



Cathedral Primary School Community News



Newsletter No.1 - September 2020

A message from Mrs Yarnold

Welcome back! The start of the term has gone so well and the children have settled very quickly into their new classes and routines. A huge thank you to parents and carers who have supported us with this. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families into our school community.

As we welcomed children back at the start of this term it was a time of excitement. Although we were all pleased to see each other I think that the new playground was certainly what everyone wanted to see! The children have loved playing in this space and playtimes have been transformed. Please do keep an eye on the tump as there are some further works taking place during the half term holiday. A huge thank you to the PTA who have supported this project and raised £20,000!

At the start of the academic year we launched the school development plan. This year we will focus on how we share our extensive curriculum with our school community. The website this year will be updated and include more information about subject specific work which is happening at school. You will also notice that all the curriculum work is being supported by some wonderful illustrations by Kate Gunn, a very creative member of our staff. We find ourselves working more remotely and want to make sure we keep communication a high priority so that you are able to share in the success and support learning at home. We will be doing some online curriculum events which you will be invited to attend and we look forward to seeing you at these. Alongside this there is a whole school focus on 'Excellence in English'. The PTA will be supporting the school to fund high quality books and teaching staff are working alongside our english subject leader to research effective reading and writing strategies. We look forward to sharing the success of these projects with you throughout the year.

Although the school has been operating in a very different way I want to let you know how impressed I am with how settled and focused the children have been. Much has been written about children adapting to the new situations we find ourselves in and how some have managed a long period without being at school. We are finding that children are some of the most adaptable and resilient people in our community. All credit to your children in how they have returned to school – you should be very proud of them!

We look forward to sharing more news and updates in our next Newsletter and working with you all this year.

Thank you for your continued support,

Best Wishes

Sara Yarnold and the CPS Team



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Secondary School Applications

Apply by 31st October 2020

Believe it or not, now is the time for Year 6 pupils and families to be thinking about applying for secondary school! The deadline for applications is **31st October**. Occasionally, the local secondary schools contact us with information about their open days (which are likely to be online this year), so we will forward them to you as they come in. You can also look at the websites of schools you may be interested in for more details.

Even though we are the feeder school to Bristol Cathedral Choir School, you still have to apply via your Local Authority and not just assume your child will have a place as this will not be the case.

The best way to apply is online at:

[School Admissions](#)

On-line is the preferred method of application because:

- The system helps applicants by checking for errors.
- There is no risk that applications will be lost in the post.
- It is quick and easy to do.
- Applicants will receive an immediate email confirming that their application has been received.
- Applicants will receive email notification of the outcome of their application.

[Secondary School Applications Bristol City Council Flyer](#)

COVID-19 Information Updates

You may have heard through the media that there have been some confirmed cases of COVID-19 in some schools in Bristol. Last week you will have received a home learning book for your child in the event of this happening.

We continue to take precautions as a school and review plans set in place to make sure we are keeping as safe as possible during this time. If a member of our school community is confirmed positive for COVID-19, we will telephone our local branch of Public Health England and follow their advice. We will use all means of communication at our disposal to inform you if we need to take action (such as closing a year group), so please make sure the office has your most up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses on record.



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PAL - Paws and Learning

School Dog 'Pup'date

I have continued to work with the school dog charity over the summer, during this time it has had a change of leadership and name and has been relaunched as PAL - Paws and Learning.

The aims and objectives of the charity and its 3 year training programme for school dogs remain the same.

The charity aims to help teach children non violence, empathy, respect, kindness, love, responsibility, friendship and trust through their School Dog programme. Children are also taught about the right way to safely interact with dogs they may encounter when they are out and about.

Dogs are specifically trained to work in an individual school and belong to a member of staff. They have a whole year of puppy training in school before they are able to start working with children. The dogs continue with training and assessments for the next two years, before becoming fully fledged school dogs.

Within school, the dogs take on a variety of roles; they build confidence in struggling readers, they offer morning check ins for children who are reluctant about coming into school, help build confidence and self esteem through children engaging in training activities, and reward and motivate learners with classroom visits or lunch time dog walks. Permission is always obtained from parents/carers before a child is able to work with a school dog.

I am hoping that a puppy will be joining our school either just before or just after Christmas, although it will be very much behind the scenes for the first year. The children will be receiving a talk about how to behave safely around dogs during Term 2.

If your child is either allergic to dogs, or has a phobia of dogs, I would be grateful if you could email me at the address below, as I will be collecting this information as part of our risk assessment. Also if you have any questions about the programme, do get in touch.

Lizzie Snelling

SENCo

senco@cathedralprimaryschool.org





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Music at CPS

Over the last couple of weeks it has been wonderful hearing the sound of music all around school again, showing that while some things are different at the moment music is still very much alive at CPS! While we aren't singing for now, in class different year groups have been working on body percussion, rhythmic work using untuned percussion, learning the glockenspiel and developing rhythmic patterns to suit different moods using the online *QuickBeats* programme. To enable everyone to keep enjoying singing, we will be releasing whole school singing activities on Seesaw for the children to join in with at home, including a mixture of new songs and some CPS favourites!

This week we have also been delighted to welcome many of our peripatetic instrumental teachers back into school. We are grateful for all Mrs Claridge's work in timetabling lessons so that these are now arranged by year group to avoid any cross over of bubbles and to allow for cleaning between lessons. Although our choirs are not able to rehearse in the normal way for now, we have been thrilled with the number of KS2 children who have signed up to join the Lower School and Upper School Choirs this year. We will start off with online choir activities and are closely monitoring how we can start to rehearse together again as soon and as safely as possible.



As the term progresses, we look forward to sharing some of our music making with you!

Many thanks,
Mrs Hughes (Y4) & Miss Kelly (Y1)

CPS Governing Body



Hello, I'm Will Shield and I'm really pleased to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. I'd firstly like to say thank you on behalf of us all to Stephen Parsons for his incredible contribution as Chair of Governors over the past eight years. Luckily, he's not going too far and has promised to always be on the end of the phone should we need him!

I have been part of the CPS governing body for the past six years and have enjoyed watching the school grow and flourish. I've worked in education for 15 years and currently work as a Senior Educational Psychologist for Bristol City Council and as an academic at Exeter University. My interests are primarily linked to mental health, emotional wellbeing, and the inclusion of all children and young people at school. I'm looking forward to working closely with Mrs Yarnold and her amazing team, all of whom are so astoundingly committed to supporting CPS children navigate the challenges that life throws at us. I hope to meet many of you over the coming year and please do contact me via the office if you would like a chat or have any questions.



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From the Office

Nut Free School: Just a reminder that we are a **nut free** school. Please do not send any food into school that may contain any trace of nuts. Please also remember that no appointments (doctors, dentist etc.) should be made during the school day.

College Square: We would like to thank everyone for making the effort not to drive into College Square. The start and end of the day has been so much safer and calmer now that the parking bays have been removed and therefore removing the need for anyone to look for parking spaces. We will continue to monitor the flow of pupils, bikes and cars over the coming weeks.

Parent Tours: This year we have been unable to run our usual parent tours of the school for prospective Reception families. We are currently looking to organise an online 'virtual tour'. Once the date and time has been confirmed we will let you know via our Newsletter, Website and Twitter page.

Play Equipment: As Mrs Yarnold has mentioned, the new play equipment has been a huge hit. Below are just a few photos of some very happy children.

