



Kindness, Thankfulness, Perseverance

We have finally made it to the end of a long term in what has been an extraordinary and unique year. I know that this year has been an incredibly tough one for many people. There has been increased anxiety for many and, for some, sadness and loss. Like many of you, I will be glad to see the back of 2020 and I am looking forward to 2021 with the hope of brighter times to come.

However, as we reflect on the challenges of this year it is worth trying to think of the positives that have come out of adversity. I have been so impressed by the resilience of the children as they have returned to school. They have had to adapt to lots of different systems and routines and yet they have coped admirably.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff who have worked incredibly hard this year to continue to provide an education and maintain a sense of normality for the children. Whatever has been asked of them, they have risen to the challenge. They are a truly amazing Team! Thank you so much for your messages of encouragement for our staff; they certainly brought even bigger smiles than usual to their faces.

I would also like to thank all of the parents who have been supportive and incredibly understanding through all the challenges of the past year. I know that it was not easy having to educate your children at home during the first lockdown and I understand that many of you will have been reluctant to send your children back to school in September. However, we have had excellent attendance considering the circumstances and everyone has been turning up to school in good humour with a real sense of positivity and community. 58 children have achieved 100% attendance since September which is fabulous, with a further 18 having 98%+ attendance! Well done as that is almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school. Certificates will be presented in our first assembly of the new year.

Just think – this time next week will be Christmas Day! The excitement is building and the children and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved break. I am hoping that this is the final message I will send out for 2020 however, it is crucial during the Christmas holidays, that you continue to inform us about any positive coronavirus cases within your household. Whilst I hope that there are no cases, I must inform families and staff who may have had 'contact' with a person who has tested positive, as they will have to self-isolate over the Christmas holiday.

So, I am just left with the opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year. Thank you as always for everything you do for your children and our school; I feel very privileged to lead such a fantastic school.

Enjoy the Christmas break and we will see you all again on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Jill



Happy Birthday

Ruby (9), Dexter (9), Sebastian (5), Albert (10), Bryony (11) & Mr Abbott



Many Happy Returns

Contact Tracing over Christmas

Dorset Council have told us (based on DfE guidance) that schools will need to have a contact available for contact tracing for the school up to **December 24th** and then not again until the start of term. This means that if you or anyone in your household have a positive test result for Covid-19 you will need to contact school so that we can inform close contacts and advise you what to do next. **Any messages will be sent to you via email.**

We therefore ask that if you or a family member receive a positive result for Covid-19 up to and including December 24th please immediately email head@bourton.dorset.sch.uk I will be checking emails every morning.

Please do not phone the school as we will not be monitoring this phone line.

Returning to School

The children are due back in school on Tuesday 5th of January. Please do not return to school if you are showing any of the symptoms of Coronavirus or if you are self-isolating as a result of a positive test, including if you have been identified as a close contact of someone testing positive.

Diary Dates

Monday 4th January – INSET Day – School closed to pupils

Tuesday 5th January – Return to school

Friday 15th January – Deadline for Primary School Places for September

Dates
for your

DIARY

Breakfast Club

Covid guidance updates now allow us to run a Breakfast Club facility.

PH Sport will be managing and running the breakfast club for us in the school hall with children in their class bubble groups. The sessions will be from 7:45am to 8:45am with breakfast included for £4.25 a session. Bookings need to be made directly with PH Sport.

A copy of their letter is attached to this email.



Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday
10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

PTFA RAFFLE

A huge thank you and well done to our amazing PTFA Committee who held a fabulous raffle last week to raise funds for the school. Congratulations to all the winners.

WINTER FOOD VOUCHERS

The Winter Grant for Free School Meals holiday support is a Government initiative to support pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Each eligible child is to be given a supermarket voucher to the value of £15 per week. This means for the Christmas period you will receive a voucher for £30 per child to cover the holiday period. All eligible families will be contacted by Mrs Hudson to explain how to access your Christmas food vouchers.

Attendance

Week ending 18.12.20

Hedgehogs – 99.5%

Squirrels – 98.1%

Badgers – 100%

Foxes – 91.1%

This week the winners are

Badgers



Gillingham Library is now open, with reduced hours, and they would love to see families getting books.

Opening hours as follows:

Monday – 9.30 – 1.00

Tuesday – 9.30 – 1.00 and then 2.00 -5.30pm

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday – 9.30 – 1.00

Friday – 9.30 – 1.00

Saturday 9.30 – 1.00 and then 2.00 – 4.00pm

The library fully understand that many do not wish to come to the library as a public space at present, so you can use the Order and Collect facility via the Dorset Libraries website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries-history-culture/libraries/libraries.aspx>



We hope you have all enjoyed watching our Virtual Nativity play this week – it has been shared on the class TEAMS accounts. The children loved watching it, seeing themselves on the screen along with the other children in school



A rainbow at playtime this week.

**School
Twitter
Page:**

@StBourton



Today we all enjoyed our Christingle Service, the children all made a Christingle and then we joined Rev. Ben for a whole school worship. A big thank you to Morrisons in Wincanton for donating the oranges.



School Lunches

Details of how to order hot meals from January were sent out on Monday (they are attached to this email just in case you missed them). I know several parents have already ordered but if you haven't please remember the deadline is **Sunday 27th December 2020**. If you have any problems registering or ordering, please contact them directly for help.