



## Weekly Update: 10<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back! I hope that you have had a good summer and found at least some time and some ways to relax, refresh and 're-set'. We have an amazing first week; the children have been so happy and positive to back to school. I have been conducting visits to every classroom every day, and I have been struck by how quickly the children have settled back into school routines and learning- I have been particularly impressed by the high quality of written presentation in exercise books across the school. A special welcome goes to new families joining the school, particularly those of Reception pupils- welcome to our school family! We are pleased that other pupils have joined in other year groups, and we also have a student teacher, Miss Jess McCreery, who is working in Pippin class.

We have enjoyed daily whole school collective worship in the afternoons; this week we have been learning about 'A fresh start', 'Welcoming others' and 'Rules'. One school rule is to 'try our best' and 'to not give up'- on Thursday we all got very hot and sticky singing 'Stronger', a Latin American inspired song full of actions and dance about how to persevere and not give up. (One child commented that they felt sorry for the teachers having to join in as it must be so embarrassing for them to dance around!)

### COVID

The 'new normal' is slightly more relaxed compared to last year, as there is increasing mixing of children and bubbles. Next week, Pippin and Maigold will also be able to mix at lunchtimes. Last year, staff and pupil surveys found that behaviour at playtimes was significantly better than pre-COVID- this is because each class had a more controlled space in which to play and there was no mixing of classes. Obviously, we want children to be able to mix with other groups, so at lunchtimes we are keeping some aspects of organisation from last year and we are enabling two classes at a time to mix together freely. This has worked really well this week, with the children commenting that they have really enjoyed playing with the other class and in a variety of areas.

I really appreciate that many of you are wearing masks- I want to be able maintain staffing of the school, and thus I endeavour to try and reduce any unnecessary risk of COVID transmission- even with a double jab we know that adults can be COVID positive, and indeed be quite unwell. Please support me in trying to keep some normality in our school and protect the staff by wearing a mask- thank you.

It is still vital to keep the flow going at drop-off and pick up, and please try not to loiter on the playground and outside the school gates (Especially as Little Pips parents/carers have to wait there).

In the event of a cluster of positive COVID cases in school, we will be following our 'Outbreak Management Plan' which can be found on our school website.

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## Reading



"The more that you  
read, the more things  
you will know. The  
more that you learn,  
the more places you'll  
go." -Dr Seuss

## Reading Relaunch

Well done to all the children who entered 'Mrs Pook's Hooked to Books' challenge- I have marked all your notes and given you 5 merits each! Many children have been out of their reading routines and it is vital that this is re-established. I want all of the children at Curry Rivel to achieve and be successful and we would all agree that reading fluently is the key to any success. I have spoken to the children today about the importance of reading, but also reminded them of what our expectations are. We are high expectations to ensure all of our children can be the best readers they can be. Without your support however, they will not make good progress. When your child started the school, you will have signed the 'Home-School Agreement', where you agreed to support your child in their home reading so we hope that this information reminds you of the Curry Rivel reading expectations which will be in place from today. If your child's new reading book has not yet been given out, this will happen early next week.

- All children should be reading a minimum of 4 times a week. We ask that parents/carers now need sign reading records each time to show this is happening.
- All children - even in Year 5 and 6 - should spend time discussing books and reading aloud with their parents. Older, more fluent readers may also read to themselves as well.
- Parents/carers can further progress by asking comprehension questions about what their child has read using the Reading Dogs questions (on bookmarks- to follow).

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- Every morning, teachers will take a reading register to check whether children have read the night before. If they have read 4 times a week and the reading record has been signed 4 times, a merit is awarded.
- If children are not reading regularly at home, I have asked class teachers to contact you to discuss what we can do to help; if reading continues to be inconsistent, I will make contact with you to explore support. As we recognise the absolute importance of reading in your children's futures, pupils will be asked to make up for lost reading time during their playtimes.
- If we can support you in any way, please do speak with Miss Yarde (Phonics and Early Reading Lead) or Miss Tucker (English Lead), who are eager to support your child's progress.
- We encourage children to build reading stamina and suggest that children should read for (daily):
  - A minimum 10 minutes in Reception, Year 1 and 2
  - A minimum of 15 minutes in Year 3 and 4
  - A minimum of 20 minutes in Year 5 and 6.

### Don't forget

- Our absolute priority is to promote a love of reading by creating a balance of reading to your child, them reading to you and also discussing and enjoy books together.
- The following reasons outline why reading is so important:
  1. Children who read often, and widely, get better at it!
  2. Reading exercises our brains
  3. Reading improves concentration
  4. Reading teaches children about the world around them
  5. Reading improves a child's vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills
  6. Reading develops a child's imagination
  7. Reading helps kids develop empathy
  8. Children who read do better at school
  9. Reading is a great form of entertainment
  10. Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind

### Punctuality and new procedures for late pupils

The school day starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. At the beginning of the school day, the gates open at 8.40am and they will close at 8.45am, both front and back- pupils arriving after this time will need to come through the front gates and parents/carers will be asked to fill in a late form (This

and paper)

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includes pupils who normally enter via White Street). I cannot stress enough the importance of being punctual in the morning. Similarly, children must be collected on time, as staff have meetings, training and preparation to attend to, which can only take place once at the end of the school day. If you are experiencing difficulties with punctuality and would like to talk to us about it, please contact the office. Thank you for your understanding regarding this very important matter.

### **School Uniform**

The children have looked so smart this week- thank you for your support in this. Please ensure you write your child's name on all uniform, coats, lunch boxes, bottles and PE kit. The correct PE kit must also be worn - which includes a school jumper/cardigan (No sports sweaters, hoodies or branded tops).

### **Premises**

The school grounds at Curry Rivel are amazing- we are so lucky to have so much space, a large hall, front and back playgrounds, a field and an Orchard- many smaller village schools would be envious. As head teacher, I have high expectations for the school premises as I believe that the surroundings for both staff and pupils impact on how they feel about being here. Not only does our school look great because it is uncluttered and tidy, it also means that children and staff can access resources easily and it also reduces risk of accidents etc. Over the summer we have had the following works completed

- New upper school toilets and cubicles (In Curry Rivel mauve tones of course!)
- Phase one of nursery garden improvements
- Safety glazing film on all windows
- Bike racks ordered and are now being prepared for installation.

Mr Silver had completed many other premises works which may go unseen, but they are vital in keeping our grounds looking fabulous.

### **Clubs**

We will be starting some after school clubs this term, led by staff and external providers-please see the letter coming home next week.

### **Children with Roles and Responsibilities.**

At Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School, we believe everyone can be a leader and make a difference. We value what our children think and say about learning and school life and we encourage them to confidently share their views and take on various roles and responsibilities.

The roles and responsibilities we will have this year include:

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- House captains
- School Council Representatives
- Eco Warriors
- Sports Leaders
- Peer mentors

Today, our new Year 6 house captains were announced:

- Polden: Oscar and Maisie
- Mendip: George and Jess
- Blackdown: Noah and Ella
- Quantock: Luke and Lexi

Congratulations- you will have many tasks to do in your role, as well as being ambassadors for the school and role models to others.

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

Self-compassion. Self-compassion can be defined as being "kind and understanding when confronted with personal failings..." It simply means that you act the same way toward yourself when you are going through a tough time that you would act towards a dear friend: noticing the suffering, empathizing and offering kindness and understanding. Give yourself a break! Show yourself some love, forgiveness and compassion.

### **Free event**

As a beekeeper myself, this caught my eye:

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**Somerton Beekeepers**
  
*present a spectacular*  
**HONEY**  
**SHOW**  
**AND**  
**ARTISAN MARKET**  
**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 18TH**  
**NOON – 5PM**  
*at*  
**Keinton Mandeville Village Hall**  
**TA11 6ES**  
**Come and see the bees and taste their honey!**  
*Something for everyone:*  
 Cider, Cheese, Cakes, Pastries, Pies,  
 Cards, Plants, Jams, Preserves,  
 Pottery, Cosmetics, Candles, Gifts  
 and of course **HONEY!**



**FREE**  
 admission

## SEND

This week's SEND weekly newsletter is now available - please click on the link below:

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

## On-line Safety

Recent figures suggest that as many as 30% of users in the education sector have fallen victim to phishing emails. Attacks have increased since the start of the pandemic, and educational organisations are being disproportionately targeted by online fraudsters because cyber-security - understandably - tends not to be among their top priorities. But there are some straightforward steps anyone can take

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to reduce their chances of being hoodwinked by a bogus email. Click on the link below for a guide that has advice on how to identify and deal with potentially damaging email scams.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/scam-emails>

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Award winners and celebration assembly**

Children have been nominated for awards this week and parents/carers of those pupils have been contacted today to invite them to next week's presentation assembly. This will give all parents/carers, over time, an opportunity to share in collective worship whilst at the same time allows us to manage numbers. We ask that visitors coming into school wear masks please.

### **Dates for your diary**

Monday 27th September: Visit from an Olympic Gymnast (Info to follow next week from Mr Bridgeman. Heads up- fundraising challenge involved)

Wednesday 6th October: Harvest Festival (TBC)

Friday 8th October: Open day for prospective parents (TBC)

19th/21st October: Parents' evenings

Friday 22nd October: INSET Day

25th- 29th October: Half term

### **Planning Ahead: INSET Days**

The followed INSET dates have been agreed with the Governing board:

Monday 6 September 2021

Friday 22 October 2021

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Monday 25 July 2022

Tuesday 26 July 2022

Have a restful weekend.

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Head Teacher

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