



NEWSLETTER No.27

Friday 17th July 2020

[OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

This last week was a pleasure, a relief, an affirmation. Most of us spent most of the week outdoors playing, learning connecting. It felt good to have the rest of our children back with us, even if it was just for 4 days and I am hopeful that, come September, they will feel less anxious now than they might have done at the prospect of a return to school.

For most children their daily goal in going to school is not just to learn but to see their friends and to feel a sense of self-worth that only a peer group can offer. You cannot underestimate the impact of the loss of that social interaction. It is as key to their holistic development as any lesson. Human beings are fundamentally social creatures, and the brain grows in the context of meaningful human to human interaction. We therefore require a holistic recovery.

We aim to start the school year off in September with a curriculum and an approach that reconnects the children both with others and with the joy of learning. The whole school are focusing on a book called 'The Journey' by Aaron Becker. With this excellent picture book as a stimulus, we will be encouraging the children to express themselves through speaking, performing, painting, crafting, experimenting and singing.

There has been plenty of talk about the academic gaps children may or may not have and the need for teachers to work fast and effectively to assess the children thoroughly and plug any gaps. As I implied a couple of weeks back, this sounds remarkably like 'teaching' to me but what would I know! At Minchinhampton we strongly believe good learning (the kind of learning that will continue to bring you pleasure for a lifetime) is as much a relational, emotional journey as it is a knowledge and skills

building process. Of course we are not about to ignore the possible effects of the last months on children's knowledge and in turn their confidence, but equally we are not intent on burying them in assessments and gap filling immediately they walk through the door. I think a singular focus on lost knowledge fails to recognise the scale of the possible impact of this pandemic on children's lives. If we consider the definition of a relevant curriculum as 'daily lived experience', we must plan for experiences that provide the space for recovery.

Before the summer starts in earnest, a humble plea that we continue to appreciate our differences within this crisis: our different experiences, different pressures and different responses. This goes both ways of course - for some there have been positives as well as negatives found in their situations - but at the very least we should hold no assumptions, nor wield any judgements about other people's experiences and the ways they have responded. If we are to have learned anything during this time, in my humble opinion it should be the importance of appreciating difference and pulling together.

In terms of the next phase of risk assessing for September, I aim to get this to you before the end of the holidays. Classes will be in class bubbles of 30 which means little or no opportunities for interacting with other bubbles through the day. This will be a challenge both logistically and emotionally but we will just have to rise to the challenge. We will see Year 6 on the 28th August for a Leaver's extravaganza and the rest of you on the 2nd September, with new Reception pupils joining from the 7th.

Thank you all for your kind support and for being such an unusually vibrant and positive community. I hope you have the means this summer to at least enjoy each other and from all of us here at school our best wishes for your health and happiness. If you have a moment, do click on the button below to enjoy our Musical Summer Soiree in marvellous virtual form to reflect the virtuosity of all our young musicians. Thank you to all who took part, recorded and sent in videos and to Mrs Young, Mr Mann and all our peripatetic music teachers also.

I shall sign off for now with a lovely picture of the May family on the last day of term yesterday, bringing a fitting finale to this term of many bubbles.....

With very best wishes,

Nick Moss

Headteacher

**** [Click here to enjoy our Virtual Musical Soiree Summer 2020!](#) ****

**** NEWS & INFO ****

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please be aware the criteria have changed recently meaning your child(ren) may now be eligible for Free School Meals. As well as the meals benefit, the school receives an extra £1,435 per eligible child per year to provide extra support, which could make a significant difference for your child. Please click [here](#) to check for eligibility and to fill out an online application.

SCHOOL LUNCHES FROM SEPTEMBER 2020

From September we will be continuing with the packed lunch service for all school meal orders. The choices will be ham, cheese or tuna (no mayo) baguette, which will be delivered to your child(ren) along with a piece of cake or flapjack, a piece of fruit and some vegetable crudites. All allergies and dietary requirements can be catered for. Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 children are entitled to a free school lunch under the UIFSM scheme, as well as everyone receiving FSM. A charge of £2.32 per day will be applicable for all other children. We will trial a school-wide advance online ordering system for the first couple of weeks of the new term and would really appreciate your help with filling this out each week to let us know your child(ren)'s choices for the week ahead or whether you will be sending in a packed lunch from home. We will then look to move to hot school meals when this becomes feasible and will keep you informed of when this will be. *With sincere thanks for your co-operation at this time, School Office*

NASAL FLU SPRAY SURVEY

An e-mail was sent out this week to all parents/carers about arrangements for the Nasal Flu Spray immunisations in the Autumn/Winter Term 2020, including a quick online survey. Thanks to all parents/carers who have submitted their preference so far. Please click [here](#) if you would like to take part in the survey to help the school plan when the immunisations will be scheduled. *Thank you for your help in this matter.*

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SURVEY

Nailsworth Climate Action Network ("NailsworthCAN") is currently working with the local community to find out what improvements it would like to see as the Government looks to "Build Back Better" after the COVID-19 pandemic. NailsworthCAN would be very grateful if Minchinhampton parents/carers living in or near Nailsworth could assist by having a look at [this short survey](#), which should take a couple of minutes to complete. Thank you for your assistance with this.

KICK OFF SUMMER SPORTS SESSIONS

Kick Off have been working in partnership with the school to organise some summer holiday clubs and are now able to take bookings. Mr Tovey will be running these clubs with three other sports coaches and Mrs Bailey will be there for some sessions too. Multi-sports games will be organised following all social distancing guidelines, however government guidelines are changing which should mean that we are able play a number of different games, for example from next week team striking sports can be started eg. rounders. Kick Off will keep an eye on guidelines changing over the summer and will amend and change games as and when. Children will be split into bubbles with one coach leading them to minimise contact with other children. Below are more details for the clubs:

WHEN: Every Monday and Tuesday (apart from Bank Holidays) throughout the summer holiday

TIMES: Morning session (09:00-12:00) & Afternoon session (13:00-16:00)

WHERE: Minchinhampton Primary Academy

WHO: All Minchinhampton Primary Academy students from Reception to Year 6

COST: £12 per child per session

HOW TO BOOK: Email bookings@kickoffstroud.co.uk

FAMILIES GLOUCESTERSHIRE SUMMER ONLINE EDITION

The latest Families Magazine summer holiday issue is out, filled with resources and ideas to help you keep your children entertained, busy and productive during the long summer break, including fun learning ideas, sourcing books, learning to draw, safe socialising, screen free activities and details of summer camps, classes, and courses. Readers can also win a 12ft Kanga Trampoline and other goodies! Read all about it [here](#).

****** REMINDERS ******

EYE & HEARING TESTS

If your child(ren) needs an eye or hearing test, please look to arrange to get these done over the summer holidays. **Thank you**

RETURNING SCHOOL BOOKS

Over the summer holidays, please continue to search homes for books belonging to the school/class/teacher and bring them back into school in September - we are still missing a lot of school books and would be grateful if everyone can double check at home what might need bringing in. *Many thanks*

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Don't forget to join this year's Summer Reading challenge! Join the Silly squad and discover awesome books to read! You can play games, earn points and unlock badges throughout the challenge! **Click on [this link](#) to find out more.** *Enjoy and happy reading!*

CLUBS & BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Please note that in Autumn Term 1 (Weds 2nd Sept – Weds 21st Oct 2020) there will be not be any 3.15-4.15pm after-school clubs running. We will revisit this during the half term to see what we can then offer, if any, up to Christmas. Regards what we are going to be able to offer for before and after school care (Breakfast and Fun Club), we have now sent out booking forms to all parents/carers in an e-mail detailing more information. Please fill and return your forms at your earliest convenience to funclub@minchscool.net or breakfastclub@minchscool.net or get in touch with any questions. As yet, payment is not required until arrangements have been firmed up in the new term. *With sincere thanks for your understanding.*

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Children will be in school uniform as of September. A new clean change of clothes will be required daily. Thank you to all who supported the recent PTA second-hand uniform sale. It is hoped there will be another one held come the new term. If you would like to purchase school uniform from Batemans Sports, you can do so online by clicking [here](#) or by calling the shop on 01453 764320 to arrange an individual drop-in appointment.

YEAR 2 NEWS

MRS HUGGINSON'S POD

We have been impressed with the calm, happy and energetic way our pod settled back into a rather different school after so long. There's been lots of charging around outside playing together at a distance (sometimes!) The children have made jars of hope, written to their next teacher (and received replies), created wax resist ocean pictures, made small books with just one sheet of A4 paper, done hapazome and toasted marshmallows over a camp fire, amongst other things! The few days we have had together have been lovely and the children have really been pleased to see each other, which is great as they now realise that they will be Miss Tonner's Y3s in September. Good luck to you all, we are sure Miss Tonner will love working with you as much as we

have. *From Mrs Hugginson, Mrs Dawks and Mrs Chard*

MISS GITTIN'S POD

The last week of term was glorious. I managed to wave goodbye to most of my class and it was such a joy to see all the children smiling the whole week long. In our pod, we made airplanes out of wooden sticks, we created mini books, we played (a lot), we painted an under the sea wax resist picture, we used watercolours, we chatted, we danced, we learnt a bit of pirate history, we sang, we made 'jars of hope', we caught bubbles, we skipped, we played hedgehogs, we played human guess who and probably some other stuff too. On the last day, for the first time ever, Miss Gittins decided to try Mr Rickett's watery game of 'drip, drip, drop'. It is like 'duck, duck, goose' but with water! The children couldn't get enough of it! Year 2: I shall miss you ALL. But, please remember, the Year 2 team will be around in September if you need to come back and see us for a friendly chat :)

From Miss Gittins, Mrs Hoppner & Mrs Langston

MRS SAAED'S POD

This week we welcomed back the year 2s. In our pod we had a fabulously busy week making stone cairns, climbing trees and cooking chocolate spread and marshmallow wraps on the campfire. We got rather wet playing drip drip drop and we were very excited watching the bubbles on the final afternoon. Oh and Rafe found a 6 leaf clover! Thank you year 2s for being so fabulous. It was lovely to spend time with you this week and we wish you all a wonderful summer holiday.

From Mrs Saeed, Mrs Wilson and Miss Morgan

YEAR 3 & 4 NEWS

SAPPHIRE PODS

It's been nice to see everyone again and catch up with friends we've missed. Here's what's been keeping us busy this week:

Year 4 Pod - Miss Tonner

We have spent the past few days getting used to being back together again. It was a little bit strange walking into a classroom with half of the class missing, but we soon got on with it. We have spent the week playing chaos tag, beat the goalie, making pom-poms (one of us made over 20!), photo frames and a few other crafty things. Some of us have invented new games while others have just sat, chatted and caught up on what's been going on in each other's lives over the past few months. A strange end to the term no doubt, but we're glad that we got to see each other before the summer break.

Year 3 Pod - Mrs Shipton

We're really happy to be back in school even if it is for a short time. We've enjoyed being able to play with our friends and being outside all day has been brilliant as we have much more space to move around and we get to be freer. We've loved making pom-poms and photo frames as well as making up our own games using the tyres. We've been trying to make the tyres have a race down the running track with varied levels of success!

CYAN PODS

What bliss being back together and spending the week outside, doing arts and crafts, playing games and catching up with each other. Beginnings and endings are so important for us all so it was good to end our time together in such a relaxed and positive way. I haven't laughed so much in ages. Have a great summer! ***From Ms McCarron, Mrs Bugg & Mrs Bays***

ROYAL PODS

What a lovely week we have had in Royal! We were fortunate to have pitches next to each other this week, so although the Y3 could not mix with the Y4, everyone was able to see each other and wave from a distance! Everyone has been busy this week. Some of the children chose to play football while others made crafts, read books, drew pictures or chatted to their friends. We have been busy crafting, with an abundance of tangled wool

and lots of sticks. The children made dreamcatchers, butterflies and pom-poms amongst other things. During our last morning together we made colourful origami party hats. The children impressed us with their amazing musical skills too - **we are delighted to be able to share our class song with you via this [Padlet Link](#) (password: listen)** Thank you Royal class for a wonderful week filled with smiles and laughter. We loved spending the time with you and we hope you have a fab summer. *From Mrs Jackson, Miss Griffiths and Mrs Playne*

YEAR 5 NEWS

COBALT Y5 POD

A fun and busy week back - we have made paper puppets, photo frames, exploding books and had fun with a leaky water bottle science experiment. *"It was nice to see our friends and trying fun games that we have never played before. We have enjoyed being back with our teachers and having them teach us again."* *From Mrs Aldridge, Miss Smith & Cobalt Year 5 children*

SKY Y5 POD

Year 5 have had a lovely week back in school and have enjoyed catching up with friends and their teachers. They've played lots of games like football, Log Swap, Splat, The Mouse that got the Cheese and Two Truths and a Lie. In class we've played around with some beautiful science experiments involving pendulums and swinging paint cans, followed along to the "Draw With Rob" series, created explosion books, flexigons and puppy puppets. We've also been shaping up to be an impressive dance troupe by learning some Just Dance routines for Timber, Beep Beep Ima Sheep, Uptown Funk and Blue...and it's only Wednesday! This shows that Year 5 are a bunch that want to squeeze every last drop out of their week at school! So much fun! *From Mr Ricketts*

TURQUOISE Y5 POD

In Turquoise we've played lots on the field and we've made dog puppets. Cora's is called Trauma Dog. We also watched a swinging paint tin make a beautiful pattern. And then made our own patterns more mathematically. Lucy made an amazing picture of hearts within hearts within hearts...And we filmed ourselves doing things that would look cool when played backwards; have a watch [here!](#) *From Mr Weinberger*

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

As this academic year draws to a close, your PTA continues to explore options for raising funds for our wonderful school. Despite the lockdown we have been able to continue fundraising for the benefit of all our pupils with the launch of Your School Lottery. Thank you to all the parents who have signed up so far. Anyone interested can take part - just for one week, once in a while or weekly via a direct debit. It's really easy to set up and you could win up to £25,000. Please click [here](#) to sign up if you would like to. Across 12 months this initiative is on track to raise over £2,700 for the school - which will go a long way to replacing the funds we have lost due to the cancellations of the Easter Egg Hunt, Cogfest and the Summer Fair which collectively raised over £13,000 in 2019.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, baked a cake or come along and supported one of our events this year. Our pupils, parents/carers and their families, alongside local businesses and organisations all continue to give Minchinhampton Primary Academy a massive helping hand. Thank you also to Renishaw and Stroud Masons which both supported us with donations this year.

I know parents often like to show their appreciation to the teachers who have looked after their children so well across the year. If anyone would like to donate to the school instead of arranging gifts for teachers we can now take donations through [Local Giving](#) which enables the PTA as a registered charity to claim Gift Aid on all eligible gifts. This means that for every pound you donate, the PTA can claim 25p from the government. In this way £5 becomes £6.25. If you are a taxpayer and happy for us to collect Gift Aid on your donation, please ensure you select this option if you choose to make a gift.

We have ambitious plans for the future. More parent socials, developing a sustainability strategy for all our events and most of all, continuing to raise funds for our amazing school while having as much fun as we possibly can. We're all in this together, and every parent at the school is automatically a member of the PTA. Wishing you all a wonderful summer break: Stay safe and well.

LATEST GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline incl. change to opening hours

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling 0800 046 8687. From Monday 27 July, the helpline will be closed on weekends. We will continue to be available to answer your calls Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme: Today, the Government has confirmed that the school fruit and vegetable scheme, which was paused during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, will resume as normal in autumn when all children return to school. This scheme provides daily fresh produce for pupils in key stage 1 and helps every child have a healthy, happy start to life.

10 top tips to encourage children to read in support of Reading Together Day

To support the very first Reading Together Day, we have published [tips for parents and carers of primary-aged children](#) to help them encourage and support their children to read. They contain ideas on how to plan reading opportunities at home and make reading enjoyable and engaging, including during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Barnardo's 'See Hear Respond' service

See Hear Respond is a service provided across England by Barnardo's and other national and local community-based organisations in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The programme has been created to help children and young people in England who are experiencing harm and increased adversity during this period by providing support to those who are not being seen by social care or other key agencies. Working with its partners, Barnardo's aims to reduce the likelihood of harm and ensure other support and protective networks are in place. See Hear Respond accept referrals from any source either through the Freephone number 0800 151 7015 or via the [online referral hub](#).

Plans for all children and young people to return to full-time education at the start of the autumn term

The guidance for the full opening of schools, early years and colleges at the start of the autumn can be found here:

- [Full opening of schools from the start of the autumn term](#)
- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)
- [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

Covid Summer Food Fund

The [Covid Summer Food Fund](#) will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM) to be supported over the summer holiday period.

Handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides. Please see the [latest guidance and video on handwashing](#) from the NHS. The [e-Bug project](#) is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. E-Bug has published posters on hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes, to display in bathrooms, classrooms and shared spaces.

[Letters Home](#)

Letters about Bikeability & CAT Tests have been sent home for pupils in Year 4 going into Year 5 from Sept. Please click [here](#) to access these letters via the school website.

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED READING THIS NEWSLETTER
VERY BEST WISHES FROM ALL AT MINCHINHAMPTON C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY**

[SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

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