



St Nicholas C of E Primary School

Virtual School Newsletter

19th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all continue to be in good health.

It has been lovely having some children back over the last two weeks. I am delighted to say that they settled as if they had never been away! I was also fortunate to be able to 'gatecrash' a year 5 virtual lesson this morning, the children taking part were a credit to our school doing their best to focus on Miss Burge's lesson. Next week we will do our best to get year 4 connected to the Google classrooms so that they too can have some contact with Miss Hinchliffe. Further details of learning in the virtual world can be found later in the newsletter. Please do read it as, though we hope that we will not have to close the school suddenly, we have to prepare for all eventualities.

It was very disappointing to hear the government decision regarding the return of the rest of our year groups but the guidance does allow us some flexibility to have the children in to see us for a short time before the end of term for a teacher handover. This has been quite complex to organise as we have to maintain the same rules as we currently have. I have managed to do this by ending term early for those children currently attending and setting up meetings for the children not attending—details of the meeting times can be found at the end of the newsletter. Sorry it is so complicated but it is the only way we can make it work.

You all know how proud I am of my team here but they continue to deliver more and more with sensible 'out of the box' thinking. I have to thank Mrs Warde and Miss Parrot for ensuring that settling for our new reception children has taken place. They have managed to meet every new parent individually and have had a 1:1 settling session in half of the outdoor area with the majority of the children who are due to start in September—the rain has messed with some of their plans this week but they have rearranged the ones that had to be postponed to next week!

As we tumble towards the end of this school year there is no news from the Government regarding what their plans are for September. In recent days I have been angered by the fact that education has once again become a victim of political arguments, I follow what I am told by the government to follow! Currently I am planning as if we are all back to school in September—let's hope that we are!

I have pencilled into the diary the weekend of the 19th and 20th of September for our year 6 leavers events—obviously this is subject to change!

I have heard that there are a number of friends of parents out there who are thinking of moving to our school. If this is the case please could you point them to form at <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/schools-colleges-and-learning/admissions-schools/changing-schoolscasual-admissions>

Stay safe,
Best wishes,
Nicki

End of Term Tuesday 14th July.

In order to give **all** pupils the opportunity to say goodbye to their teacher from this year and hello to their new teacher the school year will end for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on Tuesday 14th July. For pupils of Keyworkers and the Midford Class term will end at 12noon on Friday 17th July. Details of the planned visits can be found on the final page. Please ensure that you arrive on time as we will not be able to admit pupils who arrive late.

Online Classrooms—A message from Mr Low

I am extremely pleased that so many of you managed to join us this week for our online classrooms in Years 5 and 6. It's been fantastic! We have all had to move very quickly with technology that we are not used to and it would be fair to say that there have been a few tricky ICT problems to sort out. However, the main thing is that the children have got to see each other again and are starting to access more formal learning online. I have loved seeing the smiles on their faces when they first see their friends appear on the screen. Throughout the lockdown we have endeavoured to do all we can to support the children with their learning and well-being, and we will continue to be as innovative as we can to reach as many children as possible before the end of the term. However, there are a few things that parents need to consider:

- Most of the problems we've encountered have been with the technology children use in their own homes and it is very tricky for us to help you to solve these issues from a distance. If disruption to schooling looks likely to continue into the near future, parents may wish to look at how they can improve their child's access to online learning e.g. good internet connections, suitable devices etc.
- Online teaching can never replace being in a real classroom – it's very different! So children will need to be more patient and there is a greater onus on them helping themselves and having less support.
- So far in the online classrooms, the teachers have been able to just focus on the children at home. But as more children return to school, we may have to combine class based lessons with online lessons, and these will look very different.
- We take E-Safety very seriously at St Nicholas, so please take time to speak to your child about appropriate use of this new technology and how to stay safe while online.

Next week, we will look to see if we can also get Years 3 & 4 into an Online Classroom. We will send a text message to parents when we are ready to test it but please be patient as it takes time to help everybody get set up.

School Uniform

Children will be expected to return in FULL school uniform in September.

Our school uniform is supplied by Norton Sports & Camping, 77 High Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2DE who, in normal circumstances would be more than happy to see you. However, during the current coronavirus crisis, there is a need to keep visits to the shop to a minimum and, therefore, we ask that you place your uniform orders directly with the shop (preferably) by email (nortonsportsandcamping@hotmail.com), alternatively by phone 01761 418972 or by post.

Please note that the shop is not likely to reopen until 15 June but orders can be placed at any time. To ensure that self-distancing rules are maintained, the changing room facilities at the shop will not be available, you are therefore asked to be as sure as possible on your sizing. Nevertheless, the opportunity to change items at a later date will be available.

Visits to school for pupils not currently attending will be as follows;

Current Year group	Date	Arrival time	Pick up time
Reception (Cam and Lox) Children's surnames beginning with A-H	Monday 13th July	10am	11am
Reception (Cam and Lox) Children's surnames beginning with I-Z	Monday 13th July	1.30pm	2.30pm
Year 1 Cam and Brue Children's surnames beginning with A-H	Tuesday 14th July	10am	11am
Year 1 Cam and Brue Children's surnames beginning with I-Z	Tuesday 14th July	1.30pm	2.30pm
Year 2 Dart Children's Surnames beginning with A to H	Wednesday 15th July	10am	11am
Year 2 Dart Children's Surnames beginning with I to Z	Wednesday 15th July	1.30	2.30
Year 3 Avon	Wednesday 15th July	10.30am	11.30am
Year 3 Kennet	Wednesday 15th July	2pm	3pm
Year 4 Mells Children's surnames beginning with A-H	Thursday 16th July	9.30am	10.30am
Year 4 Mells Children's surnames beginning with I-Z	Thursday 16th July	1.30pm	2.30pm
Year 5 Yeo Children's surnames beginning with A-H	Thursday 16th July	10am	11am
Year 5 Severn Children's surnames beginning with A-H	Thursday 16th July	11.30am	12.30pm
Year 5 Yeo Children's surnames beginning with I-Z	Thursday 16th July	1pm	2pm
Year 5 Severn Children's surnames beginning with I-Z	Thursday 16th July	1.30pm	2.30pm