



Weekly Update: 12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

One of the challenges blended learning has been trying to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum. We are proud that we have been able to maintain a broad range of subjects and skills for the children to learn, enriched by events like the half-term inter-house PE competition and the 'Pooky' challenge.

As a school we are on an improvement journey; to support this, the Local Authority meet with governors and school leadership to review progress and next steps every term. A recent 'Core Group' meeting was really positive with the Somerset Primary Advisors identifying many improvements in the school; they were particularly impressed by the Remote Learning provision and the impact we are making. As always, school improvement is a journey and is particularly challenging when momentum is reduced with school closure and COVID. However, we are ambitious and committed to ensuring Curry Rivel primary school is a great school for all and it is my hope that you can 'see and feel' the developments and improvements we are making. It is possible we will have an Ofsted monitoring visit in the coming months, so we look forward to sharing our progress with inspectors, and listening to their advice.

Pupil Surveys

Over 100 children took part in the Remote Learning on-line survey- brilliant. Some key figures:

- All KS1 children found the work interesting and 100% felt that had learned new things. This was 94% and 98% respectively in KS2.
- 98% of children in KS2 found the teacher feedback useful with 93% in KS1.

Some of the things that children liked:

- Maths, maths and maths
- Getting nice comments from my teachers after I have done my work!
- Teachers' videos.
- P.E
- I have enjoyed the English learning a lot!
- All the different things that my teachers put on there for me to use.
- Everything
- The Oak National academy videos.
- The daily challenges
- Being independent
- Reading and English
- Science



- I liked everything, not too hard, teachers helped a lot.
- Comments and feedback from teachers have helped a lot and I like having everything in one place
- Mainly the fact that online learning is easier
- There are very clear instructions and my IT skills have improved.
- Spelling shed
- That if I'm at home I still can see my teachers when they send videos and more.
- Collective worship
- When we get to do these quizzes

Improvements suggested by the children (Our responses in red):

Having live lessons/Maybe we could have a "FaceTime" chat with our teacher once a week?/A class zoom catch up would be nice. **These sessions have started now which is great.**

Calls from TAs/Teachers: **Staff contact all families in each 2 week period and all pupils had a chance for 1: 1 catch up with their teachers this week**

More videos from our teachers/More videos explaining the lesson. **We are including as many of these as we can.**

More art. **Art Day planned for the 26th February**

A bit more instruction about what I'm supposed to be doing with some examples of work so I know how much detail to use. **This has been fed back to the teachers.**

Increase the difficulty of the work set. **This has been fed back to the teachers.**

3 day weekend. **If you are struggling with the quantity of work on screen, do take more breaks and liaise with your teacher. Your well-being is so important, and you can only do your best- sometimes that may mean not completing everything all the time.**

Vision and Values

Every successful organisation needs a strong vision- we can easily recall the 'straplines' of well-known companies. I expect you will identify these: 'Every Little helps?', 'Just do it', 'The Best a Man Can Get'.

The vision and values of a school should underpin all we do. In a church school, the vision and values should also be underpinned biblically. We will be inspected by SIAMs (Church school inspectors) in 2022 as to our effectiveness in embedding our Vision and Values:

The Governing Board, staff and I have been working hard to ensure Curry Rivel School's Vision and Values are relevant and easily understood by all- so that is why I am sharing the reviewed 'vision and values' statement with you today. We will also be working with the children to launch this important foundation of our school. As always, we value your feedback, so if you have any comments please contact us. (The document is attached to this email as a separate document).



UNICEF

Thank you for supporting UNICEF and their vaccine project. The link on my previous email did not work. Here it is again:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RowanPatterson>

Special days

After half-term we will have some exciting events to look forward to:

- We are looking forward to World Book Day, which is on Thursday 4th March. (More information to follow). Dressing up would normally be part of this day but if children would still like to dress up as their favourite book character, that is great. Mrs Samuel has planned a whole suite of activities for all children to enjoy on the day that will take into account the fact we won't be altogether in the normal way.
- All classes will be taking part in Art day activities after half term- thank you to Miss Yarde for planning this on Friday 26th February.
- To enrich our science curriculum, we will also have a 'Science Week' in March.

Testing

Staff continue to use lateral flow tests for COVID-these tests are carried out twice a week.

If your child tests positive for COVID over the half term break, please contact me so that I can then seek advice from Public Health regarding close contacts who would need to self-isolate. Emails will be checked once daily in the morning.

Support

I attach a Somerset Directory of services, a great directory of support that I am sure you will find useful to have for reference.

Staff News

We are delighted to share with you some wonderful news: Mrs Abbey Saunter (who worked as a teacher here until recently) has given birth to a baby girl, named Ailbe, last month.

I wrote to Discovery parents last month regarding Mrs Samuel's news- she will be leaving to go on maternity leave after Easter as she is expecting her second child. We are delighted for her. Recruitment has been in process and we are pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs Hannah van Cole as a maternity cover teacher- Mrs van Cole is very experienced and will bring many new ideas to our school.



Advert

Lunchtime Supervisor Advert

We are looking for a lunchtime supervisor to join our team and work with a child with special educational needs.

We are a friendly, committed and supportive team and you would be warmly welcomed into our school community.

The lunchtime supervisor role is very rewarding - supporting children at the mealtime, encouraging children with the various activities and overseeing everyone's wellbeing. You would work within a team of 5 people and be given information and training to support you in the role of working 1:1 with a child. The times would be from 12 to 1pm (term-time only) starting at SCC Grade 16 point 2 which is equivalent to £18,198 pro rata.

All positions in school would require a criminal background check via the Disclosure Procedure as we are committed to safeguarding our children.

Please contact Mrs Ali Pook or Mrs Helen Davies if you would like to visit the school or would like any further information (01458 251404 or by email curryrivelpprimary@educ.somerset.gov.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

INSET Day

The half-term break is 15th-19th February. Monday 22nd February is a staff-training day, so please be aware that school does not reopen until **Tuesday 23rd February.**

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: Oscar

Maigold: Riley

Gala: Freddie

Discovery: Clemmie

Camelot: Jessica

Blenheim: George P

Lunchtime awards:

Pippin/Maigold: Ruth



Headteacher awards:

Joseph, Tyler, Harry J & Tiana (Discovery): Outstanding writing

Sienna (Blenheim): Attitude to learning

50 Merit Certificates:

Maigold: Lilly-May

Gala: Seb

Camelot: Jack G

PE Half-Term Challenge Cup

Poldern 128; Quantock 119; Mendip 101; Blackdown 80. Well-done to Polden House

Well being tip for the week

Switch off your tech. Enjoy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Ali Pook

Head Teacher

Headteacher:
Mrs Ali Pook

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