

IN BRIEF:

- Our one way system is working very well. Please can we respectfully remind everyone to use the paths around the school as the grassy area is becoming very muddy - thank you...
- Please can the children be in winter uniform after half term...
- Please remember only one adult per family group on school grounds...
- 26-30th HALF TERM BREAK

Other illness:

To prevent sickness/diarrhoea being spread across the school, your child must be kept away from school until 48 hours after the last bout. This applies even if they have been sick once. We would respectfully ask that you keep to these guidelines.

Further information about different illnesses can be found on the website under downloads—documents. If you know your child is not going to be in school, you should let us know as soon as possible. Whenever possible, medical appointments should be made out of school time. Thank you.



ST MARY'S PRIMARY

Church of England Primary School

BA NEWS OCTOBER 2020

Keeping fit and healthy

There has been a lot going on over the last few weeks to help us learn about staying safe, healthy and fit.

This year, the school will be continuing with the Golden Mile initiative.

The Golden Mile is a safe, simple and measurable health and physical activity initiative and an all year round one whereby pupils and staff can get involved. We simply walk, jog or run around our Golden Mile track within the safety of our school grounds and then upload the number of laps our pupil's achieve onto our software.

Physical activity brings all sorts of benefits, such as confidence and stronger self-esteem, more energy, better memory, and simply a good feeling about ourselves. We hope to see again all sorts of improvements over the year.

We welcomed Life Education Wessex back to school on the 25th September. Katie delivered age appropriate sessions on health and safety, making wise choices and developing good self-esteem. The children really loved these sessions; they form an important part of our Personal, Social, Emotional and Health curriculum. To find out more, visit: [hEp://lifeeduca.onwessex.org.uk/](http://lifeeduca.onwessex.org.uk/)

I am very happy with the way our school is managing the risk of Covid19. We have not yet had an identified positive case however with the numbers rising locally and nationally, it may be inevitable that this will occur at some point. The risk to children is very small but we know there is greater risk to our staff and parents/grandparents not just in terms of health but also the ability to continue to work.

It will become more challenging to maintain the ventilation that we had in the warmer months as the weather turns colder. Ventilated classrooms are key to minimising the transmission of Covid19. Although we will have the heating on as high as possible, children may still feel the cold. It's going to be really important that the children are warmly dressed for school. If they would like to wear extra layers under their uniforms this will help and please ensure they have a warm coat every day.



Welcome

Our new pupils have settled very well into school life. Miss Langdon is using an online record of the Reception children's learning (Tapestry) which we are encouraging parents to look at and comment on. It is a fantastic way to see some of the things the children have been doing.

Communication

Unfortunately we have not been able to hold our usual parent welcome meetings this year. However all classes now have their Google classroom up and running for the new year and here you should find your child's learning for the term, timetables and home-work.

These are vital platforms in case we have to close particular bubbles for 2 weeks or individuals have to self isolate. All work will be posted on the classroom for the children. Do feel free to contact teachers on Google classroom if you are unable to speak to them after school. It is important that you can access it now before it becomes a necessity so we can check any glitches. Replies will not typically be given at the weekend or in the evenings however.

Thank you for signing up to parents' evenings next week. Please remember to keep your children with you AT ALL TIMES including inside classrooms (the hall will not be open and we cannot allow children running around the site unsupervised) or arrange childcare. If you cannot attend, please contact your child's classteacher for a phone call.

Autumn uniform

Winter uniform (collared shirt with a tie -**not** polo shirts - skirt, pinafore or trousers) **must** be worn after the half term break please. We are very proud of how smart our children look and ask for your support with this. If we look good we feel good. Large hair accessories are inappropriate for school. Please remember that long hair needs to be tied back for hygiene and safety reasons with a small hairband or ribbon. Please make sure the children bring their coats with them every day after half term as we like to get them outside in the fresh air even in the rain!

Children are welcome to wear boots to school but need to bring their school shoes to get changed into on arrival.

Flu vaccinations

Flu vaccinations are being organised and given in school by the NHS on the 19th November to all year groups. When you receive your paperwork via email from the school, please complete your return online as soon as you are able.



Christian values

This term in our TEAMS assemblies, we have been learning about being thankful and how important it is for our mental health to remain thankful, identifying even the small things to always be grateful for.



Class photographs

On the 5th November, Tempest Photography will be in school to take the children's portraits. This year we are unable to have pre school siblings and parents into school for photos. We MAY be able to organise siblings to have their photos taken together but will have to discuss the organisation of this with the photographer beforehand as we will have to maintain safety under government guidelines. Therefore, I cannot guarantee anything at the moment.

School start time

Please remember that the register is taken at 8.55am. The bell is a signal for the teaching staff to start the day. Please do try to ensure your children are on time for school as it is disruptive for both them and the class to enter lessons late.

SCHOOL CLOSURE IN THE EVENT OF ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The decision to close the school is never taken lightly. We do try very hard to keep the school open at all times, but some of our staff have to travel quite some distance to school and if they cannot make it, it is not always possible to open and run the school safely and within the law. Senior staff are almost certainly required as they have knowledge of health and safety, medical and safeguarding procedures. Sometimes, it is necessary to wait until it is light to make an informed judgement but we do try to make a decision as early as feasibly possible.

If the school has to close, you will be sent a text message as soon as possible. Please do not ring the school as there may be no one on site. You can also check the school website:

www.bradfordabbasprimary.co.uk or visit: <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices> It will also be posted on Facebook. It is really important that we have up to date contact details for you so if you are lucky enough to have a new mobile for Christmas, please let the office have the number as soon as possible.

School organisation

There are no current plans to change any element of school organisation after half term. This means, amongst other things, we will still be unable to have hot meals on site. However Thornford School Meals are looking to liven up the packed lunches so it is worth keeping an eye on the menu options.