



October 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

The pupils have made a brilliant start to the new school year. Even faced with external challenges beyond their control, they have shown a great attitude towards their return to learning and deserve a pat on the back for their efforts.

We continue to adapt as a community towards living in these times: acts of Worship and meetings are held virtually and we have just completed our first ever virtual parents' evening to discuss pupil progress and development. I hope parents found it useful to discuss how their children will achieve their next steps at school and at home.

This first half-term has been filled to the brim with great learning:

- First, pupils got stuck into a narrative unit on the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood. From retelling the story to writing darker alternative versions, the pupils made immediate catch-up with their application of reading and writing.
- For the second part of the half term, pupils have been exploring and appreciating different cultures and people around the world – using the arts as a platform to show this.

As we move into the second half of autumn, the pupils will be travelling back into the past with a history learning experience, followed by a science learning experience filled with investigations.

Also, next half term, there will be some parent workshops held online to keep our parents up-to-date with the latest school standards and information. Please see the dates attached and save the dates in your diary.

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term break!

Ben Nelson-Smith
Headteacher

Parent Workshops

I am excited to introduce four parent workshops for next half term. These will be delivered virtually on zoom. The aim is to further improve the shared vision of our school around specific areas of our curriculum between staff and parents. They will be half an hour sessions and I would encourage as many parents as possible to attend. The dates and themes of the workshops are as follows:

Our Curriculum Intent

Thursday 5th November 7.30pm

Supporting Reading at KS1

Thursday 12th November 7.30pm

Supporting Reading at KS2

Wednesday 18th November 7.30pm

Internet Safety support for parents

Wednesday 25th November 7.30pm

I look forward to seeing many of you at the workshops!



Cultural Arts Learning Experience

Year 5 pupils have been getting very creative during their Cultural Arts learning Experience.

They have shown that they can use the art pencils effectively to improve their use of line, tone and shape and that they were able to paint Japanese Cherry Blossom paintings with a paint splatter technique. While creating their designs for their fabric Batik, they have had to reflect on their initial ideas and adapt and in some cases simplify. The children absolutely loved working with Polly on Balinese dance routines. She taught the children all about the cultures of Indonesian people before allowing the children to come up with small group dances inspired by the themes of friendship, sharing and creativity.



African Dance

Year 2 had fun learning African dance to help answer their question: 'How can the arts teach us about different cultures'.



Harvest Service

Anita from the Paignton Community Larder joined us for our harvest Worship this afternoon. We discussed lots of things that we are thankful for. Well done families for donating lots for the larder!



Forest School



Smiles all around during Year 1's forest school session this afternoon!

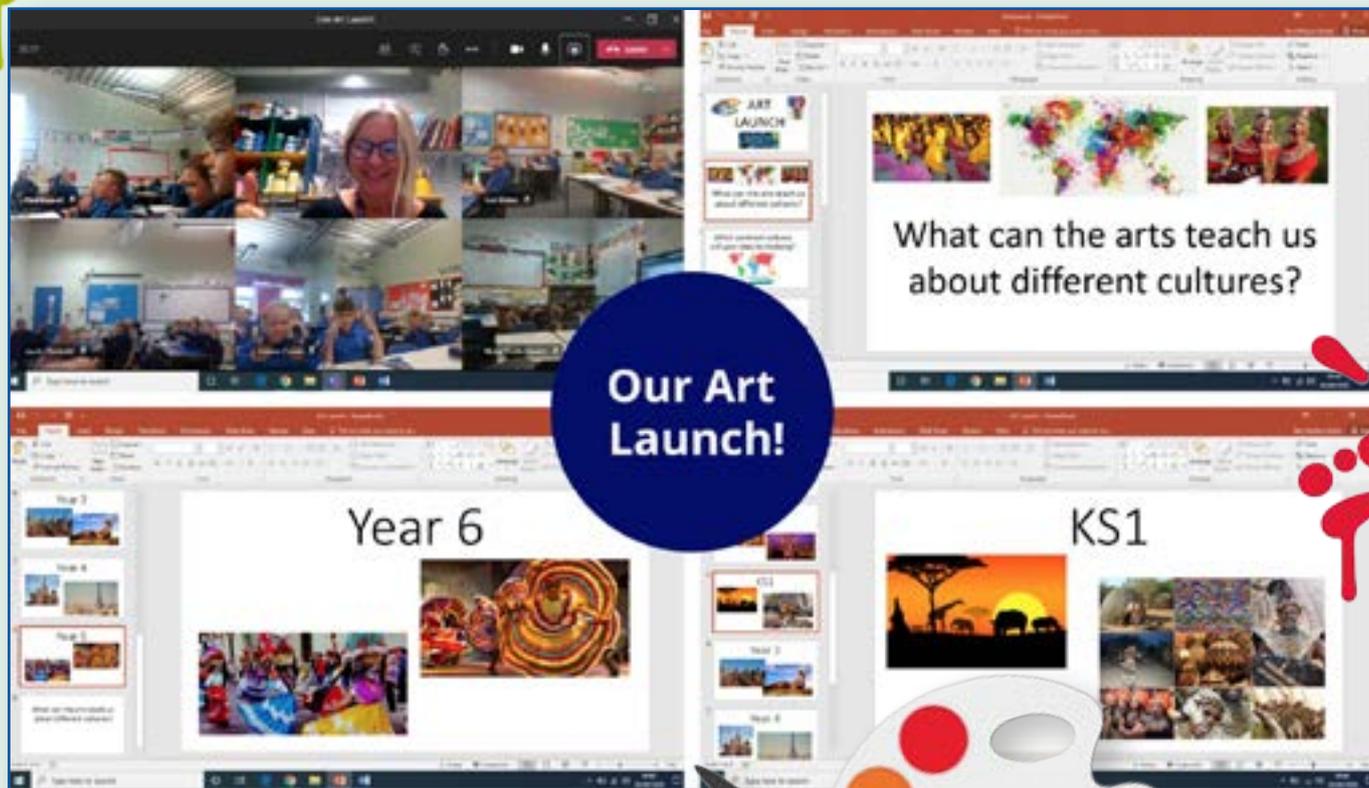


Year 6 Forest School - sawing and drilling their own neckless accessory from nature was just one of the carousel activities.



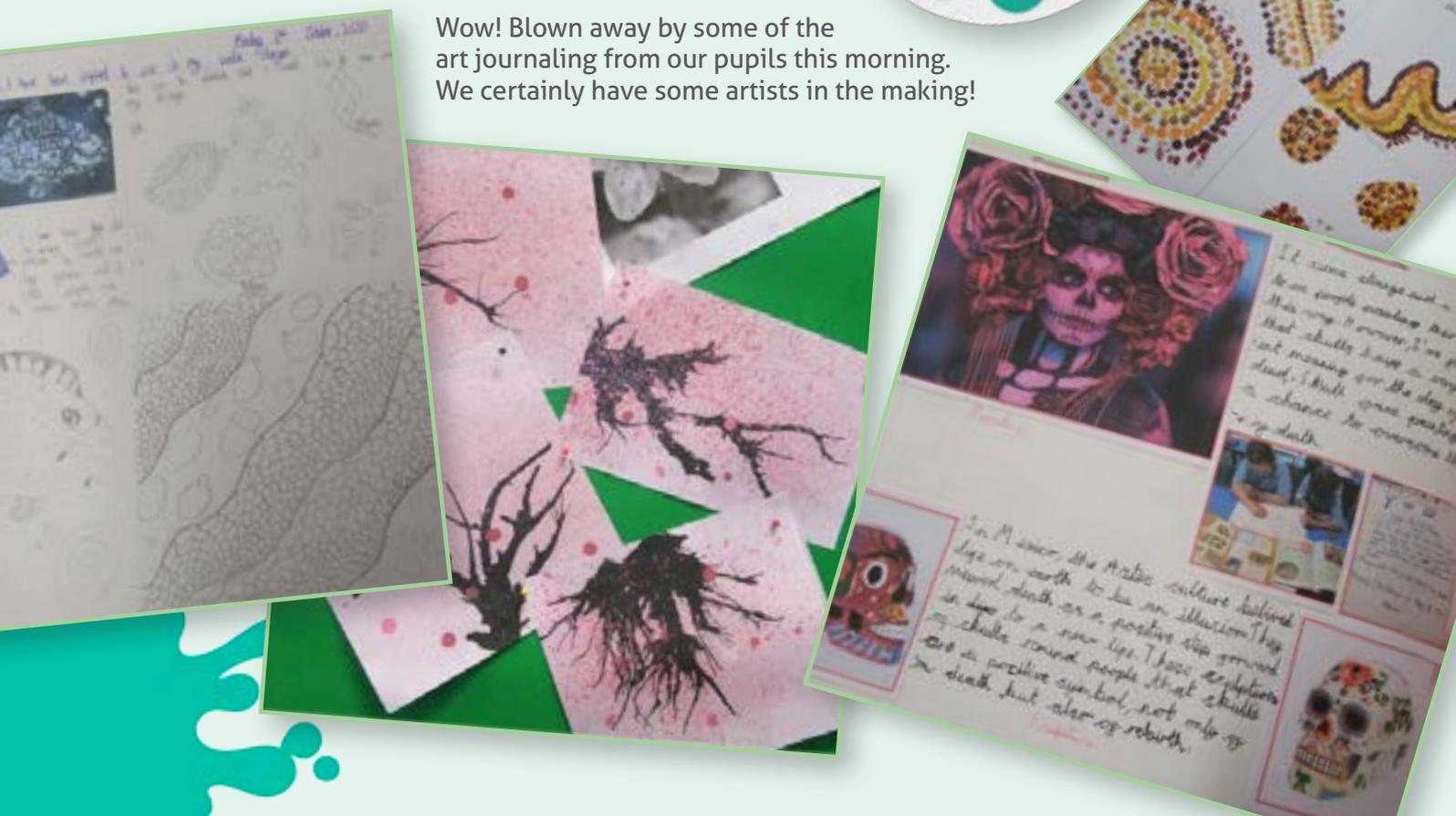
Art Learning Experience Launch

An exciting start to the day launching (virtually) our new art learning experience with our art specialist, Mrs Richards. Pupils had clues as to which continent they will be exploring. Although we are in bubbles, we are still connected as a whole school!



Pupil's Art Journals

Wow! Blown away by some of the art journaling from our pupils this morning. We certainly have some artists in the making!



Y5 Bikeability

Year 5 have started their first day of bike ability today - boosting their cycling confidence and road safety awareness!



School Allotment Makeover

Our school allotment has had a mini makeover! Thanks to @ernestcooktrust for their outdoor essentials grant and our fabulous PTFA for the Polytunnel! Now time for sowing!



School Council Returns

It was great to meet again with our School Council yesterday - their passion towards making our school even better is truly inspiring! Now it's time to put their suggestions into action!



Official Welcome to Reception Children

Today, we held our official welcome service (virtually) for our new reception children. Each child had a candle to represent their light in the world, and a gift from every other pupil in the school. We're thrilled you're here with us!





CATERING

You askedwe delivered!

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the school lunch feedback form. It really is essential that we use good communication as an effective way to bring about change. It is important to us that your child's school meal experience is as good as it can be!

We have carefully looked through all of our pupil and parent responses and have included some of the dishes and food items onto the new menu that you have requested and also have a waiting list of popular dishes for future menus too! Thank you!

We also asked pupils in school what they thought of their meals service in order to help us improve.....



85% of pupils said they liked their school lunch



70% of pupils said their lunches looked good



80% of pupils said their lunches tasted good



75% of pupils said they have enough to eat



80% of pupils said they had enough time to eat their food

We wanted pupil and parent/carer feedback as we are aware you know your children best.

You asked.....we delivered!

“My child would like the choice of not having sauce, beans or gravy with dishes” - we will be doing this by adding all the choice options on the new ordering system so please ensure you select ‘with’ or ‘without’ when selecting your child's meal

“Please put roast dinners to be back on the menu” – we have really missed these too! You will see they are back on! We are so pleased they are so popular!

“I would like to see more home-cooked meals” – we had to simplify and reduce the menu during covid-19 in case of staff shortages. You will see we have bought back our more freshly prepared dishes back on to the menu that you are familiar with and agree a warming hot meal is really important!

“Since moving to the boxes my child thinks the meals appear smaller” – we follow the school food standards portion sizes relevant to age and so the meal sizes haven't changed. They account for a 1/3 their daily intake. The boxes are much deeper than a plate so we have actually had to add a more to fill them and will continue to do so!

“Bring back hot puddings!” – We will endeavour to do this as soon as we can, we are already conscious of the use of disposable packaging we use. We have had to ensure reduced contact points and risk so pupils can eat safely so have taken the decision to offer more variety of tray bakes and sponges for ease of packing and delivery. We realise these are a firm favourite on our menus so they will be back soon!

“Sometimes my child doesn't get the right option they have chosen” – The online preordering system we have introduced now ensures your child has the correct meal that they have ordered. The kitchen have the numbers straight after registration so food is cooked to what has been pre-ordered which ensures accuracy and less waste.

“My child enjoyed the salad bar and help yourself fruit platters” – That's great to hear! Sadly we are not able to offer any self-service options due to covid-19. We are complying with government guidance but hopefully they will be back soon as we miss this colourful choice too! Thank you for your patience please bear with us at this time.

“Can we have a variety of desserts on offer instead of just cake daily” – We probably didn’t explain this clearly, sorry. We do change the desserts daily and will change wording to ‘dessert of the day’. The reason we didn’t specify named desserts is so that schools are able to best use up their produce in order to reduce waste – ie using up fruit such as for banana cake, mandarin sponge and apple shortbread etc.... There is also always a yoghurt or fruit option every day.

“There seems to be a lot of packaging” – We are aware of this but this is the safest delivery service at this present time. You will be pleased to hear though that our disposables are recyclable and or compostable. Our cutlery and pots are made of potato starch so do not add to landfill in the same way plastic does.

You have provided some really positive comments and mentioned that our catering teams are doing a great job and you appreciate the effort they put in on a daily basis, **thank you**, we have fed this back and taken on board your constructive comments around not having enough variation on the menu. As we move forward we aim to have a ‘world flavours’ day to improve variety and expand children’s tastes. We will also be offering taster days so children can try new foods and school meals and vote on a sample dish to encourage take up.

Please just ask! We realised looking through the menus that we can’t please everyone and so we have gone with the majority on menu decisions. That said, the whole benefit of having an in-house kitchen is that we can be flexible so please if there is a real issue and your child would like salad instead of veg for example or a jacket half instead of mash - please don’t just think you can’t place an order as we would rather your custom and will do our utmost for your child so they enjoy their meal.

It was also evident that we don’t shout enough about all the amazing things we actually do!

Did you know that our school food is freshly prepared on site from scratch using fresh, local and seasonal ingredients? We are all proud **Food for Life Schools** so **we definitely don’t use.....**

- Mechanically reclaimed meats
- Nasty additives or preservatives and follow the **Food For Life** list
- Hydrogenated fats

We care about where our food comes from

- Our fruit and veg supplier – Total Produce buys fruit and veg from over 40 local farmers across the South West! We use seasonal, local vegetables as much as we can and hide veg in our tomato base sauces!
- Our meat is local from MC.Kelly in Devon and they supply us with fresh meat that is either local, South West, British and of high welfare standards/red tractor.
- Our meatballs are organic, our burgers are 100% beef, our sausages are of the highest meat content.
- Our fish is MSC (marine sustainably sourced) and we are currently developing links with local Brixham fish supply! So watch this space!!
- Our eggs are local and Free Range from Devon
- Our milk is local from the South West and in some schools have an Organic supply. Our yoghurts are Organic from Yeo Valley
- Our bread is made from scratch on site
- As **Sugar Smart Schools** we also try to reduce the content of sugar in our desserts where we can and also make our own tomato base sauces from scratch. We educate pupils on being aware of the hidden sugar that are in certain foods.
- We have introduced our **PLANET PLATE** meals as children have been watching the David Attenborough programs around helping to ‘save the planet’ and we wanted to support their curriculum learning.

Warm regards

Sam Ward

Trust Catering Manager

Sam.ward@acexcellence.co.uk

NEW MENU—Please order and pay in the usual way via parent pay

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	Freshly prepared macaroni cheese or spaghetti bolognaise homemade garlic bread seasonal veg dessert of the day Organic yoghurt or fruit	Butchers quality sausage or veggie toad in the hole creamy mash gravy (optional) seasonal veg fruit jelly Organic yoghurt or fruit	Roast chicken fillet or vegetable stew & herb dumplings roast potatoes, gravy (optional) yorkshire & seasonal veg chocolate brownie Organic yoghurt or fruit	Freshly prepared margarita pizza crunchy diced potatoes seasonal veg or salad golden cereal slice Organic yoghurt or fruit	MSC Fish fingers or veggie bites or chips baked beans or peas dessert of the day Organic yoghurt or fruit
	Cheese or cheesy bean jacket	Tuna mayo or chilli con carne jacket	Cheesy jacket	Ham jacket	Cheese or cheesy bean jacket
	Tuna roll or ham wrap packed lunch	Cheese or egg mayo packed lunch	Ham or cheese packed lunch	Tuna roll or chicken mayo wrap packed lunch	Ham or cheese packed lunch
WEEK 2	Quality beef burger, bun or veggie burger, bun wedges, spaghetti hoops or seasonal veg dessert of the day Organic yoghurt or fruit	Freshly prepared breaded chicken goujons with a BBQ dip, pasta or veggie cottage pie seasonal veg fruit jelly Organic yoghurt or fruit	Devonshire gammon, or cauliflower & broccoli bake roast potatoes, gravy (optional) yorkshire & seasonal veg chocolate marble cake Organic yoghurt or fruit	Freshly prepared veggie curry, rice, naan Organic meatballs in a tomato sauce & noodles homemade Italian bread seasonal veg lemon drizzle slice Organic yoghurt or fruit	MSC battered fish portion or veggie fajita wrap chips baked beans or peas dessert of the day Organic yoghurt or fruit
	Cheese or cheesy bean Jacket	Tuna mayo jacket	Cheesy Jacket	Ham jacket	Cheese or cheesy bean jacket
	Tuna wrap or egg mayo roll packed lunch	Cheese or ham packed lunch	Ham or cheese packed lunch	Tuna roll or chicken mayo wrap packed lunch	Ham or cheese packed lunch
WEEK 1 02.11.20 16.11.20 30.11.20 14.12.20	PLANET PLATE MEALS  Eating a vegetarian diet can help with climate change by reducing carbon emissions and help reduce global warming They are really tasty too!	Homemade dessert of the day This is a freshly prepared reduced sugar sweet treat which changes daily and could include a chocolate date brownie, Mandarin, apple or fruit sponges, carrot cake, tray bake, flapjack, banana muffins, fruity shortbread SUGAR SMART	Packed lunch option also includes a packet of dried fruit, veg sticks, piece of fresh fruit and a yoghurt Jacket potato option comes with veg and a dessert of choice	ALLERGENS We take every care to cater for pupils with allergies & intolerances Please enquire with the kitchen regarding ingredients in your meal	
WEEK 2 06.11.20 20.11.20 07.12.20					

Poppy Appeal Collection

We are helping The Royal British Legion again this year by collecting for the Poppy Appeal.

The goodies box (filled with wristbands, snap bands etc) will be on a table in the school playground at school drop off and pick up (suggested donations from 50p upwards depending on item). Please support this worthy cause:

"Every poppy makes a difference to the lives of our Armed Forces community. Despite the Covid-19

pandemic, they are working hard with their members, staff, volunteers and partners to create a range of ways for people to get involved in this year's Poppy Appeal. From buying a poppy in your local supermarket or making an online donation, to doing your own fundraising with family and friends. Like so many things this year, the Appeal has had to adapt to the threat of Covid-19. We're calling on the public to support us like never before, because every poppy counts".



Donate a Christmas Jumper!

If you have any Christmas Jumpers at home that no longer fit then please donate them. We will sell them to raise money for the PTFA.



Save the Children
Christmas Jumper
day is on
Friday 11th December
so buy a new one
from the PTFA ready
to wear on that day.



Any good condition children's or adult's Christmas Jumpers would be very much appreciated.

Thank you once again for your support from the PTFA.





PACK A SHOEBOX!

SEND GOOD NEWS & GREAT JOY AROUND THE WORLD

Hopefully you have all received the leaflet regarding a shoebox gift required for Operation Christmas Child.

Please help if you can.

**Please bring in your shoe boxes by
Wednesday 4th November**

Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming Series



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www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about...

VIDEO STREAMING APPS & SITES

What are they?

'Video Streaming Apps & Sites'

Video streaming apps and sites can allow people to share activities and hobbies with others in real time or watch their favourite films and TV shows online. There are different types of video streaming services. Twitch is used for watching others play video games in real time; you can watch YouTube live and watch Netflix, Amazon Prime or Apple TV with friends and family. Video streaming has gained popularity in the last few years because there is a sense of community when watching with others and people can comment on videos and ask questions in real-time.



Know the Risks

Inappropriate videos

When watching on video streaming apps, it is difficult to filter the content that is out there. For instance, when a child is watching a YouTube video, they will get recommendations for other similar videos. The risk is even higher with videos which are live, as children could be watching inappropriate content in real time.

Chatting with strangers

Video streaming apps or sites increase the risk of children communicating with strangers online. For example, most YouTube videos allow users to comment on the video. Whilst children could be watching something innocent, the comments section can be used by groomers to try and direct them towards private messaging.

Binge-watching

Children can easily fall into 'binge-watching' on video streaming apps which can impact on sleep, mood and their ability to concentrate on other things. The autoplay function can make it difficult to find time for a break and often the recommended content is similar to what children are already watching based on the algorithms used.

Screen addiction

In addition to binge-watching, most video streaming apps are available across all devices with an internet connection which can mean increased screen time. Popular apps, such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, have huge libraries of content which can mean hours of viewing time and potentially less time spent on learning, playing outside or interaction with friends and family.

Safety Tips

Check age-ratings

13+

Ensure that children are at the right age to use the app. Most video streaming apps require users to be at least 13 years old. Be clear on what apps and sites children can use. Encourage them to never participate in online discussions that are offensive and never interact with strangers or people they don't trust.

Change privacy settings

Check the privacy setting of children's app. Ensure that for whichever app they are using, the settings are set to private and disable comments if applicable. Furthermore, set screen time restrictions via the app or the device to limit children's use.

Implement parental controls

Activate parental controls your child's devices and apps. This will prevent them from accessing content they shouldn't. For instance, on Netflix, create a kids profile. This way they will only be able to view videos appropriate for their age group. Likewise, use YouTube Kids over YouTube or apply restrictions and turn off features such as autoplay.

Spend time on the app

Before allowing children to access a video streaming app, spend some time browsing through its content. Familiarise yourself with how it works, what content is available and what your child wants to watch. Check-in regularly and ask what they enjoy watching and how it makes them feel.

Action & Support

Report inappropriate content

If a child comes across inappropriate content or something that makes them feel uncomfortable on an app such as YouTube, you can report the content and the person who has uploaded the content to the platform. If a stranger is looking to engage with your child, block them and report them.

Have an open and honest conversation

Adults can review the TV shows and films that have been watched many video streaming apps. If a child seems upset or shocked by something they've seen or if you are concerned about anything they've viewed, try to talk to them about it and have an open and honest conversation to help understand any concerns.

Encourage other activities

If you think a child is spending too much time on a video streaming app, try to foster their interest in other activities or hobbies away from their device. Encourage them to get outdoors, play with friends, play board games or just simply spend more time together with you.

Our Expert Parven Kaur



Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

Collaton St Mary Primary School Term Dates

Friday 23rd October	Last day of term
Monday 2nd November	School returns
Wednesday 4th November	Shoe Box appeal return deadline
Tuesday 10th November	Virtual Open Day Meeting for Sept 2021 Starters 10.30am
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 12th November	Virtual Open Day Meeting for Sept 2021 Starters 1.30pm
Friday 13th November	Children In Need Day (dress TBC)
Thursday 26th November	Flu Immunisations
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18th December	Last day of term

VIRTUAL PROSPECTUS MEETINGS for September 2021 Starters

We will be holding virtual prospectus meetings for families with children starting in September 2021. To receive details and a link to the meeting, please email

admin.collaton@acexcellence.co.uk

We have two meeting options to attend at this stage:

Tuesday 10th November
at 10.30am



Thursday 12th November
at 1.30pm



COLLATON ST. MARY
C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion • Responsibility • Integrity • Confidence • Aspire


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