



## December Newsletter



### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Sadly this term we have had to close a 'Learning Bubble' for the first time since the pandemic began. Learning has continued however at both school and home including children exploring the stone age, older pupils conducting crime scene investigations and our youngest cohort exploring the theme of dinosaurs, to name but a few. It has been extremely pleasing to see pupils so engaged in their learning.

This term has also seen our older pupils undertake personal guidance interviews with Emma France, our independent careers advisor. They have been considering their next steps, be that college, Post 16 or the world of work.

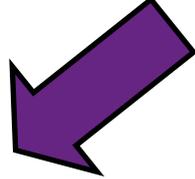
We were thrilled to welcome Abbie Digman to our team at Critchill. Abbie is a Speech and Language therapist who will be based in school every Thursday. Over the last couple of weeks, she has spent some time working with specific young people, undertaking observations and planning with staff teams.

We are disappointed that due to restrictions around Covid 19, we are unable to welcome parents and families into school for any end of term celebrations this year. I hope that as we move into the New Year we will be able to plan other events.

We also have to share the sad news that our P16 Lead Jane Haines is currently unwell and will therefore be taking extended sick leave. We wish her and all of our pupils and families a happy and restful festive period.



- 11th December 2020 - Christmas Jumper Day
- 16th December 2020 - Christmas Lunch
- 17th December 2020 - End of Term 2
- 18th December 2020 - Inset Day
- 4th January 2021 - Inset Day
- 5th January 2021 - Inset Day
- 6th January 2021 - Start of Term 3
- W/C 25th Jan 2021 - PLIM Evening (Virtually)
- 9th February 2021 - SRE and Safeguarding
- 12th February 2021 - End of Term 3
- 22nd February 2021 - Start of Term 4
- 4th March 2021 - World Book Day
- 1st April 2021 - End of Term 4
- 19th April 2021 - Start of Term 5
- W/C 10th May 2021 - PLIM Evening (Virtually)
- 13th May 2021 - PLIM evening (if able to do face to face)
- 25th May 2021 - SRE and Safeguarding
- 28th May 2021 - End of Term 5
- 7th June 2021 - Start of Term 6
- 22nd July 2021 - End of Term 6
- 23rd July 2021 - Inset Day



INSET Days 2020-2021  
 18th December 2020  
 4th January 2021  
 5th January 2021  
 23rd July 2021

**COME AND SAY HELLO!**




**Frome Toy Library is now doing FREE home delivery!**

In Frome and surrounding villages.  
 Become a member then chose from over 50 different play sacks and games to borrow and play with in your own home.  
 Go to [www.fromechildrensfestival.org](http://www.fromechildrensfestival.org) for full details.

Follow us on Instagram @ frometoylibrary

**Stay and play sessions restarting after lock down!**




In partnership with  
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND**

**POOR WEATHER PROCEDURES**

The weather is now starting to get colder, so here is a reminder of the bad weather protocol for pupils. There are several ways of finding out whether the school will be closed, you can tune into the following radio stations :-

BBC Somerset - 95.5FM

Heart FM - 102.6FM

Breeze FM - 107.2FM

A message will also be sent to parents via email.



## DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING



Thank you for your generosity and supporting this years Children In Need

**We raised £93**



We are taking part in **Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day** on Friday 11 December! Children are invited to wear their silliest, or most festive jumper.

Donations can be made by clicking on the link sent on parent pay.

### Staff News...

Welcome to.....

Hazel Rhymer— Receptionist

Sally Smiles has completed the Certificate in Careers Leadership and is now the Careers and Working Future Lead for Critchill School.



As mentioned in our previous newsletter Haiden had been nominated as a finalist for '**Best Work Placement**' in the Somerset Education Business Partnership Awards. The awards ceremony has now taken place, unfortunately Haiden did not win the overall award but was a very worthy runner up. Congratulations to Haiden for all his hard work during his placement at The Walled Garden.

The spring bulbs planted by Post 16 with the help of Frome Town Rangers and Andy Jones, school governor are starting to show the first signs of growth. We look forward to the spring when hopefully the grass verge adjacent in the car park will be a lovely display of daffodils.

Despite the challenges our students have been engaging well with the virtual world. As part of Kestrels 'Engine Power' theme Andy Reynolds of AJ Reynolds, Frome took the class on a tour of the garage. Andy introduced them to one of their apprentices and discussed the working life of a car mechanic. Frome FM met with Hawks to discuss working in a radio station and not only talked about paid roles but the role that volunteers can play in the community.

Hawks and Post 16 have been working with our independent careers adviser on their hopes and dreams for the futures. It was great to hear the students long term goals, including having a job, a home and family not to mention drinking beer on a beach!

Somerset Virtual careers fair was attended by Kestrels, Hawks and Post 16, this gave students the opportunity to look at a number of different stands including Somerset Choices for Life, colleges and other local employers.



Hawks and Post 16 virtually met with Nikki Blackwell of Apprentice Support and Knowledge. (ASK). This is part of a schools development programme to support students with developing employability skills. These sessions will continue through this academic year including looking at strengths, interview skills and exploring different jobs.

New this term are Internal review meetings with KS4 and 5. These meetings are for students to discuss their aspirations, goal planning for the future and how their personal learning intentions link to the Preparing for Adulthood outcomes. These meetings then feed into the Somerset Pathway to an Employment panel attended by the careers staff which are supporting the school in finding possible links to employment opportunities within the county.

## School News..

COVID 19 still continues to have an impact on our work placements. We are working hard to continue to develop business links within our local community. Post 16 are looking at resuming our weekly slot with the catering van at Frome market and to restart working with Frome Town Rangers in the new year, obviously there will be a number of risk assessments and changes made to ensure safe working practices and meeting all statutory COVID guidelines.

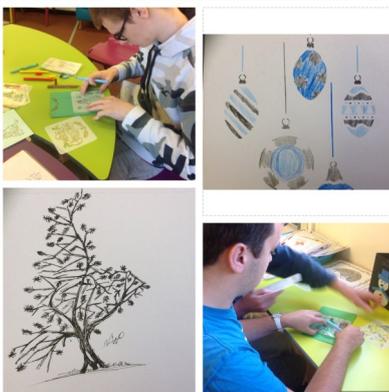
Although these are currently challenging times we are hoping that as the academic year progresses we will be able to return to offering more employer engagement opportunities. We are always looking for suitable placements as well as individuals or businesses prepared to visit and talk to our students about their job roles and the various routes involved. If you feel that you could help then please contact Sally Smiles.



Post 16 have had a busy term so far developing their independent life skills. They have made lots of progress in Food Technology, creating a variety of healthy meals and snacks ranging from fruit and vegetable kebabs, vegetable soups, breakfast bars, banana bread, chicken curry, pasta bake and spaghetti bolognaise. We have also done a lot of cooking with eggs and they are now confident at boiling, poaching and scrambling eggs, and making omelettes and pancakes independently.



Post 16 have also been busy with their gardening and 'School Ranger' skills. Some of the tasks have included clearing up leaves, cutting back brambles and stinging nettles, tidying the poly tunnel, weeding and planting bulbs in pots around the school.



Enterprise is another area Post 16 have been working hard in, creating a number of lovely products ranging from chutney, face masks, and Christmas cards.

Keeping healthy and improving their fitness has been an important focus for our students this term. They have all worked hard at improving their running skills and building up their stamina by running around the field and on the outdoor track. They have also enjoyed using the outdoor gym and completing circuits and stretching in the hall. We've all been impressed with how their fitness has improved and the effort they've put into these sessions.

## School News..

**Great news!! Class of the Term.  
Well done Owls. What a fantastic  
term we've had.**



In Finches, we have been learning about superheroes. We engaged in a sensory story called Real Life Superheroes, and we enjoyed dressing up as doctors, firefighters, nurses and the police and discussing their roles in society and how they help us.



## School News..

At the end of October, the lower-school bubble took part in a Halloween shared-learning event.

All classes prepared themes snacks, decorations and students brought in their own costumes to dress up in and took part in a variety of themed activities.



# School News..





## School News..

### Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 16th December

**Main** - Roast Turkey dinner / Veggie Christmas parcel

**Dessert** - Yule log or Xmas pudding

If you wish for your child to have a Christmas Lunch , please select your choices on parent pay. If you have already selected a meal for this date you will need to select again from the Christmas menu now available .

If you do not select a Christmas Lunch please ensure you send a packed lunch in with your child

### Car Park

Thank for your continued support with our new parking arrangements.  
Please remember that the car park is only accessible for parents/young people who are Blue badge holders.

It has been really pleasing to see so many of our pupils walking and in line with government guidance we would encourage as many families to 'park and stride' to school as possible.

The parking bays in front of the school are strictly for Local Authority transport only. Please do not park in them at any time.

Parents are reminded that double parking is not prohibited at any time in the car park.

A reminder about our staggered start and finish times:

For Local Authority Transport and Blue Badge Holders accessing the car park it is 9am & 3.30pm and for all other pupils it is 9.10am & 3.40pm .

Please can we ask parents & families to arrive as close to their allocated times as possible. If you do arrive early then please wait offsite to ensure that we do not have large groups congregating outside of school. This is particularly important at the end of the day, when many classes are still learning.

### Parent Pay - Reminders

School meals must be ordered by 12am on Wednesdays for the following week.

88% of pupils are now signed up to parent pay. This is our main form of communication to parents. If you have not yet signed up please do so asap so you do not miss out on any important information. Please contact the office if you are having difficulties signing up

**Price Increase**— School meals for students who have a secondary meal (years 7 and above) from January 2021 there will be a slight increase from £2.60 to £2.70.

More information will be sent out to parent/carers if you are affected towards the end of term .

## **Medication in School**

Prescribed medication can only be administered in school upon completion of a completed 'Parental Consent to Administer Medication Form'.

Non-prescription medicines should not normally be administered in school. Parents /Carers are welcome to come into school to administer this if they wish

## **Safeguarding**

For information our Safeguarding procedure in school is to provide our Visitors and Volunteers with a comprehensive information leaflet when coming into the school. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available in reception and via the link to the Midsomer Norton School Partnership policies on the school website.

If you have any concerns please contact either Sophie Addison, Emma West or Jane Haines our Designated Safeguarding Leads.

## **Free School Meals (FSM) Are you eligible?**

Did you know that for every child registered for free school meals the school receives additional funding? This is called the Pupil Premium Grant. The funding is used by the school to provide additional support for children from lower income families to help them with their learning and achieve their very best. A report on how the school uses this funding is available on our website.

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits you are entitled to claim for FSM:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit - only if not entitled to Working Tax Credit and annual income (an assessed by the inland revenue ) does not exceed £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Thank you for your support.

## **Careers Education Information and Guidance Questionnaire**

As part of our ongoing development of our whole school careers programme, we have recently sent out a Careers Education Information and Guidance questionnaire. Thank you to those that have already responded. We will collate the information and share the results in the new year. If any individual queries/questions arise we will respond to these in due course