

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **Remote learning**

Along with this newsletter you will receive a document about our approach to remote learning in the event of any partial or full closure of the school. This information will also be added to our website under the 'learning' tab. We have carefully considered the approach we are able to offer and understand that there may be limitations for some. If this information is needed, we will be sure to look to receive feedback and shape the approach on an ongoing basis as required.

In the meantime, we ask that everyone in Years 1 – 6 checks their Google Classroom password and lets the office know if this is not working or if they need a password reset. A set of documents to support the use of Google Classroom will be available on the website under the learning tab.

Please note, a closure may take place at any time and due to the nature of the circumstances could happen with short notice.

### **Harvest**

We were delighted to be able to share in a Harvest service last Thursday. We aim to publish a Harvest newsletter as soon as possible so that you can get a flavour of some of the ways we were able to celebrate. Thank you to all who were able to make a donation of any items for the Yate and Chipping Sodbury Foodbank.

### **Parent teacher meetings**

All parents should now have received a letter about next term's parent teacher meetings which will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure your letter is returned to school as soon as possible so that appointment times can be shared with you. Appointments will take place on Microsoft Teams and you will be sent an invitation to the meeting beforehand. Microsoft team meetings can be accessed via the internet and you do not need to download software. If you do not have access to the internet we are happy to make a phone call instead.

As we won't be able to share the children's books with you this time, teachers will ask you during your meeting whether you would like a copy of a piece of writing photocopied and sent home.

### **Walk to school week**

Last week was Walk to School week. Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative. Mr Brown has collected the data and we saw a definite increase in the number of children who walked to school over the week even if that meant parking further from school and walking through the village.

The number of children across the school who walked, cycled or scooted to school each day is as follows:

Monday 32  
Tuesday 41  
Wednesday 35  
Thursday 37  
Friday (Inset Day)

We encourage you to continue to walk, cycle or scoot when you can.

### **Parent information session**

We have now created a pre-recorded information session about our new approach to teaching the curriculum to children in Years 1 – 6. All families are welcome to watch this including those who have a child in Reception. You will also receive a document which outlines how 'States of Being' are used to support the curriculum.

The video will be available on YouTube for a limited period of time for viewing only. The link for this will be sent out by email on Tuesday once it has had its final edit.

We have been impressed with the way the children have taken on the new approach to learning. They appear to be enthused and keen to find out more about their latest enquiries, which is fantastic to see.

### **Christmas performances**

#### **EYFS / KS1**

We are still planning to hold a Nativity service this year and we are looking at options as to how this will run. It is possible that we split Reception from KS1 and offer two separate performances in order to allow more space for visitors to watch. Please hold the original dates from the calendar sent out in September. These dates are also on the school website under the 'What's On' tab. We will give you more information about this closer to the time.

#### **KS2**

We had originally planned to hold our KS2 performance before Christmas this year. Instead we will now be holding it during Term 6 in the same way that we have over recent years. We are hoping that this will give the children the chance to perform in front of an audience which they would not be able to do during Term 2 due to the number of children who would be involved. We will let you know a proposed date for this as soon as possible.

We are hoping to hold all other Christmas activities as planned with some amendments where required. We will keep you updated over the course of the term.

### **Friends PTA update**

The first Friends meeting of the year took place last week. Thank you to Kate Shackelford for agreeing to take on the role of chair and enabling this incredibly important aspect of school life to continue. Several activities are coming up soon and will be shared with everyone in an email from the school.

Next term, there will be an opportunity to purchase Christmas cards designed by the children and tea towels with the children's pictures on them. We urge you to support when you can as all money raised is vital for the work of the school.

### **Be Safe, Be Seen**

This week the children received virtual visits from the Road Safety team at the council. They were reminded about the importance of staying safe when out and about given that the evenings are getting darker at this time of year. Please do ask them what they found out!