



## *Kindness, Thankfulness, Perseverance*

Hooray! We have reached the end of the first Spring term and the six-week mark for this third lockdown. There is no denying it has been a tough term for everyone – a term where we received the grim news that the UK has had over 100,000 COVID related deaths, we most certainly need to celebrate any positives we can. It is certainly great to hear about people in our communities starting to get the vaccine.

We know that this term has been much harder for many people at home. I don't believe there is a 'news-following' adult out there who is not struggling at times. We all need support at different times and in different ways. One thing we learnt in the first lockdown is that there is **always** a compromise to help everyone in the family to get through the tricky times, and we **will** all get through this.

I am so incredibly proud of our school, the staff, the children and the parents. The work we have been receiving from the children at home has been fantastic and I want to say an enormous "Thank You" for all your hard work. We know home schooling is not easy, especially if you have multiple children or are working from home, but it is clear that our families are going to enormous efforts to keep children's learning going. I know many of us are looking forward to the break, after a term of home schooling, so make sure you plan in some fun activities (within the COVID rules of course!) to allow you and your children to recharge your batteries – you deserve it!

As a staff there is nothing we want more than to have ALL our lovely pupils back in, but the only thing we know for sure at the moment is that we all need to keep doing our best and following the guidance. It may be boring and frustrating and make us all angry, tearful and cross at times...but we will keep being safe at home and getting through it!

Therefore, as we start the half term holiday, please remember that the lockdown rules are still in force, stay safe at home, whether that is with a good book, a movie afternoon, a jigsaw challenge, making pancakes, or a socially distanced family walk, I hope you can enjoy it and relax together and hopefully when we return on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we will have some positive news to share about school reopening.

Take care and stay safe.

**Half Term:** School will be **closed** to all children during the **February Half Term** (15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>) including Key Worker Children.

We have a planned **INSET training day on 22nd February** so school will reopen to Key Worker and Vulnerable children on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** under the same partial opening system that we are operating at present.

Remote learning will start on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Reminder:** The Car Park is for Staff Use only.

If you are dropping children off for Key Worker Provision, please **DO NOT** use the car park.

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

We have had a large number of pupils in school this term under the Key Worker status however some of those eligible to come in are being kept at home whenever possible and we really appreciate this. The government directives are very clear;

**"Limiting attendance at schools and colleges helps to support the reduction in the overall number of social contacts in our communities, which is a vital intervention in the context of current very high transmission rates".**

After the half term holiday our Key Worker provision will continue **ONLY** for those families who are not working from home and have **NO** alternative option available on the days they are at work.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> March. 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.

### Spring Term 2 Parent Teacher meetings

Usually in the Spring Term we offer progress meetings with the class teacher to discuss the progress your child is making and targets that they are working towards.

Parents  
Evening

Despite the National Lockdown and Covid Restrictions we would like to offer everyone the opportunity to have a Teams Call with the class teachers to discuss your child prior to school reopening. These meetings will focus mainly on pastoral care and your child's well-being rather than academic progress.

If you would like to take up the offer of a meeting with your child's teacher, please read the attached letter and reply by Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

An appointment time will then be arranged and you will receive a Teams invite for the meeting.

If you would prefer a telephone call rather than a TEAMS meeting, please indicate this in the email.

Due to the staff being in school looking after the Key Worker children and also delivering remote learning these meetings will be between 5-10 minutes only.

### Daily Live Online lesson Times via TEAMS

Class	Time
Hedgehogs	10:30am
Squirrels	9:30am
Badgers	1:30pm
Foxes	11:30am
Whole School Zoom	2:30pm Friday

### Happy Birthday



Ryan (10),  
Arthur (11)  
*Many Happy Returns*

### School Twitter

Page:

@StBourton



[Explore from your door \(mailchi.mp\)](https://mailchi.mp) This Dorset website gives a number of different ideas for getting out and about in your local area over half term.

A free workshop is available for parents around home schooling [Positive approaches to engage with home schooling Tickets, Sat 20 Feb 2021 at 11:00 | Eventbrite](#) This free talk will guide parents through some practical approaches to home learning that will help with engagement and motivation.



### Thank you to...

... everyone who has sent in messages of support for the staff and also for the treats the staff have been receiving; they are much appreciated.

...everyone who completed the Remote Learning survey - full results after the holiday. The results so far have been hugely supportive – the survey shows that parents are finding the current remote learning offer a significant improvement on Lockdown #1. Despite the challenges faced by most families, especially those having to balance their own work with that of home-schooling their children, there is much appreciation noted for all the planning, hard work and thought which has gone into providing remote learning.

...everyone who has joined in with our Lockdown Challenges, these will continue next term.

### Dates for the Diary:

February Half Term:  
Monday 15th - Friday 19th February

INSET day Monday 22nd February

Spring Term: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April (School finishes at 13:15pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April)

Summer Term: Monday 19th April – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May

INSET Day Friday 28th May

May Half Term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

### House Points – Spring Term

Even though we haven't all been in school we have continued with our House Points this term through our Lockdown Challenges and remote learning. Well done to everyone who retold a story, baked a cake and created a giant person you have all added to your House Team points this term. As we can't celebrate as we usually would with a House reward we have today put the ribbons on the Sports House Challenge to show that Sandways have won this term!

### Well done to everyone in Sandways!

Sandways	410
Queen Oak	390
Chaffeymoor	370

### Friday VIP Speaker

We are keen to start up a new initiative next term on a Friday for the children.

Do you do an interesting job? Or have an unusual hobby? If you are able to spare 10 minutes on a Friday afternoon to talk to the children about either, please do get in touch and we will add you to the timetable.

We are hoping to be able to inspire our children to think about their future careers and hobbies.

**Useful Play Ideas:** Save the Children have come up with some super ideas to keep your little ones engaged at home – everything from learning games and relaxation activities to top tips for sharing a story with your child and creative play ideas

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/coronavirus-information-advice/resources-parents-kids>



**Save the Children**

### **Whole School Zoom Get Together:**

We hope you all enjoyed the whole school call this afternoon. Thank you to everyone who managed to join us for Hot Chocolate and a story to end the term. It was lovely to see everyone and the children in school enjoyed Hot Chocolate and marshmallows.

As it worked so well we are going to attempt it again after the half term holiday.



Foxes have been building models of a Trojan Horse



Some of the entries to the Lockdown Challenge this week. All entries were awarded House Points.



Samba and Sports challenge



Mask making and creative fun



A helpline is available for families worried about how their child is coping with the coronavirus crisis and lockdown.

Dorset Council Educational Psychology Service has set-up a helpline to support those who are worried about their child or teenager during the lockdown.

The helpline number is: **01258 474036**. It is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30 minute phone consultation.

### World Book Day:

To give you prior warning, World Book Day is taking place on Thursday 4th March this year.

We have several events planned already for the week, including a 'Staff Masked Reader' quiz where children and families need to identify which member of staff is reading a short story.

