

# Newsletter

## Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

THANK YOU!

### SCHOOL APPRECIATION AWARD!

We had the most wonderful surprise last week when we learnt that, not only had a group of parents nominated us to win a 'school appreciation award' in a Bristol competition but we were one of the two winning schools to receive the most nominations and a prize of £150 to spend on resources for the school. Thank you SO much for all your kind comments – this is hugely appreciated by staff who work, with great care and commitment, to serve the school and wider community. We look forward to spending the money on some resources to enhance play at break and lunchtimes. Here are just some of the comments:

*St Peter's Church of England Primary School Portishead, they have been outstanding during lockdown. The support and dedication each member of staff has shown has been remarkable. They've shown such care during this hard time*

*St. Peter's CE primary Portishead! They have been amazing providing both of our children keyworker places and working through Easter to continue this! Responsive to requests and great online learning resources! Thank you!*

*100% nominate St Peter's CE school in Portishead. They are so passionate about teaching, providing amazing online learning, keeping us parents updated during this awful time and the teachers are fab!*

PLEASE KEEP READING TO THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER AS WE HAVE LOTS OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO SHARE!

### Weekly Review

Term 1 is now well underway, and it is great to see that all our children have now settled back well into learning and old, and new, school routines. Yesterday we were very proud to share some of the children's learning with one of the LSP school advisors and she was very impressed with all she saw.

### Drop offs and Pick-ups

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to support our drop off and collection systems each day. We now have well over 1,000 children, and adults, passing safely through the site each day and we are very pleased that we are being able to keep everyone in our school community safe at this time. We know that everyone is having to make small sacrifices at the moment, and arrangements may not always be convenient for everyone. However, we are sure that you all appreciate that being Covid secure must remain a key priority. With more rainy days forecast as we move into the autumn months, please make sure that your child always comes to school wearing a suitable raincoat with hood.

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## Hotdog Thursday and Revised School Menu

Hotdog Thursday was a great success and enjoyed by the children. This was an experiment to check we can clean classrooms etc before the afternoon sessions and, thanks to Sheila our cleaner, the system worked. We'll be meeting Aspens Caterers next week to review our menu to introduce some warm choices over the winter. Look out for an updated menu coming out soon.

### Parking

We continue to have three recurrent problems with parking, Sadly, sorting these out is taking valuable time away from other work in school and this will eventually impact on the delivery of education. I would be grateful if all parents could heed the following requests:

1. Please refrain from parking in Clarence House. Parents have no right to park there. There was a "near miss" in this car park this week and children were almost hurt.
2. People are still parking on Forrester Way where there are COVID restrictions in the same way as there are on Hallett's Way. I had an email from a resident to report that *"There are parents continually flouting these rules and are continuing to drive into Forester Road Cul-de Sac to access the school. As residents we do what we can to police the situation .... the reaction we receive from the parents when approached, can be extremely abusive..."* I am saddened if this is the case and would ask all parents to be respectful to our neighbours and not park on Forrester Road at this time.
3. We have also been asked by Halliday's to ensure that parents always leave room for vehicles to get into, and out of their premises. Please can we all be particularly thoughtful given the circumstances around this request.

### Parents' Evenings

This week has seen our very first remote parent/teacher meetings – this has provided a very important opportunity for your child's new teacher to share key information about your child's return to school. We know that doing things differently has been a challenge for us all, at times, but it has also been an exciting opportunity to embrace new technology and learn some new skills! Thank you to everyone – both teachers and parents – for your feedback around this new way of working. We look forward to exploring many more ways of using Teams to enhance communication, and learning, over the coming months.

Our Reception team are looking forward to parents' evenings on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Please remember to book your slot as soon as possible.

### Year Group Email Communication

We are keen to keep our year group emails open as we recognise that this is a key channel of communicating at the present time. However, please think carefully about the purpose of the email as teachers are receiving a lot of questions about operational matters/admin issues etc that have already been communicated on Parentmail. Responding to these emails is taking up a lot of valuable time that would be better spent on your child's learning.

We would also respectfully ask that you consider the tone used when sending emails to year group accounts. All of our staff act in the best interests of the children, at all times, and there have been some emails sent that have left staff quite upset. These are challenging times for us all, but rest assured your child's teacher is doing all they can to provide high quality education and pastoral care for all the children in their care.

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## Updates and Information

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### Home Reading

Well done to everyone who is using Bug Club for home reading. As we explained in the reading information letter, that was sent out a few weeks ago, we are not currently able to send reading books home, so Bug Club is your only way of accessing our 'reading scheme' texts. The rules about sharing, and quarantining books are strict and we don't have the resources, or capacity to facilitate this in a safe way at this point in time. This is constantly under review and we will let you know as soon as we are able to send books home again. In the meantime, please do use the online resource that we have purchased as it contains all the same resources that we have at school and will support your child's reading progress at whatever stage they are currently working.

### School Photos – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Colourphoto will be in school on Wednesday morning to take INDIVIDUAL photographs. Unfortunately, we are NOT able to facilitate any sibling photos this year (either pre-school siblings or in-school siblings) as the logistics of this would hugely compromise our 'bubble' system.

If your child is in Reception or Year 3, and has PE that day, you may like to ensure that they wear their normal school polo shirt and fleece to school that day, instead of the usual red PE T-shirt. They can still wear joggers and trainers as these will not be seen in the photos.

### Nasal Flu Vaccines

On Thursday, the school nursing team will be on site to carry out the nasal flu vaccines. If you have completed and returned the permission form, your child will receive the vaccine on that day.

**Please note that Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November are INSET days.**

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### Welfare and Safeguarding

#### Medicines

It is very important that we are aware of any medical needs or medication your child may require during the day. We have robust first aid processes so that we can keep your child safe and well at school, at all times. If your child has a medical need that we are not yet aware of, or has regular medication that they require e.g. asthma inhaler, please contact the admin team at the Welcome Desk and they will ensure that you complete the relevant forms and we can update our records.

#### 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](mailto:absence@spps.school.uk) by 9am to inform us if your child is away from school.

- 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.
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- 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.

We now have a school QR code which all essential visitors to site are required to engage with. This will further help to keep everyone in our school community safe.

### **Remote Learning**

We have a full set of lessons available for children in 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.

**Email: [enquiries@sppschoo.uk](mailto:enquiries@sppschoo.uk)**

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