

## Newsletter

12.06.2020

Another successful week of both school and home learning, thanks to you wonderful parents and our amazing staff. The children have adapted to social distancing and still continue to love coming to school, which is very positive. The attendance at Charlton Mackrell is among the highest in the county and our procedures have proved to be very robust to safely take almost maximum numbers in the specified year groups. This week we will welcome back Mrs Shields and Miss Botterill.

Congratulations to Leo who is our art competition winner of the week. His picture was inspired by an early morning visit to Glastonbury Tor.



This week we dug our first potatoes and the reception children enjoyed helping. We have strawberries, raspberries, lettuce, peas, beans and even carrots growing, so lockdown has revived our allotment. Please see the pictures on our website home page.

Looking ahead, the government has said that schools in England should be open for Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and that the other year groups will not go back to school until the next academic year. The team have been discussing the situation and have seen the huge benefits both mentally and academically of children being in school and with their friends. We know that parents have done an amazing teaching job over these last few months, but children benefit from social interaction.

We are hoping to gauge parental feelings. Would our families prefer to stick with the current arrangement until the end of term? Would parents prefer more year groups to return to school? This would mean a reduced timetable for the current year groups who are attending. Our tentative timetable suggests that each year group could attend in their own bubble for two days a week. Wednesdays and after school on Fridays would be deep cleans and planning. At this stage, I am not even sure if this is agreeable with Somerset County Council or our governors.

The structure would suggest Mrs Carter-Rice with Reception for two days and then Year 1 for two days. Miss Botterill would be with Year 2 for two days and Year 3 / 4 for two days. Mrs Marklew would be with Year 4 for two days one week and Year 5 for two days the next week. An HLTA would take Year 4 and Year 5 on the alternating weeks, with another TA. Mrs Shields would take Year 6 on two or three days per week. We would still have the facility to operate the Key Worker bubble with Mrs Thrippleton and Mrs Benn. If we had more year groups in school, the home learning would have to be reduced, as teaching staff simply would not have the time to teach all week and provide home learning to the current level.

We would still be required to have staggered start times and slightly shorter days, due to the amount of cleaning that is now required.

There are a number of issues with all the ideas put forward. We have even considered a marquee on the school field, but this poses problems with staffing an extra bubble and toilets and hand washing. For September we may have to consider other community buildings, but for this term these options are not viable. Risk assessments, safeguarding, first aiders and deep cleaning would all need addressing if we used an off-site facility. These assessments and procedures have all been completed for the school site.

Preschool – These suggestions **do not** apply to preschool children. Preschool will continue under the current arrangements and hours are allocated by negotiation with the school.

Please respond to the Parentmail form.

### **Laptops and masks**

Sue Costain, a local resident, has very enthusiastically made scrubs for our cleaning crew, masks for staff and started a laptop scheme, where old laptops are brought to life to benefit our children. Whilst we are fortunate to have high quality laptops and tablets for all the children to use, this scheme would bring extra resources to our children, so if you have a laptop that no longer works please drop it into school and Sue will see if it can be repaired.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to hearing from you.

Rebecca and Team CM