



Weekly Update: 29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a week! Just as we settle into a new routine, we are also trying to process how the possible re-opening of schools may look, and indeed we are wondering when this will **actually** happen. Trying to keep up with announcements and work out the implications of the next change is exhausting for us all. I can confirm that schools are not open over the half-term break, and that we await to hear whether we will be opening from the 8th March.

But not all change is bad. One recent great change was secured through Kamala Harris. Kamala Harris is 'The first female, the first black, the first south Asian American vice president.' (BBC News, 20/1/21.) Speaking in the context of the pandemic, just before her inauguration last week, Harris said that her 'Abiding hope, abiding prayer, is that we emerge from this ordeal with a new wisdom, to cherish simple moments, to imagine new possibilities and to open our hearts just a little bit more to one another.' This gives us real hope.

There is no doubt these have been difficult weeks. If you are struggling with your own mental health at this time, you can contact the school and we can help signpost you to support. Don't forget the work of 'MIND': <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Links

The links didn't work in the letter sent to you yesterday from Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services. They should work here:

The eLIM Team have a frequently updated Learning resources website for schools, www.somerset.org.uk/sites/edtech/SitePages/Home%20Learning.aspx which includes all the latest DfE remote education guidance and expectations and online safety home learning activities and advice. In addition, we are supporting school leaders to access and provide sufficient laptops, devices and connectivity to enable all pupils to access remote learning. Local and national support for emotional health and wellbeing which gives details of support avenues for you, your child and for schools during this time is available. The directory of mental health and emotional wellbeing services and resources [can be found here](#).

Thank you

Thank for the support and feedback you have given us; it is great to have had so much positive feedback when we have phoned you. Please be reassured that we know that you are all managing remote learning and lockdown pressures in different ways- we are here to support, not judge and we know you will be trying your best to support your child's well-being and their learning. Please contact us directly if you have concerns or queries.

WMS All Pook

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Handwriting

In September, we introduced 'Handwriting Ninjas' to help celebrate the progress the children make with their letter formation and handwriting. We want to continue to be able to do this, whilst they are working at home, so we are on the lookout for pieces of work that will help the children progress on to your next 'Ninja'. Remember, we aren't just looking for the children to demonstrate these skills in their English work, we want to see it in all of their pieces of work. When children have met the success criteria of a new Ninja and demonstrated it consistently, teachers will let them know. The Ninjas will be re-launched on the Google Classroom and are being used in Years 2-6.

Planning Time

As you may know, in 'normal' times, teachers have an afternoon a week for preparation, planning and assessment. From next week you will notice that teachers will have designated time on Thursday or Friday afternoons (Mondays for Discovery class)- teachers will let you know via the Google Classroom as it will vary week to week. Lessons will be set for the afternoon, but teachers will not be able to offer feedback or respond to emails during this time. If there is an urgent matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. For Reception and Key Stage One, you will notice these sessions are music, and in Key Stage 2, the children will have the opportunity to start learning some French. All our teachers lead subject development within the school; in order to make plans for their subjects they require subject leadership time, so you may notice that Mrs Slade sets computing/on-line safety assignments for these sessions.

Top Tips for Keeping Children Safe During Lockdown

Many children will be spending more time with technology during lockdown, and that can be a source of worry for parents. London Grid for Learning (LGfL) suggest these six top tips for keeping children safe in these circumstances:

- Don't worry about screen **time**; aim for screen **quality**
- Check the safety settings are turned on
- Get your children to show you their apps and games
- Don't try to hide the news about coronavirus
- Remind them of key online safety principles
- If you aren't sure, ASK!

For more details about each of these tips, download the full size version of the LGfL poster at:
<https://static.lgfl.net/LgflNet/downloads/digisafe/Parent-Top-Tips-Safe-Online-Corona.pdf>

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Live sessions consent

Please give consent for recording of live learning as this will help us prepare for launching live sessions as soon as possible.

SEND

Find out about the latest news in regard to SEND:

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

Award winners for this week

Class cup:

Pippin: Jason

Maigold: George

Gala: Brooke

Discovery: Casper

Camelot: Katie

Blenheim: Sophie

Lunchtime awards:

Pippin/Maigold: Jason

Headteacher awards:

Oscar (Pippin), Oliver (Camelot), Andreea (Blenheim)

50 Merit Certificates:

Pippin: Azalea

Maigold: Henry, Millie, Darcey, Lillyann-Mai, Anna, Ruth, Lilly H, Darcy, Evie, Arya, David

Gala: Noah

Blenheim: Dylan, Karl

Other achievements:

Mia, Daisy and Evie Geary: Volunteering for the foodbank

January Merit Cup

Mendip: 267; Blenheim: 263; Polden: 254; Quantock 270. Well done Quantock



Well being tip for the week

Make time during every day this week to consciously stop, in order to cherish simple moments, notice how you feel and capture that feeling as a positive memory. Use that positivity, share that moment or that memory if you can, and in doing so open your heart just a little bit more to others.

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Ali Pook
Head Teacher

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