

The value we are looking at this term is Courage . Our HeartSmart focus is: Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy!

Thursday 7th January 2020  
Spring Term Newsletter 1

Things to remember:

- Don't panic! You are doing a great job and our children will all be fine. Please keep in touch with us, let us know of any worries or concerns you have and we will always try to help. We are all in this together! #teambroadmayne

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it has been an unusual start to a new term, with a lot of worry and uncertainty around what is happening within schools. I am determined not to spend all my newsletters writing about Covid related items, but it is quite hard to ignore!

I would like to say a brief word about home learning. The government has made several statements about their expectations around this, however they don't know our children, and they don't know the individual circumstances of our families. But we do! And we understand that it will not always be possible to complete all the work that we have set. We know there are not always enough devices, enough time, enough good will left, and we understand that on those days it's OK to leave things for a while, to go out for a walk, to step away from everything. The important thing is to keep in touch - let us know when things aren't going so well - and please, please, keep reading, even if everything else feels like too much for a while!

I hope you all feel confident that when things return to 'normal' again, the school will quickly pick things back up, just as we did in September.

And now for some things that are not all related to Covid:

### **Emergency Closure in the case of Severe weather**

The weather apparently pays no attention to national emergencies, and there is the possibility that we may have snow at some point soon. Whilst I know that many of our families will not be unduly affected by this, for those who have children currently attending school, the following information will be useful:

Log onto:- <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>. Local radio stations should broadcast school closures and display them on their websites although this may take some time. We will send out a text message to all parents, as long as the internet is up and running as our system is web-based.

If the weather conditions deteriorate during the school day, we will always endeavour to contact you by text message or phone and the school will remain open until all children are collected. If we cannot contact you and the school needs to be closed urgently, we will, as stated in our admission form, arrange for another parent to look after your child until you can be contacted. Please ensure that the school office has your up to date contact details.

If the school taxi does not run in the morning, the service will be withdrawn for the whole day. For any enquiries about school transport please ring 01305 221704.



### **Admission 2021 – Reminder**

If you have a child who would be due to start school for the first time or to start middle school in September 2021, the closing date for applications is **Tuesday 15th January 2021**. It is really important that you submit an application by the closing date for your child to be offered a school place in September. Unfortunately, failure to do so will mean that your child's application will be considered as late and may reduce your chance of gaining a place at your preferred school.

### **Increasing Mobile Data Allowances**

The government has introduced a scheme whereby the school can apply to a range of phone providers to increase your data allowance, if you are using this as the main way to access online learning.

We can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

Other providers may join the scheme in the future.

Please use the following form to provide the information we need to make a request on your behalf:  
<https://forms.gle/vxqKTNVH924e21wW6>

The mobile phone provider will send a text if your request is approved - some may take longer than others. Please note that currently Virgin, Tesco and Sky are offering an increased allowance to Pay Monthly customers only.

### **Using Games Consoles to Access Google Classroom**

It's true! This news may make your day or equally fill you with despair, but both the PS4 and the XBox One can be used to access Google Classroom. If you are struggling with having enough devices for everyone in your house to access online work and learning, this could be the answer you are looking for. I am currently putting together a guide on how to access GC from both consoles, and will send it out as soon as I can.

On a final note, yesterday afternoon I listened to the Secretary of State for Education suggest that parents might like to report schools to OFSTED if they felt the online learning being provided wasn't good enough. May I respectfully suggest that if you have an issue, you come to the school so we can resolve it between us. My staff are working flat out to get everything as good as it possibly can be for our children and families, and particularly at this early stage of a sudden lockdown, are doing a brilliant job. This is not a time to try and divide parents and schools, but a time when we should be working together as much, if not more, than we usually do.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Collings

