



25.2.21



Dear Parents

We hope you all managed to have a good break over half term!

The Federation staff are very excited that we will be able to welcome the children back on Monday 8th March. We have been so pleased with how the children have responded to the remote learning but it will be nice to be back together again. The staff have lots to prepare next week to welcome your children back to school - resources and school environment were quickly adapted in January so that we could teach remotely. Teachers will make sure that the schools are put back together again ready to receive all pupils on 8th March

Teachers are adjusting their plans to prioritise the learning most needed to progress as instructed by the DfE - we are arranging some exciting, weekly activities to celebrate being together again so the children will have lots to look forward to.

Your child is not behind.

The media has been full of negative language in relation to children and learning - this is not helpful to anyone (unless it secures more funding for children and schools!). But we know that our children are amazing, resourceful and resilient young people. We're proud of what they have achieved at home (academically and in other areas) and can't wait to have them back in school having fun together again. We will be using positive language that values their unique experiences of lockdown and celebrates being together again and we encourage parents to do the same. All children will return to school having learnt differently at home - our skilled team are ready to meet the individual needs of all of our children and so no child needs to be anxious about what they have or haven't done in the last few months. Learning at home - both academic learning set by teachers and other learning that comes from being in a family - might be different to what may have happened in school if we had remained open but is no less valuable.

So instead of talking about 'catching up learning' let's notice other things children have gained from being at home while some areas of academic learning have slowed or paused.

Instead of 'lost' let's talk about what children have already 'found' and what they can look forward to next.

Rather than using the phrase 'upheaval', let's congratulate our children on the way they adapted to ways of learning in the last year that had never been tried before.

Our children are amazing and we want them to look back on this time and be proud of all that they have achieved.

Please tell us what we need to know about your child

We want every child to be able to return to school with confidence. If your child has any worries or has dealt with or is dealing with difficult events and/or emotions please let us know. Our team wants to ease the transition back into school for every child and this kind of information is incredibly helpful. Please email parents@westberryfederation.org.uk Information on this email will be received by Su and Faye and shared with other members of staff as requested or needed.

Attendance - happy but cautious

All children are expected to return to school as normal unless there are clinical reasons for them to remain at home. Our school environment is as safe as possible to enable all children to benefit from being in school with their friends. We know that some families are looking forward to their child returning to school while others may be more anxious. Our updated risk assessment can be found on our federation website. If you have questions or concerns about your child returning to school, please get in touch by emailing parents@westberryfederation.org.uk

It is important that all families remain cautious and continue to adhere to the rules. While we have relatively low rates of covid-19 infections locally we should all continue to behave in a way that will reduce the spread of infection.

Please do not send your child to school if they or anyone in you household, children or support bubble have :

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Preparation for return

Please start to **gather all the items that have been borrowed from school** (books, chrome books and charging cables & resources). These will need to be returned on the **first Monday back**. Chrome books will be signed back in, please transport them to school safely and PLEASE remember the charger. Wired headsets will also still be needed in school if you have some at home your child can keep in school and use please. Key Stage 1 will continue to use their own set of school stationary. Key Stage 2 will need to remember their **pencil case**. At the end of last term, many were missing lots of items needed. Please use the list below to check that your child has everything they need. This is especially important now more than ever, as children are not allowed to share equipment to reduce the risk of transmission.

PENCIL CASE - All children in Y3-6 will need to bring their own pencil case and stationery to school each day. Their pencil case or tin should be a sensible size that will fit neatly across the front of their tray. Children in Y3-6 will need:

- 1 eraser
- Up to 3 pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 or 2 writing pens (**navy/royal blue ink only**)
- 1 clear shatterproof ruler
- 1 or 2 highlighter pens
- 1 glue stick (non leak)
- 1 or 2 dry wipe pens (to use on small white dry wipe boards)
- Up to 15 colouring pencils
- Safety scissors (rounded ends and max blade length 6cm)
- Purple pen (gel or biro)
- Nothing else! No crayons or felt tip pens please

How will school work?

We have worked on creating a timetable that strikes a balance between maintaining a ‘**broad and ambitious curriculum**’ and keeping everyone safe. In addition, the morning has been adjusted to allow some extra time on core subjects (literacy & numeracy) and play.

Elements that will stay the same as before Christmas:

- Staggered start and finish times (see table below)
- Children will remain in class bubbles and not mix at playtimes
- Children will continue to eat in their classrooms at lunch time
- A two week rolling programme of subjects
- Uniforms need not be cleaned more often than usual or using different methods. (We know that children will have grown and it is a bit tricky getting uniform at the moment. Please do your best with uniform and we’ll understand if uniform isn’t perfect to begin with)
- Please ensure you remain socially distanced at the gate and wear a face mask at pick up.
- No adult on site visits without an appointment.
- Children should limit the amount of equipment they need to bring to school.

Elements that will be different until at least Easter:

- Lunch time will take place from 12.30-1.30 to allow extra time on core subjects in the morning.
- One foundation subject will be taught in the afternoon on a two week rolling programme.
- Teaching Assistants will stay with their class, where possible, and not move around bubbles
- ‘Specialist teachers’ will, where possible, teach their subject remotely in the afternoon rather than move into a different bubble.
- Adults will wear a face covering in communal areas if the school - children should not wear face coverings.
- Staff can take 2 Lateral Flow Tests a week and report their results to school.

Spring Term 2021	Drop off window	Pick up time
Umber (purple)	8.30am - 8.40am	2.50pm
Colam (blue)	8.40am - 8.50am	3.00pm
Sterridge (green)	8.50am - 9.00am	3.10pm

Breakfast and After School Club

We will get breakfast clubs and afterschool clubs up and running as soon as possible and more information about this will follow next week.

Try not to attend other childcare settings

Children should minimise the number of bubbles they are part of. Ideally children should not attend more than one school or childcare setting but we understand that this is not always possible. If you need to use childcare that is not part of school please let us know. We will need to make contact with this other childcare provider and make plans just in case either setting has a covid-19 infection.

Students and staffing

We are lucky to have student teachers again this term supporting the children at Berrynarbor. They will be online from next week (WB 1.3.21) and getting to know the children and will join us in person from 8th March.

Miss Jasmine Purdey (Mulberry)

Miss Toni Moyle (Aspen)

Miss Emily Flynn (Pine)

Mr Ethan Fane De Salis (Alder)

Pine Class

Mr Jones is making steady progress in his recovery from Covid-19 and will have a phased return to school as soon as he is able to. Mr Jones is desperate to be back with his class! Mrs Kentell will continue to teach Pine part time. Mrs Orr and Mrs Poynter will also be teaching the children weekly when Mrs Kentell isn't in.

World Book Day 4th March

This will take place next week - the children will be set the activity below, instead of literacy and numeracy.

WORLD BOOK DAY

LOCKDOWN Edition

Thursday 4th March



Toilet Roll Challenge

Design a cardboard tube to represent
you favourite character or book.



- * The design should be created using cardboard tubes whilst in their original cylindrical shape – that's the challenge!
- * The tubes cannot be wrapped in paper but it is acceptable to stick things on to create the design.
- * Any size cardboard tube is acceptable eg. kitchen roll tube, wrapping paper tube etc.
- * Any medium can be used to achieve this eg. felt tips, paint, collage etc.

Instead of
English and
Maths

Please keep
your tubes for
when we are
back at school!

Treats

We realise one of the biggest challenges for our children has been the lack of opportunities to see and mix with friends. Therefore, to celebrate being back together, the staff are organising weekly treats for the children to enjoy being back together again.

WEEK 1: Happy Together Day

WEEK 2: Forest Schools Adventure

WEEK 3: Bouncy Surprise

WEEK 2: Treasure Hunt



RED NOSE DAY

This is on **Friday 19th March**. Children are welcome to wear something red and donate money to this great charity!
Suggested donation £1

We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

West Berry Federation Staff Team