



Dear Families,

You may have noticed the recent change in salutation. This is in response to a two year project we have started on **Equality and Inclusion**. It is a small, but significant change and I hope you will notice and feel many other such changes as we move through the programme, ably led by Mrs Cheeseman.

In September, I will share the key areas of our **plan for improvement** for the year, as this has now been approved by Governors. I have given you some teasers in the form of Talk for Writing and a new Phonics programme- Essential Letters and Sounds. More information on both of these and more will follow at the start of the new term.

Reflection, I believe, is an important part of self understanding and of learning. I take stock periodically to check in with where we are and how things have gone. This is done formally at timetabled times of year but also much more regularly informally. The end of an academic year is definitely one of those times.

What an interesting year, on so many levels. I am delighted that Covid didn't dominate our year and that the children were able to experience school and learning in a fairly typical way. They have had some fantastic trips and visitors (Go Ape, Hooke, Wessex Wild visit to school, trip to the Pavey Farm, Longmead Farm, snake and reptile man!) When it did inevitably strike we were very lucky that it was minimised to half the Raccoon group. You make your own luck though and this was only possible through the work that we have all put into staying safe and being sensible, using common sense whatever the rules or aren't.

We have kept many of the systems going that were setup over the last year as we found that they worked better for the children and for us.

We are also going to keep the same system for **dropping off and picking up** with a few tweaks. It has been great to see more people walking, scooting, and cycling but also more and more children are coming in independently from the drop off zone. I really want to build on that because in theory there is no reason why anyone arriving in a car can't use the drop off zone.

We will continue in the same way except there won't be a staggered start or pick up . We will be back to the 10 minute window to arrive before the gates close between 8.45-8.55am and pick up at 3pm. The car park will reopen for families, but not to be used as a drop off. I really hope that people will continue to walk to school and increasingly use the drop off zone. It makes so much sense. This means any parking issues either inside the school area or on the roads outside the school are immediately eased.

I have been so impressed with the resilience of children, staff and families who have carried on with many personal difficulties happening behind the scenes. I know it hasn't always been easy. I read the **Tapestry** messages weekly and I love the engagement I see between you and the class teachers. It makes such a difference. It does, however, make me sad when I see some of those accounts haven't ever been accessed or the account has expired because it hasn't been used. I know that this means that there is a wealth of positivity, pictures and moments that have been lost to you. Please, if you do one school thing over the summer make sure your Tapestry account is up and running and that you access it regularly.

As things open more, we are hoping to be able to open up to **volunteers** again. If you think this is something you would like to commit to, we need help with monitoring library books changes and listening to readers. Please let me know if you are potentially interested. You don't need to commit at this stage.

You may be aware that we had a small group of children who went to **Longmead Farm** each Friday afternoon for the last half term. During this time they learned about nature around them, how to keep the same from certain plants, were creative in the mud kitchen and wild art outdoors, made dens, solved problems and all sorts of other things. This has proven to be a really valuable time for those children and I am hopeful that we will be able to continue this with other groups.

Please remember to sign your children up for the Dorset Libraries **Summer Reading Challenge** which is running again this year. This is a wonderful FREE opportunity to encourage reading throughout the summer and to spread that love of reading. The children get rewards in school in September, with a medal if they have read 6 books in 6 weeks. Please do take this up, the children love it and they love getting their medals in September. ***The Challenge will run 3 July – 11 September in Dorset Public Libraries and Community Managed Libraries***

- *Children join the Challenge at their local library or community managed library by filling in a registration card and collecting a foldout poster.*
- *As the children read or listen to six books, they will be given stickers to complete their poster.*
- *On reading six books and completing the Challenge the children will qualify for a medal which will be given to them in the library. A personalised certificate will be sent to their school for presentation before the October half term break.*
- *In addition, the Summer Reading Challenge website which is live all year will be given a makeover for the Challenge and offers a great range of information, useful links, activities and games to complement the Challenge www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk*
- *All Dorset Libraries will have a prominent display of books, posters and book reviews by the children.*

Advance notice: The children's auditions for 'Cinderella' performed with the Milborne Players will be held at the Village Hall on **Saturday 4th September** from 2pm until 5pm. If you have any budding

actors and actresses in the family then 'save the date'! If you would like more information then please contact Gren Davis on 07876 793319

We have attached various external club offers being run over the summer holidays. All the necessary details to book your child a space will be on the attached flyers.

You are also able to order hot schools meals for your children. These will take you right up until the October half term break.

Sadly, at this time of the year we say many goodbyes and this year is no different.

Yesterday, we said goodbye to **Mrs Collier** who starts her retirement today. Sue has been part of the Milborne School team for 21 years. During that time she has worked in various roles including Teaching Assistant, Janitor, Caretaker, Cleaner. Breakfast Club Leader and Creche. She has also supported during Golden Time on occasion.

Sue, who is known to be fierce at times, has a heart of gold and always has the children's interests in mind and will go above and beyond to meet their needs.

She is always the first to ask about staff and their families. She has a wicked sense of humour, which has given us many laughs over the years. She will be missed at Milborne, but we wish her a very healthy, happy retirement.

Disappointingly, due to COVID we had to rethink our original afternoon tea plan but it was lovely that we were able to be joined by Bill Collier and her daughters Emma and Amy.

We also say goodbye to **Mrs Carpenter**. Emily joined us just before the Coronavirus saga started and immediately became a valued and trusted member of the Milborne team. She has built up strong relationships with the children she was working with and with the staff. We will really miss her, but wish her the very best in her new role, which is a very exciting one. At least we know she can't disappear totally from us for a while anyway!

We also say goodbye to the **Year 4s** - the largest, most enthusiastic, nature loving, information hungry group we have had for a while. They have oodles of personality and character and will go on to do great things I'm sure. We wish them all the very best as they start the next part of their learning journey.

We have been part of your lives for the last 5 years., or more and what a privilege that has been. Some families are leaving us for good. You know who you are. You have been steadfastly supportive of the school raising money, helping out, and being involved in strategic planning for the future of the school. We are sad to see you go.

To reiterate, the planned arrangements for the Leavers/ performance are as follows:

On **Wednesday 1st September** we would like all children in **Raccoons class** to be brought to school at 1.30 pm. They will be met by a member of staff and taken from you for a quick run through, ready for a **2pm performance**.

We would like to invite all parents to join us but if you would prefer, you can drop your children with us. Our plan is to host the performance and leavers on the school field. Please bring a blanket to sit on, and you own refreshments, if you wish.

Please could **Rabbits and Robins be brought in for 1.45pm** on the same day.

If the weather isn't being kind, we will need to readjust and just have Raccoons parents and have the performance in the hall.

Finally,

I hope you all have an amazing Summer break and let's hope the sun keeps shining! I look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Staddon

External information:- (Information new from last week is in Green)

- **Family Information Service:-**
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/june-fis-newsletter-3123569?e=5ad5011868>
- **Activate Coast and Greenspace news:-**
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/make-2020-your-year-to-get-active-3123006?e=5ad5011868>
- **Enjoying Dorset's Countryside:-**
<https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/enjoying-dorsets-countryside-e-newsletter-june-2021?e=5ad5011868>
- **Dorset AOB news:-**
https://www.dorsetaob.org.uk/?utm_source=Dorset%20Council&utm_campaign=08b8a60475-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_10_01_41_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bc36c80975-08b8a60475-439145661
- **Dorset Magazine link:**
https://m.email.archant.co.uk/rest/head/mirrorPage/@F-vV1h6tPtTLJ6MrcFqqV1-JLb9JXPq5QACQCJOQAyzNKEiiBDgfvZNxqlgkQxjB3TP0rSr_7M6XKJpkg_iN8HBKZYnmrMrpVqUmGi-g73bWRYca.html
- **Families Dorset Magazine link:-**
Good News! Families Dorset's May/June issue is out now and ready for you to share with your parent community.
This bumper-packed early Summer edition comes with a chance for readers to **win a luxury family short break with Away Resorts.**
Simply click on
https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/familiesdorset_18-mayjun2021?fr=sMGI4ZTM2Mzl2NTg
to the magazine online.