



Weekly Update: 19th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As always our community is always so generous- you have supported Comic Relief though our simple non-uniform day today. The theme is 'share a smile'. The current lockdown is a most challenging time and across every community people have experienced the impact of the pandemic in very different ways. Though we are still in lockdown and you may have given up some things for Lent, I do hope that laughter isn't one of them. Bill Bailey says that 'Laughter is a pure form of happiness, because it's raw, unadulterated and you can't control it. It can just turn up unannounced and completely transform how you are feeling. We laugh despite ourselves, as if laughter is no respecter of how we ought to be, or think, or behave. It's pure happiness because there's no way to predict it.'

Tree Planting

Blenheim Class enjoyed a curriculum enrichment afternoon this week; they visited Curry Woods and worked with Curry Wood Conservation Trust to plant trees. The trust is aiming to plant 2500 trees on land they have purchased aiming to improve local management of flooding, to contribute to biodiversity and to give our young people hope for the future. A public footpath runs through the woodland, so you can go and have a look at their amazing work. The pupils of Blenheim were great ambassadors for the school as they got stuck into digging holes and hammering in stakes for the Scots pine and maple saplings they planted! This visit linked to their curriculum learning on flooding and flood management.

Ofsted Monitoring Inspection of School

As you know, we have an Ofsted monitoring inspection on 4th March. We have now received the report. Findings include:

- Leaders and governors are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.
- The Headteacher has shown strong resolve to steer the school through a period of substantial change.
- You have ensured that pupils have appropriate technology and support to access learning.
- You are working hard on improving the effectiveness of subject leadership. As a result, English and mathematics leadership is improving.
- We have rightly focused on developing an effective curriculum for reading.
- The SENDCo is ensuring that regardless of whether pupils with SEND are working remotely or in school, they are having their needs met.
- Governors have a strong understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development.
- Governors are taking effective action to assure themselves that all pupils are receiving an appropriate education in the current circumstances.

Areas for development:

- Improve subject leadership so that it is effective across the curriculum.
- Ensure that curriculum content is carefully organised, and teachers use assessment more precisely to adapt their teaching.

We were pleased with this outcome, as it reflects the improvements we have made despite the barriers COVID have put in our way. Also, the visit was useful in steering us in our next steps in curriculum development. I will

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continue to work with you, the staff and governors to ensure that Curry Rivel School is the best it can be, serving your children. The full report is attached to this email.

Lateral Flow Testing: Message from Amelia Walker Assistant Director - Education

All staff in school are taking COVID -19 lateral flow test twice weekly to help reduce the transmission of the virus in school. Please see some information below from Somerset County Council on relation to rapid testing. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- an employer if they offer testing to employees;
- Community Testing via asymptomatic testing site;
- by collecting a home test kit from a Collection Point;
- by ordering a home test kit online. If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other. To check the location of Lateral Flow Test and collection sites near you, or to order home test kits if this is not possible, please visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff

A list of Frequently Asked Questions is available on the Somerset County Council website here: www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus-testing

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Ali Pook and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is Jo Ward. Our safeguarding governor is Charlene Hunsperger. Here are some useful websites:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-childrensafe/>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

If you have concerns about your child at home or school see the office to book an appointment. Alternatively if you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224, by email at childrens@somerset.gov.uk or the police. You can contact the police directly by dialling 101 and they will discuss with Children's Social Care what action should be taken. In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999. If you would like to speak to a social worker outside of office hours please phone the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 123 23 27.

SEND

This week's SEND weekly newsletter is now available - please click on the link below <https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/sendnews/>



to read the latest stories. The Newsletter shares some information about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25.

Contact Details

If you have changed your telephone number or email address can you please let the school office know so that we can update our records. We need to have at least 3 contact numbers for your children in the event that we are unable to reach the main contacts.

Award winners for this week

Class cup:

Pippin: Ailsa
Maigold: Oscar
Gala: Finley
Discovery: Jospeh
Camelot: Emily
Blenheim: Esther

Lunchtime awards:

Pippin: Jason
Maigold: Oscar
Gala: Mia Rose
Discovery: Tyler
Camelot: Harry D
Camelot: Chloe

Headteacher awards:

Natasha G (Blenheim)

50 Merit Certificates:

Camelot: Xander

100 Merit Certificates:

Gala: Jack

Well being tip for the week:

'Share a smile,' enjoy laughter, maybe your own maybe that of others. These are testing times, we may have suffered a great deal or we may be witness to suffering through the media. Perhaps now, more than ever, we need to reconnect with something or someone who will make us laugh - even if that means some sadness as we are transported back to a place or a person we now miss. So, this week, do something to raise your own spirits or to raise the spirits of others, even if this week it only achieves a smile, it may be a smile more than last week, and that's good! 😊

Have a restful weekend.

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