



Weekly Update: 26th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to have such lovely weather this week (although as I publish this the heavens have just opened!). The children have been pleased to be playing on the school field during breaks and have enjoyed their outdoor learning lessons; Key Stage Two classes have been learning mapping skills and the younger children have been studying plants. Mr Silver has been working hard to develop a butterfly garden at the front of the school; we are very grateful for expert advice from Gina Beauchamp, from the local Curry Rivel in Bloom group, who have also donated funds to support the project. Big thanks also to Green Shutters Nursery for the donation of butterfly friendly plants.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and is the start of Holy week, as we run up to the important festival of Easter. The children have been learning about Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday in collective worship. Rev Scott has led collective worship this week, focusing on the importance of forgiveness and he will lead an Easter Service on Tuesday. During PE next week, children will be taking part in an Exercise 'Eggstravaganza' organised by Mr Bridgeman. This is the inter-house competition for this half-term and will involve a variety of Easter themed games and activities in which the children can earn points for their houses.

Bubble bursting after-school activities

We have worked really hard at school to keep bubbles separate; please try to support this by not bursting bubbles with indoor 'play dates' and 'sleepovers'. We know it is hard, but restrictions are still in place, with some changes from the 29th March (outdoor gatherings, including in private gardens, of either 6 people or 2 households will be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.) There will be opportunities to meet in a normal way soon...BUT not yet!

Capturing benefits and losses

This pandemic has been catastrophic in so many ways. Schools have had to adapt to very different working practices. However, we feel that there have been some positives in the way we manage the school. Here are some of our thoughts:

Positives to keep

- PE kit worn on PE days
- Homework on Google Classroom
- Drop off/pick-up at different entrances
- Playtimes in separate groups, with higher levels of staffing, has improved behaviour and therefore teacher/staff do not waste time responding to problems and issues in learning time.
- Sinks!
- Devices used more efficiently
- Having recorded collective worship occasionally, especially if the head teacher is in a meeting.
- Focus on teaching and learning.

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Of course it has been challenging too, and we can't wait until all the children can eat in the hall and we can plan mixed class events, go on trips and start swimming. As yet, we don't know when the restrictions will allow this level of normality. It is likely that restrictions in schools will not be changed until September at the earliest. We are interested in your views on the pros and cons of the way the school has operated during this past year. Please share your views here: <https://forms.gle/fEWrxAA6xpTScr188>

UNIFORM

High standards of uniform and adherence to the school uniform policy will be back to normal after Easter. Our school uniform is:

Girls

Black or grey skirt/pinafore dress/trousers/shorts or culottes.
Purple summer dress (optional)
School polo shirt or white polo shirt
School sweatshirt or School cardigan
Black, grey or white socks or tights
Dark sensible shoes (no trainers)

Boys

Black or grey trousers or shorts

School polo shirt or white polo shirt
School sweatshirt
Black, grey or white socks
Dark sensible shoes (no trainers)

PE Kit

School PE shirt
Black shorts
Trainers

Items can be ordered via the school office. Please ensure that all clothing is clearly named. Also, especially when your child is young, velcro or elastic on shoes is much easier for them rather than laces. We also ask that every child has a waterproof coat every day of the year so that they are properly dressed for outside play.

Other information

- Black flat shoes or ankle/mid-calf flat school boots (No slip on ballet pumps please)
- Please no trainers or 'fashion' haircuts
- For safety reasons jewellery is not worn at school. If your child has pierced ears then small studs may be worn. Watches may be worn at the owner's risk.

Please remember that PE kit must be plain, so if your child is wearing jogging bottoms, they need to be **plain** back or navy. School jumpers can be worn on PE days or plain black/navy sweaters. Please no hoodies, as we have noticed that these can be a risk in PE lessons. On outdoor learning days, old uniform can be worn or **plain** back/navy jogging bottoms- trainers are not to be worn on these days as children will have wellies. Please contact the school office if you have any difficulties, as we may be able to help.

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Healthy Packed Lunches

Thank you to those of you who have responded to advice on healthy packed lunches- many children are now only having one 'treat' food a day and we can see an increase in balanced lunches including all food groups.

Phonics visit

Curry Rivel School have joined a DfE 'Excellence in English Hub' to support us in our improvement journey. The hub have recently completed an audit. In essence, they were impressed by our phonics teaching and the use of the Big Cat phonics books.

Areas for development:

- Intervention/Keep up for bottom 20% of pupils
- Shared language and mantras across the school.

All staff will be attending additional training over the next two months so we can further improve our practice.

SEND

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

<https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/sendnews/>

to read the latest stories. The Newsletter shares some information about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25.

Award winners for this week

Class cup:

Pippin: Maisy

Maigold: Arya

Gala: Paige

Discovery: Rupert

Camelot: Alfie

Blenheim: Isobelle

Lunchtime awards:

Pippin: Rosie

Maigold: Daisy

Gala: Finley

Discovery: Yusef

Camelot: Oscar N

Blenheim: Natasza

Headteacher awards:

Thomas C (Blenheim)

50 Merit Certificates:

Oscar N (Camelot); Oscar I (Pippin); Archie (Pippin); Edie (Pippin); Kaitlyn (Discovery)

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100 Merit Certificates:

George P (Blenheim)

Discovery: William, Harry H, Alfie, Bea, Alex, Joseph, Clemmie, Grace, Holly

Well being tip for the week

Make time to notice birds singing. Stop, listen and, for as long as you are able each day during this week, immerse yourself in birdsong, enjoying your own stillness. Even better, take a cuppa (or an evening glass of something) and listen whilst outside, focus on nothing other than the soundtrack being played - just for you. Be filled with hope and peace.

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Ali Pook
Head Teacher

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