

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Issue 5

July 2025

Welcome

As we wrap up our very first academic year at Hill View, we're filled with pride and gratitude. It's been a year of growth, learning, and overcoming challenges—particularly those linked to our new building and wider circumstances. Yet, we end the year on a high, with a full team of passionate and dedicated staff in place for September, and fantastic progress made on our site to ensure a safe and inspiring environment for all.

This term has been a vibrant celebration of learning. Our learners have amazed us with their creativity, determination, and enthusiasm across a wide range of subjects and activities. From expressive arts and sporting triumphs to hands-on exploration in maths and science, and the nurturing of life skills through animal care and food technology, their achievements have been nothing short of inspiring. We've seen confidence blossom and skills flourish, and we're excited about the positive changes ahead—new class groupings and staff bring fresh opportunities to grow, adapt, and thrive together.

Looking ahead to September, we're delighted to welcome six new learners to our Hill View family. We're also introducing The Knoll—a nurturing class designed to support younger learners through a communication-rich, sensory-led approach. Our outdoor education and PE programmes are set to expand, and we're thrilled to be extending our LTNA provision into a local woodland, offering even more enriching Forest School experiences. A special milestone awaits our Year 9 learners too, as they step into Year 10 and begin their qualification journeys.

As the summer break approaches, a quick reminder of our September return plans: INSET days will run from 2nd to 5th September. On Monday 8th, we'll welcome our youngest learners in Ham Hill and The Knoll, along with our new Year 7s in Lydeard Hill, to support a smooth transition. All other classes will return on Tuesday 9th September.

We wish all our Hill View families a joyful, restful summer. We can't wait to hear about your adventures and continue our journey together in the new academic year. Have a wonderful break!

Stu Lambert
Headteacher

Exciting News from Ham Hill: Introducing The Knoll!

This half term has been a truly exciting one for the team at Ham Hill, as they've been busy setting up a brand new provision – The Knoll class. Designed with a total communication and sensory-based approach in mind, The Knoll will offer a unique and nurturing environment for some of our younger learners who benefit from a more tailored setting.

The Ham Hill and Ham Hub teams have loved preparing the space and getting to know the wonderful children who will be joining in September. From choosing calming colours to exploring sensory resources, every detail has been thoughtfully planned – and there's already been plenty of fun along the way!

With preparations in full swing, we can't wait to welcome our learners properly in the new term. We're looking forward to sharing more about the adventures and milestones from The Knoll in our next newsletter – watch this space!



Ham Hill Class Update

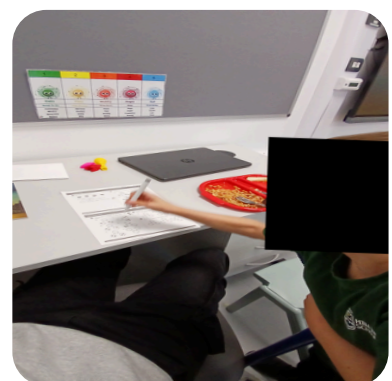
Our Ham Hill learners have made fantastic strides in expressing their feelings and recognising their emotions. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they talk about how they're feeling and support one another with kindness and empathy.

In English, we've been diving into storytelling—retelling familiar tales and then crafting our own imaginative adaptations. The creativity and enthusiasm in our writing sessions have been brilliant!

In maths, we've built a strong foundation in addition and subtraction, and have now moved on to exploring shapes. Learners are enjoying hands-on activities and investigations that help bring geometry to life.

In science, we've been busy exploring materials and testing their properties. From waterproof fabrics to bendy plastics, our young scientists have been curious and thorough in their experiments.

Across all subjects, we've been working hard on perseverance. Whether it's tackling a tricky problem or revisiting something we found challenging, everyone is showing a fantastic 'can-do' attitude. We're so proud of the resilience and determination in Ham Hill class!



Herne Hill Summer 2025.



It's been an incredible journey for Herne Hill this year — we've grown not just taller, but braver, bolder, and more curious! From trying new things to reaching new heights in what we can do, it's been a year full of discovery.

We've become passionate readers, diving into stories and sharing our favourites with friends. Whether in the classroom or the playground, we've shown we're superstars — always caring, always looking out for one another. Friendship has been a big focus too. We're learning what it means to be a good friend, how to make new ones, and how to support each other through ups and downs.

And let's not forget our culinary adventures! We've whipped up some delicious creations in the kitchen, with pizzas being our signature dish. A big thank you to Sally, Zoe, Nicole, Paulina and Briana for being our enthusiastic taste-testers — they've bravely sampled every 'delight' we've served!

We've embraced new experiences with courage — even when things felt a little wobbly, we kept going and gave everything a go. From school trips to special events, we've proudly represented Hill View School, and our adults couldn't be prouder of us.





As we wrap up our first year in Herne Hill, we're celebrating a fantastic chapter filled with laughter, learning and friendship. Here's to many more!



Terms and Holidays: 2025/2026 Academic Year – Hill View School

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Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	INSET Dates

Term dates summary:
Term 1: 02 September – 24 October 2025 (39 days)

Term 2: 03 November – 19 December 2025 (35 days)

Term 3: 05 January – 13 February 2026 (30 days)

Term 4: 23 February – 02 April 2026 (29 days)

Term 5: 20 April – 22 May 2026 (24 days)

Term 6: 01 June – 22 July 2026 (38 days)

TOTAL = 195
Bank and public holidays 2025/26

Christmas Day	25 December 2025	Easter Monday	06 April 2026
Boxing Day	26 December 2025	May Day Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
New Year's Day	01 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Friday	03 April 2026	Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

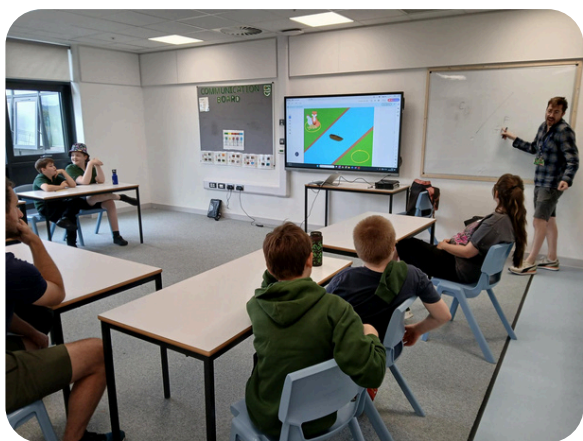
Career- Related Learning

Our career-related learning programme continues to grow, with two exciting events taking place since the May half term. Learners in Years 8 and 9 attended a talk by Nikki from the ASK (Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge) programme, where they explored what apprenticeships are, how to apply, current pay rates, and local opportunities. It was a valuable session to help learners begin thinking about their next steps beyond Hill View.

Joining Nikki was Kim Love, Employment Co-ordinator at Discovery, an organisation supporting people across Somerset and Cornwall into Supported Internships and employment. Kim shared inspiring success stories of young people who've gone on to placements with The Entertainer, Leonardo, Thales, NHS Somerset (Yeovil Hospital), Hinkley Point, Asda and Amazon—many of whom progressed into apprenticeships.

A few weeks later, Josh from the University of the West of England (UWE) visited to lead a Minecraft engineering activity with Secondary learners, including those from Stone Hill and Herne Hill classes. Representing UWE's Engineering department, Josh introduced learners to the world of engineering before setting them a challenge to redesign a city using Minecraft Education. Learners developed their digital, design and planning skills while reimagining places like Bristol, Bath and Bridgwater—adding green spaces, animals, and bridges. It was a thoroughly enjoyable session, and we hope to visit UWE's Engineering department in the future.

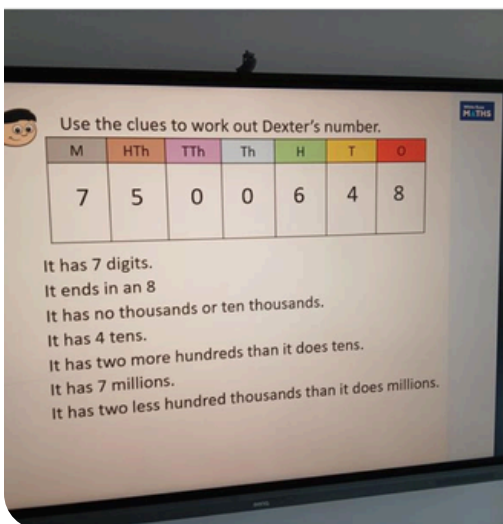
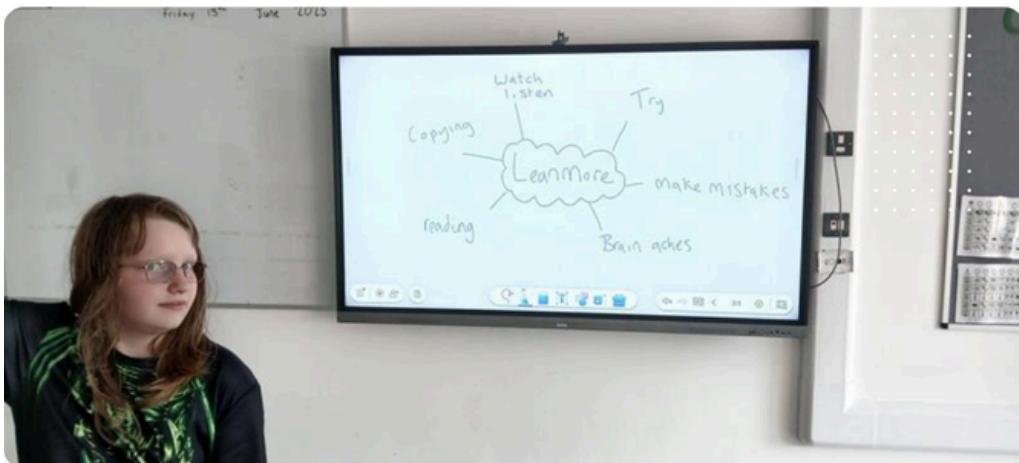
We're currently finalising our career-related learning plans for 2025–26, aiming to build on this year's experiences. Year 9 and 10 learners are set to attend the Somerset Careers Fair in October, and we hope to welcome back visitors from Tesco, NatWest, the NHS and Young Somerset. We're also planning workplace visits and work experience for our Secondary learners—watch this space!



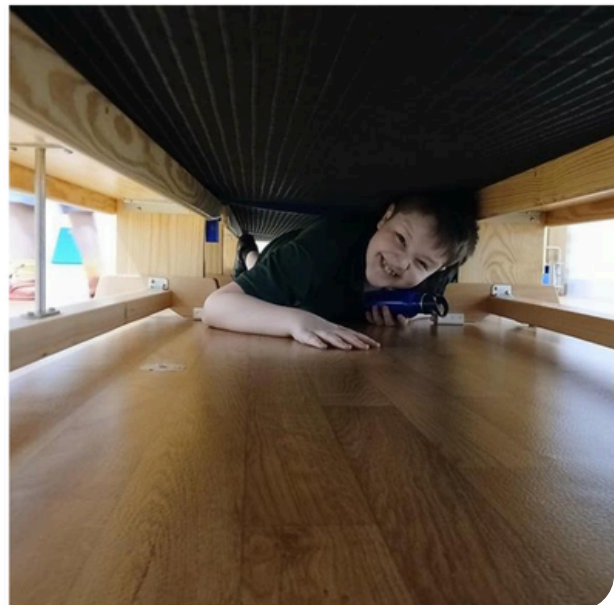
Stone Hill Summer 2025.

This term has been packed with hands-on learning, big ideas, and plenty of memorable moments. One of the highlights was baking a birthday cake together—there was lots of excitement (and a fair bit of icing!) as we measured, mixed, and celebrated. Our nature walks sparked curiosity too, especially when we came across a rather creepy spider that had everyone talking. In class, we explored one of Hill View's core values, taking time to reflect on what it means to be kind, respectful, and resilient in our everyday actions.

Maths challenged us with some tricky problems, but we tackled them with determination and celebrated every breakthrough. And of course, we embraced the mess with our own sensory activities—squishing, mixing, and exploring textures in the most joyful way.



Sunny Class Summer Term



A Positive Start to Every Day in Sunny Hill Class

The Start of Day Routine in Sunny Hill Class offers a heart-warming glimpse into the thoughtful, structured environment that helps every learner feel seen, supported, and ready to learn.

Each morning begins with a “Bounce check-in”, where learners are encouraged to reflect on how they’re feeling. With options like “Calm” (happy, relaxed, curious), “Fizzy” (excited, energetic), “Angry” (frustrated, overwhelmed), “Sad” (lonely, scared), and “Wobbly” (anxious, unsure), this simple yet powerful activity helps learners name their emotions and feel understood right from the start.

The class then moves into a gentle rhythm of the day—checking the date, month, and year—anchoring everyone in the present. For example, the sample schedule provided is for a Monday.

Sunny Hill’s dedicated team—Nathan, Jade, and Caron—guide the class through a rich and varied day. A special “Reminder Time” invites learners to share reflections such as:

- “What is something you learnt last week?”
- “What did you do over the weekend?”
- “What did you have for breakfast this morning?”

These prompts not only spark conversation but also build confidence and connection.

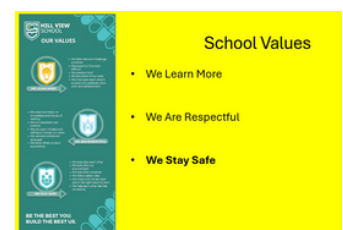
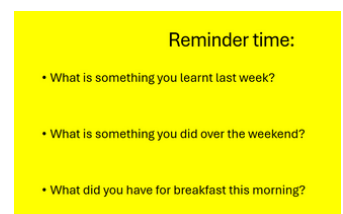
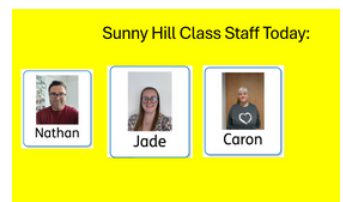
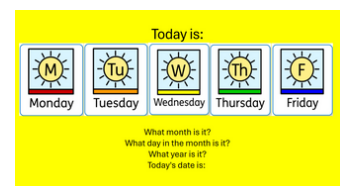
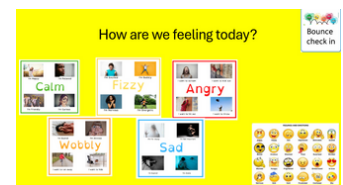
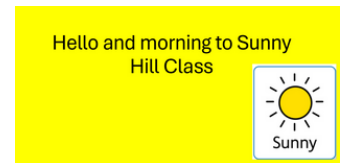
Throughout the day, Hill View School’s core values shine through:

- **We Learn More**
- **We Are Respectful**
- **We Stay Safe**

And of course, our school’s inspiring motto is always present:
“BE THE BEST YOU. BUILD THE BEST US.”

A typical Monday might include activities like Breakfast, Register, Small Furies, Maths, Minecraft, Crafts with choice, Film, and Our World—rounded off with time to prepare for home.

This thoughtful routine ensures every child in Sunny Hill Class starts their day feeling calm, connected, and ready to thrive.



A Year of Growth and Discovery in Coker Class

This year, dance and movement have been at the heart of our learning in Coker. Through PE lessons, our learners have explored gymnastic and dance routines that not only promote physical health but also offer a powerful way to express themselves creatively.

A standout highlight has been our Food Technology lessons. These sessions have helped learners build essential life skills—from teamwork and communication to practical cooking techniques. And of course, the delicious results have been a welcome bonus!

Animal Care has continued to be a much-loved part of our curriculum. Learners have embraced the responsibility of looking after our dogs, hamsters, chickens and guinea pigs, developing empathy and nurturing skills. Our special provision involving horse care has opened exciting pathways for future learning and employment opportunities.

We've also seen a wonderful display of maturity from some of our learners, who have taken on mentoring roles with younger learners. Whether reading together, playing games, or leading activities in class and on trips, these moments have fostered confidence and leadership.

As the summer term draws to a close, we've expanded opportunities to take learning beyond the classroom. Recent trips have allowed learners to apply their skills in real-world settings—planning, budgeting, and using literacy while shopping, and engaging with the community in meaningful ways.



**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**



Burrow Hill Highlights

This term, Burrow Hill learners have truly shone across a wide range of activities!

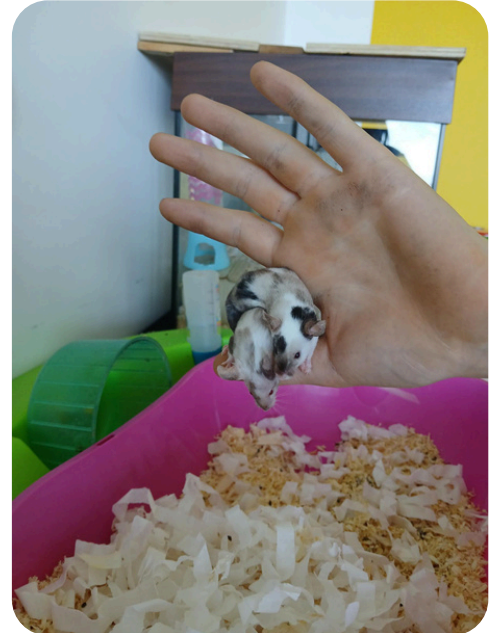
In English, they've been crafting imaginative and powerful pieces of creative writing, with a strong focus on descriptive language. Learners have poured their ideas onto the page, bringing characters and settings vividly to life.

Our care for the animals has been thoughtful and consistent, as learners took responsibility for checking on their daily needs and ensuring their wellbeing.

We've also rolled up our sleeves to support LTNA projects—most notably, giving the shed a fresh new look with a bright coat of paint!

In maths, learners have thrived while exploring exciting topics such as translation, probability, and speed multiplication. Their enthusiasm and resilience in tackling new challenges has been fantastic to see.

And of course, our trips to the park have been a highlight—full of laughter, fresh air, and time to enjoy each other's company.



A Great End to the Year and Exciting Adventures Ahead For LTNA!

As the academic year draws to a close, we've been celebrating with a vibrant and varied programme of outdoor learning activities. From creative crafts to scientific exploration, our learners have embraced every opportunity with curiosity and enthusiasm.

This term's highlights have included:

- Kite making and flying – a wonderfully ironic moment when the wind paused and the sun made a surprise appearance!
- Surveying our grounds – continuing our journey to discover and understand the rich flora and fauna of our site.
- Map skills in action – using maps to explore location and direction, building confidence in navigation.
- Monster bubble experiments – testing out wild and wonderful bubble mixes with spectacular results!
- Knot making and cordage weaving – crafting with natural fibres harvested from our own plants.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce that Hill View has been confirmed as a Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, launching this Autumn. This marks a fantastic opportunity for our learners to develop resilience, teamwork and leadership through outdoor challenges and community engagement.

We're also expanding our horizons by exploring local forests and woodlands, giving learners the chance to deepen their understanding of natural habitats while working in truly inspiring environments.



**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**



Sporting Successes At Hill View This Term

Our football team wrapped up the season with an impressive second place finish in the Inclusive Football League! Every player represented Hill View School with pride, teamwork and positivity. We're already looking forward to kicking off the next season and building on this fantastic achievement.

A huge congratulations to Aurelia, who has successfully completed her Level 1 Sports Leaders Award. She's been a brilliant mentor to pupils at Herne, showing dedication and leadership throughout. We're delighted that she'll be continuing in this role next academic year.

Ethan and Harrison embraced a new challenge by attending a fishing course organised by SASP and Summerhayes Angling Club. They showed great patience and resilience, listened carefully to instruction, and were rewarded with a few successful catches—well done both!

We were incredibly proud to take a group of students to the Indoor Athletics event at Millfield School. They tackled every event with enthusiasm and good spirit, adapting brilliantly to a new environment. Staff were full of praise for their behaviour, effort and sportsmanship throughout the day.



#Help4All



These partners are working together so Somerset families and residents get the help they need and get it early. We've listed some of the services and support that may be useful for you to know about.

For links, simply visit: www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4all



Money - Contact **Citizens Advice** via email or use the Adviceline on 0808 278 7842 for advice on debt, energy costs, benefits. **Age UK Somerset** also provides help with benefits and scams advice for older people. If you need immediate money for food or heating, you can access the **Household Support Fund**. You can find a nearby **warm welcome** space, or **Happy Healthy Holidays** for eligible children at weekends. You can also seek help with **Housing Benefit**, **Council Tax Reduction**, **claiming a discretionary award** and **Public and Community Transport**. As well as support with **lifelong learning** and **employment**.



Food - Find your local **foodbank** or **pantry**. Eligible children and young people can take part in **Happy Healthy Holidays** using a code from their school.



Home - If you are worried about losing your home then please contact **Somerset Council** for **homelessness advice and assistance**. In an emergency you can phone **0300 123 2224** or **0300 123 2327** out of hours. Information on **equipment that can help you stay independent**.



Health and Wellbeing - **Mindline** (open to all ages) can be reached on **0800 138 1692** or online chat (8pm to 11pm). **Samaritans**, **national listening service** on **116 123**. For **free mental health support** text 'SHOUT' to **85258**. **ChatHealth** connects you with qualified health professionals in your area, phone **07480 635 514**. Mental health support for children and young people can be accessed via **the health and wellbeing toolkit**, and the **Telmi app**. For those aged 11-19 there are free online forums, guides and counselling at **Kooth**. **SASP** have activities for body and mind. **Young Somerset** has wellbeing practitioners that could support you. If you're 16-17, you can self-refer via **CAMHS** single point of access. **NHS Somerset** offers **Talking Therapies** for over 16s with anxiety, depression, coping with traumatic events or long-term health conditions. **Open Mental Health** supports adults mental health and wellbeing. If you're over 65 and are feeling lonely and/or isolated **Age UK Somerset** are here to help. For health-related support at home, or in the community you may wish to contact your local **Village Agent** for help. **Somerset Sight** and **deafPLUS** support with sight and hearing loss needs. **Health Visiting Service** can help and support you to make healthy choices for yourself and your family.



Domestic abuse - If you or your family are affected by domestic abuse, you can get help from **Somerset Domestic Abuse Service** or phone **0800 69 49 999** and choose option 2.



Problems with drugs or alcohol - There is advice and support for young people, adults, and their family members if substance misuse is a problem. Contact **Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service** or phone **0300 303 8788** any time.



Parenting - Parents and carers can get free access to **#LearnForLove** (access code: dragon) to support children from bump to teenager. If you're over 18 and you look after someone in an 'unpaid' caring capacity (not employed or self employed as a Carer) access support from the **Somerset Carers Service**. Qualified School nurses are also available to support via **ChatHealth** - text: **07480 635 515** to confidentially ask about a range of issues.

We are working with partners across Somerset to develop a network of community hubs. These spaces provide a friendly environment where you can get help and support, socialise, enjoy refreshments, and take part in activities. For more information, visit: www.connectsomerset.org.uk/community-hubs

Creative Arts

A Term of Imagination and Innovation

Ham Hill Class have been on a sculptural adventure this term, exploring form and function through a series of imaginative projects. From dragon puppets that flap and roar, to cleverly engineered fairground rides made entirely from paper and cardboard, their creativity has soared. Their most ambitious build yet? A full-sized cardboard car—yes, one they can actually sit in!

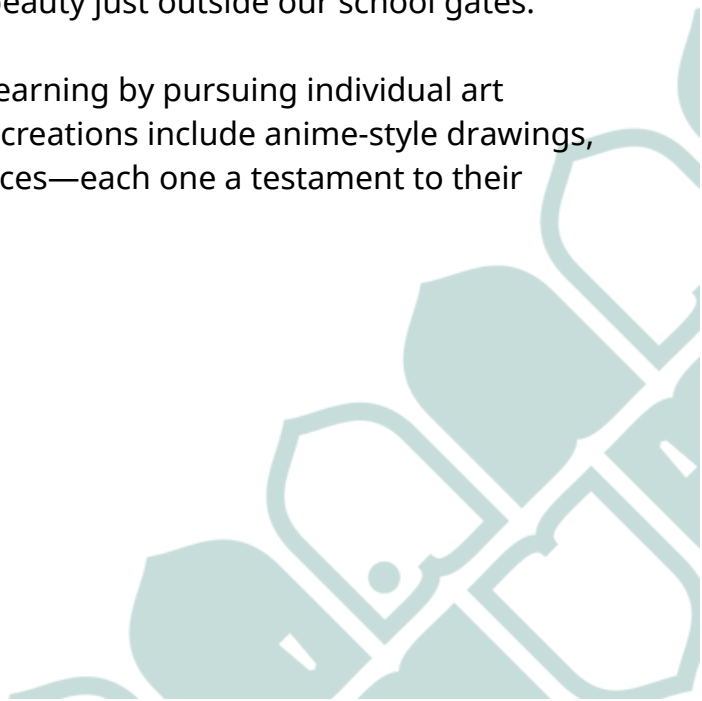
Herne Hill Class have been exploring the emotional power of portraiture. By investigating how colour can express mood, they've created striking self-portraits using monoprinting, painting, and even sculpted miniature clay busts. Each piece is a vivid reflection of personality and feeling—truly moving works of art.

Stone Hill Class have been mastering the art of resin jewellery. Through careful experimentation with colour and pattern, they've crafted beautiful necklaces and earrings. Alongside their artistic achievements, they've also developed patience and precision—essential skills when working with slow-setting resin.

Sunny Hill Class have embraced personal expression through a wide range of creative projects. From surreal mixed-media scenes and life-sized cardboard characters to digital 3D designs printed with our school's 3D printer, their work showcases both imagination and technical skill.

Coker Hill Class have immersed themselves in the world of Impressionism. Inspired by the movement's emphasis on light and brushwork, they've applied these techniques to their own landscape paintings—capturing the scenic beauty just outside our school gates.

Burrow Hill Class have taken ownership of their learning by pursuing individual art projects based on personal interests. This term's creations include anime-style drawings, expressive clay sculptures, and intricate resin pieces—each one a testament to their independence and creativity.



Activity Calendar
Community Inclusion
and Activity Team
Summer Holidays
Monday 21 July - 31 August 2025

Somerset Council

For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

**Click the image to find exciting activities to get involved in
over the Summer Holidays**

**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**