

## School-Wide News

### Communicating with Staff

We have received feedback from some parents and carers that some of you are finding it tricky not being able to quickly pass on messages to class teachers in the mornings. We're sorry that things aren't as fluid as they normally are and want to make sure that we keep communicating with you about your children. If something is a quick message, e.g. a change to who is collecting your child that day, you can tell the member of staff who is on the gate and ask them to pass it on to the class teacher. If you would like to have a chat with your child's class teacher or have a question that you'd like answering, please email [Southville.p@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:Southville.p@bristol-schools.uk) and ask for the teacher to give you a call. We'll get back to you as soon as we are able.

### Google Classrooms and Homework

We're currently in the process of getting set up to use Google Classrooms, which is a part of the Google platform specifically designed for education settings. The Department for Education is offering funding to all state schools to get set up and trained in either Google or Microsoft platforms in case we need to return to home learning again in the future. We are currently contingency planning for how we will run educational provision in the event of either a local or national lockdown, which I will inform you about shortly. Once we're all set up and trained, the platform is then free for the school to use in the long-term, whereas Seesaw would require us to pay an annual licence fee (quite a substantial one, at that). We will use this for years 1 to 6; Preschool and Reception will continue to use Tapestry.

We'll be in touch shortly to get your child all set up. When we're ready, we'll start setting homework on Google Classrooms so that we all get used to using the platform before needing to use it more regularly. We'll also have some printed copies of the homework available for anyone who might struggle to access the learning online. In the meantime, class teachers will set some basic skills homework for the next few weeks, focusing on reading, mental maths and spellings, allowing the children get back up-to-speed in some of these key areas.

### New Road Signs for Myrtle Street

You may have seen that our lovely new road safety signs have arrived for Myrtle Street. We're really pleased with them – if you look closely, you'll see that they have a Southville logo on the polo shirts. So far, we've had an excellent response from parents and carers to the traffic-free mornings and afternoons at Myrtle. It really helps our families to keep a bit of distance from each other as everyone feels safer walking in the street to move away from the school. Thank you again to all of you for cooperating with our request not to drive down Myrtle Street. We really appreciate it. Thank you to everyone who donated to our JustGiving page to be able to buy these. And thanks to Hello Blue, a local print and graphics company, who made these for us. I'm sure it wasn't their most exciting job, but it was useful for us!



### Flu Vaccinations

Our annual flu vaccinations for children are booked in for Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at both sites. We will be sending out consent forms with the children early next week so please look out for these in book bags. Please return them as soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2020.



### **Mental Health Support**

Here is a link for some excellent videos and podcasts on supporting children and young people's mental health.  
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/videos-podcasts/>

## **Questions from Meet the Teacher events**

Following our Meet the Teacher sessions this week, we've had a few questions that we thought would be useful to share with all of you.

### **Will Forest School start again?**

We're currently in discussion with Forestry England about this and reviewing our risk assessment internally. We'd love to start Forest School again soon. Although being outside is safer at the moment, there are a couple of sticking points that we need to try to resolve before making a decision about this. We need to be able to plan for all sorts of eventualities and if we can't safely find a way to address these issues, we are likely to need to press pause with our Forest School provision off-site. However, if we did decide that we can't do it safely, we are looking at providing some Forest School-style skills lessons on site using natural materials and tools to try to recreate the experience as best we can. We'll let you know what we're planning soon.

### **Do parents and children need passwords for Google Classrooms?**

Children from years 1—6 will be given a login and password, which we will send home to parents and carers for each child. There isn't a separate login and password for parents, so please use your child's one to see their work.

### **If a child is self-isolating then has a negative test, does that mean they come back to school??**

This very much depends on who it is who has been tested. If a child is symptomatic and gets tested, then receives a negative test result, he or she can come back to school as soon as we've received confirmation of the result and provided he or she doesn't feel ill with something else. If a child is self-isolating because a member of their group has tested positive and then he or she starts to develop symptoms then gets a negative test result, he or she still needs to continue with the 14 days of self-isolation. This is because he or she could still develop the virus in the remaining period of the 14 days.

### **If a child who tests positive self-isolates for 10 days and the rest of their group for 14 days, what does that child do after 10 days? Do they come back to school?**

This depends on a number of factors. If the child is still symptomatic after the 10 days, he or she needs to remain off school until the symptoms have all gone. If the child is well after 10 days, we would advise that he or she remains off until the rest of the cohort returns to school. This is because the staff in that year group will still be self-isolating. Also, we will do our best to keep the identity of the child who has tested positive confidential from other parents and carers and this would make it very obvious to all.



**Do parents need to look out for and report nausea and vomiting amongst children as it may be a symptom of coronavirus in children?**

Unless these symptoms are added to the government's official list of symptoms that they will test for, we will not ask you to do anything other than follow normal sickness absence procedures. If your child is poorly with other things, please keep them at home if you would normally do so and call in to let us know why your child won't be in school. If it's a tummy bug, we ask that children don't come into school until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea to prevent anyone else getting sick.

**If a child in another year group but on the same site tests positive and that year group shuts for 14 days, will parents in other year groups be informed?**

We will let you know that we have closed a year group, but that's all. The identity of the child and his or her class will be kept confidential.

### **Reception News**

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your patience and support during drop off and pick up this week. We are so proud of our Reception children for walking into their new classrooms independently and they are settling into school life brilliantly. Here are just a few reminders about what to expect and where to stand during these times.

#### Drop Off

The gate on Merrywood Road is where Reception children come into school and where we let them out. This drop off and pick up point is a one-way system. To ensure this runs as smoothly as possible, please queue on the pavement on Merrywood Road towards Stackpool Road. In the morning you can come to the gate in any order. Over the next couple of weeks we would like the children to get used to walking in from this gate to their classroom doors independently. Staff will be nearby to help and encourage your child to come in on their own. Please remember to bring a face mask to wear on site if you need to walk your child to the classroom door.

#### Pick Up

Every day there will be an order to collect your children at the end of the day. The order is as follows starting with the classroom that is furthest away from the gate:

1. Starfish
2. Jellyfish
3. Octopus

When it is your turn, please collect your child from the gate on Merrywood Road and carry on walking towards Milford Street as quickly as possible. If your child is in Starfish class, please come straight to the front of the queue. If your child is in Starfish, please position yourself near the front of the queue followed by Jellyfish and then Octopus at the back. Please be considerate of families walking to the front of the queue who may be collecting children from classes that exit before the class your child is in.



Messages

During drop off and collection times, we're sorry but staff will not be able to answer questions from parents and carers as we need to manage the start of the school day very carefully at the moment. If you have important messages or questions for our staff, please email them to the school office and they will be forwarded to the relevant members of staff. If it is an important message for that day, please phone the school office and they will ensure the message gets to the class teachers.

Timings of the Day

The timings of the days from next week are as follows:

Week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 8.35 – 12.40

Week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 8.35 – 2.55

Parent Meetings

Thank you for signing up for a slot to meet with your child's/children's teacher. Please come to the side gate and a member of staff will collect you from the Merrywood Road entrance. In order to keep everyone safe, face coverings must be worn on site and hand sanitiser used before coming in to the school grounds. Please note only one member of the family can attend these meetings so that we can limit the number of people on site at the present time.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Reception Team