

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it's been quite a week! We are so sad that once again many of our pupils are having to do their learning remotely, away from us, but with all the built-in experience that they and we all have, from the earlier lockdown, we are looking forward to providing high-quality work through our website and keeping in touch with them all about how they are getting on. But, it is important that we are all doing everything we possibly can to reduce the transmission of the virus, fervently hoping that before too long, the levels are back at a more manageable level so we can all be back together in school again. We know there are some more parents now requesting places. We shall review the situation towards the end of next week, when we have a better idea of how many of those who responded to our questionnaire on Tuesday, are taking up places on which days. We really want to keep numbers as low as possible, to do all we can to reduce interactions and therefore virus transmission, whilst meeting the needs of the critical workers who have no other options for childcare.

Thank you to all those Key Worker parents who have managed to make arrangements for your children to stay at home, as we were initially faced with overwhelming numbers wanting places in school. The preferred way of doing things is always to plan them and then do them. But given the short notice we had of this lockdown, we have found ourselves having to begin with our plan only partially complete! As you will be aware, our teachers now have two major roles: teaching those pupils who are in school as well as running the remote learning for all those having to stay home.

## **In-school learning**

Year groups are now working in two groups, each being taught by a teacher and a learning support assistant. These pupils in school are following exactly the same learning that is being provided to those pupils working at home.

## **Remote learning**

Work is being placed on the year group pages of the website for those learning at home. If your child clicks on their class teacher's photo, they will see a short 'Hello' message from them each day. There will then be videos each day to introduce the work that has been set for the pupils. Pupils are then expected to share photos of their work, projects, artwork with their teacher, using Class Dojo. Parents please be sure to access the Questionnaire asking you to consent to using Dojo. If you do not consent, please email your child's class teacher via the office, saying how you will pass your child's work to them for review. Information has been sent to all parents with information about how to get set up on Dojo. It is also included at the end of this letter. Teachers will review the pupils' work and will send feedback to them, at least once a week.



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Clearly it is of the utmost importance that all pupils are engaging with the remote learning. Teachers will be contacting any families from whom they have not heard, to support you in encouraging your child to do their learning at home. If you are having real difficulties accessing a device for your child to work on, please let us know via the school office; we cannot promise a solution, but we shall do everything possible to support you.

Each week the learning for that week will be archived into a document at the bottom of the webpage so that it remains available, but also makes way for the following week's work.

## **Free School Meals**

We do not yet have any detail about the government provision of Free School Meals for those pupils entitled to them (not the Universal KS1 FSM), who are working at home. To those families who have been contacted about our current provision, please note that the parcels will be available for collection from the main school gate next Friday between 12.00 and 12.30. Please arrange to collect during this window as we do not have staff available to do the handover for a longer window of time. Thank you.

## **Arrangements for pupils in school**

We are continuing to implement our safety measures as we have throughout the autumn term. Pupils coming into school are welcome to bring extra layers of clothes to stay warm, given the levels of ventilation we are maintaining. We prefer plain, dark clothes, but the most important thing is that they are warm, so we are of course willing to be flexible!

The government removed the requirements for pupils not to bring in bags and for them to have newly washed uniform every day in the autumn. However, obviously, everything we can do will make a difference. So please ensure your child only brings in essential items, and do please wash or isolate their clothes to the extent you can, so we are all doing what we can.

## **Government Fruit Scheme**

This has been suspended again, so Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will benefit from bringing in a piece of fruit each day for snack-time.

## **Safety measures on the school site**

Given the current concerns about the levels of Covid-19, may we please urge you all to do everything in your power to support our safety measures:

- Consider wearing a face covering at all times on the school site, unless you are exempt
- Meticulously respect the 2 metre social distancing guidelines
- Respond promptly if anyone in the household develops Covid symptoms  
(see <https://www.wasp-school.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Covid-19-A-quick-guide-for-parents-and-carers-04.01.21.pdf> A Quick Guide for Parents and Carers)

## **B&NES School Nursing Team**

Please see the information below from Bath & North East Somerset School Nursing Team:

*"Dear Parents,*

*As school's have returned to remote learning, we want to take this opportunity to assure you that the school nursing service very much remains 'open'. Therefore, if you have any health concerns for your child please don't hesitate to contact us on the number or e-mail below:*



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01225 831666 or e-mail [BATHNES.schoolnursing@virginicare.co.uk](mailto:BATHNES.schoolnursing@virginicare.co.uk)

Best wishes,

School Nurse Team."

## **WASPS Inset Days**

Please make a note of the remaining two inset days for the 2020/21 academic year at WASPS:

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 will now be a normal school day.**

## **B&NES Admissions Consultation 2022-23 Academic Year**

Bath & North East Somerset Council is consulting on the proposed schemes for co-ordination of admissions and the admission numbers to all maintained schools and academies for the 2022/23 school year. All the consultation documents are available by clicking on the link below:

[Admissions Consultation 2022/23](#)

**The consultation started on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and will end on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. To respond to this consultation please send your comments by email to: [admissions\\_transport@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:admissions_transport@bathnes.gov.uk)**

Alternatively, you can write to The Admissions & Transport Unit, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG.

## **Free School Meals**

If you are in receipt of qualifying benefits, your child(ren) may be eligible for Free School Meals. If you believe that this may be the case, please be sure to check the information on Bath & North East Somerset Council's website, where an application form can also be accessed: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

This applies to all eligible pupils, even in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. If your child is eligible for FSM, please complete the form so that vital additional funding is provided to the school to support your child's learning.

## **Reminders**

### **Food On Our Doorstep**

Please see the link on our website for information about this valuable local initiative.

With our very best wishes,

**Mrs Sarah Halls**  
Headteacher

**Mrs Sharon Badger**  
Deputy Headteacher



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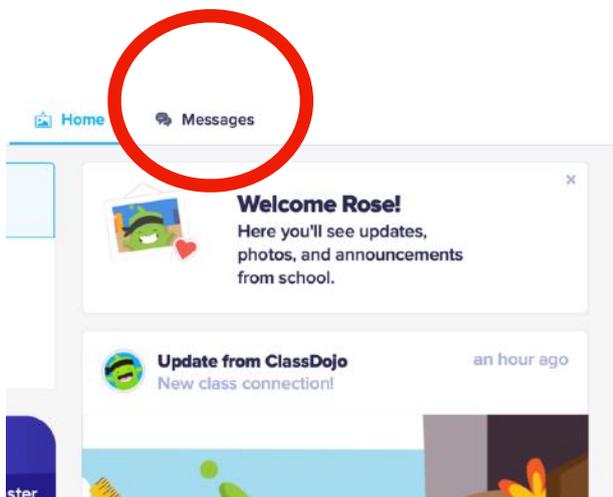
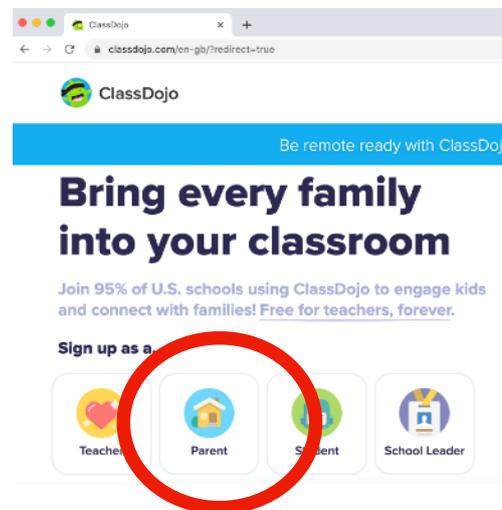




## Setting Up Class Dojo as a Family

We intend to use Class Dojo to receive work from pupils who are isolating at home or from whole classes in the case of a full or partial lockdown/closure. Work will still be set via the school website but if you would like to share your child's work with their teacher and receive feedback, uploading it to the Class Dojo website will allow this. This is completely free.

1. Please create a Dojo account by going to [classdojo.com](https://classdojo.com) and signing up as a parent. You can do this on a browser or you can download a Class Dojo app. Once we are aware that your child is isolating at home, we will send you a link which will allow you to connect your child's account with their teacher's account.



2. Once you have used this link to connect your child's account to their teacher's account you will be able to send and receive messages. If your child completes some work set on the website, they will be able to send a photo of the work, a photo of themselves completing the task or a file of their completed work to their teacher.

**Please be aware that the purpose of Dojo is for your child to communicate with their teacher. If you have any questions from yourself as a parent, please email the school office as you usually would.**



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