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Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

The temperatures have soared this week and I hope you are all keeping yourselves safe and well, it is nice to hear that so many of you have been re-united with more members of the family this week.

You will receive your information today with regards the arrangements for the last week of term. Please fill in the Google poll to let us know whether or not your child will be returning to school as soon as possible. There is a 'don't know' choice which you can use if you are still not sure.

I know some of you are feeling frustrated with the latest Government Guidelines re the re-opening of other facilities and yet schools remain closed to the majority of pupils. The Government is still insisting that children are taught in 'bubbles' of 15 by the same teacher, where possible. As it's the last week we wanted to try and get as many children as possible back to school but as you can see from the letter you will receive it's been a bit of a logistical nightmare and would have been unsustainable to have tried it for any more than one week. Here's hoping there will be better news re the new term in September and I will communicate that to you as soon as we receive it.

Remember it is entirely your decision to send your child back to school or not. Please read the updated Risk assessment which is on the web site under parents/covid information.

RNLI Safety news

The RNLI have asked Avon Fire & Rescue Service to pass on water safety messages and resources to schools in our area and in turn, ask that you share these with your children and their families. This is particularly important as the easing of the pandemic restrictions come into place this summer. These resources can be used in class as well as sharing them with parents/guardians to use at home.

Educational resource packs for Primary and Secondary pupils have been developed by the RNLI containing essential and life-saving water safety lessons. These can be used in schools as well as at home and can be found and downloaded here:

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources>

As well as this, the following could be shared with parents/guardians by adding it to your school newsletter, website, Facebook group, Twitter feed:



"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."



We have been asked by the RNLI and Avon Fire & Rescue Service to share some key safety advice for you and your children this summer. Each year, the RNLI helps thousands of people who end up getting into difficulty in or near water. RNLI Lifeguards can't be on every beach, meaning a heightened water safety risk to beach goers. This is particularly important as the easing of the pandemic restrictions come into place this summer. As well as the number of Lifeguards, RNLI staff have not been able to engage with school communities as they normally would in recent months. Here are some great resources to share with your children at home:

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/water-safety-from-home>

On behalf of the RNLI, we thank you for your time and wish you all well. Remember to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more fire, water and road safety advice.

Kind regards

The Children and Young Persons Department
Avon Fire & Rescue Service

Church news

It is such a joy that we will again be able to celebrate public Masses from Saturday 4 July. We are currently finalising arrangements for this. **If you would like to start attending Masses when these resume and haven't yet completed the form at josephfrancis.org/return please do so by 10pm on Friday 26 June.** We are aiming to finalise and communicate the arrangements to you by Sunday 28 June. If you aren't yet able to come to Mass it would also be helpful if you could complete the form to assist our future planning.

This Sunday, 28 June, Mass will be at 10am(you can, of course, catch up later if you prefer). This also means that children's liturgy this Sunday will be later, at 11am. **There will also be no Mass on Monday 29 June.** I'm really sorry about this.

Also, as we prepare for the resumption of public Masses, the final phase of the refurbishment at St Joseph's Church will be taking place next week. The church will look great for our first public Masses but sadly it means that it will be closed for private prayer from **Wednesday 1 July to Friday 3 July**. St Francis Church remains open during this time.

As Catholics we all claim to be followers of Christ. But in reality all of us need to deepen our relationship with Jesus, and learn to be better disciples of His. *Following Christ* is a nine-week course designed to help us do just that. It proposes disciplines that have been practised by Christians since the early Church, which help people develop and deepen their friendship with God: personal prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, etc.

Each *Following Christ* session lasts about 90 minutes. We greet one another online, we watch discipleship-focused videos, and share in small groups. *Following Christ* is practical rather than intellectual. It helps us develop a lifestyle where Jesus is truly Lord, while strengthening the community of believers.

Following Christ is the second of the ChristLife series of three courses. It is the natural successor to *Discovering Christ*, but anyone who is committed to Jesus Christ can join and benefit from it. The course will begin on Monday 6 July. For further details or to register see josephfrancis.org/christ-life

For all queries contact Deacon Didier on 07895 885315 or didier.delaplace@cliftondiocese.com

Free school meals

If you have not done so and you think you may be eligible for Free school meals please follow the link below to find out. Several parents have come back to us with news that they are eligible, which is great news, as they will be entitled to school meal vouchers over the holidays. All you will need is your name, address, e mail address and national insurance number.

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/>

If you are successful you will need to provide the office with a copy of the e mail.



Residential Trips in next academic year

We usually arrange for Year 5 and Year 6 to go away on residential trips during the Autumn Term however we have now made arrangements for these trips to take place in March 2021. The costs are yet to be confirmed due to coach /COVID social distancing restrictions however please see below the cost from last year as a guideline. We do hope for these trips will take place as the children get so much from them. We will make preparations and forward details in the Autumn Term but we thought you might like to know of the change of dates.

Year 5 (current Year 4) Kilve Court will be on Wednesday 24th – Friday 26th March 2021. Cost for this trip last year was £166

Year 6 (current Year 5) Mill on the Brue will be on Monday 15th – Friday 19th March 2021. Cost for this trip last year was £322

School web site

Please keep an eye on the school web site there will be regular Government updates that you will be sign posted to. There are also extra resources for home schooling and prayer, please go to parents/covid 19. You will also find the term dates and INSET days for the next academic year under parents/term dates

The telephone in the office is being monitored every morning, I would still recommend if you have any queries or you need help for any reason, please e mail the office rather than phone. Please be aware that at this present time parents **should not** come into the school foyer unless there is an emergency or you are picking up from After School Club.

We all look forward to seeing you before the end of term.

God Bless

Mrs Jackson

