



St George's C of E School

FRIDAY NEWS

11th September 2020

Welcome Back! Oh, it is wonderful to be able to write that! I am so happy that we are finally back together as a school community. The last six months have presented us with lots of challenges and a new way of adapting to life. I know I'm on a steep learning curve in terms of holding virtual assemblies!

We are all so very proud of all the children for settling in so well and being so amazing – they have shown resilience, superb listening, care for others, teamwork, friendship, humour, excitement for learning amongst so many qualities that we strive for here at St George's.

Thank you to all of our families who have supported us as a school with your patience, understanding, commitment and kindness. This has truly helped with the smooth transition back into school after such a long period away.

The classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, and the engagement of all the children in lessons this week has been really impressive. It has been lovely hearing chatter and giggles once again floating through the corridors. This term our focus is on helping the children to be fully settled into school life again, with lots of well-being support and an opportunity to identify what learning catch up we need to put into place if any.

Mrs Hudson and I will continue to meet the children every morning on the school gates, we will alternate between the Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2 gates throughout the week. If you have any questions or queries and don't catch us at the gate please email into the office on office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk or phone the school on 01747 840409.

Please leave a message if we don't answer immediately, we will get back to you as soon as we can.

I hope you all manage to have a good rest and a peaceful and relaxing weekend – I know that the children will probably be quite tired!! We will see you all on Monday.

Jill Farndale

Thank you

The staff and I would like to say a big "Thank You" for all the very lovely cards, messages and gifts we received at the end of the summer term.

Contact us:

Tel: 01747 840409

E-mail: office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

Lunch Time Supervisors Wanted

Do you have a hour to spare every day or a few days each a week?

Are you interested in becoming a lunchtime supervisor for the most amazing children.

If so please let us know. Ask at the office for an application form and job details.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY

Due to Covid and our staggered start times we are using both school gates. This week there have been a couple of near misses on the main road due to parents parking by the side of the Church near the gates and by the grass.

PLEASE DO NOT park near the BIG BLUE GATES or next to the grass bank next to the church. There are solid white lines in the middle of the road and by parking here you are forcing other road users to cross the white lines to pass—causing a risk to other vehicles on the brow of the hill.

We will be asking the Traffic Police and Highway Agency to come out to monitor this stretch of road.

Please help us to keep our children safe!

PE DAYS Remember children need to come to

school ready for PE on their PE Day

Hedgehogs - Monday & Friday

Squirrels - Monday & Thursday

Badgers - Wednesday & Friday

Foxes - Tuesday & Wednesday

Class Email contact addresses

Please use these email addresses to contact the class teachers:

Hedgehogs— hedgehogs@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

Squirrels— squirrels@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

Badgers— badgersclass@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

Foxes— foxes@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

Welcome

I would like to extend an extra warm welcome to all our new families and children as we start our journey together. We welcome Alice, Annabelle, Ben, Charlotte, Emilia, Georgia, Hazel, Jemima, Joey, Niamh, Rafferty, Seb, William and Willow into Reception.

We hope they will be very happy here at St George's School.



Have your details changed?

Our priority in school is to keep all our children safe whilst they are at school.

Therefore, please inform the office of your contact details, home time arrangements or if your child's medical needs have changed so we can update our records.



Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

8am to 6pm Monday - Friday

10am to 4pm Saturday & Sunday

Attendance matters

It is vital that children return to school for their educational progress, wellbeing and wider development. School attendance is mandatory again from the beginning of this new academic year. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly applies.

As in other years holiday requests in term time will not be approved and you may be issued a fixed penalty notice by Dorset Council. Please also take into account the Covid quarantine restrictions on self-isolating when returning from some countries.

We are of course mindful that children are unwell from time to time and need to remain at home. Moreover, children may be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has Coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend for this reason, you MUST contact school.

Free School Meals

Please can I encourage parents to apply for Free School Meals, if you are eligible? You do not have to have the meals but eligibility may mean that some trips are significantly cheaper for these families, and children eligible for Free School Meals attract additional funding to the school (which is important at this time of budget cuts). This applies to all families even if you are currently receiving UIFSM (universal infant free school meals). Free School Meals can be awarded if parents/carers are in receipt of:

- * Income Support
- * Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- * Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- * Child Tax Credit (providing your annual income is less than £16,190)
- * Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- * Support Under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- * Working Tax Credit 'run on'
- * Universal Credit.

Please note, if you currently receive Working Tax Credit, you are not eligible to claim Free School Meals. However, if you become unemployed or reduce weekly working hours below 16, you can claim Free School Meals for a 4 week period after employment ceases or hours reduced.

Wallace and Gromit's Children's Charity

Most of you will be aware that Mrs Westerman-Loe is currently off work. Unfortunately, during the summer holiday Mrs Westerman-Loe's daughter Lily (a past pupil of St George's) suffered a bleed on the brain and was rushed to hospital by Air Ambulance. Lily remains in hospital in Bristol recovering. She is improving each week which is excellent news. I am sure you will join us in sending positive thoughts and prayers for Lily and the Westerman-Loe family.

The Wallace and Gromit's Children's Charity is a national charity raising funds to improve the lives of sick children in hospitals and hospices throughout the UK. They provide life-saving medical equipment, free family accommodation, a range of arts, music and play therapy programmes, sensory equipment and facilities and respite care.

To support the Wallace and Gromit Charity who are supporting the Westerman-Loe family we are holding a "Home Clothes" day on **Friday 18th September**. In return for a donation (suggested £1) the children are invited to come to school in their home clothes.

Attendance

Week ending 11.9.20

Hedgehogs - 94.1%

Squirrels - 98.9%

Badgers - 98.4%

Foxes - 97.8%

This week the winners are

Squirrels



NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please remember we are a NUT FREE school. Please ensure your child does not have any nut products in their lunchbox—this includes Chocolate/nut spread in sandwiches and cereal bars which contain nuts. We have children in school with severe Nut Allergies.

Christian Value of the Month:



Birthdays

Mrs Cuff,
Alexander (8), Ms Maidment, Miss K, Chloe (7)

Many Happy Returns

Achievements Out of School



Each week we celebrate the children's achievements outside of school.

Please let us know if you would like a mention in the newsletter.

Pippa - Pippa's Mum and Dad wanted to mention and say well done to Pippa for being the most amazing big sister and helper to mummy during lockdown as they welcomed baby brother Lincoln.

At the start and end of the day

In order to minimise congestion, and prevent classes mixing, children should be brought to school by just **ONE** parent/carer, please.

Staggered drop off and pick up times are still in operation. Please can we ask that parents stick to their child's class drop off times. This ensures we can keep the class bubbles separate preventing the risk of spreading the infection. Can we also kindly remind all parents that while you are waiting for the children at pick up time to remain socially distanced and allow others to socially distance.

If you have more than one child and they have different drop off and pick up times, please arrive at their EARLIEST allocated drop off time.

Squirrels and Foxes children should be dropped off at 8:40am. Squirrels via the wooden gate near the car park. Foxes via the Big Blue Gates.

Badgers and Hedgehogs children should be dropped off at 8:50am. Badgers via the Big Blue Gates. Hedgehogs via the wooden gate near the car park.

If you arrive early please wait in your car or away from the gate to enable parents in other classes to socially distance.

Please remember to include cutlery for your child to eat their packed lunch as access to the kitchen is limited

As we are not able to welcome parents into school for our weekly Achievement Assemblies the classes will share a little of what they have been up to here on the newsletter. Awards will start again next Friday.

Hedgehogs News

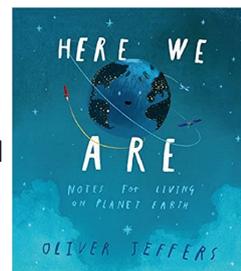
Year 1s in Hedgehogs have been very excited to be back and keen to tell us all about their time at home over the summer. They were eager to explore the new areas in the classroom and outdoors, and have enjoyed being back with their friends. We have been revising some phonics, practising our number facts and writing sentences in our focused work. We have also welcomed the new Reception children into school this week for their transition afternoons. We have been amazed at how well they have settled in already - it is wonderful to see. They have found their pegs, played some name games to get to know each other and explored their new classroom and outdoor area. Today the Year 1 Hedgehogs and Reception Hedgehogs have spent the afternoon together, getting to know each other. Mrs Toy and Mrs Cuff



Squirrels News

It has been fantastic to welcome the children back and have their smiling faces in school again. They have returned with great enthusiasm and settled down to the new routines extremely well.

In class, we have been reading the book "Here We Are" and discussed the human body. The children have demonstrated great knowledge and understanding to name body parts as well as explaining how we can keep our bodies healthy.



We have also talked about our emotions on coming back to school and I was delighted to read comments such as: "Happy because I love school" and "Excited because I get to see my friends again". I have been so impressed with the number of children being 'Have-a-go Hyenas' and attempting everything that they have been asked to do – it has been a great week.

Well done to all our Squirrels. Mr Abbott

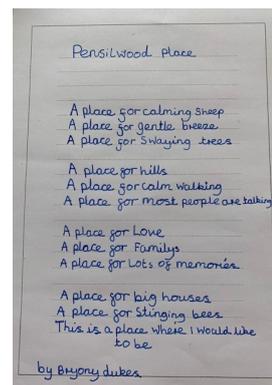
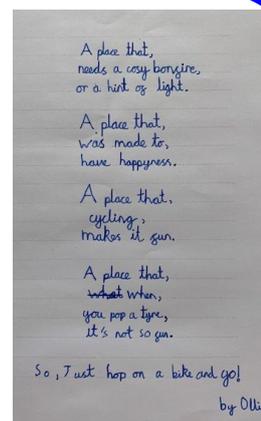
Foxes News

We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with each other again in Foxes.

We have started reading 'Here we are' and marvelled at how immense our universe is and then we wrote list poems about our favourite places on Earth. We reflected upon how fortunate we are to meet many of the people who come into our lives - considering how huge the world population is.

We wrote some thank you cards to special people and animals in our lives. We also considered some of the positive impacts of lockdown on the environment and made posters and wrote letters to our local MP to encourage people to reduce carbon emissions.

Mrs Shears and Mrs Welshman



Badgers News

Badgers have been enjoying "Here we are" by Oliver Jeffers like the rest of the school. We have discussed what we would like for the planet going forward, as a result of what the children have learnt during lockdown, for example the animals having a bit more peace and space to roam! We made posters to show others what we think. We have also been celebrating our "Wonderful World" by writing our own additional verses to Louis Armstrong's classic song. In Science we started our topic on sound. We have also learnt how to do drawings with one point perspective.



Ms Rankin and Mrs McGinty

