

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We expect you will have heard the PM's statement earlier this week, in which for the first time, he began to talk about the re-opening of schools. Whilst there is no certainty about when this will happen, we are delighted to hear that the government is beginning to plan for it, as we cannot wait to have all our pupils back in school with us again. Although not very bright yet, there is perhaps the first sign of a light at the end of the tunnel.

We would like to draw your attention to three events to look forward to:

1. Children's Mental Health Week

Learning at home or in school, we very much hope all pupils will take part in this, next week.

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 1-7 February 2021. This year's theme is Express Yourself, <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/about-the-week/>

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. Staff will plan lots of fun, engaging activities for all the children whether they are learning in school or at home.

Inside-Out Day coincides with Mental Health Week, on 3rd February 2021. We will encourage all our children, whether they are in school or learning at home, to wear an item of clothing **inside-out** on Wednesday 3rd February. We're encouraging this as a reminder to be kind always, as you never know how someone is feeling inside.

Those at home might like to wear something inside-out when they take part in their live learning review session with their teacher and friends.

Please see the flyer attached at the end of this letter for more information.

2. Red Nose Day – Friday, 19th March

Red Nose Day is 19th March this year. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our pupils were back in school by then. Red Nose Day needs our pupils' superpowers! If we've learnt one thing in the last 12 months, it's that life is unpredictable. One thing we can always rely on though is the power of laughter. It can change things. It can connect us. It can be the difference.



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That's why, on Friday 19th March, we need the children to help change the world with the "power of funny". We would love the children to come to school dressed as a superhero and share a funny joke to spread their powers and make someone laugh. If children are learning from home, they too can join in and share their powers during their live session. Children **do not have to wear full costume**, a gesture such as a mask or cape is fine, but a joke is strongly encouraged!

We already know that our WASPS children are wonderful, and by joining in this event they'll have the opportunity to give someone a lift and make them smile. They will be part of something positive.

We ask that if you can, you consider making a small donation via Parentpay to help make a big difference in a very difficult time. All donations will go directly to Comic Relief. However, there is no expectation that everyone will. This is of course entirely voluntary.

Red noses will only be on sale via this link <https://shop.comicrelief.com/collections/red-nose-day-2021>
This Red Nose day there are 10 red noses! Well, 9 red noses and one extremely rare gold nose, all of which are the most fantastically fun woodland creatures you have ever met. These noses are no ordinary noses; they are all 100% plastic free. These are, without doubt, the greenest red noses ever created!

More information

The Blue Peter team will be live on CBBC or iPlayer on Friday 19th March so check out their fabulously funny fundraising antics: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/blue-peter>

Head over to <https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/fundraise/free-downloads/> to download extra resources such as a quiz, fundraising activities and recipes.

Remember, by taking part you are making the world a funnier place.

3. National Census Day

The census is a national survey conducted every ten years which provides a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. This helps to plan and fund public services in local areas. The next census is taking place on Sunday 21st March 2021.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) wants to inspire the next generation to take part. Let's Count! is a programme to educate children and young people on the importance of the census and about how the information collected helps shape the society we live in. This easy-to-use education programme can help improve maths and writing skills, using Census 2021, a significant real-life event, as a stimulus.

Teachers will be incorporating these activities into the children's learning in the coming weeks, leading up to "Schools Let's Count Day" on 15th March.

For more information, go to <https://census.gov.uk/media-and-campaigns/census-education-resources-programmes/> and <https://www.ichild.co.uk/>

If you want to find out more about the census visit the government website <https://census.gov.uk/>

PTA Christmas Card Design Fundraiser

We thought that you would be interested to know that the sale of the Christmas cards, tags, wrapping paper and mugs designed by your children and purchased by yourselves before Christmas, raised a total of £339.00 for the school. What a fabulous venture; a big thankyou to those who organised it or contributed in any way.



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Government Fruit and Veg Scheme

We are pleased to let you know that the government fruit and veg scheme for KS1 pupils in school has been reinstated after a short pause. Therefore, there is no need for pupils in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 to bring fruit into school for their break-time snack. Thank you.

Every Mind Matters

Public Health England are launching the Better Health - **Every Mind Matters** campaign to support the nation's mental wellbeing with the encouragement that "When things aren't so good out there, **make inside feel better**". Aimed at adults, but weighted towards those most at risk of mental health problems, this "Make Inside Feel Better" 2021 phase of the campaign will run across radio, social and digital media. The key message will be to encourage people to create their own 'Mind Plan': <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz/>

The campaign is being supported by the NHS, local authorities and a range of mental health charities, health organisations as well as other charities and commercial sector partners.

The Every Mind Matters platform has been continuously updated to support people during the COVID-19 outbreak, and has a COVID-19 hub <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus/> that includes tips and support on how to deal with change, cope with money worries and job uncertainty and how to look after your mental wellbeing while staying at home. It also includes practical tips and videos from experts on dealing with:

- stress: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/stress/>
- anxiety: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/anxiety/>
- boosting your mood: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/low-mood/>
- sleeping better: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/sleep/>
- what you can do to help others, including advice for parents: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>
- help for children and young people: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/youth-mental-health/>

Talking Therapies Service

Please note the following information sent in by one of our parents:

Adults can self-refer to a local Talking Therapies service without having to speak to a GP. In B&NES the service is <https://iapt-banes.awp.nhs.uk>. This service is currently offering online courses as well as telephone & video based CBT therapy.

Another resource that might be helpful is https://www.psychologytools.com/assets/covid-19/guide_to_living_with_worry_and_anxiety_amidst_global_uncertainty_en-us.pdf

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE: Absence due to Illness

If your child is poorly and due to be attending school, please do not forget to register your child's absence either by telephoning the School Office on 421786 and leaving an answerphone message, or by sending an email to the school on attendance@wasp-school.org.uk. The email link is accessible via the website too.

Please make sure you have contacted the school by 9.15am at the latest on the morning of the absence, stating the reason and nature of the illness, or the symptoms. Unfortunately, we can no longer accept "ill" or "poorly" without further detail.



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Tesco Food Vouchers

For those parents whose children are learning at home, and are eligible, we have sent Tesco food vouchers to you for last week and next. We then hope to move to the government's National Food Voucher Scheme. Eligible parents will receive their voucher by email.

Remote Learning

We are aware that some of you have experienced some teething problems this week with the transfer to Dojo as the primary remote learning platform, as well as the live Learning Reviews and Well-being sessions via Zoom. We are really sorry for the frustration and disappointment this has caused some of you. Almost all of them have now been ironed out. We appreciate your patience and hope that towards the end of the week you and your children have begun to enjoy the additional benefits.

Once again this week we have received a number of emails expressing appreciation and warm praise for our provision and the support being offered by our teachers. We really appreciate hearing positive feedback as well as constructive suggestions for additions or adjustments. We consider all of them carefully and are doing whatever we can to meet as many of your needs as possible.

Reminders

Emailing the School Office

Please remember to put your child's full name and class in the subject line whenever you email the School Office. This will help us in dealing with the understandably high volume we are currently receiving. Thank you.

Eat Them to Defeat Them

As a school, we hope to support this mission to encourage children to eat more vegetables in the summer term. Until then we will continue to encourage our pupils to eat their healthy snack and nutritious lunch in school each day. We educate our pupils about making healthy choices and we encourage them to try new things when they select their lunch options.

Click on the links to see some great recipes <https://vegpower.org.uk/recipes/>
There are also colouring sheets and fun activities for the children to get involved in <https://vegpower.org.uk/downloads/>

Blue Peter

Blue Peter have launched Blue Peter on YouTube at CBBC. Blue Peter is the longest running children's TV show in the world and they are uploading videos suitable for 5-11 year olds to include world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how-tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. Completely free to subscribe, please click on the following link to access: <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter>

Sustrans (UK Walking & Cycling Charity)

Sustrans are relaunching **Sustrans Outside In**, a free resource to help parents who are looking after their children at home providing fun ideas and inspiration for parents to bring education, health and wellbeing activities into their home. You can access resources by registering for the free parent newsletter. Over four weeks, you will receive weekly videos, themed activities, games and challenges designed by experienced school officers. Please click on the link to the subscription page www.sustrans.org.uk/Outsideln



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Somerset Cricket Board 'Pro Challenge'

Every week 1 or 2 pros from Somerset CCC and Western Storm will answer questions and set challenges for the week ahead. Each week there will be a skill based challenge and a creative challenge for children to do at home or at school.

You can either email questions to Scott.chappell@somersetcricketboard.org or tweet your questions to @somersetcb with #scbprochallenge. Please add your child's first name, age and school/cricket club. The challenges and answers to questions will be shared on the website <https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/>

Perform4All

Perform4All is running online drama, dance and singing classes during the lockdown via Zoom. All children are welcome to try a Free Trial Session. You can read all about the classes here:

<https://www.perform.org.uk/free-drama-class>.

Free Electronic Reading Books to Support your Child's Reading at Home

Please see the information below from Oxford Owl, Oxford University Press, regarding free ebooks.

You can register to access free reading books to share at home with your child(ren), these include Read Write Inc., Oxford Reading Tree, Tree Tops and Project X books. These are available from Oxford Owl for Home – simply register and find the book suitable for your child.

Follow this link <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Register as a parent

Click on the 'Oxford Owl for home' icon

Use the green tool bar at the top and click on Books

Use the drop-down menu to select 'eBook library'

Click the pink icon 'Browse the eBook library'

Browse the library and select suitable reading books by age

Follow our WASPS guide to reading to help at home <https://www.wasp-school.org.uk/about-us/wasps-teaching-phonics-reading-spelling-writing/>

Guidance from Oxford Owl to support reading with your child:

Year 0 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-4-5-reception/>

Year 1 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-5-6-year-1/>

Year 2 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-6-7-year-2/>

Year 3 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-7-8-year-3/>

Year 4 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-8-9-year-4/>

Year 5 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-9-10-year-5/>

Year 6 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-10-11-year-6/>

Remember to encourage your child to read little and often and have fun.

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)



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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: [Admissions Consultation 2022/23](#)

The consultation started on 11th December 2020 and will end on 31st January 2021. To respond to this consultation please send your comments by email to: admissions_transport@bathnes.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can write to The Admissions & Transport Unit, B&NES Council, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG.

Food On Our Doorstep

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

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

With our very best wishes,

**Mrs Sarah Halls
Headteacher**

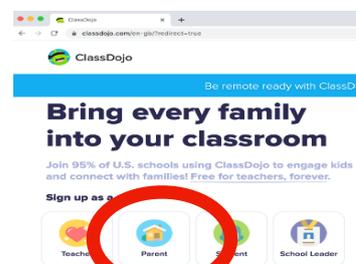
**Mrs Sharon Badger
Deputy Headteacher**



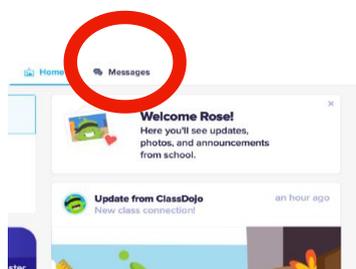
Setting Up Class Dojo as a Family

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. **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.**

1. Please create a Dojo account by going to 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.



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Dear parents and carers,

1-7 February 2021 is Children's Mental Health Week. The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to focus on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is **express yourself**.

What's it all about?

When children are able to find creative ways to share their feelings, thoughts or ideas it can help them feel good about themselves and who they are. Children can do this through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that they enjoy.

It's really important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

Given that the past year will have left many of us feeling out of control and helpless, supporting children and young people to express themselves is arguably more important than ever.



What can you do?

Here are a few simple ways you can encourage your child to express themselves.

1. Could you build on existing interests or passions? Think about what has helped them get through the past year. A love of dancing? Baking? Drawing? Fashion? Encourage your child by noticing their unique interests and praising their efforts.
2. Trying new things can be a great way to find a new creative outlet. There are lots of online tutorials and video demos that you and your child could be inspired by... could you try out something new together? Or perhaps ask someone you know to share their creative hobbies and give them a go.
3. Some children may not think of themselves as being creative. Try to focus on the importance of the process and the way it can make them feel, rather than the end result. Try not to judge their efforts and remember to give encouragement for trying rather than for doing something well.
4. Listening carefully can help children feel more comfortable and confident when expressing themselves. Try to minimise distractions and give your child your full attention when you're spending time together, being aware of your own body language and eye contact. You might want to try summarising what they've shared and acknowledging their feelings.
5. Children are expressing themselves all the time but not necessarily with words. 'Listen' to everything they are trying to tell you with their behaviour, or with their play and creativity or with their silence. It's all self-expression.



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- Remember – you don't need a lot of expensive equipment to get creative at home. Recyclable materials or older items you no longer have a use for can provide amazing inspiration, and of course there's no limit to your imagination!

Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school. You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: place2be.org.uk/help



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