



## NEWSLETTER

26.4.2021

Dear parents,

It has been lovely to speak to many of you and hear you have enjoyed some good family time and mini adventures over Easter: getting lost rambling in Minchinhampton, trying new foods in Wales and lots of bike riding and park meet-ups with friends – sounds great!

We are delighted to have started Summer Term with all our children in school again – the beautiful weather has certainly helped too. A big thank you to the wonderful children in Class 4 who attend Mother Goose – they have been living our school value of kindness in helping me do premises jobs after school. I was incredibly impressed by their co-operation and team work too. It was a pleasure to work with your children – I am a blessed headteacher!

### **Working Together**

We are delighted to be back on site working with all children. As I am sure you are aware, we are still not working in our usual way though despite restrictions being lifted in areas outside school. As a result of this, additional TA and teacher time is being used cleaning, supervising children over staggered break and lunch times etc. We continue to be stretched. All staff have been incredibly flexible and generous in the way they have given their time and skills to make the school work. They are still doing this. Thank you for the kind words and e-mails you have shared acknowledging this - the staff team really appreciate it.

We know there will still be pressures on families for a range of reasons and a few children will still be settling back into school routines. Please do talk with your class teacher at parent evening this week there are challenges – we want to work with you. There may be organisations we can signpost you too for support too.

### **Hot Lunches**

Hot lunches will begin on site from **Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup>**. There will be two options and these can be selected by children when they come to school in the morning in the usual way. Children can continue to bring in sandwiches from home if they prefer.

### **Reception Outside Area**

We are thrilled that the outside area continues to offer more opportunities for learning outside. The children love their planters and have already sewn some vegetables. The English Shed, full of books and writing equipment, is being well used. The cycle ramp has proved popular as has the giant numicon for making number bonds. Thank you to Mrs Birch

for organising orders and deliveries of equipment so effectively – an unsung hero of the school!



## Sports Day

We have booked Sports Day for **July 12<sup>th</sup>**. We are not sure if we will be able to run sports day as usual with parents attending on our field in the village – present guidance would not allow us to do this. If we cannot run Sports Day in the usual way we have an alternative plan of enjoying our sporting challenges using the playground and grass area at school in our class bubbles. We will make choices on this nearer the time, as school guidance may change, and then share plans with you.

## Internet Safety



The older children enjoyed working with School Beat Officer PC Weedon last week. He led an active workshop on Internet Safety. Do ask your children what they learned from this session – Internet Safety is such a crucial area for home and school to work on together to help children develop the skills they need for their future.

The children said they enjoyed the session and learned some useful ideas:

**Georgia & Myla:** We learned the age restrictions for games and apps. We found out that apps and games for older teenagers might have gruesome, upsetting or violent images in them.

**Daniel and Millie:** We learned about PEGI ratings for games and not to talk to people you don't know online. You wouldn't become friends with people who came up to you in the street and so it's good to be careful online too.

**Sophie:** I learned it's ok to share some information like my favourite colour but not revealing personal information like the name of the school I go to.

It was a positive session reinforcing important messages. In July PC Weedon will lead a workshop on online relationships with our older children too.

## New Hardware

We are delighted to have a full set of iPads and notebooks on site now. Mr Sawyer, our IT technician, has worked hard to ensure all are operational. The children are using the iPads to access their computing curriculum as well as using them to support spelling, times tables etc. Thank you to the parish council for their generous donation towards our hardware expenditure - we are incredibly grateful for your support.

## Our Week

Enjoy a few photos of us working and playing during our first week back:







