NEWSLETTER 29

14st May 2020

Rode Early Bird and Stay and Play Team

bookingsatrodeandnorton@gmail.com

OFSTED Registration: EY489041

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN SOMERSET

Dear Parents/Carers

Prime Minister's Announcement – Coronavirus and Schools

The Government is asking educational settings to prepare to extend provision beyond the current arrangements, from the beginning of June, depending on the national position with the COVID-19 virus.

Initially the extension of provision will involve early years settings/nurseries and primary schools - Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 only, with some face to face support for Years 10 and 12 – you can find the full details here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settingsinformation-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educationalsettings-from-1-june.

Until the 1 June at least the current DfE guidance remains in place which is that schools and early years providers are still 'closed' to all, but the children of essential and key workers or vulnerable children as defined in the current guidance. This can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-schoolclosures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing .

From June onwards settings and schools' priority will be to continue to make provision available for vulnerable children and children of key workers. Not all schools or settings will be able to offer full time provision to the identified year groups given the guidance they have to follow around pupil numbers, safe working and also staff availability. This may lead to a range of arrangements being put in place e.g. part-time provision, staggered start and finish times, and short weeks.

Headteachers and Early Years leaders will be contacting you to advise what provision they will be able to make as soon as they are able to. Schools will receive the full support of Somerset County Council services including public health to plan the extension of provision. Each educational setting is different, and we all need to support the professionalism and judgement of education leaders who will be making difficult decisions over the next few weeks and months, based on the context of their school, setting and community.

I appreciate that this position may cause difficulties for some of you but I would ask that you understand that early years providers, and headteachers and staff in schools have been working under a huge amount of pressure during 'lockdown' and they need time to plan in detail and make adequate preparations in order to be able to 're-open' for your children, safely and effectively

Finally, thank you for all that you are doing during these incredibly challenging times to support and work with your local school or early years setting.

Yours sincerely
Julian Wooster
Director of Children's Services

EXTENDING SCHOOL OPENING UPDATE

We are currently in the planning stage in order to welcome more children back to school as soon as we are able. We are excited at the thought of seeing more children but also very anxious for their safety and that of our staff. Until we have a plan in place that has been thoroughly risk assessed we are reluctant to raise your hopes of an imminent return. However I can tell you that we are planning for a partial and part-time opening of Gruffalo and Elmer classes from 8th June. We will be using the week of the 1st June to ensure our site at Norton St Philip is as safe as possible for your children to return. This allows us time to make essential safety preparations and, in line with most other Frome schools, gives us the wisdom of a further week to see the effect of the loosening of lockdown. Next week we will be able to give you an idea of what learning will look like for these children and most importantly what safety measures are in place so that you can all make an informed decision about whether your child returns to school or not. The decision is yours and there will be no penalty for non-attendance.

We will continue provision for the children of our Key workers and vulnerable children on our Rode site. However, from 8th June this provision will begin to change from a solely 'care' provision to mirroring our Home learning activities for Years 2, 3 and 4. In addition we are aiming to plan a Transition week at the end of term for our Y4s so that they have a chance to say goodbye to each other and to our staff at this very important time. More details of all of these plans will be provided next week.

Finally, talking about leavers, I would like to inform you all that my retirement has temporarily been postponed until Christmas 2020, so that I can guide our Federation through these challenging times, enjoy a more normal term at the end of my career and give the Governors time to appoint my successor.

RIVER DEEP, MOUNTAIN HIGH

And to cheer you all up here's a link to the amazingly talented children & staff of Gruffalo Class singing River Deep, Mountain High. This is what our Federation really is about……..
https://youtu.be/utACdCJLCuE
Thanks for making me smile Team Gruffalo!
Carolyn Tommey: Executive Headteacher Rode and Norton St Philip School Federation

MENTAL HEALTH HELPLINE NOW AVAILABLE 24/7 TO SUPPORT SOMERSET COMMUNITIES

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's CAMHS and Young Somerset are joining forces with the Mental Health Alliance to deliver a 24/7 Mental Health Helpline. Expanding on the existing successful Somerset Mindline service, the round-the-clock helpline will make it quicker and easier for people in Somerset to get the right advice they need for their mental health and wellbeing.

Open 24 hours a day, seven-days a week, it is open to people of all ages who need urgent mental health support. The helpline on **01823 276892** is the **first port of call for mental health help** – it is operated by people in your local area who will know how best to support you. They are providing second-stage support to Mindline call handlers where the needs of children & young people may need further, on-going support. Both CAMHS and Young Somerset have access to their own provision and can guide, support and broker a range of partner services for callers. For more information, please visit here.

In addition please find below the link to this week's Wellbeing Bulletin with a theme of **Give**

https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/bulletin&id=75

This edition also includes a link for this year's Mental Health Awareness Week (18th – 24th May), with a theme of Kindness.

These Wellbeing Bulletins support the 5 Ways to Wellbeing and link with the Public Health Covid-19 Campaign - Healthy, Happy and Safe at home.

The Wellbeing Bulletin offers:

- Advice & tips
- Activity ideas
- Weblinks & apps
- Mindful practices

PE LESSONS FROM IG SPORTS COACHING

Ian Groves is producing PE lessons that you can access from home. They are completely free of charge and are available on his YouTube channel or Facebook page both under 'IG Sports Coaching'. Live PE lesson every Wednesday alternating between 11:00am & 2pm sessions. Here are Ian's contact details for your information:

Ian Groves
Director
FLP Sports Co-ordinator
IG Sports Coaching Ltd
07855 533141
ian@igsportscoaching.co.uk
www.igsportscoaching.co.uk

CARE FOR CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS

Rode School will remain open from **Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May** to care for the children of key workers who cannot be cared for safely at home. Should you require this

essential care, or if you anticipate needing this provision from 1st June please contact me on ctommey@educ.somerset.gov.uk

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a safeguarding concern during this period of closure please contact one of our Safeguarding Team:
Mrs Muxworthy gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk,
Mrs Slade kslade@educ.somerset.gov.uk or
Mrs Tommey ctommey@educ.somerset.gov.uk.
Or telephone the school office at Rode on 01373 830523.