

### **Spring Newsletter 2021**

Thank goodness we have all survived a very challenging and complicated winter; we can now look forward to the coming summer term. Hopefully families are returning to work and more normal routines. The children have settled so quickly to new school routines, renewing friendships and a returning to usual sized classes. As we move away from lockdown, our children will return to a wider social environment with leisure and sports clubs again, after school and at weekends.

Please be assured that we will continue to implement our COVID risk assessments as they are having such a positive impact on reducing infection. Staff continue to self-test twice weekly and so many of us are now vaccinated. Children are reminded constantly about using tissues and washing hands thoroughly. Deep cleaning will continue daily throughout the school.

Thank you once again for your words of encouragement and for your continuing kindness towards staff. We appreciate your support. Have a relaxing, sunny and safe Easter break, hopefully with family and friends we have not been able to see during this last year.

Happy Easter. Enjoy the spring break.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to our new Clerk to Governors, Felicity Jackson. We wish her luck and know that she will confidently meet the expectations of this position.

### **Red Nose Day**

Everyone looked great in their fancy dress and crazy hair, well done. This event raised £1,027.14. Thank you to the PTA members who managed the sale of red noses.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Northam Pool will soon be returning to a schedule of lessons for school children. We are delighted that Apple and Beech children will be having lessons during the summer term. Apple Class will start first and their lessons will commence on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Watch out for more information about swimming dates and what your child will need to bring on swimming days. It's a good time for Apple class and Beech class to source swimming kit (no bikinis)!

### **Alverdiscott Road and Traffic**

#### ***Ongoing problems with traffic***

- ***Parents parking on the zigzags at the school gates***
- ***Parents dropping children out of cars whilst engines are still running in the middle of the road***

#### ***Problems that are now resolved with traffic***

Thanks to Councillor Linda Hellyer, the problem of water pooling outside the school gate during rainy weather has been resolved. The pavement has been improved by essential drainage added. The zig zags will be repainted over the summer break reminding drivers not to park at the school gates. We have requested that Parking Enforcement Officers make unplanned visits to observe illegal parking near the school gates.

If you are concerned about careless driving or parking putting pupils at risk, please continue to report incidents to the police or highways.

### **Dropping Children Off**

***Please, please, please*** avoid stopping your car outside the school allowing your child to jump out onto the road to cross to the school gate by themselves. You may know where your child is but other drivers don't!

### **Free holiday time activities and meals for children aged 0 to 18 years**

Free activities and healthy meals during the Easter holidays are available to children from low income families.

Devon County Council is arranging the activity programme, working with activity providers in locations across Devon. It is part of a national, Government-funded initiative to provide free activities and healthy meals during Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays 2021. Children of all abilities, aged between 0 to 18 years, can attend.

Places are open now for children from low income families, including those eligible for free school meals,

during the Easter holidays (Easter holiday week runs from Friday 2nd April to Sunday 11th April).

There are activities to suit a range of ages and abilities, including a selection of sports (including rugby, football, netball), forest school/outdoor activities such as den building, cooking on an open fire, arts and crafts, music, drama and dance, scooting and skateboarding, orienteering and outward bound activities, cooking classes and activities, food boxes and activity boxes.

Parents can book places directly with the activity provider. Click below for list of providers:

[List-of-Easter-Providers-and-places-provided-Mar21.pdf](#)

### **Lemon Jelly**

Lemon Jelly will again support year 5 and 6 children during the summer term. Lemon Jelly is a school provider developing a programme which ensures that the statutory aspects of our Relationship Education Curriculum are discussed and an awareness developed with our children over time. You will be informed in advance of the focus of relationships and behaviour and the date this will be discussed in your child's class.

### **Staggered Entry in the Mornings**

This has had a positive impact on learning. Children trickle into school in small groups bringing a more relaxed start to the school day and a high level of independence which the children seem to enjoy from as young as nursery.

### **Sun Hats and Sun Lotion**

Please send your child to school with a sunhat or cap, essential on sunny as well as hot days. Ensure all hats are named. Also, please send your child to school with a named bottle of sun lotion to store in the classroom by the first day back on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### **Hoodies**

Year 6 are looking very bright, smart and orange! Thank you to everyone who supported this project.

### **Progress report at end of school year.**

Over the year we have updated parents of their child's next steps whether you are supporting your child at home with learning or attending school daily. Teachers will now focus on the progress children are making in reading, writing, maths and phonics now everyone has returned to us. This will include how your child is coping with a full return to school since March, what progress they are making and the positive impact of any intervention programmes. Reporting back will come to you in a different form this year. You will not receive the traditional annual report for your child. We will inform you later in the summer term how we intend to pass this information to you; face to face meetings may even be possible!

### **After School and Breakfast Club Provision**

We are still unable to support this provision and this will be the same situation until the end of this year. We are uncertain at what point we can manage to staff this in the near future but will keep you up to date. We appreciate that this is inconvenient for many of you.

### **Calendar Dates**

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Return to school after Easter break

3<sup>rd</sup> May Bank Holiday

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May INSET school will be closed for both days

31<sup>st</sup> May summer half term

7<sup>th</sup> June Return to school after May summer half term break

23<sup>rd</sup> July last day of summer term

8<sup>th</sup> September first day of Autumn term