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Head Teacher's Blog

Dear all

We have reached a threshold of 5 positive PCR cases at Dunster First School, but have also had good news with some negative PCR outcomes and pupils returning to school fully well and recovered. The measures we have taken since Monday are advanced and at a higher level than we needed to implement according to Public Health England and we have been commended on our swift and enhanced actions. We just hope they are now successful. These actions are supported by the good work of all of our families, in keeping children at home if they have ANY symptoms of COVID-19, a cough, high temperature or loss of taste. It is sensible, as we know we are not the only school locally to have confirmed cases, to mirror these actions with decision making at Timberscombe. Please do consider the PCR testing and isolation at signs of any symptoms. You are infectious two days prior to a positive test, so reacting fast will help.

Mrs Hall led a lovely Collective Worship focussed on Harvest Friday for us at our church. The children did you proud, and hopefully at Christmas we can have the nativity there for our next big event.

Stay safe and well and have a good weekend, Mrs Naomi Philp

Our school is about kindness, caring for others, ourselves, and our world.

Our school values our faith, our location, our community and most of all each other.

We aim to instill a life long love of learning.

Little Oaks News

This week we had a lovely time during outdoor learning. We were thinking about how being outside made us feel. We enjoyed the warm sun and made music with the instruments to show how happy we were feeling! There were lots of juicy blackberries which we shared together.

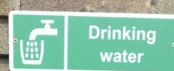
Just a reminder that Little Oaks have their own uniform which is available from:

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/schools/timberscombe-first-school.html>



ECO NEWS

Look out for the water fountains appearing around the area. The one in the picture is in the Minehead Co-op carpark. Get a reusable water bottle, get drinking water for free and say goodbye to single use plastic.



Businesses can also sign up as Refill Stations by simply registering on the app and putting a sticker in their window, alerting passers-by that they're welcome to come on in and get a refill:

Here are some of the refill stations in our area:

Morrisons, Premier Inn, Youth Hostel Alcombe, Chapel House Tearoom

Dunster, Village Shop Withypool, Post Office Roadwater. You can download the Refill app from the App Store or Google Play.





Nurturing our unique acorns, for the infinite possibilities of the mighty oaks they shall become.

Inspired by John 10:10, Gideon 6:11 and Corinthians 13:4

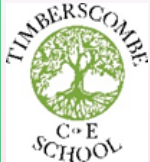


Key Dates

04.10.21—School Photo Day

21.10.21—Last day of half term

22.10.21—School Holiday for the Platinum Jubilee (in lieu of the extra bank holiday in June 2022)



VACANCIES

Timberscombe CoE and Dunster First Schools



Dunster First School and Timberscombe C of E First School are seeking to appoint 2 **Administration Assistants** to be based at either school:

Dunster: Mon to Fri 12.00 – 17.30 with 30 minutes unpaid break.

Timberscombe: Tues to Fri 9.00 – 15.00 with 1 hr unpaid break.

Both posts are term time only + 5 inset days

We are looking for:

- Enthusiasm and flexibility
- Experience in an administrative and financial setting
- Excellent written and oral communication
- Someone who enjoys all the wonderful unpredictability of being in a school environment with small children
- Honesty and reliability

We can offer:

- A caring and supportive school and local community
- A dedicated and hard-working team
- Enthusiastic and friendly children
- A team to work with who care about their school immensely
- A commitment to professional development

Closing date for applications: Monday 4th October Midday

Interviews taking place on: 7th and 8th of October

The schools have a commitment to safeguard children, and have a culture of vigilance to support this. The post holder will be required to undergo a disclosure check with the Disclosure and Barring Service before taking up employment.

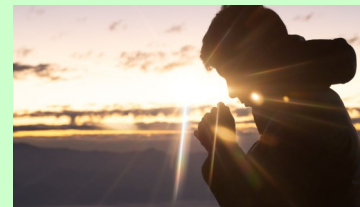
Visits from prospective candidates are warmly welcomed. Please contact the school(s) for an application pack.

An Extract from Thought for the Week

Ed Gregory

Director of Education, Diocese of Bath and Wells

How do we act with humility yet bravely, using our gifts for the good of others rather than for personal gain? Every day across schools, parishes and multi academy trusts, for young people and adults alike, we have opportunities to be courageous advocates. Sometimes those opportunities are in the midst of great pressure or challenge. Humility means having the confidence and compassion to see and to step up for others, for what is right and what is good. To congratulate another in their victory, to be publicly and genuinely gracious in defeat, to consistently stand up for the most vulnerable.



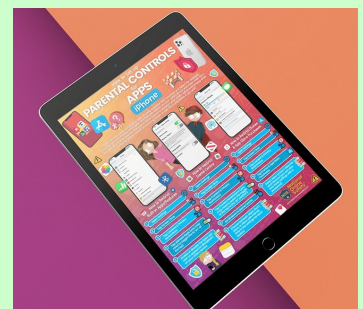
Safeguarding

Parental Controls for Apps:

The parental controls you'll find on most smartphones are an excellent way of minimising the risk of children being exposed to inappropriate content. These guides will steer you through the process of setting up this useful protection on both iPhone and Android smartphones.

You can download the guides here:

<https://bit.ly/DfSTfS140363>



Star of the Week: Stanley for leading the whole school in their Harvest singing and for helping to tidy up in the playground each day. A superb role model!

Double Awards for last week and this week:

Class 1—Achievement Awards for all the Reception children for an amazing start and for Teddy for excellent Maths learning. Kindness Awards for Hermione for helping Mrs Hall with lots of jobs and Amelia for helping our new friends to settle in to our school

Class 2 - Kindness Awards for Connor for helping the Year 3s settle in to class 2 and Oscar T for always being so helpful. Achievement Awards for Oscar C for a brilliant start to Class 2 and Edward for excellent maths.

Wellbeing



When we are mindful of our and others' struggles, and respond to these with compassion, kindness, and support in times of difficulty, things start to change.

Many children are feeling the uncertainty and upheaval as the Pandemic still plays out, without our 'bubbles' the virus continues to spread and some children are having to miss school to isolate, miss out on sporting or social events and seeing friends or family.

For children who cannot articulate their feelings or find the words to express their worries or fears through difficult moments, this can be very overwhelming for them and their families.

If we offer children warmth and kindness as their routines are turned upside down, we can nurture them through their time of need, making space for them to become better aware of and process their feelings.

Self-compassion allows our little ones to process and cope with difficult emotions, it's ok to feel bad, we can acknowledge these feelings together and work through them. Tending to their emotions helps them to renew and restore, which in turn helps them to serve others.

Overwhelming personal distress can make children and ourselves very self-focused and less able to attend to others' suffering, but as children receive compassion from their parents, they can also learn to offer it to themselves and others.

Young children have undoubtedly picked up on the radar that life is quite a bit different than it used to be, this can be the perfect opportunity for us all to learn that being human during hard times involves transformation and resilience and that compassion helps us all to thrive. Stay safe xxx

Research and credits – Parenting Program.



**BUTTERCROSS
COMMUNITY ORCHARD**



with QUANTOCK QUARENDERS



on Saturday, 25 September

7 pm to 11 pm

Tickets £8.00 at the door on the night,

**OR £7.00 if paid for in advance
from one of the outlets below**

(Under 16s £3.00)

Tickets from

Jacobs of Dunster

18a & b High Street, Dunster

Alan Vicary

27 Marsh Lane, Dunster – (01643) 821046

Doug Challoner

12a Haven Close, Dunster – (01643) 822225

LICENSED BAR

Fast Food Van including soft drinks available

 **Follow us on Facebook**

Somerset School Terms and Holidays – WSEP/ Moorland/ KT 2021/2022 Academic Year

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



September 2021					October 2021					November 2021								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25	
F	3	10	17	24	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26		
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28		
December 2021					January 2022					February 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25	Tu		1	8	15	22	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26	W		2	9	16	23	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	Th		3	10	17	24	
F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28	F		4	11	18	25	
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa		5	12	19	26		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su		6	13	20	27		
March 2022					April 2022					May 2022								
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M	2	9	16	23	30	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W		4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		6	13	20	27		
Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		7	14	21	28		
Su	6	13	20	27	Su	3	10	17	24	Su	1	8	15	22	29			
June 2022					July 2022					August 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25		
F	3	10	17	24	F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26			
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27			
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28			

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 06 September – 22 October 2021 (35 days)
 Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2021 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 18 February 2022 (34 days)
 Term 4: 28 February – 08 April 2022 (30 days)
 Term 5: 25 April – 27 May 2022 (24 days)
 Term 6: 06 June – 26 July 2022 (37 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2021/22 – Revised to include the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2021*	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2021*	Early May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year's Day Holiday	03 January 2022*	Spring Bank Holiday	02 June 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Platinum Jubilee	03 June 2022
		Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

*Replacement Bank Holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend
 Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with individual schools for their term dates