

## Newsletter October 2020

### **Ongoing Thanks!**

Thank you for your ongoing support with the many changes that have been put in place during this COVID period. We are aware that we have sent you a number of notices. It is important that together we contribute towards keeping not only our school community but the area of North Devon safe. We know this is a worry and challenging time for families and that many of you are affected physically, emotionally or financially by the pandemic. Well done for wearing face masks or updating us the reason why you can't! We feel safer, we hope you do too.

Congratulations to Mrs Downing with the safe arrival of her baby son 'Max'.

### **Settling in to a new term**

We are so impressed by the children's independence as they arrive through the gate each morning, particularly our Little Skippers. All our children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, quickly settling to new staff and routines. Over the next month teachers will update you of your child's progress. This term we are unable to support our usual face to face parent consultation but will provide the same support by telephone. Please be patient as it will take us a number of weeks to get through each year group... but we will!

### **Parent Governor Application**

If anyone is interested in being a parent governor and not sure of what is involved feel free to call Catherine Higley, Justine Jackson our Clerk or our Chair, Richard DeCrausaz. We are more than happy to share our own experiences as a governor. We welcome any applications and look forward to working with parents in their new role soon.

### **Change in the weather**

Remember to send your child in warmer items of clothing. Waterproof coats and shoes are definitely essential wardrobe!

We have 460 coats being taken on and off at least 4 times a day. Ensure your child's clothes have their name clearly written inside. Names inside PE kits and jumpers are key.

### **Book Amnesty**

Please look around at home for any school books that your child may have taken home during lockdown. We are still missing a lot of books which will cost the school between £5 and £8 each to replace. If you find any, please send them in with your child to give to their teacher. Thanks for all the books that have been returned to us recently. We are so grateful.

### **Safety on the road**

We continue to monitor safety at the end of the school day. With a change of weather we expect this will impact on the Mines and Alverdiscott traffic. If you are walking each day, thank you and well done. If you drive to school, park away from the school gates and walk part of the journey. If you see an incident or involved in an incident please report this online to the police or to the Highways department. We are keeping the governing body updated with your concerns. Sadly a few neighbours in Mines Road have their cars blocked by cars each day. This is frustrating as we pride ourselves in having a good relationship with the community.

#### *Option 1 Police*

In a non-emergency, you can report crime to Devon and Cornwall Police via 101, webchat or on the [online crime reporting form](#) – more information at [devon-cornwall.police.uk](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

#### *Option 2 Highways*

It's very easy to log a highways complaint on line.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

### **School Meals**

Many thanks to those of you who ordered a meal on census day, the uptake of meals nearly doubled on that day. The school budget will benefit from your support. We are meeting with Norse next week to start a move forward towards our normal menu choice and crockery. The school hall still remains restricted in its use. This may have an impact on reaching normal but we will do what we can this term. Our thanks to Sue, Anita and Anne Marie who have ensured the children have a cooked meal daily despite the challenges presented to them. We wish Maxine our cook a speedy recovery.

### **Reporting a COVID related self-isolation absence**

Please contact us for advice prior to reporting your child's absence as 'self- isolation'. If you suspect your child is displaying symptoms of COVID you must contact the school office immediately and remain at home until your child is tested. Your child can only return to school once we have received a copy of your confirmation, negative or positive. Children who remain off without contacting the school or having a test will be marked as unauthorised.

### **Email, mobile phone and address**

Please ensure we have your most up to date emergency contact. The majority of information will be sent to you by text or email during this year.

### **Dates for your calendar**

Please remember that requests for holiday without exceptional circumstances will not be authorised. The school calendar for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 can be printed off the school website.

#### **2020**

**Autumn half term break** 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October (this is not an extended break as in previous year)

**Christmas break** Mon 21<sup>st</sup> December –Fri 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

#### **2021**

**Spring term begins** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The school is closed for INSET on Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Spring half term break** 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February

**Bank Holiday** - Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> April

**Easter Break** Mon 5<sup>th</sup> – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> April

**Bank Holiday** - Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**Summer half term break** Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June

The school is closed for INSET on Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> and Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May

**Summer break** begins Mon 26<sup>th</sup> July

**Autumn term begins** Wed 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Autumn half term break** Mon 25<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Christmas break** Mon 20<sup>th</sup> December – Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> January

#### **2022**

**Bank Holiday** Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

**Spring term begins** Tues 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Spring half term break** Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> Feb

The school is closed for INSET on Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> February

**Easter break** Mon 11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**Summer term begins** Mon 25<sup>th</sup> April

**Bank Holiday** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Bank holiday** Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May

**Summer half term break** Tues 31<sup>st</sup> May –Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jun

The school is closed for INSET on Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May and Tues 7<sup>th</sup> May

**Summer break begins** wed 27<sup>th</sup> July