



## News Update: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### End of spring term

Well, what another busy term! A huge thank you to the staff and pupils as well as parents for all of their hard work and support. The children have done tremendously well and are working hard back in their 'new normal' classes. I am looking forward to coming into school next week when shielding ends. Although I am still encouraged to work from home, it does not have to be all the time, which is good news for me as the virtual existence is rather odd. Like many of us, I also can't wait for some normality. But as a school I am mindful that we need to tread carefully and are able to continue to offer education at school for your children. We are starting to make some tentative plans for next year. All of which will be added to the school calendar.

### Twitter

Thank you for keeping up to date with our news on the main school twitter feed as well as on class ones. We also have appreciated the positive comments regarding the clear communication strategy we have. Whilst we are trying not to write too many letters as this term draws to an end I wanted to provide you with some more information on future events. The school calendar which is on the website is also a useful place to find out dates rather than going back through this letter.

### Lateral flow testing at home for parents

The Government have requested that this is continued during the holiday period if you are testing. Staff are going to continue during the holidays.

### Independence and developing skills during the holidays

What has been noticeable this year is the increased independence the children now have. It is lovely to see them developing their confidence. During the holiday if your child finds it hard to use a knife and fork and cut up their food, it would be great if you could teach them. Not only would it help our lunch time supervisors but it would give them a feeling of independence. Lastly, this year we will not be able to offer year five the [bikeability](#) scheme but if you look at the website, all of the information is on there so you may like to complete it at home.

### Survey

Recently everyone has been really helpful in responding to our surveys, thank you for taking the time to do that. Your comments, although may be summarised when reporting back are all read and digested to help us plan the way forward and are helpful with planning future activities. We are now at the point in our school review cycle where we need to do our annual survey. If you

can take a few minutes to answer the questions it would be really helpful. As usual we will feedback anonymously. Thank you in anticipation of your help. The survey will be open on Monday until the end of the first day of next term. It will include questions about trips, homework, swimming, uniform amongst other things, so please take time to share your views if you have the time. I will tweet the link next week when it goes online.

### **Uniform Lockdown**

We appreciate that the purchase of uniform in lockdown is not easy and the fast introduction of daily PE kit in cold weather has meant that everyone is not able to follow the uniform code. This is totally understandable. However, from September we will be asking children to only wear unbranded black joggers/tracksuit bottoms, so if you are thinking of purchasing for next term, please take this into consideration. Similarly, in order to reduce cost as well as increase the simplicity as well as smartness of our school uniform we will be altering it for September, so please do not go ahead and order anything new from the uniform shop or buy anything when shops reopen. On the parent survey next week, we will be seeking your views regarding uniform on the parent survey and will quickly analyse the results so that anything you purchase will be in line with the updated uniform which will be phased in from September. More details on the survey, please take time to read and respond as we would value your views before we make any uniform decisions.

### **Website updates**

Any website updates are added to the 'Weekly Roundup' which is tweeted on a Friday.

### **Parking**

Thank you for your help with this, it is much appreciated. Following the voluntary one-way system (keeping school on your left) as well as not parking in the drop off zone on a morning is really helping.

### **New Reception pupils September 2021**

Somerset County will be writing to parents in April to offer places and we will then have a 'New Starters' page on our website with all the information on they need.

### **Staggered end of the day pick up's**

As we all do not know what will happen with the rates of COVID-19 during the holidays, we are going to continue the current arrangements until the end of April and then review. If you have siblings starting soon and are keen for updates you can also view them [here](#).

### **PTA Update**

If anyone owns a business or works for a company who offers donations or sponsorship, please let us know. We are always happy to tweet any donations!

If you are shopping online, if you use the easy fundraising link we get a donation and it does not cost you anything. All of the small amounts can really add up.

*Plus school thanks to the PTA who on the last day of term are kindly providing some Easter treats for the children.*

### **Future dates:**

#### **Sports day**

This year we are planning something different. Not just because of COVID-19 but in order to increase the amount of school sport we do and to put more emphasis on this annual event we are planning six sports afternoons. One per class, dates are in the school calendar. If at the time the COVID-19 rules permit, families will be invited to attend the afternoon and the PTA will offer refreshments. We are hoping it will be a lovely family afternoon in the sunshine (let's hope!) and Mr Briggs has plans to invite parents in some team events too!

#### **2021/2022 Terms**

The INSET and term [dates](#) have been set and are on the website. In line with government rules please remember to book family holidays not during term time.