visit was really nice.

It was so welcoming and warm and there was always someone there if you need to ask questions

Welcoming and supportive to children

The postcard from Theo's new teacher was a lovely personal touch.

Staff (both teachers and office) are so very friendly and happy to help with any query. They really helped settle both mine and my child's mind about the move. I also appreciated the teachers call a few weeks in, to feedback progress.

Communication is excellent, and I feel my child is cared for. Very observant and helpful staff

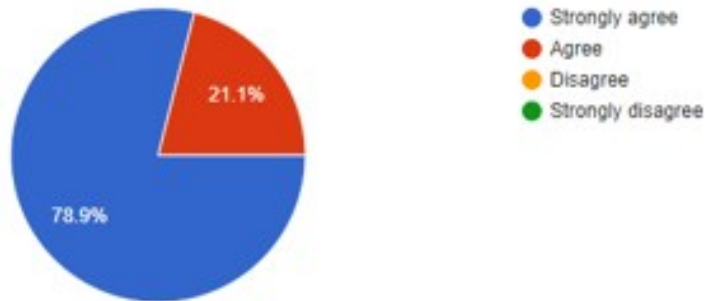
Always reiterating HEPS are there for any questions/support needed

Take care of our children and settle them in well.

Child felt welcome and settled in quickly. Info for parents was clear.

My child is happy at HEPS.

19 responses



I would recommend this school to another parent.

20 responses



Please note any further comments here.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

8 responses

Na

I continue to be very impressed. Great job all

A little bit more information on where to go when collecting your child. After the first full day, I had to ask parents who had siblings already at the school where they would be.

And what happens on a rainy morning at drop off.

Other than that I'm really happy with the school and so is my child.

Sometimes it feels like you are just meant to know things ie how house points work and what they need to do to earn them what happens when they have enough. Sometimes I feel like there's not enough information about things, you know things are coming up ie nativity/parents evening but you don't know what you are ment to be doing until a lot later.

But having said these things thank you what I lovely team you have and how nice it is to be able to just talk to the teacher or the head teacher if you need to!. Everyone has been so welcoming and caring amazing!

I am thankful of the teachers and treatment we get amazing

Loved the laminated sheet we got with name and numbers on this really helped!

Thank you for all the hard work!

Extremely impressed so far with the set-up, polite and friendly ethos, child's progress, presentation assembly, fun disco. Thank you.

Actions from survey results:

- Although we contacted parents by email as soon as we received the Reception confirmed list, we will be contacting parents with a follow up phone call too from this year to explain the process and when they will be contacted again. This way, parents can ask questions rather than just receive information from us.
- Information about the change for a wet weather drop off will be included in the welcome pack and explained at the open evening for Reception parents.
- For parents with a child on the waiting list, we will contact them termly to confirm the position even if this is 'no change'.
- The manual ordering of food, booking clubs and childcare is always offered before children start as this can't be actioned before the first day due to the children not being enrolled. This is a national process and can't be changed. This will be communicated with more clarity.
- We are including an example page in the planner from September 2024 which will show how we expect the planner to be typically completed.
- We will include a glossary in planners and the Reception pack with terms such as mufti, INSET, sparkle jar, coloured houses etc.