



# February 2021 NEWSLETTER



## Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to the second part of the Spring Term! Last half-term wasn't quite as we had planned when the partial school closure was announced but I am proud with how our pupils, staff and parents have worked together during this lockdown.

We have continued to deliver our broad curriculum throughout the partial school closure: the pupils have explored an area of geography in their year groups, developed their writing knowledge through a narrative unit and have now embarked on a science learning experience.

There is a lot to look forward to in the coming months as all pupils make a return to school on March 8th. We have launched our 'Walk to Jerusalem' challenge to celebrate lent, virtual calls with local care homes and, of course, we will find a way to ensure that our tradition of 'Egg Rolling' continues for the children in the lead up to Easter.

I look forward to seeing all pupils make a return to school next month and hopefully seeing further normalities returning throughout the rest of the academic year.

With best wishes,

*Ben Nelson-Smith* Headteacher

# We need You!

I hope that you agree that Collaton St Mary is a special school which is part of a special community. We rely on our close partnerships with our parents through working groups such as our PTFA, Governors and Ethos Group. Without these groups, our school would be less effective in how we improve the outcomes for our pupils.

Unfortunately, we are having little interest from parents to support these groups and help make a difference to our school, at the moment. We have vacancies for roles within our PTFA, Ethos and governors, and it would be great for more parents join us in supporting these groups.

To help parents understand the groups better, please find attached a brief description of what they entail:

**Governors** – The governors form a local committee which assist in monitoring how the school progresses. Governors meet once a half-term as a committee to review how the school is performing in four portfolios: Curriculum and standards, safeguarding, ethos and community and partnerships.

**Ethos** – Members of the Ethos meet once a half-term to discuss and monitor how the school is developing its ethos and Christian distinctiveness.

**PTFA** – The PTFA essentially raise funds to benefit the school through projects. Currently, the same members are doing the majority of the work and additional members would be really appreciated – this can be one-off occasions or regular involvement.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Mr Nelson-Smith who can share more information about the roles and point you in the direction of a current member to help you understand the groups further.



# Our Collaton Character Gateways

Academic progress, how the pupils learn and character development is important to us at Collaton. To support our pupils grow as individuals and prepare them life beyond Collaton St Mary, we have created 'Character Gateways'.

We have five character gateways that enable us to develop character consistently and cohesively. Each gateway details the traits we will focus on at any particular time.

<h2>Citizenship</h2>	<h2>Leadership</h2>	<h2>Explorers</h2>	<h2>Expression</h2>	<h2>Flourishing</h2>
<p>Character Values</p>	<p>Character Values</p>	<p>Character Values</p>	<p>Character Values</p>	<p>Character Values</p>
 <p>Make a difference to my home, school, community and the wider world through showing <b>compassion, empathy</b> and <b>drive</b>.</p> 	 <p>Act with <b>integrity, authenticity</b> and <b>determination</b>; and through this <b>inspire others</b>.</p> 	 <p>Follow my <b>passions</b> and <b>seek challenges</b> in order to <b>aspire</b> to be the <b>best version of myself</b>.</p> 	 <p>Have the <b>confidence</b> to present myself in an <b>honest</b> and <b>insightful</b> way that reflects what I value.</p> 	 <p><b>Seek a purpose</b> for life; <b>take responsibility</b> for my own well-being; and <b>support others</b> with theirs.</p> 

# Marvellous Monday

Our first day back after half term we had a "Marvellous Monday", this involved live lessons on PE, art, cooking etc. It was great to see everyone join in and learn many new skills.

**Marvellous Monday - Monday 22nd February**

**Live Worship at 9.15am to launch the day**

<p><b>Lesson Theme: PE - Multi Skills</b> Age - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Resources needed: Active wear and a ball of some sort e.g. football/tennis ball Space needed: Clear space outside or inside Time: 9.45am Mr Chisholm</p>	<p><b>Lesson Theme: Cartoon Master Class</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: Paper, pens and a stuffed animal to draw Space needed: Flat surface to work on Time: 10.45 Mrs Jones</p>
<p><b>Lesson Theme: PE - Multi Skills</b> Age - Year R, 1 and 2 Resources needed: Active wear, something blue, green, yellow and red, and rolled up socks Space needed: Clear space inside (gym) Time: 9.45 am Mr R-S</p>	<p><b>Lesson Theme: Design's Invention Machine</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: A bowl, a teaspoon, a mixing spoon and six different ingredients of your choice to put your mixture in. It could be flour, toothpaste, shampoo - anything so long as it is suitable for the children to use! Time: 11.00 Mrs Baker</p>
<p><b>Lesson Theme: PE - Multi Skills</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: Clear space and a toy, ball/obj of the following: rubber (or megaphone), counter top, washing line, 1 large egg. Optional: Chocstone shipping tubes/ropes to connect. Space needed: Flat surface to work on Time: 10.45 Miss P</p>	<p><b>Lesson Theme: Baking Cheese Scones (all ages)</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: baking tray, grease proof paper, salt and pepper, baking powder, butter, cheese, milk and eggs - <b>an adult must be available for support</b> Space needed: Kitchen space, oven, mixing bowl, knife, sieve, weighing scales and rolling pin. Time: 11.30 Miss Chivers</p>
<p><b>Lesson Theme: Baking Party Games (all ages)</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: Clear space and a tray, ball/obj of the following: rubber (or megaphone), counter top, washing line, 1 large egg. Optional: Chocstone shipping tubes/ropes to connect. Space needed: Flat surface to work on Time: 1.30pm Mrs Richards</p>	<p><b>Lesson Theme: Magical Reflection Art</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: White Paper, felt tips (not sharpies, yellow was chosen or all pen set), water and sponge Space needed: Flat surface to work on Time: 1.30pm Mrs Richards</p>
<p><b>Lesson Theme: (sharks) Top Trumps session.</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: Paper resource from dips, pencil and Space needed: Flat surface to work on Time: 10.45 Mr Bagnall</p>	<p><b>Lesson Theme: Crafts: Make a deer eye.</b> Age - All ages Resources needed: Cardboard/foam box, colouring pens, craft decorations Space needed: Flat surface to work on Time: 1.30pm Miss Dorrell</p>



# Remote Learning YEAR 1

## Geography Learning Experience

Year 1 have been working hard on their Geography Learning Experience. They have been learning about traffic and ways we can reduce the amount of traffic in Collaton. They completed a traffic count and made their own junk model village!



## Great Bake Off!

Our class have been doing some yummy baking at home! It is going to be hard to pick a winner...

# YEAR 3

## Responses to Geography Learning

Well done to everyone in Year 3 who wrote a letter and sent them to the Dartmoor rangers. Jaxon in Year 3 also sent his letter to Blue Peter and received a Blue Peter Badge in return for trying to have an impact on the environment. Well done, Jaxon!



Dear Jaxon

Thank you for your letter.

We were so impressed to see your persuasive writing about stopping litter on Dartmoor that we're awarding you a Green Blue Peter Badge, which is especially for Blue Peter viewers who care about the environment and nature. We hope you'll enjoy wearing it!

You'll also receive a Blue Peter Badge Card to gain free access to over 200 Blue Peter Badge Attractions throughout the UK. Please be aware that Badge Cards are issued on a monthly basis and it could take up to 6 weeks for you to receive yours.

With best wishes from Lindsey, Richie, Mwaksy, Adam, Henry and all of us at Blue Peter.

Yours sincerely

Ellen Evans  
Editor  
BLUE PETER

COMIC  
RELIEF

RED  
NOSE  
DAY

## Comic Relief Day Friday 19th March

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March and this year its never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. Donations will be possible to be made on ParentPay.

We will be sharing how our school will be getting involved soon, so watch this space!

### PFTA

Every member of staff at Collaton received a little goodie bag as a 'Thank you' from the PFTA for going the extra mile.



## Captain Tom Moore Donations

Thank you to those families who dropped some spare change into school following our Captain Tom Moore Worship. £51.25 was raised for this wonderful cause!



## Smoke Alarms

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service have some useful information regarding the importance of smoke alarms in your homes.



## Your Fire Service needs YOU!



As we are still unable to visit our schools for the annual fire safety talks, we still want households with children to be aware of the importance of having working smoke alarms.

If you don't have working smoke alarms then you can call **0800 05 02 999** to request a **free HOME SAFETY CHECK**  
(quote code : 294)

And if you or someone you know answers "yes" to at least one of these questions:

- is over 65 years old?
- finds it difficult to move around?
- can't hear things very well?
- smokes?
- doesn't have one smoke alarm for each level of their home?
- has NO smoke alarms?

They can also request a free **HOME SAFETY CHECK** by calling **0800 05 02 999**

# Walk / Scoot / Cycle to Jerusalem Challenge for LENT

## We sent a letter to parents recently regarding our exciting new challenge!

The school and church are linking up for an exciting challenge, which our pupils can take part in. Please see details below which outline how your children can get involved.

### What?

Members of our school and church are being challenged to collectively walk/scoot/cycle to Jerusalem – that's 3369 miles in total! We hope that this challenge can be completed with many people helping out!

### Why?

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. It would be great if you could organise your child to collect sponsorship for their walks e.g. a certain amount per mile – this is of course optional to raise money and you can just do it for the fun of it. For this challenge, we will be supporting The Children's Hospice South West who are in need of vital funds during this time.

### When?

The challenge is to be completed between 17th February and 3RD April – the 40 days of Lent. Pupils can complete a walk at any time during the day during this time period.

### Where?

Anywhere local! Please bear in mind restrictions on staying local during the pandemic and how often you can exercise.

### How?

Pupils can clock up miles throughout this period by recording multiple walks and trips out – you may need some form of app which can record walking distances. We have made a form where you can fill out the miles you have walked/scooted/cycled. Simply complete the form below and it will collate into an excel sheet our end, where every walk will be recorded. You can fill the form for every walk, once a week or all in one lump sum – whatever is easiest for you!

**[Click here to record your walks, scoots & cycles!](#)**

We hope that many of you will join us in achieving this challenge. Whether you would like to raise money for charity or just join in for the fun, we would love for you to take part.



## What parents & carers need to know about ...

# AMONG US

PEGI  
7

Among Us is one of the most popular games of 2020. A space-themed 'social deduction game' where 4-10 players take on the guise of Crewmates, who must complete various tasks around their spaceship, while randomly selected Imposters must try their hardest to sabotage the others' efforts. The Imposters have to remain undetected through rounds of voting to win. While Among Us is a largely safe game, it's still prudent to be aware of any potential risks young ones might encounter when playing.

### Inappropriate chat



While Among Us can be enjoyed locally via wi-fi, it is commonly played online. Between rounds, players come together to discuss who they think the Imposter is with a text chat, and it's here where children will come into contact with others. There is a profanity filter on the game as standard, but it can very easily be disabled and (like any unmoderated chat groups) children can be exposed to inappropriate, sexual or explicit language.

### In-game purchases



Among Us is currently available on both PC (via the gaming service Steam) and mobile devices. On the PC, the game costs a flat amount of £3.99 and has some in-game purchases, whereas the mobile version is free to play but contains adverts and in-game purchases. You can pay to remove the ads or purchase in-game cosmetic items. While these amounts are relatively low, there's still the possibility that young ones could accidentally spend lots of money on the game without realising it, as the process is complete in a couple of taps if a card is connected to your store account.

### Risk of hacking



Among Us has been the target of hacking activity. Indeed, only recently the game's developer, InnerSloth, tweeted advice that users play private games or with people they trust, in response to hacking issues. As yet, there has been no breach in player accounts. However, if a big enough hack were to take place and player details were accessed, it could lead criminals to having access to credit card data and other personal credentials.

### Use of external apps



Many players use external apps like Discord to voice chat with each other while they're playing. The problem with this is that it is unregulated by the game. Usually on Discord, players will only talk to other people they know in private chats, but a stranger could add a child on an external app: pretending to be interested in playing Among Us with them, when in reality they could be attempting to bully, groom or extort.

### Mild violence

The art style of Among Us is cartoony but does contain some very mild violence. Imposters must kill off Crewmates one by one and can do this in a number of different ways. Some younger children might find this uncomfortable and could get scared or become upset when an Imposter is chasing them, or if they are the Imposter and are forced to kill. An age rating of PEGI 7 should help guide you in deciding if the game is appropriate or not.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Safety tips

### Play with your children

Playing with your kids is one of the best ways to understand the game, and what makes it so popular. Among Us is free on mobile and is incredibly easy to pick up and play. It's also a great way to bond with your young ones - unless of course you're the Imposter or vote them out of the spaceship! You can do this by picking 'Local' on the main menu then 'Create Game'.

### Use private lobbies

ENTER LOBBY



Among Us uses private lobbies to let players keep track of who they're gaming with. Using a uniquely generated code that can be given to friends prior to a game starting, it gives parents peace of mind knowing who their kids are playing with. To get a game code, simply select 'Host', choose the game settings, press 'Confirm', then send the six-digit code at the bottom of the screen to friends to invite them.

### Deactivate credit cards



Having your credit card automatically paired with any online accounts that can be accessed by children is asking for trouble. A solution could be setting them up with their own account with no credit card attached. They can still ask you when they want to make a purchase, but it's totally up to you as to when that transaction happens.

### Use an alias



By default, your name on Among Us will be set to whatever name your device recognises you as. If this is your child's real name, you'll want to ensure they change it before hopping into a game. This is really easily done by clicking 'Online' on the main menu, then simply typing in a new name at the top of the screen.

### Talk about the risks



It's a good idea to talk to your child about the risks associated with online gaming, especially when there are chat options and an ability to communicate with others. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child: talk about their experiences of the game and who they're playing with. This will help you to stay on top of how they're feeling and ensure they know they can come to you if ever they feel upset or uncomfortable about anything they've experienced.

## Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for five years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work - but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Sources: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.innersloth.spacemafia>



HM Government

**ASK FOR  
ANI**



**#YOUARENOTALONE**

**Action Needed Immediately**  
For anyone experiencing domestic abuse

## Safeguarding

The safeguarding of our pupils will always remain a priority in our school. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility (including parents and carers). If you would like to speak to someone from school, Mr Nelson-Smith is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Postlethwaite is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

New codeword scheme launched to help combat domestic abuse.

Victims of domestic abuse can now access much-needed support from pharmacies across

the country through the new Home Office 'Ask for ANI' scheme. 'ANI' stands for Action Needed Immediately but also phonetically sounds like the name Annie.

If a pharmacy has the 'Ask for ANI' logo displayed, it means they're ready to help. Anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse and needs immediate help can ask for 'ANI' and the pharmacy will offer a private space, provide a phone and ask if you need support from the police or other domestic abuse support services.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Ben Nelson-Smith on [ben.nelson-smith@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:ben.nelson-smith@acexcellence.co.uk) or MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 01803 208100.

# Collaton St Mary Primary School Diary Dates

Thursday 4th March	World Book Day
Monday 8th March	Whole school return
Monday 22nd March & Weds 24th March	Parent consultations
Friday 19th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day
Thursday 1st April	Last day of term
Monday 19th April	School returns

## What is available for you in the Community?

Here are some free courses in Torbay which we believe may be of interest to some of you and for you to share:

- **Eat that Frog** are offering fun online cookery/craft sessions starting 29 March. Please call **01803-551551** to book.
- **BeWell@StepOne** are offering mental health courses. More information can be found on their website: **BeWell@StepOne Online Courses - Step One [steponecharity.co.uk](http://steponecharity.co.uk)**
- **Virtual HOPE** are running a programme for Health and Social Care Staff Living with the Symptoms of Long Covid anda programme for Postnatal Emotional Wellbeing.For more information please contact the HOPE team via email: **[hope.devon@nhs.net](mailto:hope.devon@nhs.net)** or telephone: **01803 210493**



# COLLATON ST. MARY C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Citizenship • Leadership • Explorers • Expression • Flourishing

**ace**  
academy for character and excellence

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