



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Interim Head Teacher: Mrs M Gwynne

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Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

There's good news and bad news – but it's not all doom and gloom here!!

We have had a brilliant start to this half term – the best half term of the year because it leads up to Christmas. The children have been amazing and settled into our Covid reality really quickly, almost as if life has always been like this. Given all the news, I was pretty impressed with our attendance on Monday at 95.1% (Well done Year 3 for starting the term with 100%).

You will appreciate that this lockdown is going to be different from the last one. All children will be in school all the time, unless individuals or a 'bubble' or class has to self-isolate. However, we are tightening up our procedures to reflect the new guidance and directions we are being given. From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November:

1. Only one adult can drop off or pick up children from school
2. You cannot return to the school with forgotten items (unless these are essential eg. A packed lunch)
3. The after school sports clubs (due to start this week) have been postponed until January 2021
4. Parents can drop siblings off at the same time so classes will be open from 8.40 for siblings only.

To further limit the time you have to wait on the site, we are changing the school times:

**Reception: arrive 8.35 am, leave 3.10 pm**

**Years 2, 4 and 6; arrive 8.40 am, leave 3.15 pm**

**Years 1, 3 and 5: arrive 8.45 am, leave 3.20 pm**

This has been done to minimise any inconvenience to you and reduce waiting times as we head into the wintery weather. Current practice has been working very smoothly so I'm hoping we are ready to simply reduce times to support you. However, please ensure that, more than ever before, you **stick to your drop off and pick up times and maintain a two metre distance** between you and other families, even if they are your friends. Although it won't involve you directly, I want you to know that, from now on and until further notice, all visitors will have to wear a face mask in school.

## ***Children In Need non-uniform day***

***We are hoping to raise some money for Children in Need this year and we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 13th November. Classes will be participating in activities and may even put their own spin on non-school uniform so please watch this space!***

***Suggested donations for non-school uniform are £1 per child. The children will also be entered into the 'Duck Race' Sweepstake which will be a live duck race event streamed online.***

***Let's raise some money for a good cause in this time of uncertainty.***

## Remote Learning: This is so exciting!

Given the terrible disruption to children's education thus far, we know children cannot afford to miss a moment more of their education. Ultimately, children will still be assessed at the end of each phase in their school careers and cannot let their educational success and, therefore, future prospects slip through our fingers. We need to make sure that 100% of our children are working through 100% of the age related curriculum for 100% of any time their bubble/class might be off school for Covid related reasons. So, we are practising lots of different ways to communicate with you and your children using technology. We have, all ready, folders for every child to get them started with hard copy resources. This folder will be like a safety net if the technology lets us down or if you can't access the remote, electronic learning from home or in between times when screen time needs to be limited. However ..... (Roll of the drums please)

We are learning or improving our skills in using the virtual learning space called Google Classrooms. Miss Bryant taught an outstanding lesson to us on Wednesday during our staff meeting. She even delivered it remotely! I was so impressed. Staff were lighting up like light bulbs as they realised they could do it, some with ease. We were soon considering all the possibilities for which we could use Google Classrooms. Beware – the next phase is about trialling (a bit like a vaccine!) learning experiences so we can perfect our skills and techniques. Watch this space.

Please note the virtual classroom work and the hard copy folders are all being prepared for Covid related bubble/class absences or whole school closures.

If you do not have a device that your child(ren) can use for remote learning at home, please do contact the school. We may well be able to support you with a limited loan scheme.

## So you thought that was exciting? Christmas is coming .....

I feel like I'm in my Christmas Heaven here at Avonmouth.

- Christmas lunch is booked ✓
- Pantomime booked ✓
- Diocesan Carol Service ✓
- Christmas Card Competition ✓
- Our very own Nativity ✓
- Sprouts on ✓

Believe it or not, this is just the beginning. It's going to be virtually impossible to beat! (Get it? Virtual?) Anyway, just in time for Christmas, we are having **individual school photographs** done next **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**. Colorfoto will be here from 8.30 am setting up and all the photograph transactions will be done online. Unfortunately, we can't mix bubbles/classes so we are unable to do sibling photographs unless they happen to be in the same bubble/class. It's almost a Christmas tradition to include the school photo in a Christmas stocking.

## Parent Governor Vacancy

The Governing Board are keen to appoint another Parent Governor to the Board. This is an exciting and critical role enabling you to be involved in decisions about the school. More details will follow.

Please remember that our Safeguarding and Pastoral Lead, Mr Barlow is able to help and support families. If you need foodbank support, he can arrange for that. If you have any worries or concerns about E-safety or wellbeing, again, Mr Barlow is able to advise and support. As we reduce our face to face contact, it is best to call the school office and speak with him over the telephone at the moment.

Next Wednesday we will also hold a special whole school worship to mark Remembrance Day at about 11 am. Our upper Key Stage 2 groups will lead us with prayers and readings as we reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who have served and continue to serve us.

Thank you for your brilliant support.  
Mrs Gwynne