



Wookey Weekly News ***Friday 20th March 2020***



We will be producing editions of The Wookey Weekly every Friday during our time of closure. They may be shorter than usual, but it is important that we keep as many routines going as we can.

The last week in school was extremely challenging, so say the least! We were receiving a huge amount of information from the Government throughout the week, with very little time to digest it. I hope everyone feels that we have communicated things well and in good time - we have been trying our best!

The next few weeks will undoubtedly be challenging for all of us in a variety of ways, but I am confident that we have put arrangements in place which will enable our children's education to continue in the best possible way, given the circumstances.

It has needed a huge team effort to get to this point and I need to thank everyone for playing their part. I need to start by thanking the children for showing such maturity and continuing with their learning without losing focus on our core values of respect, engagement, active learning and independence. I need also to thank the staff for staying working so hard in very stressful times. The children are very lucky to have such an amazing, committed and caring group of teachers and over the coming weeks I promise you that we will be doing everything we can to keep in (virtual) contact with them. Finally I need to thank our parents for supporting our efforts to set up a system to enable the children to continue with their education over the coming weeks and for recognising the efforts we have made to ensure that the disruption to their children's education will be minimised.

Stars of the week

No stars of the week to report this week but I need to let you know that we will be continuing with stars of the week throughout the time that we are closed. Every week the teachers will be choosing someone from each year group who has demonstrated our school values in their home learning and I will be recording videos on Friday afternoons to let the children know who has been chosen. Unfortunately we will not be able to meet for a celebration but I am sure that the children will be able to have one at home!

Walking Bus

It has been an absolute pleasure to take part in our daily walking bus this term and to see Mrs Davies' original idea grow to a point where on some days nearly 50 people have been joining together to walk to school. We have been able to award lots of badges to children for completing a set number of journeys in February and March and we are not going to let COVID-19 get in the way of our determination to be as active as possible. I will therefore be publishing on Seesaw on Monday a challenge to the children to complete a walking bus style activity every day and letting them know that these activities will count towards 'virtual' badges for the duration of our enforced closure.

Home Learning

Throughout last week it has been really exciting to see the children who were not at school starting to engage with our Seesaw home learning activities. As teachers we are not good at 'blowing our own trumpets' but I must state that I am very proud to have such a well-established home learning platform which will serve them well over the coming weeks.

You will all have seen our curriculum offer for the period we are closed and I want to thank all the parents who returned our 'home learning agreements' signed by themselves and their children.

We have tried hard to make our plans for the coming weeks manageable and sustainable. On a normal school day the children are with us for around 6 hours of learning time but planning for something similar whilst they are at home would simply not work. You will have seen that the teachers are committing to setting work every day, and I need to let you (and the children) know that I will also be setting a variety of challenges for them over the coming weeks.

Gardening

One of my highlights of the past week was to see the enthusiasm with which the children approached the challenge of breathing new life into our school garden. I will be sending a Seesaw message to them on Monday with a gardening related challenge for the coming weeks. I look forward to seeing what they can achieve and I have no doubt that they will do themselves, and the school proud.

Childcare offer from Monday

Information for parents who have been offered places in our childcare provision over the coming weeks:

- Please understand that this is not normal schooling and the arrangements have had to be put together very quickly this week.
- It is important to remember that the health advice remains paramount. In particular:
 - If your child or member of the family develop symptoms of the coronavirus (a new, persistent cough or a temperature), then the whole family should self-isolate for 14 days.
 - If a child develops those symptoms in school, we will isolate them and ask them to be collected.
 - Those with underlying health conditions that make them more vulnerable to the virus, should be social distancing from any contact for 12 weeks.

We understand that your personal circumstances may change over the next two weeks, alongside national events. Please let us know by emailing SCH.423@educ.somerset.gov.uk if there is more information that you need to pass on to us.

Safeguarding is everybody's business.

If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger, please contact:

Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or by email at childrens@somerset.gov.uk or the contact the police directly by dialling 101 and they will discuss with Children's Social Care.

In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999.