

RODE AND NORTON ST PHILIP SCHOOL FEDERATION: NEWSLETTER 22

26th February 2021

rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk

Rode Early Bird and Stay and Play Team

bookingsatrodeandnorton@gmail.com

OFSTED Registration: EY489041

Dear Parents and Carers,

Message from Mrs Muxworthy

I hope everyone had a good half-term and enjoyed the break from remote-learning.

The staff team and I are delighted to be planning and preparing for the return of all pupils to school and are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on March 8th.

Whilst it will still be important to move cautiously during these first steps out of lockdown and to continue to follow government guidelines with regard to meeting friends and family, there is a great deal to feel optimistic about. Children will be able to see their friends again after 11 weeks apart. Teaching staff will be able to see what a fabulous job parents have done and how far children have moved on in their learning, whilst also putting together individual plans to move children's learning forward.

Plans for Full Re-opening of School on March 8th

We will be essentially reverting to the safety measures we had in place during the Autumn term and I will remind you of the arrival and departure procedures in next week's newsletter. Rode gates will be open between 8.35am to 8.45am and Norton gates open at 8.45am for Pre-school parents only and 8.50am for Gruffalo and Elmer Class.

Children and staff will remain in their class bubbles during the day and at breaktimes.

Handwashing will continue to be of paramount importance.

As there will be a sudden increased mixing of children and parents we would like to put further measures in place to keep everyone safe. Therefore, the minibus will not be running until after the Easter holiday to avoid bubbles mixing in a confined space. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause but hope you can understand that safety is our priority.

IG Sports wraparound care will re-open from March 8th at Rode in the mornings and after-school for years 2, 3 and 4 with bubbles kept separate from each other wherever possible. Please contact Ian directly to book your spaces.

For those Reception and Year 1 children that require wraparound care we will be running the Early Bird club from 8am at Norton and Night Owl Club until 4pm, staffed by our Teaching Assistants and charged to Parent Pay. If you need to book spaces please email Lisa Lambourne LLambourne@educ.somerset.gov.uk by Wednesday 3rd March.

The government 'stay at home' order remains in place until March 29th with the expectation being that the majority of parents will continue to work from home unless key workers and will therefore be able to collect the youngest children by 4pm.

We fully intend to re-instate our normal minibus and wraparound care offer after the Easter holiday when infection rates are hopefully much lower. Thank you for your support with these difficult decisions.

World Book Day Celebration of Re-Opening

This year World Book Day falls on Thursday March 4th when the school will still be closed to the majority of pupils. We have therefore decided to celebrate it properly on **Monday March 8th** when school re-opens for all. The children and staff are invited to dress as a book character or anything linked to words e.g come dressed as a book, a word, a magazine. Now, I appreciate that the shops are closed and getting a costume could be difficult. Your costume can be as home-made as you like, it could even be made from the written word in the form of newspaper!

Mrs Slade and Miss Anderson are inviting BFG and WildThings classes to wear a costume linked to the Greek Myths they have been reading. We cannot wait to see all your faces and costumes. During the day the children will be taking part in book-related activities and receiving their World Book day vouchers. You have a week to get busy creating your costumes!

Year One Football Club

Year One Football Club will be resuming on Thursday March 11th at Norton st .Philip site. Please contact Martin Phillips at Think Football to book your place.

School Lunch Provision

The usual hot lunch provision will recommence from 8th March. The new lunch menu will be available from that week and orders must be completed by midnight 2nd March for week commencing 8th March.

Keep Up The Good Work

Across the school we are half-way through our 'Far, Far Away Topic.' Our youngest children in Gruffalo Class worked hard last term learning an Indian Dance via video lessons, not easy for me or the children! But, we managed it and the result is available to view here. Well done Gruffaloes!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3npeYXtpG9M>

*George Muxworthy
Head Teacher RNSF*

FRANS Reloaded

We had our first 'meeting' of 2021 this week (obviously we were sat in our own homes looking at each other on a screen) which also acted as the postponed AGM from the end of 2020. We also welcomed some new faces along which was great.

We had the annual vote on committee roles. Mrs Muxworthy stepped down as Co-Chair and up stepped Mitzi Harrington to fill the void to become Co-Chair with me (BQH). Jo Ellis resumed Treasurer duties, with Lu Quentin-Hicks coming in as Co-Treasurer. Caroline Botley also resumed Secretary duties with Heidi Blanchett stepping in to replace Mitzi as Co-secretary. A great team for the year head!

Now, onto the fun stuff. We have not one but two, Covid-friendly events coming up. Details are still to be finalised but we are hatching plans for an Easter, 'Spot the Chick' trail to run over the Easter week, with all the children designing their own chicks to be displayed across

both villages. Following that poultry offering we are planning the inaugural (virtual) Grand Rode Duck Race. We're still working this one out but there will be chance for anyone to buy and decorate their own duck, put it through a gruelling training schedule, add any aerodynamic extras and enter it into the race, with the usual plethora of amazing prizes on offer.

If you would like to join FRANS we'd love to have you. It's not cliquey by any means, you can do as much or as little as you like and there's no pressure to attend meetings. All we ask is for a bit of enthusiasm, positivity and any ideas on how to make a few quid. If it helps, we raise funds to plug the gap between reduced school budgets and being able to provide every child, yours included, across both sites, with some amazing resources to learn and develop with. That's pretty important isn't it? Drop an email to friendsrodenorton@gmail.com

Massive thanks must go to Mrs Muxworthy for heading up FRANS over the last two years. She has held everything together brilliantly and in that time we have seen some amazing events and some fantastic amounts raised. We'll send her off in style once we're all allowed out again.

Brandon Quentin-Hicks (FRANS Co-Chair)

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

Rev. Caroline Walker will be holding another BIF (Bible is Fun) club this Thursday March 4th at 12 noon. The details to join are here:

Topic: BIF Club - Bible is Fun - Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 820 4773 7915

Passcode: 705639

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.
3. 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 members of our senior staff, not your class teachers:

George Muxworthy: gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Kim Slade: kslade@educ.somerset.gov.uk