



Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a good holiday and that you and your families kept well. It was a lovely feeling to welcome the children back into school on Wednesday morning and I know from talking with them they certainly enjoyed Christmas.

There is no hiding the fact that last year, like the one before, was a challenging one. The year ahead looks more promising, but we do start it with a measure of uncertainty. For that reason, our risk assessment and subsequent contingency procedures have been updated and can be found on the website. In summary they are:

- staff will continue to wear face coverings when in communal areas of the school
- classes will be kept apart as much as is organisationally possible and this will be reviewed on Friday 14th with the hope to restart whole school activities from Monday 17th January
- handwashing routines remain in place
- staff will continue to take Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly
- assemblies will be over TEAMS until Monday 17th January
- educational visits and inter school competitive school sport will continue if the individual risk assessment allows it
- pupils should stay at home if unwell or displaying Covid symptoms

You will no doubt have seen a lot in the news about whether or not schools will be open this term and whether they will be forced to close. We are hopeful that we can continue to remain open, even with staff shortages, and will do everything we can to ensure we have enough cover to teach all classes every day.

The class teachers have many exciting learning opportunities planned for the term ahead. Foxes are stepping back in time as they investigate their history topic "That's so last half century". Meanwhile, Badgers will be on their virtual travels across different European Countries in their geography topic "Our European Neighbours". The children in Squirrels and Hedgehogs are heading to colder climbs in their topic "Arctic Animals" as they learn about the different animals found in the North and South Poles they are hoping for more frosty and cold weather to add to their learning experiences.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that as the term progresses, we will be able to get back out and about undergoing trips and visits but for now we will continue to make the most of our grounds and forest school sessions.

A reminder that as part of our curriculum offer the children have weekly outdoor forest school sessions. The grounds are rather wet and muddy in places at this time of year so Welly boots and waterproofs are a must for every child. The children need to bring their forest school kit in every week to get changed in school - except Hedgehogs who need to come to school dressed ready for their Forest School session to give them as much time as possible outside as changing can take quite a while!

Hot Meals - change

Please note a menu change for **Thursday 20th & Friday 21st January 2022**.

A **traditional Fish & Chip day** is planned for Thursday 20th January, with a change of the Vegetarian option to **Plain Omelette with Chips**

For Friday 21st January, the **BBQ Chicken** has replaced the fish, with a change of the Vegetarian option to **Tomato & Veggie Balls with Wholegrain Rice**

Please check your meal ordering account to ensure the option chosen is suitable at [Dorset Meal Selector | Home](#)

The cut-off point for placing meal orders or making changes is midnight on **Sunday 9th January 2022**.

School and class closures: Closing classes will be a last resort and will only happen if there are no supply/cover teachers available, it is unsafe for us to open, and we are unable to meet our safeguarding requirements. If we do have to close a class, we are hopeful it would be for as short a time as possible and we will provide remote home learning and links to useful educational websites, as we did last year. We never want to send children home unnecessarily but at times these things are out of our control. We thank you for your ongoing support at this time and for understanding the challenges that we are facing.

Clubs: A letter about clubs will be coming out next week. We are trying to offer a range of clubs as we think these are hugely beneficial to children throughout school and provide additional educational experiences. However, at times, we do have to cancel these due to staff shortages. Most often, this is very short notice, and we cannot do anything about this. If you use the clubs as after school care due to work commitments, please can we request that you also have a backup plan for when we have to cancel clubs. Many of our staff will offer to cover clubs at short notice but this is not always possible, and we cannot offer after school child care.

Handball Club

Please find below the link to sign up for the Handball club that Prime Sports will be offering in Spring 2022 starting on 19th January.

Wednesday is for Yrs 1 and 2

Friday is for Yrs 3,4,5 and 6

<https://primesportscoaching.class4kids.co.uk>

Minimising contacts through online assemblies

We are returning to online assemblies and looking at other ways to reduce mixing of classes in school for the next week or so until the current Omicron Covid situation improves.

January Covid Updates

ISOLATION

You can stop self-isolating after 7 days if you do a rapid lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 of your self-isolation period and:

- both tests are negative
- you did both tests at least 24 hours apart
- you do not have a high temperature

If you do a rapid lateral flow test on day 6 and test positive, wait 24 hours before you do the next test.

CLOSE CONTACTS

All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under five years old (Nursery and some Reception Children) do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Once notified by Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students are strongly recommended to take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [online reporting system](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow [national guidance](#).

EMERGENCY CLOSURE INFORMATION

If for any reason we have to close the school due to extreme weather conditions or Covid, you will be notified first by an email and text message from the school office. The same message will then be placed on the school website.

Birthdays

Belated Birthday wishes to

Ruby (10), Dexter (10)

Seb (6), Albert (11)



Speed Limit reduction

The Parish Council are currently running a petition to support a reduction in the speed limit through and within the village

Please sign the petition at www.change.org/p/dorset-council-lower-speed-in-bourton-for-a-safer-community or ask at the school office for a paper copy

This closes at the end of January

Attendance

Week ending 7/01/22

Hedgehogs – 100%

Squirrels – 100%

Badgers – 100%

Foxes – 98.5%

This week the winners are

Hedgehogs, Squirrels & Badgers



Parking

Please **do not** park on the main road above the blue gates, this forces cars overtaking into the path of vehicles coming over the hill from Wincanton

Please tell others who are picking up for you

House Point Scores

Sandways

136

Chaffeymoor

101

Queen Oak

97

Dates for your Diary

- 10th Jan Piano Lessons start
- 12th Jan Violin Lessons start
- 15th Jan Applications for September 2022 Admission closes
- 19th Jan Handball Club starts (tbc)
- 20th Jan Brass/Woodwind Lessons start
- 21st Jan Guitar Lessons start
Handball Club starts (tbc)
- w/c 24th Jan After School Clubs start

21st – 25th Feb – Spring Half Term

SOMERSET DRAGONS FUTSAL

REGISTER FOR A FREE TASTER SESSION
SOMERSETDRAGONSFUTSAL.CO.UK

FUTSAL WINCANTON

U5's 4PM-5PM	T U E S D A Y S
U6's 4PM-5PM	
U7's 5PM-6PM	
U8's 5PM-6PM	
U9's 6PM-7PM	
U10's 6PM-7PM	

WINCANTON SPORTS CENTRE – FREEDOM LEISURE

CR5 Joma JPS