



February Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Although it has been a disruptive term for some pupils, particularly with the closure of two bubbles, it is extremely pleasing and uplifting to see all of our young people manage the changes that they have faced with such maturity. Indeed, we all have to make adaptations to the way in which the school operates in order to keep everyone safe and the pupils have played a very important part in this. We thank all of our families for the changes that they have made to help us mitigate the risks of Covid19.

Our Post 16 pupils have been developing 'in house' enterprise and work experience opportunities, as they have not been able to undertake some of their usual curriculum provision such as the Catering van and Frome Town Rangers. Over the next few weeks, they will be producing a range of staff lunches including salads, soups and jacket potatoes. We hope that we will be able to begin further community based learning activities for all classes in the near future.

We are currently exploring some further redevelopment of the school site including our Reception outdoor play space, the garden area situated at the front of the school along with the redevelopment of the current Post 16 classroom. We will keep you updated. Please visit our website to view the student's Playground Film which showcases our new equipment.

Although attendance is not currently mandatory during this National lockdown, we would like to encourage as many pupils as possible to attend school. Please remember that staff are available to talk through any concerns you may have about your child attending and share the ways in which we are working to minimise risks.

We are pleased to be able to inform you that many of our staff have recently received their first Covid19 Vaccine. We hope that this will increase our ability to keep the school open and ensure the safety of all pupils and staff.

Wishing all of our families an enjoyable half term. We will be welcoming pupils back on Monday 22nd February. Please remember that Friday 26th February is an INSET day and we are therefore closed to pupils

12th February 2021 - End of Term 3
22nd February 2021 - Start of Term 4
26th February - Inset Day
4th March 2021 - World Book Day
19th March - Comic Relief
1st April 2021 - End of Term 4
19th April 2021 - Start of Term 5
Wk com 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

26th February 2021
23rd July 2021

POOR WEATHER PROCEDURES

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 parent pay and an update will be put on the school website



DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

**Thank you for supporting
Christmas Jumper Day for
Save the Children**

We raised £177



**Save the
Children**

Staff News...

Welcome to.....

Zachery Rafferty - Apprentice Teaching Assistant
Oliver Aitchison - Teaching Assistant
Lauren Pearl - Teaching Assistant
Joanna Sargent - Teaching Assistant

Katie Parker - Behaviour Analyst
Celina Quintal-Steytler - Occupation Therapist
Abbie Digman - Speech and Language Therapist

Leavers.....

Avril Kennedy—Cleaner

World Book Day

Thursday 4th March

This year's theme is "Dress as a word"

Write your word and the meaning on a sign and wear something to represent the word.

Can you use this opportunity for your child to learn some new words and be inventive?

You could come dressed as an adjective such as colourful, sparkly or fluffy.

Be creative and see what you can use from home!

Here are some ideas.



School News..

Great news!! Class of the Term. Well done — HAWKS

Last term Hawks class were awarded the "Class of the term" by collecting the most class points. They were awarded points throughout the term for working amazingly well on their collaborative Christmas enterprise project; planning, producing and selling Christmas crafts to the staff. They also made good progress towards their Personal learning intentions of developing their independence, problem solving and communication skills through their theme focus on solving clues whilst learning about the famous detective Sherlock Holmes.



Post 16

As part of Post 16's enterprise project they took part in a taste testing session by a newly launching business Wilderness Kitchen. Justine Eavis is setting up this Brownie making business from her home in Cornwall. Students were asked to give feedback on the different brownies flavours including

Classic, Raspberry, dark chocolate and sea salt, Sea salt and clotted cream caramel, Gorse flower, Gold and Coconut to name a few

Students stepped up to the challenge and provided valued comments on what they liked best, what they didn't like quite so much and even offered suggestions for new flavour combinations. Justine is due to meet with the students and discuss with them the steps involved in setting up her new business and it can help them in setting up an enterprise project in school.

Hawks and Post 16 have continued to meet with Nikki Blackwell of Apprentice Support and Knowledge. (ASK). This is part of a schools development programme to support students with developing employability skills. The sessions this term have covered interview skills and exploring different jobs.

Next term is careers week and appropriate activities will be organised including mock Interviews, thank you to Frome Town Council for offering their support with this.

Whilst we would hope that some work placements may be possible it is obviously all still a little unknown. However we are continuing to work hard to build relationships with employers and will be hoping to offer some students virtual work experience opportunities during this academic year.

This week Hawks and Post 16 visited the Walled Garden virtually with a tour of the nursery and the jobs involved at the nursery. Thank you to Sam Evans from The Walled Garden at Mells.

As we are unfortunately unable to work with the Frome Town Rangers Post 16 are working on a project to clear the front garden ready for re-development. They have been working on an action plan and possible ideas for this new area.

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.



School News..

On Thursday mornings, pupils from Starlings class join Ms Rose for music and movement. This has been an opportunity to enjoy a range of sensory activities including a call and response song; choosing instruments to explore; playing instruments together and their favourite part...expressing themselves through dance and a range of music styles. It is lovely to see their faces light up to the beat of the music and respond so enthusiastically to the invitation to dance!



Our Post 16 have started looking at 'what makes a business' within their employability lessons. Last week we had a batch of brownies sent in from a new start up in Cornwall and we were able to taste test and feedback on the quality of brownies. Leading on from this we have started looking at what a business is, how we start a business and what customers we should aim our own businesses at. Examples Post 16 have come up with are shoe shops, cake shops, chocolate factories, gardening business and dog grooming. It's safe to say we are going to have some extremely successful students come out of our post 16.



School News..

Bramblings class

This term Brambling class' theme is 'Minibeasts' therefore they made their very own Bug hotel using lots of different materials they found outside.

Bramblings class also visited forest school where they went for their own bug hunt!



Finches and Owls

This term, Finches and Owls class have enjoyed learning all about the rainforest. This week we created our own rainforest masks and explored which animals live in the rainforest. We enjoyed acting out the different animals and discussing their appearance, habitat and their diets. Well done Finches and Owls, you have really engaged with our theme!



Nut Hatches

This term we have been learning about our theme 'rainforest'. We created a rainforest in the corner of our classroom and even had a jaguar come to visit!



School News..

Post 16

As part of Post 16 enterprises project they have created Critchill Friday Kitchen .

Staff are able to order salads beautifully created with a huge selection of ingredients.



WRENS

During Spring Term 1 Wrens theme is Fairy Tales. Our "WOW" activity was exploring a princess castle. Wren's enjoyed the adults supporting them in role Play, we had princesses, witches and pirates!



Remote Learning

Mrs Richardson would like to say a massive well done and thank you to all pupils and parents who have participated in the remote learning zoom sessions and activities. Group A have enjoyed going on a Polar Bear Hunt and finding out about polar bears along with lots of messy play and sensory exploration. Group B have been busy with a research search project, finding out about a topic of interest and sharing this with Mary and Mrs Richardson. Group C have been developing their conversational skills and completing functional tasks around the home. Group B and C have also been working hard, developing their money skills and understanding and I am sure they will be looking forward to putting these skills to the test in the future when we can go shopping again!

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 or Emma West 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

Parent Pay - Reminders

91% 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