



## *Kindness, Thankfulness, Perseverance*

I hope that as you come to the end of another full week of lockdown and remote learning, you are settling into the routine of it at home, and that the different aspects of it are feeling less new and easier to navigate. It has been a rapid learning curve for all of us in school as well, and we are certainly ending this week feeling much more confident using the technology and delivering teaching and learning in this new way. Many thanks for all the patience you have shown us as we have navigated this path. It has been so lovely to see the children and to see how our St George's spirit is still alive and well during our 'Live' lessons. Please remember that we are all here to help and support you at home, we understand how bewildering and frustrating it can be at times. Your first port of call is to email your child's class teacher about any problems. You can also give us a call in school and we will always do our best to help.

I've had a few questions from people asking when school will be reopening. We have had **NO** official guidance at all from the DfE on this, however Gavin Williamson did state yesterday while on the news, that they would look to give us two weeks' notice. With this in mind, it is really important that the routines that we set at school and at home are sustainable for children, staff and families so please just take one day at a time and remember to take time out to do something that you enjoy. It is tough for us all at the moment and we know that home educating can be a challenge for many. We will, as always, keep you up to date with developments as we find out about them.

Our Governors have been busy this week, with lots of our termly committee meetings happening and then our Full Governing Board meeting too. The Governors of our school work incredibly hard behind the scenes as volunteers, supporting us all as a school community. As you can imagine we have had lots to talk about this term.

Stay safe and take care  
Jill

### **Critical Workers - School Places during Lockdown**

I know from speaking to parents that you are becoming aware that schools are struggling to cope with the number of key worker children wanting to attend. We are so grateful to those parents who have adjusted their work schedules to keep their child at home whenever possible, which then results in a safer school community.

**We ask you to consider the following:**

- Can the parents' specific key worker role be carried out at home? If so, children should be kept at home.
- Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.
- Although only one parent needs to be a key worker to be considered for a place at school, if a child can stay at home, they should.

If you no longer need the place allocated to you next week, please email [office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk). to let us know that your child/children will not be attending. We do understand the challenges working at home presents.

### **Staff Lateral Flow Test**

Staff will be using lateral flow tests at home starting from next week, twice a week. This will enable us to break the chain in transmission for Covid-19 by identifying asymptomatic people. It could result in some 'bubble closures' if staff test positive and we have to then close a class. We will keep you all updated and thank you in advance for your patience.

## Happy Birthday

Mrs Hudson, Mrs Rose,  
Mrs Nicholls, Bluebell (8),



Sophie (7), Lilly (6)

*Many Happy Returns*

## **Wellbeing & Mental Health**

It is very important, during these difficult times, that your wellbeing and that of your children is of a high priority. We're aware that many families will be dealing with stressful situations and we are here to support. Please contact your child's teacher through their email address or call the school office to speak to a member of staff if you think we can offer support. Establishing new routines are very important to children when their normal day to day routines have been disrupted. The teachers upload a suggested timetable which might help, but feel free to adapt this to suit your routines as a family.



## St George's School Storytelling Competition



Do you have a favourite story? Do you like acting?

Why not enter our competition?

Video you and/or your family retelling your favourite story. Be creative in how you retell your story?

You could act it, sing it, dance it or even use animation. Use fancy dress and props if you can.

The choice is yours.

**EXTENDED Competition closes on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Upload your entries onto your class Teams account or email  
[office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk)

Winners will be announced in the Friday Newsletter published on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

We are offering 10 house points to every child who enters and an additional 10 points for every family member or pet that appears in your video/film.

**Prizes for the winning entry.**

### *Home Learning Resources:*

Remember weekly paper home learning packs are available for collection if you need them. The teachers are also putting out boxes for reading book exchanges. The books are heading into quarantine before being loaned out to families. If the children have used up their home learning books and you would like a new one, please just let us know. If you are picking up your pack, and feeling a little low, let us know and we can come out to say hello - it will be a nice excuse to see you - we miss you!

## CORONAVIRUS ADVICE STAY AT HOME, STAY SAFE AND HELP THE NHS

Following the Government's announcement, the school will be closed until at least the February half term holiday. The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives. This means you should **NOT GO OUT AT ALL** except for essential reasons which are below.

You must not meet in groups of more than 2 people and should not let your children go and play in playgrounds or be out by themselves.

If you do go out, always stay at least 2 metres away from others.

The **ONLY** reason you should go out is for one of the following reasons:

1. Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
2. One form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
3. Any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
4. Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.

### Emergency Closure Information:

As the weather is turning colder I thought I'd take this opportunity to share a reminder regarding our school closure procedure. Whilst we always try to avoid closing the school; in the event of heavy snow this may be unavoidable. A message will be put on the **HOME** page of our website and an email will be sent out to all parents.

### School Closure:

During the school closure the office will be manned daily so please feel free to still call for day to day queries.

Leave a message if you do not get an answer and we will contact you.

Alternatively, you can email school on [office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk)

Or the class teachers on

[hedgehogs@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:hedgehogs@bourton.dorset.sch.uk)

[squirrels@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:squirrels@bourton.dorset.sch.uk)

[badgersclass@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:badgersclass@bourton.dorset.sch.uk)

[foxes@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:foxes@bourton.dorset.sch.uk)

### School Twitter

Page:

@StBourton



### Daily Live Online lesson Times via TEAMS

Class	Time
Hedgehogs	10:30am
Squirrels	9:30am
Badgers	1:30pm
Foxes	11:30am

### Free School Meal Vouchers

During the National Lockdown children who are registered for Income based Free School Meals will receive a weekly £15 food voucher.

If you'd like more information on how to apply or to find out if you would be eligible please contact the school office.

### Statutory Assessments 2021

The government have cancelled all statutory assessments for KS1 and KS2 due to the ongoing COVID19 disruption. This includes the year 1 phonics screening check, year 2 SATs, the Multiplication Tables Check in year 4 and year 6 SATs. Once the children return to school, the teachers will resume their normal assessments to help support children's progress. Our autumn assessments showed the children had made excellent progress and most were back on track to meet their end of year targets.

# Mindful Breathing

## Day 1 - Basic Mindful Breathing Exercise

Sit in a comfortable position, keeping your back straight so that it is not touching the back of your chair. It may be helpful to move to the front of your seat so that you can feel your sitting bones.



1. Close your eyes if you feel comfortable or soften your gaze and look at the floor.



2. Scan your body and notice how you feel.

3. Notice the sensations of each breath as it happens – don't try and control the breath, just notice it.

- Focus on the breath going into your nostrils and out through your mouth.
- Pay attention to the rise and fall of your chest.
- Notice the rise and fall of your belly as you breathe.
- Continue this for a few minutes.



4. If your mind wanders away from the breath notice this distraction and then gently bring your attention back to the feeling of the breath going in and out and your counting. Do not judge yourself, as the mind wandering is very natural.

5. After five minutes, take one more breath and feel your feet firmly on the ground. Notice the noises around you and come back to the here and now. When you're ready, gently open your eyes.



## Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation

## Coronavirus: resources for dealing with the effects of lockdown

14/05/20

There are lots of new situations and emotions that children may be experiencing during the lockdown. There may be more conflict at home, increased levels of loneliness and isolation, or even difficulty sleeping.

We've rounded up guidance, videos and practical activities to support children and families with the different effects the lockdown may be having on them.

A consultation on the Dorset Council Local Plan will start on 18 January 2021 and end on 15 March 2021. Once adopted, the Local Plan will guide decisions on planning applications in Dorset until 2038.

### It outlines the strategy for:

- the growth Dorset needs
- development in suitable places
- community services including schools, retail, leisure and community facilities
- the appropriate character and quality of development

### whilst protecting the environment and acting on climate change

### From 18 January:

- View or call into an online webinar
- See displays in some town and village centres
- Call our local plan phone line: **01305 252500**
- Loan a paper copy from your local library (Covid-19 permitting)
- Talk to your local town or parish council

## Get involved and go to:

[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-council-local-plan](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-council-local-plan)

Sign up for the Dorset Council news e-newsletter

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There are lots of new situations and emotions that children may be experiencing during the lockdown. The Anna Freud Centre have put together a coronavirus toolkit with guidance, videos and practical activities to support children and families with the different effects the lockdown may be having on them. It can be found via this link: <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/coronavirus-dealing-with-the-effects-of-lockdown-toolkit-5/?page=1&IssuePageId=12639>

Look at some of our amazing Lockdown Learning from this week:

