



'Healthy Trees Bearing Good Fruit'

Matthew Chapter 7 and verse 17

Weekly Update: 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for your diary

Friday 22nd September	Democracy Day (Children voting at Polling station for School Councillors)
Monday 25th September	Clubs start
Monday 25th September 9-10am	SENDCo Drop-In Cafe
Friday 29th September	Flu vaccinations for all- Email to follow
Thursday 5th October 9.15am	Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church- Families welcome (Donations for the Curry Rivel Foodbank)
Monday 9th & Thursday 12th October	Parents' Evenings
Friday 20th October	INSET training day- school closed
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October	Half term holiday
Monday 13th - Friday 17th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13th November:	Odd Socks day
Thursday 9th November 8.45-9.30am	PFSA Coffee Morning- Open to all
Wednesday 6th December	Christingle Making (Fundraising for The Children's Society)
Friday 8th December	Christmas Jumper day (Fundraising for Save the Children)
Tuesday 12th December	Afternoon Nativity performance to parents
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Dinner
	Evening Nativity performance to parents
Thursday 14th December	Panto, gifted by the PTA
Friday 15th December 9.15am	Carol Service at St Andrew's Church
Autumn INSET Days	4 September and 20 October (Not 30 October)
Autumn Half Term	21 October -29 October
Spring term	2 January- 28 March 2024
Spring INSET Days	2 January and 9 February 2024
Spring Half Term	10 February-18 February 2024
Summer term	15 April- 24 July 2024
Summer INSET Day	15 April 2024
Summer Half Term	25 May- 2 June 2024

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 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

Headteacher
Mrs Ali Pook

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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 three new members of staff: Charlotte Monk (SENDCo); Zoe Cousins (TA) and Katie Bullen (Pippin Teacher).

Message from new SENDCo

Hello, I am Charlotte Monk, the new SENDCo here at Curry Rivel C of E Primary School. I have been working as a fully qualified SENDCo since 2018 and have taught children from Reception up to Year Six.

The first couple of weeks at the school will be spent prioritising those children with EHCPs, medical and/or high needs.

My working days are Monday, Thursday and Friday. Please remember that all teachers are teachers of SEND, so if you have any initial concerns or queries, do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

I am very excited to start working with the staff, children and families within the school and look forward to seeing some of you at the SEND cafe drop-ins.

Clubs

Teachers run a range of after school clubs as part of our enrichment offer. These are outlined below, and can be booked through School Money. Don't forget that we have Apple Trees wraparound provision from 7.45am to 5.30pm- see our website or contact the school office for more details.

PE

Post COVID, children enjoyed weekly PE lessons with the 'Daily Mile' so we could focus on increasing fitness after a challenging period of home learning. This year, all classes will have two full PE lessons a week following an exciting programme developed by our PE Lead, Mr Bridgeman. Each class has a half term of swimming lessons, with Blenheim class going this half term. Children look very smart in their PE uniform- School PE hoodies are an option on PE days, available through brigade- but school jumpers and cardigans are also fine for PE days.

Water and snacks

Please can water bottles be labelled. Reception and Key Stage one pupils have fruit provided; older children can bring in fruit, vegetable or a savoury sandwich to eat at morning break- please not crisps or bars for snack time.

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!)
- New hygiene room to support pupils with special needs
- New tarmacked rear playground
- New path through bark area.

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- Pippin classroom redecorated.

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

Car parking/turning

Schools were not built with the 21st century travel in mind, so we know the challenges of getting to school. If you can walk, we encourage this. Cyclign might be an option, and we do provide cycle stores at the front back of the school. We are working with the local Travel action group to help improve safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists in the village. Thank you for parking responsibly- please can we respect our neighbours by avoiding drives etc, and also please can we avoid turning in the Wtare Street entrance. Thank you for your support in this.

Accelerated Reader

Our accelerated reader portal that allows children to take comprehension quizzes in school has been updated by our provider over the summer. Unfortunately, we have experienced some technical difficulties and have been unable to set up our new classes ready for the new term. This means that there has been a delay in children being able to complete their quizzes and undertaking their star reader assessments. We are working hard to try and rectify these issues and are hopeful that they will be sorted soon.

Well Being

WE are committed to supporting every child's well-being with a well-planned PSHE curriculum, with a relational approach to behavior and by having Place2Be provision at lunchtime if children need someone to talk to (Mrs Langford out school ELSA). For the adults, one of our governors, Simon Gambrell, brings this to our attention:

Sunday 10th September is World Suicide Prevention Day. A day held each year to raise awareness of suicide and to promote actions in how we can reduce the number of suicides and suicide attempts.

Every year has a different theme and focus, and this year is '**Creating Hope Through Action**'. This acts as a reminder that there is an alternative to suicide and that our actions, no matter how big or small, can provide hope and support to those who are struggling and experiencing crisis, or have been bereaved by suicide.

On average nearly 3000 people commit suicide daily, according to the World Health Organization. For every person who completes a suicide, 20 or more may attempt to end their lives. Globally, about 1,000,000 people die due to suicide every year. That is 1 person every 32 seconds. Every suicide is devastating and it has a profound impact on the people around them. Friends, family, work colleagues and the local community really struggle to understand and make sense of why a person completed suicide.

World Suicide Prevention Day gives organizations, government agencies and individuals the chance to promote awareness about suicide, mental illnesses associated with suicide, as well as suicide prevention.

Many people struggle to cope at one point or another in their lives. Reaching out to someone could help them know that someone cares, that they are valued and help them to access the support they need.

<https://www.take5tosavelives.org/take-5-steps>

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Take 5 to Save Lives – provides resources to help you raise awareness of suicide and the actions you can take as an individual to help save lives. One of the easiest ways to spread the word about suicide prevention is to share Take 5! Give your friends, family, or social media followers the opportunity to learn and get involved in preventing suicide. Pledge to sharing Take 5 with at least 5 other people.

Message from the PTA



Please email us to be added to the class WhatsApp group
CurryRivelPTA@outlook.com
t&cs can be found on our website

CLASS REPS

2023/2024

Pippin	Lucy – Jessica's mum
Maigold	Claire – Louis' mum
Gala	Elle – Luca's mum
Discovery	Abbie – Freddie's mum
Camelot	George – James' mum
Blenheim	Sara – Molly's mum

AGM

As we gear up for an exciting new school year, we'd like to extend a warm welcome back from our PTA squad. Our first gathering of the year is right around the corner, and you won't want to miss it! Join us on 14th September for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at The Firehouse at 7pm where fun and engagement are on the agenda. We promise this won't be your typical AGM – think more along the lines of a delightful evening filled with discussions, ideas, and opportunities to connect with fellow parents and our dedicated PTA team. Get ready for an evening of collaboration and camaraderie as we kickstart another fantastic year together!



PTA Pizza!

Get ready to indulge in some mouthwatering school spirit at our local pub! The Firehouse have cooked up something special to celebrate the back-to-school season – introducing the "Back to School Rocket Fuel"

pizza! Not only is it shaped like a rocket, but with each slice you devour, they'll be donating £1 to our PTA. It's the perfect excuse to savor every cheesy bite guilt-free, all while supporting our school community. So, let's raise a slice to the pub's generosity and say cheers to a tasty way of giving back! Available throughout September to eat in or takeaway.



Preloved shop

We appreciate your support for our preloved shop. You can purchase logo items directly from our website and reach out via email for non-logo items. We are in need of additional stock, so please continue to donate unwanted, clean uniforms, Christmas jumpers, Christmas T-shirts, fancy dress, and nativity costumes either to the office or through your class representative. The shop will be available on-site during the October parents' evenings.



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 (Chosen by senior staff)
- School Council Representatives (Voted in on Democracy Day)
- Sports Leaders (Apply for job)
- Librarians (Apply for job)

Today, our new Year 6 house captains were announced Congratulations- you will have many tasks to do in your role, as well as being ambassadors for the school and role models to others.

- Polden:
- Mendip:
- Blackdown:
- Quantock:

I hope you have a restful weekend.

Ali Pook

Head Teacher

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