

# RODE AND NORTON ST PHILIP SCHOOL FEDERATION: NEWSLETTER 17

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

[rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk](http://rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk)

Rode Early Bird and Stay and Play Team

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OFSTED Registration: EY489041

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Message from Mrs Muxworthy

As we come to the end of our first full week of 'Lockdown Learners' and 'Virtual School' I think it is time to take a breath and give yourselves a pat on the back. Changing the way we operate as a school and the way you operate as a family at home has not been easy but as we end week 2 of term it feels as though we are all beginning to find a new rhythm. Your support for the children at home and for the staff has been fabulous.

The staff have been working really hard providing focused education in school and developing our remote offer for home learners. We are all on a steep learning curve, along with you at home, becoming more familiar with new technology, working out what it can do and making mistakes as we learn. We are trying to strike a balance between screen time and practical hands-on learning as appropriate to different year groups. Some teachers have been experimenting with Zoom, MS Sway, making videos, Purple Mash and Power-Point. I am proud of the way in which the staff are embracing these new challenges, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and modelling what it means to be a lifelong learner to the children. If anybody has any positive feedback, concerns or indeed questions with regards to home learning please contact me [gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk).

Your children are yet again demonstrating their resilience, adapting to their new situations and continuing to surprise us with their creativity and determination.

If this doesn't sound like your child and you are struggling with home learning, which we probably all will at some point, then please get in touch with class teachers, other parents or myself for support.

We have six school values that we focus on across the year and this term's value is very appropriately 'Hope'. I spotted my first snowdrop this week whilst out on a walk with Gruffalo Class, a reminder that Spring is coming and Winter will pass. I will be introducing the theme of Hope to the children next week in my first whole school video assembly. **Look out for the link** that will be included in class planning next week.

## Thank you to Mrs Tommey

On her very last day in school in December, Mrs Tommey visited every class in the school and shared with them the wonderful leaving present she had prepared for us. Wrapped in a beautiful bag were 19 newly-published, hardback children's books, carefully hand-picked from 'Mr. B's Emporium of Reading Delights' in Bath, to represent Carolyn's 19 years at the school. This was such a generous gift of over £300 worth of books. Mrs Tommey chose each

book for particular reasons and they are all gorgeously illustrated. We will be splitting them between our two school libraries and I know they will bring a great deal of pleasure for many years to come.

**Homework:** We must thank Mrs Tommey. Whilst you are at home this week I would like you to write either a thank you letter or card for Mrs Tommey in your best handwriting, telling her your news and adding illustrations. Please either deliver or post the letters to me at either school **by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** and I will send them on to Mrs Tommey.

### **School Lunch Provision**

We have received updated information from the government concerning the allocation of free school lunches. Initially we were asked to issue lunch food packs to children in receipt of free school meals and I know Tina Tarbrooke has been busy distributing those this week. This will shortly switch to the Edenred voucher scheme and Tina will be in touch with the families that qualify to make arrangements for future weeks.

Children who are attending school as part of the critical worker/vulnerable programme are also now entitled to receive a packed lunch if they are in **Reception, Year 1 or Year 2** as part of the **Universal Infant Free School Meals** offer. This will consist of a basic packed lunch of sandwich and fruit from Edwards and Ward in Frome. Your child may well prefer to continue bringing in their own lunch. Please contact Tina Tarbrooke in the Rode office **by 3pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January** if your child requires an Edwards and Ward packed lunch in school for w/b 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### **BIF Club for all Parents and Carers in the Federation working at Home and doing Home Schooling - Every Thursday 12noon**

**\*\*\*Starting Thursday 21st Jan\*\*\***

BIF Club is an existing optional lunchtime Club that Sue Rodford (the Hardington Vale Children and Family worker) holds in Rode school with the children of Paddington Class. Sue is currently furloughed as she cannot go into school or run live clubs in the parish. Rev. Caroline Walker (who covers NSP and Rode parishes) and Jo Robinson who is training to be a parish vicar and working with Caroline, are delighted to be able to offer an optional lunchtime **LIVE on Zoom** BIF Club (Bible Is Fun) This will be held every Thursday lunchtime - 12 noon for 30mins. If you would like to come along please can you email Caroline in advance so that you can be emailed the resources that will be needed for that week and print them off at home in advance - if you don't have printing facilities let Caroline know and other arrangements can be made.

Here is the link to join for Thursday 21st Jan

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82047737915?pwd=am4wN1VzSUhSNFlrbHkvNGVJNDhBQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 4773 7915

Passcode: 705639

There will be a short bible story presented over Zoom and a related craft/creative activity. This will last approx 20 - 30 mins max. If parents and children then wish to stay on

Zoom and go into Breakout Rooms - with their agreed friends they can remain in those for a further one and a half hours if they choose! Further details and if you would like to ask more about this do contact Caroline on 01373 834258 or email [carolinehwalker@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinehwalker@btinternet.com)

## **Feedback Friday**

I am writing this newsletter on Thursday evening and looking forward to our first '**Feedback Friday**' tomorrow when you are invited to email class teachers two photos of your child's best learning moments this week. They in turn will share the photos with the class via Sway or our website Home Learning pages. Please do keep all work that the children produce at home. We are going to be setting up a system where work can be dropped off at school so teachers can mark it and in addition the older children will be able to submit work online. Class teachers will let you know the details soon. I can't wait to see what you have all produced! Knowing that their work is going to be seen by teachers might just help to keep some children focused on doing their very best work!

Wishing you all a restful and well-deserved weekend and a good week ahead.

George Muxworthy  
*Head Teacher*  
*Rode and Norton St Philip School Federation*

## **Coronavirus in Children – Symptoms and Testing**

The three main symptoms of coronavirus in children have been clarified by NHS. They are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

## **What to do if your child has symptoms**

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. You, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have the test.

Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if your child has been in close contact with them since their symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started. More information about symptoms and testing is available [here](#):

If you have any questions about your child having Coronavirus symptoms please contact one of the following member of our senior staff, not your class teachers:

George Muxworthy: [gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

Kim Slade: [kslade@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:kslade@educ.somerset.gov.uk)