

EXPLORERS,
C/O St Nicholas Primary School,
Ash Walk,
Henstridge,
Somerset,
BA8 0QD.

Email - explorers.preschool@hotmail.co.uk

6th September 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1027807

Contact Telephone Number: 07792240804

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. We hope that you all had a great summer holiday. We would also like to welcome our new families and children who are joining us throughout this Autumn term.

We will be reintroducing our Stay and Play week, going out on welly walks, using the learning garden, school field, trim trail, library and hopefully arranging some trips and visits now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted.

One of the visits that we do during the autumn term is to Quiet Corner Farm in Henstridge to help make apple juice, so I am hoping that this can be arranged. This involves all parents, carers and children.

From the beginning of term, we will be returning to our Pre-Covid opening times with Explorers opening from 8.45am-3.15pm and from 8.45am-12.00pm.

The main gate of the school will be open for all parents and carers so that you can bring your child down to Explorers in the morning to drop them off and again in the afternoon to pick them up. Please wait outside the Explorers building until the door is opened by a member of staff.

If your child is attending for the morning, then the routine will be the same, with a member of staff meeting you at the gate at 12.00pm so that you can pick your child up.

I would ask that you pick your child up from Explorers first if you have siblings to pick up from St Nicholas Primary School at 3.15pm. Thank you.

Revised EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage has been revised with the main change being that we can now plan our own Curriculum Goals. We have thought long and hard about our goals and have tailored them so that they reflect what we want our children to learn whilst they are with us at Explorers. If you have any comments or thoughts, then please let me know. Your feedback is very much appreciated.

We will be discussing our goals further with you when we have our parents evening.

Water Bottles

Please can your child bring in a water bottle daily for them to use during the day. We ask that they bring in water and not juice/squash as sipping juice throughout the day is strongly not advised by dentists. Within the revised EYFS we must actively promote oral hygiene, so your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

If they are staying for lunch, then they can have a separate bottle with squash/juice although water is preferred. Please make sure that they have their names on.

Covid

Although most of the covid restrictions have been lifted we will continue to with most of our measures that we put in place during the day to keep everyone safe and well. I would ask that, when you drop off your child at Explorers in the morning, that you wear a face covering when inside the Explorers building and use the hand sanitiser provided. I would like to remind parents and carers that if you or your child have any Covid symptoms e.g., high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste or smell then you arrange a PCR test to be done and keep your child away until the results of the test.

Bronchiolitis

NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group have asked if we can share the attached advice sheet.

Information from Public Health England

I have included this information regarding acute respiratory infections that I sent out at the end of last term just to refresh the information.

"Over recent weeks we have been seeing an increasing number of outbreaks of non-COVID-19 acute respiratory infections in childcare facilities. Some of which have affected a large number of children within a childcare facility and/or results in children attended the local hospital."

We recommend symptomatic cases should stay away from the setting for at **least 5 days** from onset of symptoms (irrespective of causes) to reduce the risk of spreading the infection within the setting."

If your child has "a cold" with a high temperature, then they should get a test for Covid-19. A high temperature as defined on the Government website is:

a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

Definition of a cold- Public Health England- runny or blocked nose, sore throat, headache, non-productive cough, no fever.

If the test is positive, then they should be self-isolating in line with the Government Guidance. If the test is negative, then your child should not attend **Explorers for 5 days** from the onset of the symptoms of the cold. Please can these results also be reported to us via email so that we know what they are.

If your child is absent from Explorers, please may I remind parents and carers to let us know, either by text or a phone call.

Annie

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that Annie will be leaving us at the end of the week after 3 years with us. She is leaving to fulfil an ambition of becoming a social worker and will be studying for a degree with Gloucester University at Yeovil college. We wish her all the best and luck for the future and thank her for all her dedication, hard work and fun that she has brought to Explorers. We will miss her lots.

If Annie was your child's key person, then another member of staff will be continuing with their learning, and they will be in touch with you shortly.

Term Dates

We break up for the half term on Thurs 21st Oct and return on Mon 1st Nov 2021

Yours Sincerely,

Anna Swinburn- Supervisor