



June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils

This week we have seen over 60% of our Year 6 pupils return safely to school. It has been wonderful to welcome them back and to hear them learning in the "Bubbles". So many have shared their enjoyment of the online resources and it is clear that parents have been superb in supporting that learning. Thank you so much for sharing your stories. I was also delighted to hear that the government have agreed to continue the FSM support throughout the summer holidays. We will remain in direct contact with our families who currently are in receipt of vouchers to advise further, when we have the details.

July 2020

We finally heard earlier this week that where schools have capacity, Year 8 pupils in middle schools might return to school before the summer. I am sorry this information has not been provided sooner as we have been involved with lengthy conversations with the DFE and Regional Schools Commissioner on this matter.

We would wish to see our Year 8 pupils to assist with the academic and pastoral transition process and give them an opportunity to say their farewells to both their teachers and to each other. The school however is currently operating at maximum capacity due to the increased number of Key Worker and Vulnerable family children attending and additional Year 6 pupils attending every day. We have no further additional spaces or spare staff capacity as class sizes have to remain small to adhere to the 2m distancing rule. Currently only 6 - 9 pupils can fit into a classroom where 25 - 30 children once sat. Therefore, to enable Year 8 to attend we are planning to invite tutor groups in during the last week of term starting on Friday 10 July as small bubbles. This will not be a full time provision for that week but our hope is to provide a day for each tutor group. In order to staff this Year 6 will have their last day at school on Wednesday 8 July so that classrooms can be prepared for Year 8 to use these spaces.

Information that is more detailed will be sent both to Year 6 and Year 8 parents as soon as possible.

I am mindful that for Year 5 and Year 7 families this has been such a long time away from school. You have been so understanding and patient and I do fully appreciate that trying to maintain an interest in learning after such a long time is difficult for many families, but thank you for sharing excellent work on our WOW wall. When we return in September, the staff will be looking very closely at the curriculum offer for the next academic year, in order to help support the gaps that will have inevitably appeared during lockdown. We will also engage in a substantial wellbeing programme to support the mental health of our pupils as they return to formal education.

September 2020

As we look ahead to September and the new academic year, clearly some measures to prevent the spread of COVID19 will remain in action. Whilst we wait for some more clarity on this, I would like to inform parents and pupils that, in line with a number of other Frome schools, **uniform will not be obligatory from September to December 2020** to allow for more frequent washing of clothing. We are eagerly waiting to hear from the government, hopefully at the end of this week, for further information on what Academic provision may look like for schools from September. In addition, I am

'Let your light shine before others' Matthew 5 v 16

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also awaiting a letter from the Somerset Director of Education, Mr Julian Wooster to pass onto you regarding the potential provision for the Autumn term. In the meantime, we have worked hard, alongside our partner schools to facilitate the transition programmes for Year 4-5 and 8-9 and this week the process of recruiting a new Head Teacher for Selwood Academy from January 2021 is currently in full swing. Trustees will inform parents of the outcome as soon as they are able.

Safer walking and cycling to college

Frome Town Council has launched an interactive map to capture ideas around how to make our streets safer for walking and cycling. They would love to hear your ideas on how we can enable more people to walk and cycle to college. Please visit and comment on the map here:

<http://walkridefrome.commonplace.is/>

SEN Review As you may be aware, Somerset Local Area (Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group) were inspected between the 9 and 11 March 2020, with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) finding that the Local Area has significant weaknesses.

The Local Area has to draw up a plan so they improve on the inspectors' findings and are expected to listen to local families as part of this work. Somerset Parent Carer Forum has organised a survey to collect your views and ensure these are reflected in the plan. Please complete the following short survey to help the Local Authority plan for improvements to their SEN provision. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WSOAsurvey>.

With sincere best wishes to you all



Jean Hopewood
Headteacher