

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The past few weeks have been busy ones with our very special virtual Remembrance Day commemorations on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Children in Need day on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and World Children's Day today.

Again we have had no confirmed cases of COVID in school.

Thank you all for your support in ensuring your children in KS3 brings in their face covering to wear in communal areas (unless they are in the Government's exempt category), together with their hand sanitiser. We have hand sanitiser units all around the school but it helps if all children also have their own little bottle in school bags. A reminder that if your child displays any COVID symptoms - a raised temperature, a new persistent cough or loss of taste and smell- he/ she must stay at home and get a test done as soon as possible.

If your child needs to stay at home, then work is available on our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)-ITS Learning Platform. If you have any questions, or need any help, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01202 872474.

There has been uncertainty in relation to assessments in 2021 however in accordance with Government guidance, Year 6 SATS assessments, as well as our GL assessments in each year group will go ahead next summer and that is what we must all continue to work towards. The good news that a vaccination is coming closer will help that aspiration.

I am very conscious that our extra-curricular provision has had to be further heavily curtailed following latest government directives. I look forward to the time, hopefully soon, when this can be fully brought back. I am grateful to those staff who are currently able to offer lunchtime activities. In the meantime, it remains vital that all pupils respect the lockdown out of school hours and remain at home.

We will shortly be recording our virtual Christmas concert and the link to this will be sent out in due course.

With regard to planned school trips that have had to be cancelled, we are slowly reaching some resolution. We are keeping our curriculum enrichment opportunities closely under review and hope that we will be able to arrange trips in 2021. Your patience in this is appreciated.

### **Sources of help and support**

I recognise that this latest lock down has had a significant impact on a number of families. Dorset Council has a specialist service that can offer families additional support. Their helpline is available Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm 0300 123 3393.

I am also mindful that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the well-being of our pupils and their families. I would recommend the following site as an excellent resource to help you have positive mental health discussions with your child at home.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/difficult-feelings-about-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

With all good wishes,



Dr D Craddock

Head teacher