

Weekly Update: 24th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy week at Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School. I have been conducting learning walks, book looks and pupil voice interviews- this is to support the school's self-evaluation and monitoring. The teachers have worked so hard in developing a coherent, organized and sequential curriculum, based on core knowledge, skills and concepts. I am delighted that the children are keen to discuss the wide range of subjects they learn here, from Art to Maths, from French to Science and from English to Computing. I have been impressed by the tonal drawings in Discovery class, knowledge of French days of the week in Camelot, and there has been some really deep thinking about Christianity by Year 1 children in Pippin. Blenheim have been to Huish Leisure centre, enjoying their first swimming lesson of the term, Maigold have been working on some collaborative Art pieces and Gala have been enjoying 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and applying their knowledge of adjectives; and last but not least our wonderful new Reception pupils have started some amazing phonics learning. Overall, the pupils are enjoying a broad and challenging curriculum. You can find out more about our curriculum, how we organise it and the thinking that sits behind our approach on our website. Our SEND adviser, Mark Long visited us this week and he was also pleased to see our calm learning environment and he observed high levels of pupil engagement in their learning. Do we have improvements to make? Of course, and these are a prioritised in our 'School Development Plan' which will be agreed by the Board of Governors next week, and shared with you in due course.

### **COVID** rules

COVID Update latest from Public Health: Children who are unwell should not attend school and should remain at home until their acute symptoms resolve (+24 hours for a fever).

•IF these symptoms develop into cough, temperature, changes to taste and smell, need to isolate and test.

•IF test is negative to COVID-19, still need to remain at home until at least 24hr fever free and acute symptoms resolved.

•Parents and settings should not try and 'second guess' diagnosis -if anyone has the key symptoms, isolate and test.

•Examples of acute symptoms with which children should not attend school/nursery include fever, muscle aches, hacking cough.



•Examples of symptoms with which children could attend school/ nursery include persistent runny nose, irritable cough (if COVID-19 positive, they must have completed the appropriate isolation period).

Fully vaccinated people should:

- still adhere to all IPC measures (hands, face, space, fresh air)

- still isolate and test if they develop symptoms

• Fully vaccinated people and children under 18 and 6 months who are identified as a close contact will not be required to isolate

• Early years and educational (including holiday clubs) settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing-to be completed by NHSTest and Trace following positive PCR.

Individuals identified as close contacts are not required to self-isolate if any of the following apply: •they are fully vaccinated (e.g. at least 2 weeks after second dose)

•they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months

•they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

•they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Close contacts who are not required to isolate will be advised to:

 •take a PCR test (do not need to isolate whilst awaiting result but will need to isolate as a case if positive)

·limit close contact with others outside their household

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

·limit contact with clinically extremely vulnerable

participate in twice weekly LFD testing if eligible

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport



#### SENDCo

We wish Mrs Ward well in her recovery. In the meantime, if you have any immediate concerns regarding Special Educational Needs, please contact your child's class teacher who will be able to help you. In Mrs Ward's absence, I am pleased we have been able to employ the SENDCo expertise of Mrs Nic van Cole who also works as SENDCo in two other local primary schools. She will be working with our team, one day a week, to support them in ensuring the needs of our SEND pupils are met. Our support team have started Autumn term interventions, and teachers are arranging 'Assess Plan Do Review' meetings with parents/carers of SEND pupils. Please note however, that during Mrs Ward's absence, our capacity is reduced and we may not respond to requests and queries as quickly as usual- thank you for your patience.



#### **Music lessons**

Music forms an important part of the school curriculum, and Miss Kilner is our music lead. All children will be learning music at some point over the autumn term- we also have a strong singing culture, with Mr Bridgeman and Miss Tucker leading whole school hymn practice weekly.

Some of you may wonder what has happened to our private peripatetic music teachers? In order to deliver our broad curriculum, interventions and to also allow external educational professionals to come in and support pupils and meet teachers, all of our spaces and rooms are well used and 'booked'. Therefore, unfortunately, it is not possible to allow music teachers into school as we do not have the



available space. I hope that, if your child has such 1:1 lessons, you are able to arrange these for after school.

#### Sports Clubs

Years 5 and 6 pupils had a great time with Mr Bridgeman and Mrs Hartwick at netball and football clubs this week- there are still spaces, so do get in touch. Craig, at Procoaching, reports that currently there has not been enough interest in the clubs for younger children- please see the information below and book a place (If there is not enough interest, sadly, these clubs cannot go ahead).



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### The PTA Needs You!

Please don't we shy: the PTA are a friendly and welcoming team who raise funds for the school and have fun at the same time. The AGM is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in the school hall- please join us (Tea, coffee and biscuits included!)





# Festival of the Moon at Wells Cathedral

This autumn, Wells Cathedral is hosting a festival to celebrate the visit of Luke Jerram's spectacular touring artwork: *Museum of the Moon*. A whole constellation of activities and events, including live shows, music, school displays and tours, will be on offer throughout the *Moon*'s stay from 12<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, with something to satisfy all tastes and ages! Why not visit the Moon this October half-term?

# Wallace & Gromit's 'A Grand Day Out'

# Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.00pm

Wallace and Gromit enjoy a day out with a difference when a quest to find cheese prompts a visit to the moon! Watch this comic classic on the big screen at Wells Cathedral's family-friendly evening under the Museum of the Moon. This show includes a performance of Captain Noah and his Floating Headteacher:

Mrs Ali Pook Curry Rivel C of E VC Primary School, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset TA10 0HD Telephone: 01458 251404 e-mail: <u>curryrivelprimary@educ.somerset.gov.uk</u> website: <u>www.curryrivelprimary.co.uk</u>



Zoo, performed by the Choristers of Wells Cathedral Choir! Tickets: £5-£10 (family tickets available)

# 'Man on the Moon' at Wells Cathedral

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 6.30pm, 8pm and 9.30pm (three performances)

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, watch ropewalker-extraordinaire Chris Bullzini perform a breath-taking highwire routine above the *Museum of the Moon*, and explore the extraordinary spaces of the Cathedral by night. *Tickets:*  $\pm$ 8- $\pm$ 10

Full details and booking information can be found at <u>https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/cathedral-</u> <u>events/festival-of-the-moon/</u>

## A message from Mrs Andrews in the school kitchen

Please can you inform your children what you have ordered- although the orders are always checked, sometimes children don't know what to expect and can get a surprise if parents/carers haven't told them- thank you.

Please note that meals are ordered on Wednesdays for the following week, so no orders or changes can be accepted for the following week if you leave it too late.

### Harvest Festival

Harvest is a wonderful opportunity for all schools and nurseries to help children and young people to think about how food reaches their plates and to say thank you for all they have received, as well as giving to those in need. Our harvest festival service will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at St Andrew's Church, at 9.15am. Currently, I am risk assessing the event in line with COVID guidance to enable a decision around parents/carers attending this event- at the current time, due to the rising local rate, I am likely to err on the side of caution and sadly ask that parents/carers don't attend. We will be demonstrating 'courageous advocacy' by supporting the important work of the Curry Rivel Foodbank, and ask that children bring dried foodstuffs (tins or packets) to the Harvest service. We would like to make a special harvest display both in school and at church- we would welcome donations of a few ears of corn, wheat or barley.

Awards



It was wonderful to welcome parents/carers to our celebration assembly today. We are all so proud of the following pupils:

#### Class Cup Awards

Pippin: Noah

Maigold: Emily

Gala: Arya

Discovery: Belle

Camelot: Grace

Blenheim: Jack G

#### Lunchtime stars

Pippin: Evie-Jane

Maigold: Lilly K

Discovery: Harry J

Camelot: Jack M

Blenheim: Rylee

### Dates for your diary

Monday 27th September: Visit from gymnast, Isabel Haigh Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Festival Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October: Open morning for prospective parents 19<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> October: Parents' evenings Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: INSET Day 25<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> October: Half term

# Planning Ahead: INSET Days

The followed INSET dates have been agreed with the Governing board:

Monday 6 September 2021



Friday 22 October 2021

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Monday 25 July 2022

Tuesday 26 July 2022

## Well-being tip of the week

Keep going with random acts of kindness and maybe look beyond your immediate circles of influence, perhaps to support a charity, food bank or aid organisation through a kind act – raising its profile by sharing or retweeting; engaging your school, class or youth group; volunteering some time; committing to regular prayerful support... with a humble heart, for the good of others.

Have a restful weekend.

Ali Pook

Head Teacher