

5th May 2020



Dear Parents/ Carers,

As lock down and home schooling continues I wanted to make contact with you and to provide an update. I do email messages to the children but cannot be sure that mums and dads get to see those as well!

Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication over the past few weeks, supporting your children's learning during this very challenging time. We recognise that juggling work commitments, childcare and home learning is not easy and we appreciate that everyone is doing their very best, supporting each other. We hope that the resources on the school's website, regular phone calls, daily emails to children and responsive support from the staff team have helped you and your child to navigate through these unprecedented times.

Online Education Provision

I am incredibly proud to share that we are the first school in the Ferndown cluster to provide children with a structured timetable and daily opportunities to attend registration and 'live' lessons. My staff team have been working hard, planning work that can be accessed online and getting to grips with a range of new technology to help us support your child's learning at home. As a team, we have been committed to continually developing our online education provision and doing all we can to support and facilitate our children's knowledge and continued development during these challenging times.

Mrs Sparks recently sent a letter out, sharing that we are looking for ways in which we can continue to build and develop our online provision. Please can I ask for your support with this as we greatly value your views and keen to work together. We would therefore be extremely grateful if you would take a few minutes to share your feedback so we can continue to enhance our provision. Please can you all complete a short survey, by Wednesday 13th May 2020, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XBV2MRP>

Returning to school

We have fed back to Dorset Council and the Department for Education our recommendations, flagging up their need to also consider the Year 8 children's transition into Year 9 in three tiered school systems as they make decisions at this time. I have been told that there would be at least 3 weeks notice of any return and this is not likely to be before the start of June. We will not know what that return will look like however I hope that we will know information that is more concrete when the Government shares their update this Sunday. In the meantime I have emphasised that we need to have clear guidelines for any return to school so that children, staff and parents/ carers feel confident about such any return. I will keep you all informed as soon as I know more.

School Reports

Children's school reports will be sent home on the 3rd July 2020, sharing where we predict the children would have been by the end of the academic year had their rate of progress continued in its trajectory with no break in education tuition and enhancement provision. In the absence of all primary statutory assessments for Summer 2020, the school will also forward pupil led teacher assessments, to Dorset Council. All pupil led teacher assessments will be used by us, setting a marker to assist in transition and recovery.

Headteacher: Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs D East BSc (Hons) PGCE SENDCo
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs C Watkins BSc(Hons) PGCE

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Our children- our heroes

Tonight I will be applauding our children. They have had to stay indoors more than they have ever known in their lives. For them, their entire lives have been turned upside down and they are too young to fully understand the extent of this pandemic. As a result, they are being asked to follow rules that are alien to them- not being able to spend time with family or give hugs. Their holidays, sporting events/ clubs and activities, play dates and daily school routines have all been cancelled. For some, they may have overheard adults talking about people they know becoming unwell- their minds must be racing yet every day they demonstrate resilience. They are getting up and carrying on despite everything that's going on around them. So, they are our heroes: today, tomorrow and forever. Tonight, let us all join together and also clap for them.

Wishing you and your families well.

Please keep safe and take care.



Dr Deborah Craddock

Head teacher