

BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust

'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10

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Update 6: 25 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this update finds you well. We come to halfway through this half term and we really hope that we will be back in school as soon after the break as possible. I hope the children enjoy their live sessions this week. It was so lovely to see them! I've just uploaded my next story to Teams and it will be on Tapestry soon too. I hope the children enjoy it.

This week sees our first 'Theme Day' on Friday 29 January. This links with National Storytelling Week which begins on 30 January. On 29 January, the teachers will plan lots of activities to do with stories. This will give the children a different feel to the day in terms of 'normal' lessons, as they would have in school if we planned a theme day like this. We hope they enjoy the activities and that they spend a bit of time just reading for pleasure!



Children's Mental Health Week is coming up soon too. We are going to call it 'Well-Being Week' and during that week the children will have some afternoon activities linked to this. Have a look at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk> - there are lots of resources there for parents and carers.

Parents and carers might also want to look at some NSPCC resources which are available. The resources cover issues such as: Online Safety, Taking to Children worried about Coronavirus, Supporting children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and much more. The link is pasted below.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>



Coronavirus (COVID-19)
advice and support for
parents and carers

Whether you're working from home with your kids or supporting children with anxiety due to coronavirus, we've got tips and advice for you.

Staff COVID - 19 testing - information for parents of children eligible to be in school.

The COVID – 19 Lateral Flow Testing programme (LFT) for all school staff will be starting soon. As many as 1 in 3 people may be carrying the virus but not show any symptoms (asymptomatic). This is why NHS England and the DFE have planned the LFT programme for education staff in order to identify these people to enable them to isolate and reduce onward transmission.

In line with the Government guidance, testing will take place twice weekly in the mornings if possible. If a member of staff gets a positive result from the LFT, they are required to self-isolate and book a confirmatory full COVID - 19 PCR test at a test centre.

Staff will notify school if they have received a positive result by 8 30 am if possible and we will send a text to any affected 'bubble' parents to advise that those pupils should not attend school and should isolate for 10 days. Once the result of the PCR test has been received, we will send a further update to families to advise if the pupils can return to school or should continue to isolate for the remainder of the isolation period.

We appreciate that sending a text first thing in the morning just before getting to school to advise pupils must not attend is very short notice and may present challenges for parents. However, this is necessary to minimise the onward transmission of the virus if contact has been made with a positive case. Thank you for your understanding.

To minimise the number of people in school each day, I again kindly ask Critical Worker parents to use the school facility only if they need to as we want to minimise the number of people on site each day if we can. The most recent Government update reiterated the following:

'Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.'

Any staff or pupils with **symptoms** of Coronavirus must stay at home and self isolate until they take a full COVID-19 test and only return to school once a negative result has been received.

Communication

- For issues other than home learning or if the email is personally confidential or a safeguarding concern then please use the office email as usual.
- In these anxious times I will be checking the office emails myself once each day at the weekend for any urgent safeguarding issues or if symptoms or a positive case of COVID-19 is reported amongst the in-school community. Non urgent emails will be picked up on Monday morning as usual.

Home Learning

- Our Remote Learning Strategy has now been approved by the Local Governing Board and is on the school website in the COVID-19 section.
- We are still seeing a good response on Teams which is great. If you are experiencing any technical issues, then please contact us and we will try and help you.
- As instructed in the Government guidance, we have to monitor engagement with remote learning. We will be sensitively contacting you if there has been no apparent home learning done as yet, not in a negative way or to pressurise any parent but to support and to offer help if necessary. Please contact us if you are experiencing any difficulties. We know how daunting this can seem - especially if parents are trying to juggle working at home and helping with home learning. Please get in touch with us if you need support.

Keeping Safe on Teams.

- Please do supervise your child on TEAMS where possible, and definitely in any live session.
- Teams' activity is monitored daily by members of SLT.
- If you need to speak to a teacher about any aspects of remote learning, then I ask you kindly please use the home learning email home.learning@kcs.bwmat.org FAO class teacher rather than the online chat or the office email please.
- Parents should not use the online chat to talk to each other please. Any queries should be sent to the class teacher as above.

- The online chat is a platform that can be seen by all the children and should **only** be used by the children for greetings/children to talk to the teacher or to each other about specific learning tasks or to ask for support/feedback/guidance. (For younger pupils, parents may of course need to type their comments for them)
- Children and parents should not upload any documents/resources/advice/issues to the online chat. If this happens, we will delete them as you will appreciate that it is the teachers' role to do this.
- If we deem any use of the chat by parents or children as inappropriate or unsuitable, then those messages will be removed as soon as is possible, as they are on view to the whole class and we reserve the right to withdraw the chat function for your child if we have further concerns.
- Staff will respond to the children as quickly as they can on the Teams chat. Bear with them as they need breaks of course and they are also on rota in school with our 3 key worker bubbles.
- Parents have been sent guidelines and a permission slip for pupils to attend any live sessions. These must be returned to school before we can admit pupils to live sessions.

Thoughts for this week.

Our Value this term is **Responsibility** and this week I was going to tell the children a story from the Bible known as 'The Lost Sheep'. We were going to look at how the Shepherd cared about his sheep so much that he had to search for one that got lost, even though it was just one sheep amongst many others. Here is the story if you want to read it together.



There once was a shepherd who had 100 sheep. He loved them all and knew them all by name. Every day he would lead them to fresh grass to feed on and to fresh water to drink. The shepherd looked after the sheep well and made sure they would not be in danger from wild animals. The sheep knew their shepherd's voice well and trusted him completely. They were happy in his care. The sheep also knew each other as they had grown up together.

One day while the sheep were being led back home, one sheep got distracted and did not follow his shepherd.

At first, he wasn't too worried. He was too busy looking around this new place. However, it wasn't long before he realised how alone he was, and he got scared. "Why did I not follow my shepherd?" he thought.

Meanwhile on the other side of the hill, the shepherd realised one sheep was missing. He was worried. The other sheep were worried too.



The shepherd made sure the 99 sheep were safe and he went to find the missing one. "I must find him" he said. "I will not stop looking until I find the lost sheep".

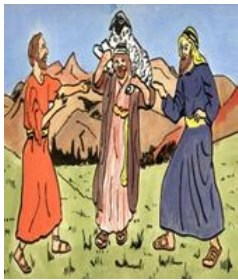


The lost sheep realised how foolish he had been not to follow his shepherd. "I hope my shepherd comes to look for me. I will never leave the flock again" he thought.

At last, the shepherd found the lost sheep and rescued him.



The shepherd was delighted to see the lost sheep again. He carried it back to the flock high on his shoulders. The lost sheep was delighted to be reunited with his shepherd. He felt safe again!



When the shepherd arrived back to the flock, he called out to his neighbours "Rejoice with me for the sheep that was lost has been found."

Christians see this story or 'parable' as a way to understand about how much they are loved and cared for. Jesus says in the Bible that He is the 'Good Shepherd' (John. 10: 11)

Jesus leads just as the shepherd leads his sheep. Christians might say that we are like the sheep in the parable. The lost sheep got distracted and lost his way, he was not following the shepherd anymore. Christians believe that Jesus does not give up on anyone. He is always there calling and looking for people to follow Him.

Whatever our beliefs, I am sure we can connect with the care and love shown by the shepherd in this story. We would have talked together in school about how we can care for each other and how we have a responsibility to each other as part of our school family.

A prayer:

Dear God,

We thank you for your love.

We thank you for all the people who show love to us.

We thank you for the care we show each other

Please help us to spread more love in the world by behaving in loving ways.

Please help us to do something every day to show people that we care.

Amen.

At the moment, it can feel like things may never change and this lockdown will go on forever, we are living in hope that it won't. We all want to get back to school and have things back to normal. I saw this picture yesterday by Charlie Mackesy, the author of 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse'. Let's hope our dark clouds leave soon..



I hope you have a good week, take care, stay safe and God Bless.

Mrs Thomson
Headteacher