



## Weekly Update: 9th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this finds you well. We have had an exciting week at school with the teachers receiving training on 'Google Classroom' and the launch of this platform yesterday. You will have received a letter about this yesterday and I hope your child will be able to access their new 'classroom'. We are keeping things simple at this stage to enable us to focus on ensuring everyone is accessing the classroom successfully- do contact us if you have any problems. Our 'Outdoor Learning' programme is being developed to be closely linked to the curriculum; currently Pippin, Gala and Blenheim classes are enjoying 'The Orchard' area one afternoon a week. For example, the children of Blenheim have been enjoying learning about willow and weaving techniques ready to construct model Saxon round houses, linking design and technology with their history topic.

The Governing board met this week and have approved the School Development Plan- this is an important document which identifies priority areas for school improvement, identified by Ofsted and self-evaluation (Please see the school website for the document in full). The main priorities for the school are:

**Priority 1:** Support well-being of staff and pupils in managing return to school

**Priority 2:** Strengthen the reading culture within the school and to raise the proportion of pupils reaching Age Related Expectations and Greater Depth so that they are in-line with national expectations

**Priority 3:** To develop an engaging and sequential school curriculum that meets the needs of the pupils at Curry Rivel

**The Priority 4:** To improve maths outcomes so that percentages of Age Related Expectations and Greater Depth are in-line with national expectations

**Priority 5:** To improve provision & progress for SEND and vulnerable learners

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**Priority 6:** Develop a culture of spirituality to promote learning and develop opportunities for deeper thinking in RE.

## Homework

Thank you to those of you who have contributed to the parent view of the draft homework policy which was discussed and approved by the Governing Board this week. The final policy has some adjusted wording (see below) and the policy is attached and is on our website.

*We regard homework as a vital part of the school's programme for learning and whenever homework is set in years 5 and 6 it should be regarded as compulsory and must be completed as and when required by the teacher. This will be made very clear to the children and we ask that parents play their part in supporting their child's learning by: taking an interest in the homework if possible; helping to provide conditions where the homework can be done effectively and ensuring it is returned on time. We will try to ensure that your child is stretched in their learning but not over-burdened, and if you feel problems are arising please let us know. In developing good 'homework habits' children are preparing for future years of learning and developing the skills of personal responsibility, independent learning and initiative that will serve them in later life. Homework is a vital activity in which home and school work together for the children's good. Homework will not be set in the holidays.*

## Reading

You have been really supportive of our new Big Cat Phonics books and Accelerated Reader (AR) system. The AR system is very much about developing comprehension skills and motivating readers. The children are responding really well and the teachers are keeping a close eye on AR pupil reports to see how they are performing and whether they need to move up a level. Teachers can also see if there are any patterns. E.g We noticed some pupils perform well on fiction texts

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but not on non-fiction or some pupils are staying with one specific author. This is very useful data which we can use to support the children's reading.

## PE

Please see that attached letter from Mr Bridgeman, our PE lead- this tells you about our half -termly inter-house sports competitions, the first of which is coming up at the end of this half-term.

PE kit on PE days- most pupils are wearing school PE kit which is plain black shorts/joggers and the school PE t-shirt. School jumpers can be worn or a plain black tracksuit type top (Some children have been wearing fashion items which are not part of our uniform).

## Parents' Evenings

You will receive your Microsoft Teams invitation to your child's parents' evening next week- this will be sent via email. Please check the link prior to the parents' evening to ensure you can attend the meeting.

## Wellbeing

Ask any primary school teacher, and they will tell you that alongside the 'core business' of teaching literacy and numeracy, a large and often unrecognised part of their job, involves addressing children's emotional, social and behavioural needs. With the right support, children learn to articulate and manage their emotions, deal with conflict, solve problems, understand things from another person's perspective, and communicate in appropriate ways. The Education Endowment Foundation' states: *'These 'social and emotional skills' are essential for children's development, support effective learning, and are linked to positive outcomes in later life.'* These skills are more important than ever during this pandemic which is why we have our focus on 'Well-being' on Wednesday mornings; this has ensured we have some protected time to learn about these vitally important skills. Children have been learning about kindness. Two pupils' views:

*'On well-being Wednesdays I have learned to be kind and forgive people who make the wrong choices. I love well-being Wednesday as we get to think about the choices we make and be caring to others'. (Maisie)*

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*'We learned how to treat others how you would like to be treated.'* (Harriet)

### **Harvest thank you**

Rev Scott led a lovely service on Tuesday which we all enjoyed. A record amount of food was donated and all of your generous donations have gone to the Curry Rivel Foodbank.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

We are joining forces with St Andrew's Church in their Christmas charitable work with the 'Shoebox Appeal'. Despite the difficulties that they face every day, through poverty, illness, disability, or other disadvantages, receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe. If you are interested in filling a Christmas Shoebox with gifts, please would you download the leaflet with list of items etc. from the Blythwood Care website at: [blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal](http://blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal). I will also make leaflets available to those children who are interested. Your filled boxes can be delivered to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> November (After the half term break). Please note that this is a completely voluntary activity.

### **On-Line Safety Information for Parents**

Children are accessing the online world more than ever before, consuming all different types of content which isn't always moderated or regulated. So, what can parents do? What safety steps can you implement? And how can you help? Please see a helpful guide attached.

### **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/>

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### **Award winners for this week**

Class cup:

Pippin: Azalea

Maigold: Daisy

Gala: Sienna

Discovery: Kaitlyn

Camelot: Ella

Blenheim: Ava

Lunchtime awards:

Pippin: Luca

Maigold: Alex

Gala: Belle

Discovery: William

Camelot: Mia

Blenheim: Noah

Head teacher award: Toby W (Gala)

I wish you a good weekend.

Ali Pook

Head Teacher

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