

Milborne Message - 21st January 2022

Dear Families,

Positive COVID cases are affecting our pupil and staff attendance which upsets the routine for everyone. We are doing our very best to minimise any disruption for your child and for you. Any staff absence in a small school such as ours has a significant impact on everyone, and on our budget. The safer and healthier our entire staff are, the less impact on your child. I know too, that there are many in the school community who are especially vulnerable themselves or live with someone who is vulnerable. This may be because of a medical condition but also for lots of other reasons such as waiting for an operation or a procedure.

I have deliberately tried to avoid chopping and changing the rules to minimise any unnecessary stress and confusion and I am very grateful to all of you who have followed these so well. I really believe it has been a significant factor in our relatively low numbers (up until now) in comparison to other schools. So, well done you!



The guidance is, and will be changing over the next couple of weeks as reported in the media. Staff and Governors have looked at this closely because of our current numbers. Thankfully, the daily positive cases seem to be easing.

Most staff are continuing to wear masks in communal areas inside the school building. We will ask visitors to do the same. Outside, both for staff and parents, it is a matter of personal choice. Everything else remains the same, but under regular review.



This half term the whole school is developing their problem solving skills. In each class children will be recognised for demonstrating that they can:

- complete tasks by following instructions
- complete tasks by finding someone to help if they need them
- complete tasks by explaining problems to someone for advice if they need

My time Young Carers

We have had staff training about Young Carers and there will be an assembly for the children . This is still to be arranged. **Please see the attached letter.** If you think your child may be a young carer, please let me know. There is a lot of help and support available. We want our young carers to be proud of the role they do, be recognised for it and to be supported through it.

Stop Abuse Together

Please see the information below:

It's estimated that one in ten children in England and Wales will experience sexual abuse before they turn sixteen. That's equivalent to three in every classroom.

Most children won't tell anyone at the time of their abuse. That's why it's important for everyone to know how to spot the potential signs and where to go for support if concerned.

The Government's new Stop Abuse Together website is designed to help parents and carers learn to spot the signs, have regular conversations with their child which can help keep them safe, and know when it's right to reach out for more support.

If someone feels something's not right, they can call the NSPCC helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Incredible Years Programme

This is a superb programme and I would encourage you to look at the information attached. I was lucky enough to be able to do one of these as a teacher many years ago when they were starting and it was really empowering. I would love a world where every parent was able to access this. If you would be interested in this, please talk to me further.

Writing

We monitor all progress and attainment very closely. This month we have been analysing the data to date this academic year. We can see evidence that the reading drive has had an impact. Thank you Mrs Gough and all the staff. Thank you too for all your hard work and support with this. Keep reading every day and signing in the reading diary. It is one of the most important things you can do for your child, irrespective of his/her reading stage or age.

We have noticed a significant dip in children's writing ability since covid disruption. This is presenting itself in a variety of ways including less resilience and stamina in writing and poor basic spelling and punctuation. We have introduced 'Talk for Writing' in September and this is going really well so far. Early signs show a good pace of progress. This work is really building children's imagination and providing them with a bank of ideas, words and phrases that they can recall when they need them.

We will also be sending home regular sentence work for your child to do. The emphasis of this will be on quality sentences. Quality not quantity. This should make it easier to complete at home

but be very effective in ensuring the children think about the reader when they are writing and include appropriate punctuation and write in neat, legible handwriting. You will be receiving more information about this soon from Mrs Gough. In the meantime, please try to focus on handwriting, punctuation and spelling in any work you do with your child.

New NHS app

If you haven't discovered the free **NHS Scan, Swipe , Swap app**, you are in for a treat. I have looked at some food items with some children and they were very engaged. The App icon is bright yellow and called Food Scanner.

The NHS Food Scanner app is a handy hack featuring 'Good Choice' and 'High-5' badges to help young people celebrate healthier swaps. Ask pupils to scan a barcode to bring the sugar, salt and saturated fat to life to help them visualise what's in their food. Have fun with it.

I hope you all have a good weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Staddon

Sharon Staddon
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:-

2022

18th Jan - Robins Shire Hall School Trip (Consent and payment via Schoolcomms)

21st Jan - Reception Writing Stay and Play session @ 9am

28th Jan - Raccoons Songlines trip (Consent via Schoolcomms)

28th Jan - RSPB Big Bird Watching weekend

16th Feb - Y4 Parents Hooke Court Parent info meeting @ 4pm

18th Feb - ROBINS Class Assembly @ 2pm

18th Feb - 25th Feb - Half Term Break

28th Feb - INSET DAY - School Closed to Children

1st Mar - School Reopens

3rd Mar - World Book Day

18th Mar - Red Nose Day (*Red Nose items will be available to purchase from the School Office nearer the time*)

EXTERNAL INFORMATION:-

- **Families Dorset Magazine:-**

Here is the link to the next issue of [Families Magazine Dorset Magazine](#) for you to share with your parents. This issue is full of useful information and advice for parents including

winter boredom busters, Chinese New Year craft projects, DIY board games, parenting advice and loads more.

- **1610**:- Swimming lesson information. Please see the attached flyer.
- **Dorset SEND** - <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/send-newsletter-3125989?e=5ad5011868>
- **Family Information Service**:-
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/december-fis-newsletter-3125813?e=5ad5011868>
- **Health and Activity**:-
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/make-2020-your-year-to-get-active-3126017?e=5ad5011868>
- **Dorset's Countryside** -
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/enjoying-dorsets-countryside-e-newsletter-january-2022?e=5ad5011868>