

Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2020

Weekly Review

We have come to the end of a very successful week and there is a lot to celebrate. The children are now very well settled back into daily school routines and it has been wonderful to have a full school buzzing with learners. We look forward to having our Reception children with us full time from Monday.

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all parents/carers who have been so supportive of our staggered drop offs & pick-ups, wearing of masks and all other measures to keep our school community safe and our school open for all children. You may have heard in the news that over 340 schools have already had to partially or wholly close due to Covid-19 outbreaks so thank you for doing all you can to help us to stay open and educating your children. I am pleased to be able to report that attendance is currently at or around 98% each day.

As we shared in a Parentmail on Wednesday, children may use their PE/similar drawstring bag to bring their lunchbox and water bottle into school if needed. Should you need to purchase one of these, the Sports Shop on the High Street has a supply.

Our Whole School Risk Assessment is on our website (95 pages!) and will help you to understand all the measures that we are required to put in place. All of these, however little, contribute to making St Peter's as safe as possible. This is also being updated on a regular basis.

Thank you to everyone who has returned the 'Agreements and Permissions' Form. We have extended the deadline for completion until Sunday 20th September at 9pm. It takes a few minutes to complete this essential information for us so please do make time for this over the weekend. You can access the Form by clicking on the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PWq47mrTJE2DQEH_O8w0NyQuaTXx_nRHm7a10G-CJ-1UM1I0VVVZUVIOV0oxS0RHM1NYTklyRVZGUyQIQCN0PWcu

Updates and Information

Communication with Class Teachers

Year group emails are the quickest and easiest way for you to communicate with your child's teacher and we would ask that you use this for messages, and other matters, until further notice. Not all emails will receive a reply but please be assured that these are checked daily and teachers will note and action anything that requires attention during that school day. If your email does require a reply or further conversation, your child's class teacher will get back to you as soon as they can.

Please READ all communication from school carefully. Teachers and admin staff are receiving lots of individual emails containing questions that have already been answered in previous communications. Please help our staff to be able to focus their time on the things that really make a difference to the children by reading Parentmails before emailing or phoning school. You will know from national news that school staffing is stretched at the moment – so please help us out!

Parent – Teacher Meetings – Week of 28th September

Thank you to everyone who has booked a TEAMS meeting with your child's teacher – they are really looking forward to meeting with you. This is a really important opportunity for a review of your child's start back to school and discuss any pastoral or academic concerns at this point. There are just a small number of parents still to make appointments so please do this as soon as possible.

Please check that you can access your child's TEAMS account as soon as possible because – if you are experiencing difficulties – this may take some days to resolve. Remember that we are offering a short introductory TEAMS session on 24th September at 6pm if you have not used TEAMS before and would like to try it out before your meeting.

We are very keen to ensure that everyone can use TEAMS and continues to do so as we will use this to provide all learning if your child or a class bubble is sent home to isolate.

Remote Learning

We have a full set of lessons available for children in Y1 - 6 who are away from school with Covid related absences (if they are well enough to complete work). All work is shared on Teams in their year group team and there are assignments for them to submit completed work is they are absent 5 days or more. This short film explains how to access work:

<https://www.loom.com/share/7ba7af77f1294e6dbd337e5d2dec71d0>

Our full plans and procedures for remote learning for Covid related absences (individual pupil's absent, class/ bubble, year groups, whole school closures) can be found on our website.

Absences

Like most schools we are experiencing slightly more absences than normal at the moment. Please ensure you ring the absence line or email absence@spps.school.uk by 9am to inform us if your child is away from school. This saves valuable staff time.

- If your child is displaying possible Covid symptoms in school, we have clear isolation and monitoring procedures in place before ringing parents to take them home. This ensures we are not sending home children unnecessarily.
- If your child is symptomatic, they cannot remain in school for the safety of other children and staff. Parents must come immediately to collect children – we cannot isolate them for an entire day.
- They can only return to school once they have a negative test result or have completed 10 days self-isolation. They cannot return to school if their symptoms reduce or end and we cannot accept parent/carer self-diagnosis of the symptoms not being Covid related - this must be made by a Covid test.
- We understand the frustrations around testing at the moment but hope parents and carers appreciate the need to keep all our pupils and staff safe.

Learning

Children are now back into the routine of English (reading and writing) and maths lessons each day and these core subjects remain our focus as we support children to catch-up on missed learning. We are also teaching science, RE, geography and history, PE and PHSE. We plan to return to teaching our rich and full curriculum offer from January.

HOMEWORK

Now that the children have had a chance to settle back into school learning routines, we are asking that regular reading, maths and spelling practice are carried out at home. This will look a little different to usual as our home learning will be completed online or through TEAMS.

Spelling

Class spelling lists will be shared on TEAMS. If your child needs extra support with spellings, your child's teacher will email you with an alternative spelling plan.

In school, spelling lessons focus on the teaching of that week's spelling pattern or rule, and children have the opportunity to practise and apply these words. In order to really master and embed their learning, it is important that they continue to practise regularly at home. We recommend short daily bursts as this is the most effective.

Each Friday, there will be a retrieval quiz so that your child can see how well they have embedded their learning. We know that children learn well from their own mistakes so children self-mark the quiz and, where learning is not yet secure, this provides them with further opportunity to embed the spelling pattern or rule.

Reading

Our online reading scheme – Bug Club should be used for home practice. A letter, detailing our expectations around home reading was sent out last week and can be found on the English pages of our website. Regular reading really accelerates progress, and we ask that children read the books, allocated by their teachers, at least 4 times a week. Bug Club is ideal for readers of all levels of attainment and supports the development of reading comprehension skills in a more challenging way as children master decoding and move on to reading fluently for pleasure and information.

Maths

Our online Numbots and Times table rock stars platform should be used for home practice. Your children should all be familiar with this as we used it as part of our provision during lockdown. Regular practice of number facts and times tables increase fluency and accuracy and really helps children's development as expert mathematicians.

Year 1, 2 and 3 should be logging onto Numbots 3 times a week for at least 10 minutes.

Year 4 - should be logging onto TTRS and going onto **Garage** mode 3 times a week for at least 5 minutes

Year 5 and 6 should be going onto **Garage** mode for at least 3 minutes every day. They should also be going onto **Studio** mode to try and improve their speed twice a week.

As they were so popular, we will also be continuing with battles for children in year 4, 5 and 6.

Children will be awarded merits for participation and effort by their class teacher.

If you need a reminder of your child's log in details, please send a request to the year group email.

Celebrations

St Peter's Heroes

Way back in early March, letters went home announcing the Term 4 Heroes. Due to lockdown, we were not able to celebrate the achievements of this excellent group of children. Today, they have all been presented with their certificates, and medals and been celebrated by their peers. A photograph of your 'Hero' will be coming home to you via email. Well done to all of you – we are very proud of you and thank you for all that you do to make St Peter's such a special school.

St Peter's Artists

Congratulations to Daisy (year 6) and Erin & Sammy (year 4) who have all been presented with 'Portishead In Bloom' certificates and rosettes today in recognition of their winning artwork from a competition in the spring.

Help Us Out!

- Please read all communication from school carefully and action anything that is needed.
 - Please drop your child promptly in the morning and do not go into your child's 'bubble'.
 - If you are just dropping one child, please make sure you do not arrive too early for their drop off. This particularly applies to parents of our new Reception cohort. The gate will open at 8.40 so there is no need to arrive before this.
 - In the back car park, please use the queuing system fairly and do not jump the queue.
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- **When you are waiting, please always keep your child close to you and do not allow them to run around the car park/road etc.**
- **Please do not drive down roads that are currently closed to traffic. Please also be considerate parking on other roads e.g. Do not park on both sides of the road**

THANK YOU

We have very much appreciated your kind comments and understanding of all that we are doing at the moment. We want to do all we can to minimise infection risks and keep individual class bubbles and school open. We certainly welcome supportive suggestions of ways in which we can improve processes, but we must remain in line with all the government guidance. It is good to be back and working with you.

Email: enquiries@sppschoo1.uk

Website: www.st-peters.n-somerset.sch.uk Facebook: [@sppschoo1portishead](https://www.facebook.com/sppschoo1portishead)