



# Avonmouth CE Primary School Newsletter 2



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Interim Head Teacher: Mrs M Gwynne

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Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

So how are we doing? Well, we're all adjusting very well to our new way of doing things. In fact, things were going very smoothly and we were getting into the swing of things and then the rain came! Establishing new routines and keeping our bubbles (classes) separate was so much easier when we could use our outdoor space. Not to worry, we will persevere and do our utmost to keep us all safe. It's just a bit harder.

One huge advantage of the colder and wetter weather is that everyone is coming into school in the mornings at just the right times so social distancing is happening more effectively. Thank you for this. It makes things a lot easier for us and more comfortable for parents who are telling us they felt uncomfortable coming into school when so many people were standing so closely to each other.

Please remember two things:

**1.Children are not allowed to play on the climbing frames before or after school.** There are several reasons for this:

- a) We cannot supervise the children at these times. We simply don't have the staff available.
- b) It is very dangerous for children to play on the climbing frames on their own. They are very high and can be slippery in damp weather conditions.
- c) We don't have first aiders available at these times.
- d) The climbing frames are used by classes on a strict rota basis as part of our Covid strategy to prevent the spreading of the coronavirus.

**2.**The last thing about our current arrangements is to stress that **children cannot be picked up early at the end of the day**, even though this may be more convenient. This is a legal matter. Children are entitled to a certain number of hours of their curriculum and teaching time and we absolutely must deliver this. It's particularly important because our children have missed so much of their formal schooling.

Talking of teaching, I have been observing classes over the last few days. My goodness, the teachers and the children are working so well. It's a bit strange because teachers can't bend down to the children's eye level to help the children and the children, except for those in our Early Years classes, have to sit in rows facing the front. They all have their own equipment in their own trays and they are so organised. Even our Year Ones are managing this and learning to work independently. It's just amazing to see how well the children have adapted to this, supported by our lovely teachers.

As you will be aware, we are gradually moving to hot lunches and they are going down a storm. We are eating all lunches in the hall and dining area, ensuring that all the tables are properly sanitised in between the two sittings. By next week, we will only be serving hot lunches. There will be a meat option, a vegetarian option and a filled jacket potato option. Of course, sanitising hands is all part of our normal routine now. In order to keep classes separate, the children all have half their time at lunch and half their time at play which means they all get the same amount of time. However, all the children have 25 minutes to eat their lunch and then at play or vice versa. Again, they are doing brilliantly. Please do congratulate them from us.

### ***A plea from our neighbours:***

***Please, please do not park across our neighbours' driveways, gates or entrances. You never know when they might need to leave home in their cars in a hurry. This happened to me once when I was rushing to take our cat to the vets. It can be so distressing and for the sake of a few more steps it can easily be avoided. Thank you.***

### **Attendance**

This week our **Year 2s managed to achieve 100% attendance** which is just brilliant – well done. That really does take some doing, especially with all the sniffles going around. Year 1 came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 98.74% and, very close on their heels, Year 4 had 98.37%. **Three groups over 98% is really fantastic.** In fact we had 5 groups over 96% which is the government's minimum target for schools so you can see we are doing really well.

Thank you to everyone for working so hard this.

### **House Points**

Ruby	=	223 points
Amber	=	219 points
Emerald	=	219 points
Sapphire	=	200 points

### **Inset Day**

Our next inset day will be on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**. Further inset days to follow.

Our fantastic new Head Teacher, from January 2021, will be coming into school to see me and some of our Governors next week. I'm really looking forward to welcoming Mrs Peach back to our school and showing us at our very best. This will be one of many visits and Mrs Peach and I will be planning a smooth and impressive handover.

Thanks for all your support.

Mrs M Gwynne

Interim Head Teacher