



Weekly Update: 18th December 2020

Thank you

It has been a privilege to be head teacher here at Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School. Thank you for making me so welcome. We have achieved a lot (COVID return, new routines, handwashing, bubbles, Accelerated Reader, phonics Big Cats, curriculum redesign, inter-house sport, Well-being Wednesdays, well-planned interventions, new guided reading approach, art days and lots more besides!). This cannot happen without great teamwork and a lot of hard work, so a big thank you to the amazing staff team. Their work is enhanced by the productive relationships we have with you- we work in partnership for all of the children.

Despite restrictions, we have still been able to capture the spirit of Christmas over the past weeks: Advent has been marked by our advent wreath and the ornaments placed on the Jesse tree. Reception and Key Stage One pupils have enjoyed recording their nativity (Parents were sent the link to the film yesterday). Thank you to Rosie's parents for helping with the editing- very much appreciated. All classes have been developing their art skills and knowledge of tint and tone, producing beautiful Christmas calendars. 'Elf & Fitness' has been very well received (Congratulations to Blackdown house for winning this inter-house competition). Sharing our Christmas dinner (In 3 COVID secure sittings) was a fantastic event; a big thank you to the lunchtime team and also to the PTA who supplied crackers and drinks to make it an extra special experience. Finally, we have enjoyed a Christmas service led by Rev Scott today and a surprise 'Elf experience' (<https://vimeo.com/491971491>).

It has been a very difficult and challenging time for everyone over the past few months. The children have been fantastic in adapting to the changes and have settled back in to their learning after a long time away from the classroom. We are extremely proud of the swift progress they have made since their return in September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents, children and staff for their shared effort and support this term in helping to keep the Curry Rivel community safe, by adapting to the changes that have been made to the everyday running of the school. Please continue to follow the rules on Social Distancing and wear a face covering when dropping and collecting your child(ren). As we head into the festive period, even though things may be slightly different this year, I hope you can maintain some cheer, fun and celebration. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year!

Headteacher
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Contact tracing during the Christmas break

The government have asked schools to contact trace during the early part of the break. What this means is that schools will assist with notifying families if their child or a school colleague is determined to be a close contact of a person with a confirmed positive Covid-19 test result.

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, up to 24th December, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, **having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school** (by 20th December), the school is asked to assist in contact tracing and passing on instructions to self-isolate, as the individual identified may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Covid out of hours: If you or your child have a COVID positive result, contact the headteacher immediately on alpook@educ.somerset.gov.uk. Leave a contact number in your message and I will respond as quickly as I can. Thank you.
- Where a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, **having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being at school**, (21st Dec onwards) the school does not need to be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- Where students are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days (from 25th December onwards), schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.
- School staff are not required to contact trace from the 25th December onwards
- A reminder -4th January is an INSET day and pupils should not attend school.

Mass Testing Announcement

The new proposals do not relate to primary schools at this stage



Support this Christmas



Support this Christmas

The Coronavirus Helpline
Call **0300 790 6275** for help with food, prescriptions, housing, financial support, employment, emotional support, transport, waste and more.

Village Agents
CCS Village Agents can provide confidential, practical, community-based solutions for food and other support. Visit somesetagents.org

Carers
If you are a carer of any age in need of support you can phone CCS on **0800 3168 600**

Mindline
Anyone with concerns around mental health issues and emotional wellbeing can be supported by calling Mindline on **01823 276 892**

Support for Families
Schools and Colleges will receive £30 funding for every child who qualifies for free school meals, which will provide £15 per week of support over the Christmas holidays.
Schools will also be allocated a fund to support other families in need of help.

Early years
Visit healthystart.nhs.uk for help for under 4s

Over 16s
Families with children over 16 not in Education, Employment or Training can access food support by emailing somersetworks@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset's Local Authorities
MENDIP, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton, SOMERSETWORKS, CCS, SOMERSET County Council, South Somerset District Council, SPARK SOMERSET

Coronavirus support helpline Available 8am to 6pm, seven days a week
0300 790 6275
A single number is now available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus related support from Somerset's Local Authorities. Anyone who can't find help within their community can use the helpline to get help and advice.

Reading Update

Our new reading system has been in place for a term now, and the feedback is very positive. We continue to refine and improve our procedures, as you would expect with any new system. Mrs Samuel (Our English lead) reports:

- 2232 books have been read to date
- We have new non-fiction books from scholastic, which were purchased using the money raised by the PTA Book Fair back in March.
- Almost 100% of children in Years 3-6 have quizzed at least once in the last 30 days.
- Children have given this positive feedback:

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Summer- "I think it's good because it asks you questions and you get to see how well you're doing."

Mia- "It is really good because then you can't forget the book and you can go back and see what you read."

Sophie- "It is good because you remember the book and if you do the quiz you remember it a bit more. "

PTA Update

A big thank you to all of the children, parents, guardians, families and friends whose contribution has made the PTA's fundraising this term possible. The colouring competition raised £68.92 and the Christmas raffle raised £390.28 (Congratulations to the following parents who won the turkey, hamper and Firehouse vouchers respectively- Miss Barrett, Mrs Gambrill and Mrs Ward).

Christingle Update

£71.80 was raised for the Children's Society- thank you for your support.

Internet offer

Vodafone are offering free internet data for families in need for free. A really quick and easy order process.

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/pay-as-you-go-plans/schools-connected>

Awards

Class Cup

Pippin: Bella
 Maigold: Lillyann-Mai
 Gala: Olivia
 Discovery: Sumer
 Camelot: Lexi
 Blenheim: George L

Playtime awards

Pippin: Finley

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Maigold: Anna
Gala: Olivia
Discovery: Kaitlyn
Camelot: Jess
Blenheim: Lily

Headteacher awards:

Sophie CT (Camelot): First pupil reaching Black Ninja Handwriting level

Achievements out of school

Arthur (Discovery): Next Tuesday 15th December, during Arthur's online zoom Beavers meeting he will be presented with his 'beaver scouts bronze award' certificate and badge; this is the highest award you can get as a Beaver Scout.

Alfie (Discovery): Alfie has trained hard in karate and has achieved his orange belt- a fantastic achievement.

50 merits

Camelot: Jacob P, James M, Emily, Ashleigh-Marie, Harry J
Gala: James M
Discovery: Arthur
Blenheim: Chelsy, Natasha S

December House Merit Cup: Blackdown

Inter-House 'Elf & Fitness': Blackdown

Well being tip for this week and the Christmas holidays

Each day make time for you. Know that you are special and you deserve time for you, to be you, to do what you want to do, to allow yourself some peace and some joy in your own world.

Have a peaceful break.

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Head Teacher



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