



Avonmouth CE Primary School Newsletter 1



Friday 11th September 2020

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RESPECT – I speak for all the staff when I say a **HUGE** thank you for how fantastic you have been in bringing your children into school, coping with all these ‘weird and wonderful’ arrangements and supporting us to do our best for your children. We are so grateful. You have done the best thing for your children and us.

I’m so impressed! I kid you not, with all the challenges we are facing, we had 95% attendance in our first two days of the academic year. In ‘normal’ times, the minimum expectation is 96%. Look how close we were. The children have been so quick to settle and shown such resilience. Walking around the school, it’s like business as usual so well done to all of you.

You’ll appreciate that we are working hard to keep everyone as safe as possible and to prevent the spread of this horrible virus. We will do our very best to keep you informed and constantly review our arrangements. With this in mind, we will be making a slight change to how we come into school. The times will not be changing but we are going to ask those parents and carers with children in Years 1, 3 and 5 who arrive a bit earlier than their scheduled time to queue down the right-hand side of the school drive to wait for their time to come in. We want to avoid anyone waiting on the busy pavement outside of the school but we must keep a 2 metre distance between family groups whenever possible. When all of our Year 2, 4 and 6 children are in school, at 8.50am, we will invite Years 1, 3 and 5 to come in. This should, hopefully, avoid families getting too close together while they wait. We’ll try it and review as time goes on. Thank you, once again, for working with us to keep everyone safe.

NOW FOR SOME OTHER NEWS:

This term, along with me, we welcomed Mr Kirke to the school. Mr Kirke is covering for Mrs Wood who is not able to be with us this term. Mr Kirke and I will be with you until Christmas and, interestingly, we worked together in a previous school. He’s a great teacher and is passionate about science so we are very fortunate to have him on our staff.

We have identified a training need as a staff for something called Team Teach which is about developing strategies for helping children to achieve their very best and manage situations in effective and safe ways. In order to do, this we are having a training day on Friday 23rd October so the children will not be in school on that day. It may seem strange to have children out of school for another day but this is essential to our school and very worthwhile.

Next week is very busy for us. We are helping the Governors of our school with appointing our new, substantive headteacher. As you can imagine, this is very important for all of us so we will be ‘pulling out all the stops’ to show ourselves at our very best. Year 4 having been practising going in and out of the hall in a socially distanced way so that the candidates for the headship can lead a collective worship for one class, Year 5 are having a lesson observed and Year 6 are actually interviewing the candidates. Year 6 have come up with some ‘stonking’ questions which will really get our visitors thinking.

Although our collective worship looks a bit different at the moment, we are trying to meet together as a school on Microsoft Teams so we can all see each other and still feel a part of a whole school. So far so good and I'm sure we'll get better with practice. Our Christian value for this half term is 'Friendship' and I will be talking with the children about this during our Monday collective worship. Here's a little prayer you might want to say with your children:

Dear God,

We thank you for our friends. We thank you that friends are with us in happy times and sad times, when we find things easy and when we find things difficult. We thank you that you are always our friend no matter what. Please help us all to be good friends who care for each other and support everyone in our school.

Amen

To help us to get back into the swing of things, here are a few reminders:

Please provide your child(ren) with a healthy snack for morning playtime. They can find the morning quite a long time to wait for lunch. A piece of fruit would be ideal.

Children are allowed to wear studs only for school and not hoop earrings. This is a really important health and safety concern as hoops can get caught and this can be very painful.

PE kit should be worn to school on PE days so children don't need to bring PE kits into school. This reduces what comes into school and, therefore, reduces risks.

Please do continue to talk with your child(ren) about social distancing in school. It's tough on the playground and not always possible but please encourage this so we keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thank you for all your support.

Class	Drop off time slot	Pick up time slot
Year 1	08:50-09:00	3.25-3.35
Year 2	08:40-08:50	3.15-3.25
Year 3	08:50-09:00	3.25-3.35
Year 4	08:40-08:50	3.15-3.25
Year 5	08:50-09:00	3.25-3.35
Year 6	08:40-08:50	3.15-3.25

In the mornings, if you have children in years 1, 3, or 5 as well as 2, 4 or 6 please wait in their zoned area until their allocated times slot - please maintain a 2m distance from anyone else not in your household during this time. If you have children in more than one class at this time, please wait by the willow trees.

At the end of the day years 2, 4 & 6 will be collected from their zoned area. Years 1, 3 & 5 can be collected from their classrooms.