



Weekly Update: 6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for your diary

Thursday 19th September 7pm	PTA meeting at Firehouse- Open to all
Friday 20th September	Democracy Day (Children voting at Polling station for School Councillors)
Tuesday 24th September	Camelot Trip to Magdalen Farm; Maigold sharing morning
Thursday 26th September	Huish Episcopi Academy Open Evening 5-7pm
Monday 30th September	Clubs start
Tuesday 1st October 9.00-10.30am	Open Morning for prospective new families
Thursday 3rd October 9.15am	Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church- Families welcome (Donations for the Curry Rivel Foodbank)
Thursday 10th October 2.30-3.15pm	Coffee & Biscuits with Mrs Davies-Evans- Phonics & Reading Focus for Pippin Parents/Carers
Thursday 10th October	Flu vaccinations
Friday 14th October	Tempest - Individual Photos
Tuesday 15th & Thursday 17th October	Parents' Evenings
Monday 28th October – 1st November	Half term holiday
Monday 4th November	INSET training day- school closed
Monday 11th - Friday 15th November	Anti-Bullying Week (Monday 11 th November- Odd Socks Day)
Thursday 14th November 9.00-10.30am	Open Morning for prospective new families
Tuesday 17th December	Afternoon Nativity performance to parents
Wednesday 18th December	Evening Nativity performance to parents
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 20th December 9.15am	Carol Service at St Andrew's Church; Last Day of term

INSET Days for Academic Year 2024/25

- Monday 4th November 2024
- Monday 6th January 2025 (Same as Huish Academy)
- Friday 14th February 2025 (Community Learning Partnership Joint INSET)
- Friday 4th April 2025 (Same as Huish Academy)

Welcome Back! I hope that you have had a good summer and found at least some time and some ways to relax, refresh and 're-set'. We have an amazing first week; the children have been so happy and positive to back to school. I have been conducting visits to every classroom every day, and have been struck by how quickly the children have settled back into school routines and learning. A special welcome goes to new families joining the school, particularly those of Reception pupils- welcome to our school family! We are pleased that other pupils have joined in other year groups, and we also have a new member of staff, Ellee Andrews who has joined the Apple Trees Wrap Around Care team. Sadly, we say goodbye to Anne Gillard, Nursery Manager, as she moves to pastures new- we wish her well and thank her for all she has done for our children and families.

Communication

Communication with our families is so important to us and I just wanted to ensure you knew how we share updates with you:

Headteacher:
Mrs Ali Pook

Curry Rivel C of E VC Primary School, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset TA10 0HD
Telephone: 01458 251404

e-mail: office@curryrivel.somerset.sch.uk website: www.curryrivelprimary.co.uk

- Weekly Update email (Fridays): All main information for all classes
- Termly class newsletter- hardcopy and on website (Pippin class also on Tapestry)
- Email- we will email you if there are additional messages/reminders
- Our Facebook pages celebrate what is going on in school
- Out school website has statutory information, policies and curriculum detail

If you have any questions, queries or messages, do see the class teachers or senior staff at the beginning/end of the day. If you require a longer conversation, do contact the school office to make an appointment as we will be happy to help. Please meet the class teacher in the first instance, as they will know your child best. For safeguarding concerns, please see Mrs Pook who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Where there are concerns or worries, please speak to us as if we are not aware we will not be able to assist. The class Whatsapp groups are really useful to families, but may not resolve school issues for you.

Curriculum Learning

It is important to us that you are fully informed about the school's curriculum and all that goes on in the classroom- your enthusiasm, interest and encouragement in your child's learning makes such a difference to your child. Today, your child/ren will be coming home with paper copies of Autumn Class Newsletters and Knowledge Organisers - these will help you have those daily conversations about the learning happening in class. You can also use the Knowledge Organisers for mini-quizzes once you have read them together with your child- you may find the children quizzing you too! This information is also on our website (Under Children/Classes).

After School Clubs

Teachers run a range of after school clubs as part of our enrichment offer. These will be outlined next week, and can be booked through School Money. Don't forget that we have Apple Trees wraparound provision from 7:30am-5:30pm Monday - Thursday and 7:30am-4:30pm on Fridays. See our website or contact the school office for more details.

Water and snacks

Please can water bottles be labelled. Reception and Key Stage one pupils have fruit provided; older children can bring in fruit or vegetables to eat at morning break- please no sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps or bars for snack time as we have children with serious allergies and of course we want to ensure all of our pupils are choosing healthy options.

Premises

The school grounds at Curry Rivel are amazing- we are so lucky to have so much space, a large hall, front and back playgrounds, a field and an Orchard- many smaller village schools would be envious. As head teacher, I have high expectations for the school premises as I believe that the surroundings for both staff and pupils impact on how they feel about being here. Not only does our school look great because it is uncluttered and tidy, it also means that children and staff can access resources easily and it also reduces risk of accidents etc. Over the summer we have had the following works completed:

- Blenheim and Camelot classrooms, as well as other areas redecorated
- New ramp to access a Sensory Room (Room in development)
- New shelter in the Orchard, funded by a grant available through the Local Parish Council, & also supported by Yarcombe Woodland Products (Parent- Mr Cousins).

Mr Silver had completed many other premises works which may go unseen, but they are vital in keeping our grounds looking fabulous. Thank you also to Rick Hamar, parent, who has cut back our laurel hedging on Water Street. We also have new hall speakers- thank you to the PTA for supporting this.

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Car parking/turning

Schools were not built with the 21st century travel in mind, so we know the challenges of getting to school. If you can walk, we encourage this. Cycling might be an option, and we do provide cycle stores at the front and back of the school. We are working with the local Travel action group to help improve safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists in the village. Thank you for parking responsibly- please can we respect our neighbours by avoiding drives etc, and also please can we avoid turning in the Water Street entrance. Thank you for your support in this.

Accelerated Reader

All pupils have their reading books for home reading- older pupils read books within Accelerated Reader ranges. Star Reader Quizzes will be taken next week, as research shows that children need some time settling back into school to gain a realistic assessment- we can use these results to move children onto a new range if needed.

Well Being

We are committed to supporting every child's well-being with a well-planned PSHE curriculum, with a relational approach to behaviour and by having Place2Be provision at lunchtime if children need someone to talk to Mrs Langford, our school Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). The children are reminded that they can also talk to any trusted adult.

Smart Watches & Mobile Phones

Some of our pupils may have 'smart watches'- like mobile phones, children are not permitted to use them in school due to risks of loss and damage and of misuse. For those older pupils in Years 5 and 6 who, in exceptional circumstances, may need a mobile device at the beginning/end of the day, parents need to complete a 'Mobile Phone' form (Please contact the school office)- devices are stored by the school office throughout the school day.

Punctuality and procedures for late pupils

The school day starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. At the beginning of the school day, the gates open at 8.40am and they will close at 8.45am, both front and back- pupils and parents arriving after this time will need to come through the front gates and parents/carers will be asked to inform the office for the reason for lateness- we may be able to help! I cannot stress enough the importance of being punctual in the morning. Similarly, children must be collected on time, as staff have meetings, training and preparation to attend to, which can only take place once at the end of the school day. If you are experiencing difficulties with punctuality and would like to talk to us about it, please contact the office. Thank you for your understanding regarding this very important matter.

StudyBugs– report absence securely and help improve children's health

We're pleased to announce that Curry Rivel Church of England has an efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

Get the app or register now at <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs

1. It's integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for.

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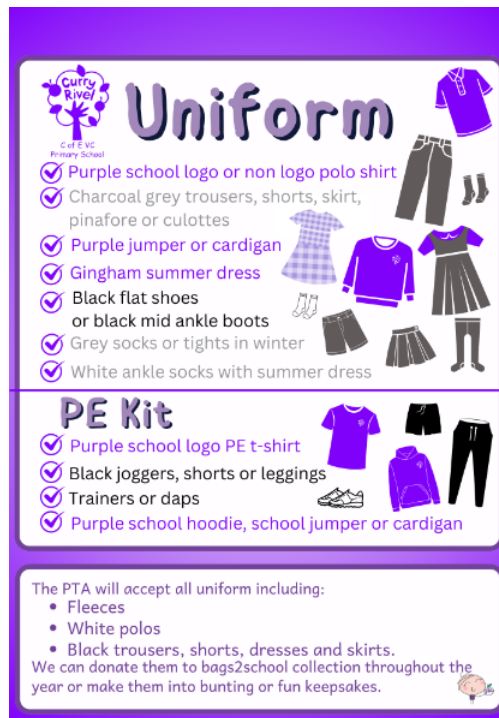
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2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health.

(<https://studybugs.com/about/schools>)

School Uniform

The children have looked so smart this week- thank you for your support in this, especially where you are supporting the new uniform. Please ensure you write your child's name on all uniform, coats, lunch boxes, bottles and PE kit. The correct PE kit must also be worn on PE days – which includes a school jumper/cardigan (No sports sweaters, hoodies or branded tops please). Preloved uniform is also available from the PTA. Please email: CurryrivelPTA@outlook.com for further details. Thank you for asking your child not to wear earrings on PE days.



Football at lunchtime

If your child enjoys playing football at lunchtime, please can they bring shinpads into school (Please label with pupil's name). We hope to start the lunchtime football rota up next week.

Children with Roles and Responsibilities.

At Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School, we believe everyone can be a leader and make a difference. We value what our children think and say about learning and school life and we encourage them to confidently share their views and take on various roles and responsibilities.

The roles and responsibilities we will have this year include:

- House captains
- School Council Representatives
- Librarians
- Worship leaders
- Sports Leaders

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If your child would like to put themselves forward as a candidate for the school council, please can they return the simple application form (these are now in classrooms) with a poster explaining who they are and why pupils should vote for them. Please hand these to class teachers in by Monday 16th September.



Next Saturday Sept 7th 3.30-5.30pm at The Old School Room, Curry Rivel.

Very informal; includes lots of activities, a Christian message, and food.

Contact Helen on 07880706517 helen@saich.co.uk



Messy Church Curry Rivel

All ages welcome, no need to book, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Messy church is free though donations are welcomed.

Recruiting a New Vicar

The parish of Curry Rivel will be joining six other parishes in the local area to form a new benefice (group of churches that share the same team of clergy). This new group includes Aller, Curry Rivel, Drayton, Fivehead, High Ham with Low Ham, Huish Episcopi /Langport and Swell. We already have a part-time minister who works with our seven parishes but there is a vacancy for the full-time vicar and the process has now started to recruit someone for this post.

The Parochial Church Councils for the above-named churches, have produced a short questionnaire to seek your advice about the qualities you value and challenges in your community, and how the church can support your expectations and values as we look to recruit a new vicar. Your views are important, even if you are not a regular church goer, so please take the time to complete this survey and feel free to be open and honest in your responses.

Completed surveys need to be returned by Sunday September 15th

The survey is designed to be anonymous, although it would be helpful to have your parish and which age range you are in, no personally identifiable information will be made public.

This survey can be completed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/75T7SPV>
or paper copies are available from the school office.

Once completed, please return your survey to one of the collection points in the village

St Andrew's Church
Curry Rivel Primary School
The Firehouse
The Post Office/Garage

A meeting will be held on **Sunday 6th October 2.00pm – 4.00pm at Fivehead Village Hall** for all who would like to hear the outcome of this survey or come and discuss it further, you would be very welcome to attend, refreshments will be available.

As Curry Rivel Primary school is a Church of England school with good links with the local church as a parent your views are especially important. Thank you for taking the time to do this, your input is much appreciated.

Fivehead Village Hall address is: Stowey Road, Fivehead TA3 6PP. Parking is available at the hall.

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Celebration Assemblies start next Friday- parents/carer of pupils receiving weekly awards will be invited via email each week- we aim to get invites out a week in advance (Sometimes this is not always possible). Have a wonderful weekend, and see you on Monday!

Ali Pook

Head Teacher

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