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Federation Newsletter

16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parents Meetings

The term has really got momentum and it has been so gratifying to see all the children settled, happy and focused in their lessons. The children have coped exceptionally well with the transition to class learning and are really engaged in their learning despite the disruption that they have experienced. Understandably, some specific gaps have appeared in the skills and knowledge of the children. The permanent teaching staff as well as two dedicated catch-up teachers will be providing targeted small group and one to one support where gaps have been evidenced and identified. We will collaborate with you via TEAMS parent meetings in the weeks beginning 9th and 16th November by offering guidance as how to best support your child's learning.

Reading at Home

Reading is essential to knowledge and growth and to help you to support your child's acquisition and development of this essential skill, we will be sending a reading book home that provides the right level of challenge to your child. The book will come home in a hygienic/wipeable popper pouch, which for the time being, will be used in place of the canvas book bags. For the younger children, it may also contain wipeable sounds and reading cards to rehearse and share with you. The pouch will also contain a reading record to keep track of your child's reading and will contribute to their success on our reading reward schemes. Please ensure the children bring this wipeable reading wallet to school **EVERY DAY**. Many thanks for your continued support!

Packed Lunches

Congratulations to our new Reception Cohorts for settling into the lunch routine so smoothly this week. We are very pleased with how well you are adjusting to the new routines and extra time at school.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to remind all parents about our Healthy Eating policy across the Federation. Packed lunches should not include:

- Salty snacks such as crisps - instead include seeds, vegetables and fruit
- Confectionery such as chocolate bars and sweets
- Sugary drinks, such as squash and fizzy drinks (even if labelled as 'sugar-free', 'no-added sugar' or 'reduced sugar' as these drinks can contribute to tooth decay) - Water only in water bottles please!

Little Roots

Well done to our Little Roots children for settling in so well over the past few weeks, you have all been brilliant! We would love to add your pictures to our **All About Me** board so please can parents either send them in with the children or upload them to Tapestry. We also want to remind parents that items brought into school (bags, spare clothes, wellies etc), must all be named.

Finally, can all Little Roots parents ensure that your child brings in a piece of fruit for each day they attend Pre-School. Many thanks!

Flu Immunisation

Please remember to complete the online consent form for your child/children's flu immunisation **before** 23rd October 2020. Even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccination you must complete the form. The consent form can be found at www.saint.sompar.nhs.uk.

The Somerset SAINT (School Aged Immunisation Team) will be visiting our schools on the following dates:

- Croscombe Primary School = 2nd November 2020
- Stoke St Michael Primary School = 11th November 2020

Head Lice & Nits

We have been informed of a case of head lice in the school and would like to remind all parents to please ensure you are regularly checking for head lice and nits. If your child does have them, please check and treat everyone in the household immediately using a detection comb and medicated lotion/spray if necessary. You will need to re-comb on days 5,9,13 & 17 to ensure that they have been successfully eliminated.

Please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> for more information about how to check and treat head lice and nits.

ParentPay Meal Bookings

If you want your child to have a school lunch, please ensure you have ordered it on ParentPay by Wednesday of the previous week – at the latest! If you have not ordered a meal for your child, they will not be provided with one.

School Applications 2021

Just a reminder that if your child is due to start or transfer school for September 2021, it is now time to make your application.

- The deadline for primary phase (Reception) applications is 15th January.
- The deadline for secondary phase (Year 6) applications is 31st October.

Letters will NOT be sent out to families reminding them and applications must be made online by visiting www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/

Bags 2 School

The PTA and FOCS are organising the Bag2School scheme which helps to raise money for both schools. This year's dates for the B2S pickups are:

Croscombe: 9am on 6th November 2020

Stoke St Michael: 9am on 11th November 2020

Bag 2 School is a free fundraising scheme, established in 1999, for anyone wanting to raise funds using a resource EVERYONE has got in their wardrobe – unwanted clothes! They accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE*:

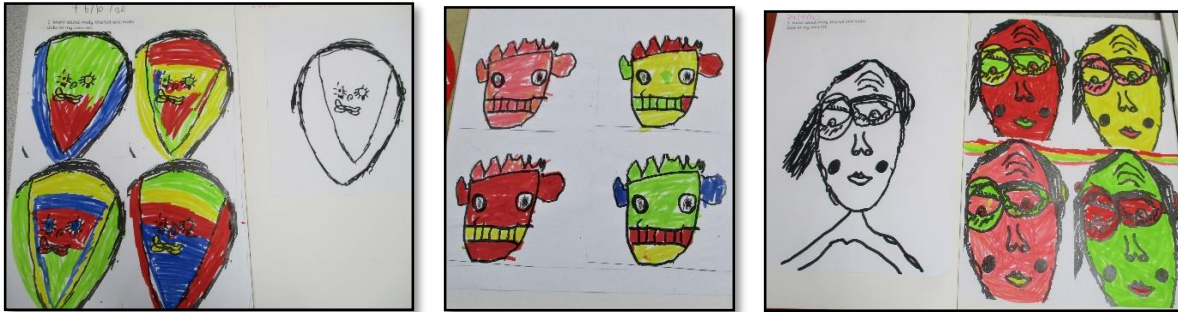
- Men's, Ladies' & Children's clothing
- Jewellery, scarves & ties
- Paired shoes (tied together)
- Lingerie & socks
- Handbags, hats, bags, & belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen & curtains
- Household towels & bedding (sheets, pillow cases & duvet covers)

Bags for parents to fill will be going our next week with the children so please start checking through your wardrobes and draws for any unwanted items!

Artistic Acorns

Finally, we wanted to share with you some of the excellent work our Acorns classes have been doing in their Art lessons.

The Croscombe children have been learning about the work of Andy Warhol and have produced some wonderful portraits in the iconic 'Warhol' style.



And Acorns at Stoke have been studying the work of Vincent Van Gogh and have been using sunflowers as the inspiration for their still life drawings. To see more of the children's art work please go the Latest News pages of the school website.



Once again, **CONGRATULATIONS** to all our Celebration Award Winners for this week and last week. Your hard work and effort is definitely worth celebrating!

Best wishes for the week ahead,

Mel Vincent and Bill Moore
Co-Head Teacher

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Let Your Light Shine

