



Weekly Update: 16th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support this week. We were not the only school to isolate a bubble in Somerset this week, but all of us have felt well supported by the various agencies who advise us in the event of a positive COVID case. We take each day and each week as it comes to provide the safest environment we can, and to continue with the everyday business of providing high quality learning experiences for your children. Mrs Tucker has been working hard to teach Blenheim class on Google Classroom- she and Blenheim class are becoming our resident experts in all things 'remote learning'. We will learn from this experience on how to ensure remote learning can be engaging and effective.

Parents' Evenings: Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October

You may have received your Microsoft Teams invitation to your child's parents' evening- this will be sent via email. Please check the link prior to the parents' evening to ensure you can attend the meeting. If you think you have not received an invitation by Monday, please contact the school office. We hope the technology doesn't let us down, but we are optimistic about this very different way of doing parent consultations.

Homework

Many children have accessed their Google Classroom this week. There have been some logging-on issues which we hope have been resolved. We ask that you stick with it so that we can be sure all children have access to what is an important, and now essential, resource.

Knowledge Organisers

Next week, you will be receiving a maths 'knowledge organiser' for your child's learning in mathematics. These are designed to give you an insight into what your child is learning in school- the better informed you are, the more able you will feel to support and encourage your child's learning. You can use them as a discussion point; ask your child to explain aspects of the information; you can quiz them on the vocabulary; refer to them during homework tasks. Maths teaching has changed a lot in all schools, so please don't worry if the strategies and techniques seem very different to when you attended school- we hope that these will help not hinder.

Headteacher:
Mrs Ali Pook

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INTER-HOUSE MINI OLYMPICS - WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2020

You heard from Mr Bridgeman last week who said that in light of current circumstances, it is more important than ever to support our children's wellbeing, and physical activity is one of the best ways to do so. Throughout the year, we aim to schedule many 'COVID friendly' inter-house competitions, as a fun way to keep children engaged in physical education as well as to launch our new house system.

The first of these competitions will be a 'Mini Olympics' on the 21st October. On this day, we ask that children dress appropriately to take part in the activities. They should try to wear a top in their house colour, shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle. A reminder of the colour for each house is below:

Polden - Blue
 Blackdown - Red
 Mendip - Green
 Quantock - White

School Admissions

It is already that time of year for parents to start applying for 2021 school places. If your child is due to start or transfer school for September 2021, it is now time to make your application. The deadline for primary phase applications is 15th January. The deadline for secondary phase applications is 31st October. Please apply online by visiting <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/>.

Open Day

If you know families who are interested in applying to the school, we are hoping to have our open days on Friday 27th November (3.45-5.00pm) and Saturday 28th November (9.00-11.00 am). With the current restrictions we are limiting visits to individual families and there will be strict safety measures in place (face coverings, handwashing etc). They can also speak to us about admissions, ask a question about something you've seen in our prospectus or on the website. Families can contact the school office to book a slot. (It is possible we run these sessions virtually if our risk assessments change).

Photos

On Monday 2nd November we are having Tempest visiting the school to take the children's photos. This will be carried out in line with government guidelines. More details about how you purchase these photos will follow.

On-Line Safety

TikTok is a global video community where users create, share and discover 'funny and memorable moments' via short video clips - typically about 15 seconds long. Videos can be 'spiced up' with special



effect filters, stickers, music and sound clips. Currently one of the world's most popular apps and its popularity increased during lockdown. Click on the link below to access a helpful parents guide:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/what-parents-need-to-know-about-tiktok>

Wellbeing: Websites and links to support pupils during COVID

www.relaxkids.com

www.anxietyuk.org.uk

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/how-talk-your-child-about-coronavirus>

https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/

[Coronavirus animation by BrainPoP](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBKvbQ12X1U>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

Ventilation and heating

As it has become colder, I have had many discussions about the careful balancing of the need to ventilate and the need to be warm. We will continue to ventilate as much as possible, whilst at the same time enable the warmth from our heating system to have the desired effect.

Thank you...

...to Mr Simon Gambrell who has secured funding from Curry Rivel Cricket Club for some new serving trays and a food trolley (these will help us deliver meals to classrooms where bubbles are eating separately from others). Also, thank you to Mrs Taylor, who works in our amazing support team- she has raised over £300 selling old school books which we can now use to supplement our AR system. Pupils are helping Mrs Samuel to identify the books they would like to see ordered.



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/>

Award winners for this week

Class cup:

Pippin: Noah

Maigold: Lily H

Gala: Billy

Discovery: Holly

Camelot: Oscar N

Blenheim: Chelsy

Lunchtime awards:

Pippin: Rosie

Maigold: Darcey S

Gala: Freddie H

Discovery: Holly

Camelot: Harry J

Head teacher awards: Harry H (Discovery) and Izabelle Cousins (Pippin)

I wish you a good weekend.

Ali Pook

Head Teacher

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