



Weekly Update: 28th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that the last 13 months have passed so quickly- having started my headship here in April 2020, I have calculated that there have only been 20 'normal weeks' with all pupils and staff in school. I can't help but feel proud of how much everyone has achieved in such a short time- the children have been amazing and are now well established into their school and learning routines. The staff have moved quickly not only to adjust to changing guidelines and COVID restrictions, but also in making improvements to the curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning. It was great to see that these improvements have been recognised by yourselves, as demonstrated in the 'Parent View' survey completed this week for Ofsted.

To hear the children's plans for the half term is wonderful- from camping plans to meeting family members they haven't seen for a long time, train trips and just 'time to play'- this fills me with much hope for the return of a more normal life for us all. I know we must not be complacent, and I know we will all be mindful of current restrictions.

Premises

We continue to improve the school premises- we have 4 new picnic benches for the lower playground; Mr Silver is decorating Camelot and Blenheim classrooms over the half term break. We are very grateful to Greenshutters Nursery for their donation of spring bulbs. New external fire doors have also been installed around the school, so we are looking really smart!

PTA Fundraiser

We have had a lot of fun today 'breaking the rules' (Only some rules of course!). A good amount has been raised for the PTA funds- total to be confirmed.

Reading Relaunch

We relaunched expectations regarding reading last week- a big thank you for supporting your children in this. Miss Tucker, our English Lead, has met with a few children today who have found it a challenge to read regularly at home (and get their records signed); she has given them some top tips about getting back into the reading routine. We have also reminded children to ensure they have their reading books and reading diaries in school every day for independent reading.

Children on the 'Accelerated Reader' system have completed their Star Reader assessment this week; teachers will be analysing these results and will be adjusted reading levels as required (Book levels may not be changed until after half term).

WTS All Pook

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Interhouse Competition

Thank you to Mr Bridgeman for organising this half term's inter-house competition. The focus was 'not-stop hit it' and was enjoyed by all. At the time of publication, I did not know the final results which will be announced in celebration assembly today

Ofsted

As you know we received a monitoring Ofsted visit this week- this was not a graded inspection (as these are suspended until the autumn). The inspection was asking: 'Are the leaders and governors taking effective action towards becoming a good school?' Unfortunately I cannot share the outcome of the inspection until the report is in the public domain, but I can say we had a positive and useful day. May I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the unsung heroes of the school- the governors. They give up many hours each month to attend meetings, scrutinise school improvement, support developments and offer challenge- this is voluntary work and we are very lucky to have a board with such a broad range of skills and experience.

School timings for September Consultation

I would like to inform you in advance that the school would slightly adjust the school start time (From September) to 8.45am (Rather than the current 8.50am). The school bell would sound at 8.40am, with lessons starting at 8.45am. Five minutes does not sound much, but with some other minor adjustments to the school's timetable, we are able to better to 'fit in' our ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum. We are obliged to give you one half term's notice so that you have an opportunity to feedback any comments- do contact me via the school office.

SEND

This week's SEND weekly newsletter is now available - please click on the link below:

<https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/send-news/>

Dates for your diary

Thursday 10th June: Class photos
31st May-4th June: Half term
w/b 28th June: Assessment week
Wednesday 7th July New classes morning
Friday 9th July: Road safety day
Tuesday 13th July: Sports day (Details to follow)
Thursday 15th July: Year 6 'production' (TBC)
Saturday 17th July: Village fete
w/b 5th July: Year 6 activities week (TBC)
w/b 19th June: Reports out to parents
Tuesday 20th July: Sports day reserve



Wednesday 21st July: Leaver's service (TBC)

Friday 23rd July: End of year assembly

Friday 23rd July: Last day of term

Award winners for this week

Class cup:

Pippin: Elliot

Maigold: Lily K

Gala: Barney

Discovery: Riley

Camelot: Jack G

Blenheim: Andreea

Lunchtime awards:

Pippin: Noah

Maigold: Whole class

Gala: Harrison

Discovery: Kaitlyn

Camelot: Lottie

Blenheim: Ava

50 Merit Certificates:

Owen B

100 Merit Certificates:

Pippin: George, Bella, Luca, Jason

Maigold: Lillyann Mai, Lily H

Camelot: Maisie, Luke, Sophie E, Sophia CT

Blenheim: May; George L

Head Teacher Award

Cayden (Discovery); Bella (Pippin); Olivia (Gala); Rylee (Camelot); Noah (Blenheim)

Special Mention:

Brooke for achieving Level 6 proficiency in gymnastics

Merits for May

Mendip 561; Polden 539; Blackdown 510; Quantock 502

Headteacher:
Mrs Ali Pook

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Well-Being Tip of the week

Take time to talk with somebody each day this week and over half term, ideally somebody you haven't spoken with for a while, hopefully over a cuppa where you can. Chat about what has changed for each of you in recent months, about the things you will embrace going forward.

Have a restful week.

Mrs Ali Pook
Head Teacher

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