
“Let your light shine brightly.” (Matthew 5:16)

Newsletter

Issue No.16

Wednesday 3rd February 2021



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Christ Church,

Goodbye to Mrs May

Mrs Paulyn May will be leaving Christ Church at the end of this month. Please join me in wishing her every happiness as she leaves her school cleaning duties behind to spend more time with her family. If you would like to contribute towards a leaving gift, please get your donation to the school office by Monday 22nd February. (Please note: Miss Chloe May, our Amber Class Teaching Assistant, is not leaving Christ Church.)

Open the Book

In addition to our regular Collective Worship times this term, focusing on the seven “I am” sayings of Jesus, Revd Liz Dudley and her friends at Christ Church parish church have recorded some extra Open the Book (OtB) story times. These are suitable for children of all ages and can be accessed for free via links on the school website or by clicking on the pictures below.



The birth of baby Jesus (Christmas)



Three wise men visit Jesus (Epiphany)



Jesus is baptised by John



Jesus calls the fishermen to be his disciples

OtB is a national project which aims to help first and primary schools present Bible stories to children in an accessible and enjoyable way. Often this is done with the help of adult volunteers from local churches who visit schools to act out stories based on the Lion Storyteller Bible.

School and nursery emergency closure

It is important to emphasise that only in extreme circumstances will Christ Church close. We will always try to keep the school open come rain, shine or blizzard. That said, we may have to close in the event of extreme weather and/or if directed to do so by Public Health England. We will attempt to alert you in one or more of the following ways:

- TEXT** Do we have your up-to-date mobile number?
- RADIO** BBC Somerset (95.5FM or 1566AM) and Heart FM (96.5/97.1 or 102.6FM)
- TELEPHONE** If a decision is made to close the school, we may try to alert you by phone.

SOMERSET SCHOOL CLOSURE WEBSITE

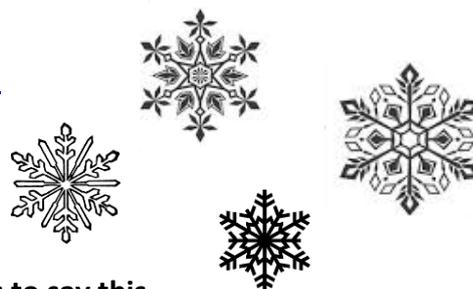
www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/school-closures

SCHOOL WEBSITE HOMEPAGE

www.christchurchschoolfrome.org.uk

POSTERS ON THE SCHOOL GATE AND/OR FENCE

If a decision is made to close the school, we may put up posters to say this.



Our remote learning plan

Christ Church's remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that this strategy will work best for the children at our school.

Children will be provided with a **suggested timetable for the week**, which will give details of their lessons each day. The time spent learning at home will vary according to their age but will be no more than **three hours per day**.

We understand that parents/carers may have other commitments during the day, including their own work and/or other children at home, so **the suggested timetable is flexible and can be adapted as needed**.

Our remote learning can be accessed online using **Microsoft Teams**. This enables children to read and edit their work, to upload their finished work for marking and to communicate safely with the staff and pupils in their class.

On Teams, **staff will arrange live meetings** so that children at home can maintain social contact with their teachers and friends. **Staff will also record teaching sessions** for children to view and provide links to other pre-recorded lessons. It is important that children access these recordings to learn new content and to help them complete their tasks.

In addition, we can provide children with **paper copies** of their weekly work. Parents/carers will need to contact the school office to arrange this. We encourage children to photograph their completed work and upload these images to Teams for **marking**, but understand that this is not always possible, so parents can return paper packs of work to school.

School staff will maintain regular contact with children and families. Weekly phone calls will be made to provide both **academic and emotional support**, and we recognise that they may need to be more regular. Parents/carers are encouraged to contact school staff with any queries or concerns. Contact can also be made via Teams using the "chat" function.

Children will receive weekly feedback on their work. When work is submitted on Teams, teachers can respond directly to each task so children can read their comments. If children are completing their work on paper, we ask that these packs are returned to school on a Friday when the new pack is collected. These will then be marked by teachers and feedback will be given via a phone call early in the following week. This phone call is likely to be made by a Teaching Assistant, who will read comments written by the class teacher.

We have created our remote learning plan to meet the needs of our children and their families, as well as complying with the Department for Education's expectations. The DfE expects that school will plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers.

Teachers are working hard to plan and teach a sequenced, balanced curriculum. We understand that there are many factors making home learning tricky, particularly access to computers and printers. This is why we are happy to provide paper copies of work. We also have to adapt and change as we discover what is working well, and for this reason, we welcome feedback from parents/carers.

What you'll need at home

In order to access remote learning and to learn effectively at home, children will need the following:

- Access to the Internet, via a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone.
- A computer, laptop or tablet to complete tasks on Microsoft Teams.
- A paper pack of work, along with a device to access the Internet so they can watch the online learning videos before completing some of the work.
- A pencil to write with.
- Ideally, a quiet place to complete their work, away from other distractions.

If your child does not have any of the above, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can help support you.

What we expect from your child

It is important that your child engages with their home learning, for their own knowledge and also for their well-being. To help with this, we recommend that where possible you try to keep to the suggested timetable.

If children are not engaging with the learning, we will increase contact via phone calls to offer support and guidance.

What you can do to help

This situation is new to us all and we are working very hard on behalf of your children to continue their education under very difficult circumstances. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time.

Younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can.

At the same time, we don't expect you to teach your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to lead remote lessons in place of our teachers. This is why we are creating teaching videos for the classes. However, it would be helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their work and what they've learned.

Our top tips

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to look together at the suggested timetable to plan their day's learning.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life.
- Don't forget playtime! Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active.

Please do keep in touch with us and do let us know if you are having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. We also welcome feedback about what is working well!

Thank you for your continued support. Please email us at Homelearning.sch152@educ.somerset.gov.uk if you have any questions, and we will respond as soon as we can.



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