



St Paul's CofE VC Junior School Newsletter

Newsletter Date

24th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers, It has been brilliant this week to see a return to normal lessons in classes. As you walk around the school, perhaps the most noticeable observation is the quality of discussion taking place; whether this be between pairs, working collaboratively in a group or their class teacher challenging the first answers and helping children to choose the right words to express their thoughts and ideas. I have no doubt all of this helped to inspire some amazing pieces of work from around the school this week!

A few have mentioned to me now that it seems like normal around school and this is the environment we wanted to create for the children. Obviously, there are differences, washing hands, sanitizer, a lot more structure to break and lunch times and other areas of the school day which have to be managed differently.

Only a few updates this week but please read them carefully:

Staffing From time to time we are going to be short of staff in some areas, due to the isolation process for COVID symptoms. At these points in time we will ask a lot from staff within bubbles, to cover where we are short and so that school can continue to run safely. We know children require structure and routine but in these exceptional circumstances we do just need to cover where possible. I can appreciate this means adults may be different to usual, however we are limited in the other options we can take, where possible we will try and give parents some notice of changes.

Expectations Although the children have been away from school for a long period of time it is still important to keep our expectations high, this applies to both home and school. Please support us with these areas;

Ensure your child is:

- reading at home 5 times a week, this does not necessarily have to be their reading book, it could be other books in your home.
- they are practising their timetables either with paper and pencil or on TT Rockstars
- they are completing and practising their spelling homework



Applying for secondary school (starting Year 7 in September 2021) Seems a long way off but time goes so fast! Please see the post on Year 6 Dojo for links to both Whitstone, The Blue School and Sexey's. Then visit the County's website to apply for place at secondary school <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/>

Contact Us 01749 343250

www.stpaulsjuniorsomerset.org.uk

stpauls@educ.somerset.gov.uk

[twitter @StpaulsJS](https://twitter.com/StpaulsJS)

Remote Learning You may be aware that by the end of September every school has to have a plan for remote learning in case of localised lockdowns and bubbles closing. We are currently for those children self-isolating, using Class Dojo for uploading our lessons for Maths and English as we did during lockdown. We are however exploring other opportunities and the use of National Oak Academy and other methods for whole year group lockdowns. When we have finalized

our plans we will let you know and explain the reasons behind our choices. We obviously hope that this planning does not need to come into action, but I hope it reassures you that we are in a position where we are prepared.

School trips Whilst there are some school trips planned, we have been advised by County to not undertake these where possible. In light of this, we have chosen to continue with some of our school trips as they are outside or we have been given sole use of the premises. We feel the risk for these trips is no more unsafe than a day in school and we do create extensive risk assessments for each individual trip. If there are parents that have concerns around these trips, then please do speak to your child's class teacher.



Coughs and colds It may only be the third week back but I am aware it has not taken long for some of our children to get a cold or sore throat (nothing else). Hopefully a weekend of rest and good weather will help and we can see all the children return next week.

However, the topic of what to do if a child has a cough has been discussed a lot at school. **The NHS states a cough should be considered as a symptom of coronavirus if it meets this description:**

• **a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. See**

Dojo post for whole letter from NHS.

If you remove your child from school for what you believe to be coronavirus symptoms i.e. a cough that fits this description, as per the guidance, they are not permitted to return to school without either a negative test, or advice from your GP/NHS111 or until they have finished a 10-day period of isolation (at which point the rest of the house should isolate for 14 days).

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: **Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8 am to pm.**

Reminder about Snacks Please may we remind all families that break time snacks should be identified as healthy snacks i.e. low sugar or fat content such as fresh fruit or vegetables (A gentle reminder that we are a nut free school). As a junior school, we are not able to provide children with free fruit and it can be a long morning, so please do send your children in with their fresh fruit or vegetable snacks to keep them going until lunchtime.

Uniform Policy As it is the start of the year, I would like to remind you of our uniform policy. We pride ourselves with our uniform and want to see it consistently applied. Hair that is shoulder length should be tied back for safety and hygiene reasons. No jewellery, rubber wrist bands or necklaces should be worn except for stud earrings.

After School Arrangements and Messages for Children We are currently experiencing an increase in the number of messages received on a daily basis to pass to children, especially near the end of the school day. PLEASE ensure that your children knows what their going home arrangements are. We are, of course, happy to deliver messages in an emergency, but most of the current messages we are receiving are not emergencies. If a going home arrangement needs to be changed, please phone the school office **01749 343250** and speak to a member of staff and do **not send an email or a class dojo** as these are not monitored continually throughout the day especially during lessons.

Data Sheet Can you please return any outstanding DATA sheets to the office, so we can update your contact details, thank you.

That is all from me this week, next week I hope to share with you examples of good learning and certificates as we are unable to invite you in to our celebration assembly on Fridays! Enjoy your weekend!

Chris Partridge

 <p>School Administrator St Paul's Junior CofE VC Junior School</p>	<p>Location: St Paul's Junior CofE VC Junior School, Paul Street, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5LA</p>	<p>Salary: £9.81 per hour</p>
<p>We invite applications from highly motivated and organised individuals with energy and vision to join our excellent and dedicated office team as our new School Administrator.</p>		
<p>Closing date: Friday September 25th, 2020 5:00pm</p>		<p>Part Time</p>



 <p>Teaching Assistant and Social Inclusion Teaching Assistant St Paul's Junior School</p>	<p>Location: St Paul's Junior School, Paul Street, Shepton Mallet BA4 5LA</p>	<p>Salary: Grade 15</p>
<p>We currently have two posts available due to recent promotions, within our excellent team for enthusiastic and committed Teaching Assistants to work with children in Key Stage 2 with an immediate start date.</p>		

We have extended the deadline to the Teaching Assistant jobs until tomorrow. Please contact the school if interested.