

Milborne Message 15.01.21

Message from Sharon Hunt!

Dear Parents,

January is always a difficult month, what with Christmas spending coming back to haunt us , shorter days and dark mornings and evenings but this January is definitely a lot tougher for everyone than most. We all have added uncertainty about health, jobs , home schooling, working and all the multitude of different factors that we are dealing with. My message to staff, and to you too , is that we can only do our best and usually our best is good enough. It doesn't have to be perfect. Realising that means you can give yourself a bit of break and relieve some pressure. Be kind to yourselves and those around you.

It looks likely that primary schools will be soon offering Covid tests.I am not sure at all what this will look like yet, but I am expecting more information the week beginning 18th January and I will let you know then what the plans are.

I know and understand the difficulties of device usage at home. You will have heard plenty in the media about laptops for schools for those who are disadvantaged. This is very misleading so I wanted to put it into perspective. We have been allocated **two** laptops, which have been ordered but we have not received them yet. Clearly, that is not enough to support all our disadvantaged families. We will look at a range of factors in making our decision including older siblings who may have been given a laptop from Middle school, other children at home, history of engagement with school during lockdowns and will try to ensure the laptops we do have available go to those who need them most and who will get most benefit from having them.

Whilst we will try our best to help you, you can see that you cannot count on getting a laptop from school. We are trying to have a balance on screen and other learning activities to relieve some of this pressure and to give your children a break from the screen so good quality learning should still be able to take place.

However, I'm not sure if you are aware of this or not but you can access Google classrooms and other things from a PS4 or X box but will need a keyboard which you can plug into the device. Please let us know if this is something you would like help with, as we do have a very limited number of keyboards in school which we are able to loan parents.

PS4

1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for *Google Classroom*
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.

PIC•COLLAGE

We intend to use **Google Classrooms** for contacting parents for video calls, and in time for resources, lessons and further learning. In the first instance we need to know that everyone can successfully log on. Those of you with children in the Middle School should already know how to do this. Information on how to do this was sent via eSchools last week, please refer to this and contact the school office should you need further help. If you have not already set up Google Classroom, then please spend some time this weekend getting set up. If you have any problems let us know.

I know many of you are really keen to get reading books home. We have thought long and hard about this and we don't feel it is possible at this time. It is also in line with all the other GTAT schools. I know this will be disappointing for some of you but we all have a responsibility to the community not to encourage any trips which aren't absolutely necessary.

The link below takes you to a range of websites offering lots of reading resources including authors reading their books:

<https://padlet.com/jstevens169/ioy78mm652w9t8k9>

Look out for **Cracking Comprehension** which is coming soon to you at home. This has age appropriate reading content and questions and quizzes to keep you going.

I have also been told that Amazon is delivering books very reasonably priced and that you can search for appropriate reading material by age, if you are not sure of titles that would be suitable.

Miss Wittman has added a new wake and shake song as suggested by Jon - 'Eye of the Tiger'
Message from Miss Wittman:

I would like to make some more to keep us all moving together so can I ask for suggestions. I'm going to make one for each class so the most popular choice in Rabbits, Robins and Raccoons will be recorded. If children have a favourite song that they think would be good to dance to, keeping us fit and healthy can they send an eSchool message to me.

[Covid-19 with covers by Clare Shaw](#) is a simple book which explains some of the strangeness of this time for children which you might find useful.

For those still in school, please make sure children come in **school uniform** on the days they usually would and PE kit on the days they usually have PE.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hunt

EXTERNAL Links and Information:-

- **Next Thing Education Camps:-**

We are pleased to announce our **Tech Holiday Camps** are running **15th-19th February** and **29th March – 9th April 2021** at Clayesmore School, DT11. With the world becoming more digital, this is the perfect camp to develop STEM skills and keep your child ahead. Our camps are for ages 5-11 (years 1- 6) only. **Spaces are limited** and running at reduced numbers. For more information, **please see attached flyer** or to **enrol now** simply visit:

<https://nextthing.shortcm.li/Drxxd4>

- **Families Dorset Magazine:-**

Here's **the link to the new issue** for sharing with your parents there, or simply **copy and paste this short LINK ADDRESS: <http://bit.ly/38rSJn8>**

- **Family First Magazine:-**

Here is your free e-copy of Family First magazine, packed full of information to help keep children happy, learning & entertained at home during lockdown - We hope it helps in some way. Please click on the link below:

https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_issue_7_digital211220

- **Activate Coast & Greenspace news:-**

<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/make-2020-your-year-to-get-active-3122078?e=5ad5011868>