

Dear Parents,

A massive **thank you** to the parents and children who came in and worked on transforming the playground area over the easter break and who came back again to work on the areas outside Rabbits and Robins. Thank you so much for all your hard work. The children were very excited when they noticed and are working hard to water the plants and to keep the areas tidy when they have finished using them.

The children really enjoyed their visit by **Mad4Animals**. Thank you to all the parents and the extra generosity of others who made it possible for it to go ahead. Whilst I kept well away from the creatures themselves, I did pop in throughout the day and it was really heartening to see and hear the children laughing, learning and having fun while challenging themselves to try something new. (Don't worry, the irony of that isn't lost on me!) There are some lovely pictures on Tapestry, so please do take the time over the long weekend to have a look.

It's also been great to hear Raccoons on the **Samba drums**. I love having the drums as an instrument in school as from the very first lesson you can hear real progress.

Parking and Scooters

Please could we ask parents to be aware of what your child is doing after being picked up and to park considerately, leaving sufficient space for emergency vehicles to gain access should the need arise. Also just to remind parents that parking is also available down at the pub car park.

Please also make sure if you are dropping off or waiting in the school car park that you turn your engine off. A simple turn of your key can keep the air cleaner and save money and fuel. Every time you turn off your car engine in place of idling, you'll make the air healthier by cutting down on hazardous pollution in your town or community. Idling tailpipes spew out the same pollutants as moving cars.

Food Links The new menu is now available to order from online. This menu will take you up until 11th June. Please don't forget to order any hot school meals for your child. Food links send enough food for what has been ordered, therefore there is generally never any spare for 'forgotten' meals.

Schoolcomms (Gateway) and SIMS Parent Lite Please could I ask all parents, if you haven't already done so, to take the time to please activate their Schoolcomms (Gateway) and SIMS Parent Lite accounts. A reminder on how to activate schoolcomms was sent out before Easter.

An email invite will have been sent to all parents with a link to activate their account in February in preparation for full school reopening - please check your 'junk mail' or 'spam' folders. Thank you.

Hooke Court the payment facility is open and available via Schoolcomms (Gateway). Thank you to those parents who have already made some payments towards the Year 4 Residential trip. Please could Full payment be made **by 2nd July 2021**.

Parents can get rapid COVID-19 testing. Since schools re-opened on 8 March, secondary school and college students have taken part in initial lateral flow device (LFD) testing at their school or college. They have now been given home test kits to continue testing themselves at home.

These tests are for those who show no COVID-19 symptoms.

If you are the parent of a child in nursery, primary, secondary school or college, or you are part of an associated support bubble, you can also get tested:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at one of Dorset's [community test sites](#)

- by collecting a home test kit from a test site ([check for your local area](#))
- [by ordering a home test kit online](#)

Get a PCR test if you have symptoms. If you have [access to rapid lateral flow testing](#), please remember that these tests should only be used on people without COVID-19 symptoms.

If you or your child develop any symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss/change of taste or smell), you still need to [book a PCR test online](#) or by calling 119.

You must self-isolate if you have symptoms and get a PCR test. A negative lateral flow test does not mean you can stop self-isolating if you have symptoms.

As children returned to school this term we planned for difficulties and knew the children would need time to adapt to their circumstances and the changes they have been through. We have also been more lenient than usual for the same reasons. We will now be reverting to our previous systems. We will, therefore, be re establishing rules and expectations on their return.

This applies to uniforms too. The children should be wearing their main school uniform or their PE/OE kit. Although most children come in ready to learn in the right clothing there are still a few who wear non uniform t-shirts and jumpers. These small things all make a difference to how a child gets on in school and is something you can help them to do well, giving them both a pride in themselves and in their school. Please also label clothing clearly so we can return it to the right people if it goes missing.

Hope you enjoy the bank holiday weekend. Looks like Sunday is the best BBQ Day and of course also the grand finale day for all 'Line of Duty' followers!

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hunt

External information:-

- **GO FUND ME:-** A pupil of Milborne First School is fundraising for *The Little Princess Trust*. Please follow the link to read her story and make a donation if you would like to. Thank you.
<https://gofund.me/ba60d42e>
- **Activate Coast and Greenspace news:-**
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/make-2020-your-year-to-get-active-3123006?e=5ad5011868>
- **Dorset SEND:-**
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/send-newsletter-3123066?e=5ad5011868>