



## Weekly Update: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Having listened to members of the whole school community this week, as I have had phone calls with families, spoken with staff, it feels as though this has been a challenging week for us all. Indeed I feel that for my own children, somehow 'remote learning' has lost its appeal and everything seems to have been a bit more of an effort. My own children seems to have defaulted to the 'I can't do this' mode this week! I mention this as it is easy to think that 'everyone else seems fine' when actually we are all experiencing the COVID 'January blues' in one way or another. 'Perseverance' has been the theme of our Collective Worship this week (available to all children on Google Classroom). Sometimes perseverance can be seen as developing one's 'grit' and determination and although these are important traits, my feeling is that this definition does not account for the mistakes we make as human beings. For learners, especially in remote learning, it can feel like being at the bottom of the learning pit sometimes especially when children say 'I can't do it'. It is unlikely that the teachers have set work the child cannot access, and indeed it is likely that our children are capable of doing most assignments independently (In school they would not have an adult sat at their side all day). So we have to develop strategies with our children when they say 'I can't do it'. You may have seen the video about the 'Power of Yet' ("You can't do it...yet"). As teachers and parents we can encourage our children out of the learning pit by asking them: *What do you already know about this? What do you think you have to do? What is the first step? What **can** you do? Look at your work/teacher feedback from yesterday. How can that help? Can you replay the video? Re-read the instructions? Have-a-go? Leave it for now, which assignment would be easier to start with today?* Every child is different, and all of your family work/home situations have different pressures; you are doing your best in extraordinary times. Of course, we are always here to support, so don't suffer in silence.

### **Thankyou: Safeguarding and Welfare**

Thank you for responding to my request for your help in monitoring child welfare by ensuring that children are 'registered' by 10am. Last Friday, we had to follow up on over 40 children, but today only a few.

### **Thankyou: Remote Learning Survey**

There were over 40 respondents to our remote learning survey which is fantastic and gives us useful feedback to review and shape our on-going provision. I will send the details of the outcomes to you next week. Overall, it was great to see that 83% of families rate the effectiveness of Google Classroom for delivering learning as 'excellent' or 'good'. Do we rest on our laurels? Absolutely not and I hope that below you will see how we are further improving our offer.

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### **Pre-recorded lessons and live sessions**

We have had positive feedback regarding the pre-recorded videos teachers have made themselves. By prerecording, they can think more carefully about the quality of explanation and more easily build in video clips and other animations that help to bring the explanation to life. The children enjoy 'seeing and hearing' their teacher, and they can also rewind and replay.

During this period of disruption to learning, the school will be implementing some live sessions with pupils as part of our remote education policy. You can read our remote education policy on our website here:

[http://www.curryrivelpriamry.co.uk/website/remote\\_learning/513276](http://www.curryrivelpriamry.co.uk/website/remote_learning/513276)

We will initially provide around 2 live sessions for the following purposes:

- Story time
- 'Social' tutor group type time
- Well-being sessions
- Interventions led by TAs

We intend to record our live sessions in order to ensure that children and staff have peace of mind about safety and security. E.g. When only one member of staff is leading a session. For this we require consent from parents/carers. Please have a look at the consent form which outlines the safety and data protection measures which will be in place for all:

<https://forms.gle/EyoVari1MDzqLag27> .

Please give consent by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January as this will help us prepare accordingly. You will find our Live Sessions policy on our website.

It is our hope to start some live sessions from the 1st February- this will also allow everyone to overcome the various challenges we are likely to encounter with this.

### **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: Isabelle  
Maigold: Lilly May  
Gala: Brooke  
Discovery: Connie  
Camelot: George  
Blenheim: Ivy

#### **Lunchtime awards:**

Pippin/Maigold: Bobbie  
Gala/Discovery: Casper  
Discovery/Camelot: Isabelle

#### **Headteacher awards:**

Rebecca (Pippin), Emily (Maigold), Isabelle (Camelot)

#### **50 Merit Certificates:**

Gala: Toby W, Mia-Rose, Brook, Harrison, Paige, Olivia, Miila  
Discovery: Blake, Tyler

#### **Other achievements:**

Cohen: Learning new cooking skills

### **Well-being tip for the week**

The link below is to a recent BBC series of podcasts called 'The Happiness Half Hour'. The science of happiness, yes a real thing at Bristol University, is unpacked into some really practical ideas. One of those proven ideas is looking forward. Enjoy!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/brand:p08r2ymx/p08zfbwh>

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Ali Pook  
Head Teacher



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