

St. John the Evangelist Church School

NEWSLETTER



Term 1.4 Thursday 24th September 2020



BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust

'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Whilst we continue to try and adapt to, and understand, the ever changing expectations that we face, I am pleased to say that school seems settled and purposeful at the moment. The children continue to work hard and are happy to do so. We have noticed that their stamina for working independently, and ability to concentrate, are key areas for us to work on after so many months away from the classroom. However, the children continue to amaze and delight us with their efforts, their imagination, creativity and willingness to please. At a time when everything feels so uncertain and ever changing, it is reassuring to be able to come to school everyday and be part of our happy school. Your children are a delight to be with and thank you for continuing to send them to school in such numbers and trust us with their wellbeing and education.

It is hard to believe that we have now been back at school for almost a month. I hope things have settled down for you all and that routines and expectations are back in place. As part of St John's continued efforts to reflect on our practice and improve what we are doing, I have today published **a new Parent Survey**, which I would ask you to spare some time to complete. We are keen to know your views on the current situation in school, how you feel your child is coping and identify anything that we can improve upon and do better.

The survey link has been sent to you in the email that goes with this newsletter. It will remain open until 18:00 on Thursday 1st October 2020. Please let us know if you experience any problems accessing it.

Timings for the school day

Please can I remind you of the current timings for the school day. We are doing our best to try and avoid parents/carers having to wait around in between release times at the end of the day, especially now that the weather is beginning to change. We will continue to review and revise our approach as we go through the coming weeks.

- **Y1 to Y6 Single Children (those with no siblings) arrive between 08:30 and 08:40 and leave at 14:55**
- **Y1 to Y6 Children with Siblings in school arrive between 08:45 and 08:55 and leave at 15:15.**
- **YR (OWLS) children to arrive at 09:00 and leave at 15:05**

COVID changes

Following my update sent yesterday afternoon, I have received a useful overview of the main changes issued by the government on 22.09.20. The information can be found here:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): What has changed – 22 September](#)

Please can I remind you all to be aware of the following:

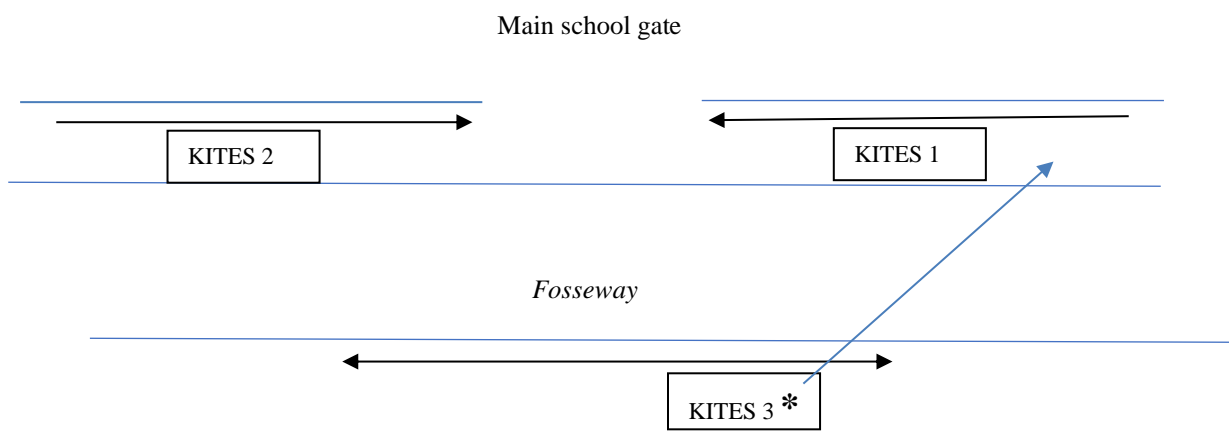
- *Always protect yourself and ensure your own social distancing around and directly outside, of the school site. Please keep **2 meters apart** as much as you can. Please drop/collect your child/children and then move away from the school site. Parents/carers should not assemble in groups - it is important you try to avoid being in close contact with other adults under 2m, especially for prolonged periods. A number of you are now starting to **wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up and, whilst we are not enforcing this at this time, I politely suggest that this would be a sensible approach for all** whilst we are seeing an increase in infection rates.*
- *As the Autumn and Winter weather arrives, it will be tempting to park closer to school or drop children outside of the gates. Please do not do this and keep up your excellent support of our traffic restrictions outside of school. **Do not park within the cordoned area, do not drop children in this area, and please walk/cycle wherever possible.***
- ***Staff are now wearing visors for some of the time in and around school**, especially when required to work in close proximity with a child one to one and at lunchtimes, when we are required to help cut up food or work across multiple bubbles. Children do not seem phased by this at all, but I wanted to make you aware in case they should mention this or feel concerned.*

KITES exit at the end of the day

The main gate, used by KITES, seems to be causing the most congestion at the end of the day at the moment. To alleviate some of this, I would ask that you follow the procedure outlined below, starting from **Monday 28th September 2020**.

Each KITES class parents to wait in the area shown on the diagram below. Please always aim to stand 2m apart.

KITES teachers will then release their children in order, starting with KITES 1, then KITES 2 and then KITES 3. This should help to speed up release of children to their parents/carers.



**once KITES 1 parents/carers have collected their children and move off, KITES 3 parents and carers to move across to wait for the release of their children.*

This procedure should be adhered to for the non-sibling children at 14:55 and again for the children with siblings at 15:15.

We will trial this for the whole of next week and see if this makes the release of KITES children easier and support social distancing. Your support with this is very much appreciated.

TEAMS

Owls children have been with their TEAMS logins today. If your child is in KS1 (Key Stage 1) or KS2 (Key Stage 2) and you have misplaced/forgotten your child's login details please email the school office to request these be emailed to you - please supply your child's name, year group and class in the email.

Homework

As mentioned in my update yesterday, Teachers will be issuing guidance around homework expectations (you may have received this already). We are currently keeping homework manageable with a focus on reading, weekly spellings, and My Maths, as we were doing prior to lockdown. Teachers will also begin to issue homework tasks via TEAMS soon, just to ensure that we are keeping the platform in use should we go into a lockdown situation. Further guidance will be sent out shortly. We will also supply all resources via the website, should you be unable to access TEAMS. Again, guidance will be sent once this is in place.

Harvest

Our worship in school is currently being presented via TEAMS, which is working well to bring the whole school together at least twice each week, on Mondays and Thursdays, with class services taking place on other days.

We also hope to celebrate Harvest with the children next week, on Tuesday 29/09/20. We would normally ask for donations for Clevedon Foodbank but they have asked us to postpone this collection until nearer the Christmas period, when they foresee a greater demand for donations. We will be supporting this initiative, further details to follow.

For Harvest this year we are being asked by the Diocese of Bath and Wells to support the **Send a Cow** charity.

From July, Bishop Ruth will be a patron for the international development charity, Send a Cow. The charity, based near Bath, helps families in rural Africa to grow their own futures. To mark this new appointment, we would like to support Bishop Ruth by joining Send a Cow in their Harvest celebrations, during September or October. To read more, click here

If you would like to donate to the school's Harvest initiative and support Send a Cow, please do so via ParentPay.

Pupil Photographs

These will take place on Wednesday 30th September 2020.

Due to our COVID-19 working procedures, and safer working practices outlined by the photographer, we are unable to take sibling photos this year. Individual pupil photographs will be taken under COVID-19 guidelines.

Using Local Libraries to support Wellbeing

Find books to support wellbeing at North Somerset Libraries

The Reading Well for children collection recommends reading to help children and their families and carers understand their feelings and worries and cope with tough times. Many of the books on the list cover topics that children and families may be experiencing at this time, including worry, loss and bereavement, and dealing with troubling world events.

The booklist is targeted at children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11) but includes a wide range of reading levels to support less confident readers, and to encourage children to read together with their siblings and carers. All the books have been chosen and endorsed by leading health professionals and the collection was co-produced with children and families.

Reading Well titles are available to borrow from all North Somerset Libraries. Titles in the collection have a longer loan period of six weeks with no overdues payable on children's accounts. If the title you want is not on the shelf you can reserve it for free at www.librarieswest.org.uk. Several of the titles are also available as eBooks or e-Audiobooks via the LibrariesWest website.

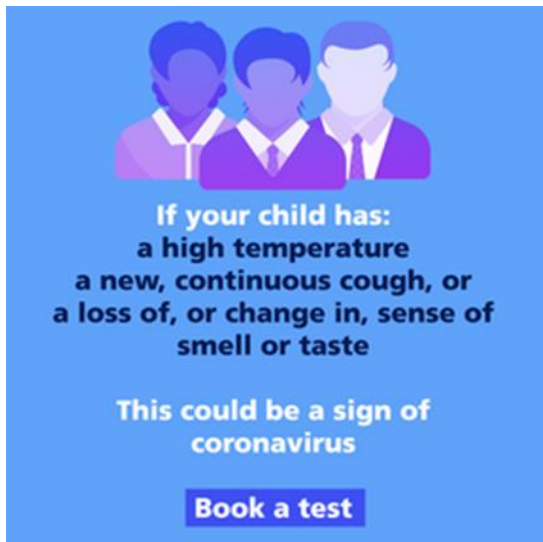
There are also separate Reading Well collections for teenagers' and adults' mental health. Details of all the Reading Well collections, including a full list of the titles, are available at www.reading-well.org.uk.

For details of North Somerset Libraries' current opening hours and services visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/librarycollect.

Attendance

Thank you for continuing to send your children to school in such high numbers. Our attendance for last week remained high at 96.1%. Well done everyone!

Please see our website and yesterday's parent COVID update for more guidance on how to manage suspected COVID symptoms and other illness at this time.



An infographic with a blue background. At the top, there are three stylized human figures in purple and white. Below them, the text reads: "If your child has: a high temperature a new, continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste". This is followed by "This could be a sign of coronavirus" and a blue button with the text "Book a test".



An infographic with a blue background. The text reads: "If your child has: a runny nose, is sneezing or feeling unwell But they don't have: a high temperature a new, continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste". Below this, it says "These are not normally symptoms of coronavirus" with "not normally symptoms of coronavirus" highlighted in a darker blue box. At the bottom, it says "Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial 111 or see your GP".

School Calendar

Link: <https://stjohnevangelistbwmat.org/about-us/calendar/>

With every best wish,

Ian Doswell

Headteacher

E-Safety



[Link to Parent Zone for weekly updates >](#)

Please be reminded that general safeguarding information can be found on our school website under the policies section. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for our school is Mrs Nicola Short, or Mr Doswell in her absence. If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of any child in our community please do not hesitate to contact them.