



February 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break. This term seems to be flying past as we head towards the spring season. I have been 'wowed' with the children's learning for last half-term, where we saw a huge amount of passion around protecting our planet. I hope they have been sharing their learning, and ways we can help, with you at home.

Our school, working closely within our trust, have been working hard on the curriculum we want to deliver in our schools. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our pupils. We have three main aims for our curriculum: Academic Excellence, Character Education and Metacognition (teaching our pupils how to be effective learners). I look forward to keeping you up-to-date with our curriculum during the year.

There is a lot planned for our current half-term. The children are currently in the middle of a narrative writing experience, where they are writing stories based on a text or picture. Following this, the pupils will enter a science learning experience, where many will study the growth of plants and how they thrive.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming parent evening meetings. For updates on our curriculum in action, please sign-up for our newsfeed (on our website) or follow us on our school twitter page - @collatonprimary.

Ben Nelson-Smith Headteacher

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!

This year's World Book Day will be on Thursday 5th March. We would like the children to come dressed as a character from their favourite book.

We would also like the children to bring their favourite book to school for the day as we will be sharing these with other classes in a celebration of reading.

There will be several other events taking place throughout the day along with storytelling in the library, a special worship where we will be sharing the day's activities with each other and a world book day themed lunch.

This will give you and your child a chance to share some books together and decide on their favourite!



Community Coffee

Please join us for coffee and a chat on Friday mornings. 9.00-10.00am in the community room. Everyone is very welcome to come along.



THURSDAY 5 MARCH

SAVE THE DATE



Year 6 Forest Fun

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoying their weekly Forest Fun sessions. They have had a great deal of fun and have developed their team building and leadership skills, through a variety of challenges.



Year 1 Collaboration & Leadership Skills

Year 1 have been developing their skills of collaboration and leadership and part of this is being able to listen to one another and summarise what they have said.

The children worked in groups of ten and looked at one of three illustrations from an, as yet, unknown story and discussed "I wonder ..." questions in order to decide one question as a group; one of the children acted as the scribe and wrote it down before they swapped the picture and repeated the process. Once they had written questions for two of the pictures they had a go at answering the other questions when looking at the final picture. Year 1 then shared their ideas as a whole class and discussed some excellent ideas, with a particular focus on descriptive language.



Golden Table Lunch

Children who received a 'Golden Ticket' for setting a good example in the lunch hall, either by showing good manners, selecting healthy options or assisting others, were rewarded with a special lunch at the Golden table this month!



Morrisons Donation

Many thanks to the team at Morrison's, who have donated a wonderful collection of books to the children of Collaton.



Year 6 Civic Award

Year 6 pupils working towards their Civic Award raised an amazing £226.18 for their chosen charities! Well done!



School Lunches

This terms lunch school menu is available on our lunches page and paper copies in our school office.

Our lunch menu can be found by clicking this link:

<https://www.collatonstmaryprimary.org/lunches>

Healthy Choices



Great to see so many of our pupils choosing healthy options from our salad bar for school lunches.



Health Heroes

Collaton 'Health Heroes' have been hard at work at lunchtimes! School contribution in action!



Please ensure lunches are pre-ordered via ParentPay in advance

Initiative in Christian Education

Year 5 welcomed ICE (Initiative in Christian Education) to their classroom. The children took part in an interactive workshop, where they had the opportunity to reflect and explore Jesus as a Messiah.

It was wonderful to have experts in class and the children really benefitted from learning certain different sayings from the bible. For example John 3:16 and Matthew 28:6.





YouTube is an online platform - owned by Google - where anyone can upload & watch video content. All different types of information, advice & entertainment are uploaded & billions of people tune in to watch, rate & comment on it. As a parent, it's important you understand exactly what content your children might be seeing.

What parents need to know about YOUTUBE

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EASY TO ACCESS

Any child with a Gmail account can sign into YouTube & access videos. Some content is flagged 'age-restricted', but the platform relies on self-verification, meaning kids can get around the rules with a fake date of birth. This could enable access to vulgar, violent & dangerous videos.



USERS CAN PRIVATELY CONTACT YOUR CHILD

When your child is signed-in to YouTube with their Gmail account, there are various ways they can send & receive messages. This could be via the messages icon, or via the 'About' tab. There is scope here for users who your child does not know to make contact.



YOUTUBE SUGGESTS RELATED CONTENT

YouTube will often 'auto play' videos based on your child's viewing habits. The aim is to show related & appropriate content. But the problem is: it's possible your child will be exposed to inappropriate content that isn't accurately related.



'CHALLENGE VIDEOS' CAN GO TOO FAR

Challenge videos refer to a stunt you're encouraged to recreate & film. Many challenge videos can be harmless & for a good cause, like the Ice Bucket Challenge. But some are dangerous & even life threatening, such as the Bird Box Challenge.



SHARING VIDEOS RISKS YOUR CHILD'S PRIVACY

If your child has a Google account, they can upload their own videos. To do this, they must create a personal profile page known as a 'YouTube Channel'. The videos uploaded here can be viewed, commented on & shared by anyone. This could put your child's privacy at risk.



Tips To Protect Your Child

APPLY 'RESTRICTED MODE'

Restricted mode helps to hide any mature or unpleasant videos from your children. It uses YouTube's own automated system & looks at what other users flag as inappropriate content. It must be enabled in the settings menu on each individual device.

CHANGE WHO CAN SEE VIDEOS

You can change who can view your child's content in the settings. Options include Public (available to all), Private (only available to people you share it with & cannot be shared) or Unlisted (available to people you share it with & can be shared further).

BLOCK CONCERNING USERS

To help protect your child from cyber-bullies, harassment or persistent offensive comments, you can 'block' individual users. Doing so hides your child's videos from the user & stops the user being able to contact your child in any way.

CUSTOMISE THEIR EXPERIENCE

Influence & control what your child watches using features such as Playlists (your videos play continuously rather than videos YouTube recommends) & Subscriptions (you choose channels your child can watch). It's also good to turn off auto play by toggling the blue button alongside the 'Up Next' title when viewing a video.

CREATE A 'FAMILY' GOOGLE ACCOUNT

Create a Google account to be used by the whole family. This will allow you to monitor exactly what your child is watching, uploading & sharing. Plus, your child's YouTube page will display their recently watched videos, searches, recommended videos & suggested channels.



GET YOUR OWN ACCOUNT

Create your own account so you can explore features yourself. Learn how to flag inappropriate videos, how to moderate comments & how to block users. This will help you feel more confident when providing advice & guidance to your children.

BE MINDFUL OF CYBERBULLYING

Once your child has posted a video, a worldwide audience can see it. Strangers may choose to comment on the video, both positively & negatively. So, be careful to check comments & any other interactions your child is making through the platform.



GET TO KNOW POPULAR CHANNELS

It's good to know which channels are most popular with your children. Some of the most popular channels right now are: PewDiePie, NigaHiga, Zoella, KSI, JennaMarbles, Markiplier, Smosh, ThatcherJoe & Casper Lee.

DON'T ASSUME YOUR CHILD IS TOO YOUNG

YouTube and YouTube Kids are quickly becoming the chosen viewing platforms for children between the ages of 3-15 & it's likely this trend will only increase. It's also possible children will become familiar with the platform at a younger & younger age. So it's important to understand the positives & negatives of the platform.



Relationship & Sex Education Consultation



The Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE).

These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements.

This means that we'll be reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and/or disabilities

We need your feedback to help us do this.

Here's how you can help:

We're running a focus group on Thursday 12th March at 2:15pm. If you'd like to participate, please email : admin.collaton@acexcellence.co.uk or call the school office on **01803 556433** before Friday 6th March 2020. The focus group meeting should take no more than 1 hour.

To help you understand the curriculum requirements we need to meet, please do take a look at the enclosed summary of what all pupils are expected to know by the end of primary school. If you're joining our focus group meeting, please read this before the meeting.

Thank you.

Ben Nelson-Smith

Headteacher

Pupils taking ACTION!



Our pupils have been geographers this half term, developing their confidence to stand up for what they believe in.

Our year 6 pupils are standing up against the illegal wildlife trade. Here are some examples of the posters they created to communicate the message.

Attendance Data for the period 27.01.20 – 27.02.20

Year Group	% Attendance
Reception	96.36
1	94.32
2	98.83
3	98.06
4	96.20
5	97.38
6	97.97



Well done to Year 2 our attendance winners for this month!



Year 3 Geographers

Year 3 geographers helped raise awareness of climate change to their adults this term.

First, they paraded around the hall in a silent march, holding placards with slogans, such as 'stop and think about our environment'.

After that, every child and their adult decorated a letter to create the message 'stop climate change now! love our Earth'. These were displayed in a large circle, representing the earth, made from green and blue fabric. It was a very memorable, thought provoking afternoon.



Attendance

Your child's punctuality is important

Our main focus this spring term is to reduce the number of lates and improve attendance. Thank you for all for all your efforts in helping to work towards our target.

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 10 minutes late every day is equal to 33 hours lost in 1 year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year
- 19 days lost a year through being late means 90% attendance
- 90% attendance through school life is equal to a whole year of school being missed

We currently have 14 children with attendance falling below 90% and this is a real concern. As parents ourselves, we completely understand that sometimes children are poorly, but some of our groups of children have the poorest attendance rates compared to other local schools. Our poorer attendance at Collaton continues to 'pull down' all our many other successes and this is incredibly frustrating as many of the absences are not due to illness.

The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and our aim is to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average of 97%. Our attendance figure for the year to date is 96.38%. We must improve on this figure.



Attendance is reported and categorised into:

Green

100%, excellent attendance.
Just **48 pupils** fall into the **Green** category.

Amber

95% or above, good attendance.
Only **168 of our pupils** are categorised as **Amber**.

Red

Below 95%, categorized as persistently absent and therefore below the expected level.
Unfortunately, **50 of our pupils** are currently ranked **Red**.

We would hope that both Amber and Red will be improved. Parents whose children fall into these categories will receive regular communication from school, be it directly from teachers or myself.

I will be meeting with parents to see how the school can support pupils with persistent absence.

Ben Nelson-Smith

Collaton St Mary Primary School

Term Dates 2020

Sunday 1st March	Sunday School, Lower Parish Room 9.15am	Thurs 12th March	RSE Focus Group Meeting 2.15-3.15pm (Sign Up To Attend)
Monday 2nd March	SEN Parent Consultation 3.30-5.00pm	Friday 13th March	Sport relief day
Weds 4th March	Film Club 3.15-5.15pm	Weds 18th March	Community Lunch, Mother's Day 12.30pm
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day Y4 Outdoor Education PCSA Y3 Swimming	Thursday 19th March	Y2 Team Building PCSA Y3 Swimming
Sunday 8th March	Sunday School, Lower Parish Room 9.15am	Sunday 22nd March	Forest Church, School Grounds 3-4pm
Monday 9th March	Parent Consultation 3.30 - 5.30pm	Tuesday 24th March	KS1 Easter bonnet parade (9.15)
Weds 11th March	Parent Consultation 5.00-8.00pm	Weds 25th March	Film Club 3.15-5.15pm Egg Rolling (KS1 9am & KS2 9.30am)
Thurs 12th March	Y6 Outdoor Education PCSA Y3 Swimming	Thurs 26th March	Y3 Swimming
		Friday 27th March	End of term Easter Service (2.15p,m) Last day of term

Collaton's School Council

The pupils of Collaton St Mary have voted for their class representative. They received a letter of congratulations for successfully being elected. Well done to all the children who bravely put themselves forward.



Inspire Others



Be Determined

COLLATON ST. MARY
C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Show Friendship Aim High Take Responsibility

Email: admin.collaton@acexcellence.co.uk **Telephone:** 01803 556433