



### Weekly Update: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Welcome to 2021 and yes, after much deliberation, I am going to say 'Happy new year'. I am fully aware that the start of this year is complex and stressful, the pandemic continues to disrupt and demoralise, not respecting the new year, new start, the 'happy' new year that so many had hoped for. Across all sectors, for many already drained of energy and resilience, this is compounded at organisational and individual levels by short notice expectations, a significant lack of clear information and very little effective guidance.

That said, there is a much more hope in 2021. There are vaccines, there is prior experience to draw upon, to adapt as together we face and overcome new challenges, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

So we start this year understanding it is not at all easy. Whilst it feels 'life' is locked down, not everything is cancelled; Hazel Britton recently shared this poem on Facebook:

#### **Not everything is cancelled...**

Sunshine is not cancelled  
 Love is not cancelled  
 Relationships are not cancelled  
 Reading is not cancelled  
 Naps are not cancelled  
 Going for a walk is not cancelled  
 Kindness is not cancelled  
 Imagination is not cancelled  
 Conversation is not cancelled  
 HOPE is not cancelled

#### **Remote Learning Summary**

- 97% of pupils are logging onto Google Classroom (Tapestry for Reception class) and engaging in learning.
- Staff have made dozens of phonecalls and sent emails to support parents and children having difficulties logging-in, accessing learning and turning in work.
- Local charities have worked with us to support access to devices where necessary.
- Most pupils will have had their exercise books delivered to them today (Children attending school have been given them in school).
- We are proud to have organised learning so that children in school **and** children accessing learning at home are receiving similar learning opportunities via Google Classroom (Tapestry for Reception class). This contributes to an equitable offer for all.
- Google Classroom (Tapestry for Reception class) has enabled increased interactivity and feedback from teachers on your child's learning- there are some great conversations going on!
- Positive feedback from pupils and parents.
- Support staff have started phoning families to check how things are going and to offer support (They aim to make contact with all families within each 2 week period).

Mrs Ali Pook

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The aims of this week were: to ensure the teachers set up their 'Google Classroom' and support the children attending school; for children to access remote learning; to support technical difficulties. I think I can say we have achieved that. I would like to say a big thank you to the whole staff team in 'getting on with it' under high levels of time pressure, for working together and supporting one another. Do we feel there are areas for development? Of course, and as we all settle into this new way of working you can be assured that we will be working tirelessly to improve and be as effective as possible. And a big thank you to you all for also being positive, supportive and trying your best- you all have varying challenges and circumstances and I applaud your perseverance, energy and commitment.

## Helpline in Challenging Times

### **Educational Psychology Service (EPS) Telephone Helpline for Parents and Carers**

SOMERSET  
County Council

**\* Reopening Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September \***



During these unprecedented times, we all find ourselves facing new challenges. For many, this will bring about new anxieties, for others, it may worsen existing worries.

Where children and young people are affected, you may notice that they react to uncomfortable feelings and thoughts by changing their behaviours and demonstrating behaviours you have not seen from them before. In turn, these behaviours can add to an already stressful home situation.

It is important to remember that self-isolation, does not equate to social isolation.

If you are a parent/carer of a child in Somerset and would like to speak to a Psychologist with any concerns arising for you, or your family during this time, then The Educational Psychology Service is here for you. We are able to offer an initial 30 minute telephone consultation (discussion) and a potential follow up call, of another 30 minutes if appropriate.

Calls will be offered Monday-Friday, during usual working hours.

Unless the Psychologist feels that you, or someone else is in danger of harm, then full confidentiality will be respected. In order to offer the best possible service, a brief summary of the discussion will be recorded, which may be shared with colleagues from other services. If you do not wish for a record to be taken, then please make this clear to the psychologist during your call and they will only record the name of the school. For further details of our privacy notice, please follow this [link](#)

If you would like to access this service, then please email [EPSHelpline@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:EPSHelpline@somerset.gov.uk) with the following information:

- Your name
- The name of your child's school (or 'EHE' if Electively Home Educated)
- Times and dates that you are not available for consultation

If email is not possible, then call 01823 357000. Please understand that we are likely to be slower to respond to phone calls. Our aim is to offer a consultation within 5 working days of receipt of email.



## Daily Collective Worship/Assembly

From Monday, it is hoped I can start daily Collective Worship. This daily time to gather and reflect is the central pivot of any school day- not only is there time to reflect and pray, but also to enjoy music, listen to stories and be updated on school activities. It is likely to be pre-recorded and uploaded to the Google Classrooms for your child to access (Ideally at the end of their working day- suggested time 2.45/3.00pm, but you may find you use it as a chance for a break. In school, Collective Worship is at 1.35pm if you would like to mirror the school day).

## Collins Big Cat

This now works- I have checked it myself this morning! To access a wide selection of Big Cat e-books, please click on the link below. These are more likely to be appropriate for EYFS, Key Stage One and low Key Stage Two. We have set up a generic child login and the details are below.

Class Name: Big Cat  
Pupil First Name: Pupil  
Pupil Last Name: Access  
DOB: 01/01/2001  
Year Group: 1

Once you have clicked on the link you will need to select our school and enter the first letter of the last name (A) day and month of birth (1/1) and year group (1).

<https://connect.collins.co.uk/school/defaultlogin.aspx>

## Accelerated Reader

Quizzes can be accessed **during school hours only**, using the pupil log-in which your children uses in school:

<https://ukhosted111.renlearn.co.uk/6708229/Public/RPM/Login/Login.aspx?srcID=s>

AR Bookfind [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)- this is a quick way for children to find out if a book is on the AR system and what level

Oxford Owl [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) - children can read the ebooks or there is an audio version - not all the books are on the AR System and there are more books for younger pupils..

## Online Safety for parents webinar: "It is never going to happen to my child..."

Avon and Somerset Constabulary in response to Covid19 Lockdown 2.0 is offering two new **free** parents webinar about online safety .

## Content:

### □ Overview of online risks.

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- Exploitation of children online.
- Technical protective and safety measures available.
- Top tips on starting a conversation with your child about the internet and how to work together to use the internet safely.

#### Presenters:

- Androulla (Andri) Nicolaou, Child Exploitation Prevention Officer
- Kristian Evans, Cyber Protect Officer
- Drew Jefferies, Cyber Protect Officer
- Verity Weston, Youth Project Coordinator

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7pm-8.30pm.** To book a place, please follow Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-for-parents-it-is-never-going-to-happen-to-my-child-tickets-133344289359>

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7pm-8.30pm.** To book a place, please follow Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-for-parents-it-is-never-going-to-happen-to-my-child-tickets-133347623331>

#### Androulla (Andri) Nicolaou

Prevention Officer and Coordinator  
Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation

TOPAZ Child Exploitation Team | Avon and Somerset Police  
Police & Fire HQ, Valley Road, Portishead, North Somerset, BS20 8QJ

#### SEND weekly newsletter

This week's SEND weekly newsletter, which shares some information about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25, is available by clicking here.

<https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/send-news/>

#### Awards

From next week we will be having 'Celebration Assembly' on Friday with the normal range of awards to enjoy for children in school and at home.



### **Well-being tip for the week**

Watch less news, instead take more time to immerse yourself in the sights, the sounds, the feel, the wonders of our natural world, whatever the weather!

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Ali Pook  
Head Teacher