



# Coombe Bissett Primary

## Newsletter 13 (start of Term 5)



### WELCOME BACK AND DATE CHANGES

Welcome back to a beautiful Term 5 full of sunshine and smiles. We hope you had a wonderful Easter. We are all delighted that children have returned so smart and tidy and so ready to learn.

This Term, as well as the increased focus on accelerated learning and great learning power behaviour, we have some exciting activities such as:

- May dances – these have been moved to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May in the hope that we will be allowed to have Parents on site to watch (probably in class groups only). We will keep you updated as currently guidance has not changed and parents are not allowed to attend performances.
- First Aid lessons from Wiltshire Air Ambulance – this is on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Please note that we will also be having a non-uniform day that day to raise funds for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Children should attend school in Yellow/Green and donate £1 to this amazing charity
- Body Percussion from Ollie Turner (one of the founders of STOMP) – this is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May and all children should come to school in PE kit that day.
- Interteam Sports Tournaments in the last week of term 5.
- Lots of planting by all the children at some point this term.

### COVID SAFETY MEASURES

Our COVID safety measures continue. Please can all parents / grandparents:

- remember to wear a face mask on the school site unless they have medical exemption. This is obligatory and is a condition of access to our site
- continue to maintain 2m distance from other adults on the playground continue to be vigilant for symptoms and to err on the side of caution when considering attendance
- continue to follow track and trace and isolation guidance

Please note that stay and play / celebration of learning / parent forums have been cancelled this term

### PARENT / TEACHER CONSULTATIONS NEXT WEEK

Thank you to all those who have signed up. Schools do not normally do 3x consultations a year, it is a considerable burden on staff, but we have decided that in these unprecedented times it is vital to hold these this term for the benefit of parents. Staff have been busy assessing learning and have identified programs to close any gaps – these will be shared with you at the consultations.

To continue to keep everyone safe: only one parent will attend; masks to be worn; there will be gaps between for wiping down seats / tables; there is no congregation point so please do not enter until the teacher indicates.

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Parents of Oak should use the Oak gate / trip-trap bridge. Parents of Elm should use the fire escape door on the playground. Parents of Fir should use the Fire escape on the staff carpark. Parents of Ash should use the hall doors on the playground.

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## VALUES

This Term our school value is CREATIVITY.

We will be focusing on:

- sowing the seeds – to create a great place to live and learn
- create in me a clean heart – to create a better version of ourselves
- always give thanks for everything – great manners, being thankful for and looking after creation
- solving problems for the better – as part of Christian Aid week identifying how we can take action to make things better for others
- go on...open the door = Pentecost – making good choices to create a wonderful place to be, and a wonderful world.

The bible stories we will be focusing on with the children are:

- Creation Stories – Genesis 1-2
- Baptism of Jesus – Mark 1:9-12
- Sowing the seeds – Luke 8: 4-8, 11-15

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## NEW AREAS / NEW FENCES

New fences have gone up to keep the children safe in areas so we can increase our outdoor learning because here at Coombe Bissett Primary we are passionate about outdoor learning.

- Looms for art / Posts for den building / a fire-pit / a pizza oven / wildlife areas are being finalised in the Forest school area. We look forward to the official opening of this later this term.
- The trim trail area has been made safer so that staff can use this area even more with children knowing they are safe within one space. The fences around the far walls of the playground reduce the risk of injury as a small number of children were jumping over these. They will also create display spaces for our Active maths / Active English we will be developing.
- KS2 classes are in the process of having their outdoor spaces improved this term.
- Ash class are designing and making a worship centre piece on the field for increased outdoor worship.
- The reflection garden is nearing completion as a space for children to be reflective. We look forward to the official opening of this later this academic year.
- Additional planting areas have been created so that all children can plant and enjoy growing and caring for creation.

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## STAFFING NEWS

It is with deep sadness that we are announcing that Mrs Macaulay has decided to retire at the end of this academic year this July. Mrs Macaulay has been at Coombe Bissett for 19 years and has been an amazing teacher to hundreds of children, and an amazing colleague to all of the staff.

Every child in this school has benefitted from her outstanding care and excellent teaching. She will be hugely missed by all of us, pupils, staff, governors and parents – but not before we have embarrassed her with lots of celebrations of her time here (watch this space!).

We will begin the process of organising someone to fill her shoes (although we know this will never truly happen as she has been such a pillar of our lovely school). We will inform parents once a replacement has been secured. In the meantime I am sure we will all do our very best to make the summer term a memorable one for Mrs Macaulay and for all of us, together.

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## KS1 (OAK AND ELM) READING BOOK RETURNS

Next week will see a short pause of the usual approach to KS1 Reading Scheme books.

KS1 (Oak and Elm) parents, please can you ensure ALL reading books issued by the school are returned on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April so that these can be collated and additional texts for purchase can be identified.

Alternative reading arrangements will be in place for this short period of organisation and normal service will then resume.

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## HELPING PARENTS PREPARE FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR – EARLY NOTIFICATION

### PE KIT ON PE DAYS

One of our many successes during COVID has been the decision to come to school in PE kit on PE days. It has resulted in increased PE time for the children. As a result, we will be continuing with this approach this academic year and next academic year.

### INSET DAYS AND TERM DATES

To help parents to book holidays for the next academic year outside of term time we have decided to block our Inset days around the Autumn Half term once again.

Term 1	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> September to Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October School will be closed for INSET days on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wed 1<sup>st</sup> September</li><li>• Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October</li><li>• Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October</li><li>• Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October</li></ul>
Term 2	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
Term 3	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Term 4	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Term 5	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
Term 6	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June to Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> July School will be closed for INSET day on Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> July

Other dates, such as events and parent consultations, for the academic year 2021/22 will be released in September.

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## ATTENDANCE TERM 4

Whole School	96.9%
FSM	91.45%
SEN	97.37%
Persistent Absence (those below 90%)	7.3% of school
Reception	99.4%
Year 1	94.7%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	99.6%
Year 6	95.9%

Congratulations on the attendance figure for Term 4 full return. This is the school's best attendance in a few years and puts us now broadly in line with the annual National attendance figure. Our Persistent Absenteeism has dramatically reduced, and whilst it is still above National (and so there is still some work to do) it has improved dramatically on recent years.

Although schools will not be measured on attendance this year, as they usually are each year, it is still wonderful to see improved attendance rates.

Thank you everyone for all your efforts, especially in such challenging times with the need to be extra cautious! This is excellent and to be celebrated by all.

It was a very close competition but the Attendance trophy for Term 4 goes to Year 5.

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### KS1 HERBY-HEADS GARDENING PROJECT

Please can all KS1 (Oak and Elm) children bring in on Monday an empty, clean, label removed 2L plastic bottle (e.g. milk, drink bottle). We will be using these next week to create a 'herby-heads' gardening project.

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