

5<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Dear Parents,

The children have made a positive start to the new summer term and are enjoying our new Learning Adventure, 'The Fantastic Laboratory of Inventions and Experiments'. During the Learning Adventure, the children will be running their own fantastic laboratory as a class, helping a range of clients who require help with scientific, technological and design-based problems. As with many of our curriculum projects, the Learning Adventure will be delivered using the Mantle of the Expert approach, which sees children adopting an inquiry approach to their learning by taking on the role of an imagined expert. As part of the approach, the teachers will also go into role as different characters to help stimulate the inquiry. The Learning Adventure will provide opportunities for children to explore a range of curriculum areas, including a particular focus on science and design technology.

As the summer term progresses and restrictions potentially continue to relax, it is hoped that some activities and events may be able to go ahead for the children and their families, although some adaptations will be required to minimise risk to the school community. The school is making initial plans and preparations to hold year group sports activities and a special Year 4 Leavers event in the later part of the summer term. Further information will follow in due course.

I would like to thank everyone for their support in helping us to sustain the health, safety and wellbeing of our whole school community. Please continue to keep to the school's staggered system for school drop off and collection times, including the use of the one-way system on the playground, maintaining appropriate social distancing, utilising a face mask/cover during drop off and collection times [unless you have a pre-existing health condition] and ensuring only one person accompanies your child to school. If you have any messages for your child's teacher, please contact them via the school office email, rather than relaying messages on the door in the morning - this will help to ensure that the staggered timings work effectively and help to keep everyone safe. Your continued support and cooperation is much appreciated.

#### **Year 4 Visit to their New Middle School**

Across the local area, it is currently being planned that Year 4 children will have the opportunity to visit their new middle school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. It is anticipated that the children will spend the day at their new school. Further information will follow from your child's new school in due course.

#### **Annual Assessments and Reports**

The Department for Education has indicated that the usual national assessments, such as, Key Stage 1 SATs and Year 1 phonics screener will not take place in the summer term. Teachers will continue to make ongoing assessments of the children's learning, using these to support children's development. In the summer term, our teachers will summarise the children's progress and achievements throughout the year, and towards the end of the term you will receive your child's annual report. There will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, assessments and report at our next parent teacher consultations later in the summer term. Further information will follow in due course.

#### **Asymptomatic Testing [Rapid Lateral Flow Device Tests for Anyone Without Symptoms]**

A reminder that anyone without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. All people in England will be able to [access twice weekly rapid tests for coronavirus](#). **Lateral Flow Device Test** kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. **If your child or someone in your household develops potential symptoms of Coronavirus, you must book or order a PCR test.** Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. The expanded regular testing offer for people without symptoms will be delivered through:

**Rushcombe First School**  
Hanham Road, Corfe Mullen  
Wimborne, Dorset  
BH21 3PX

**Tel:** 01202 695722  
**Fax:** 01202 657890  
**E-mail:** [office@rushcombe.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@rushcombe.dorset.sch.uk)  
**Web:** [www.rushcombe.co.uk](http://www.rushcombe.co.uk)

**Headteacher:** Mrs C Mahon

- a home ordering service, which allows people to order lateral flow tests online to be delivered to their home
- workplace testing programmes, on-site or at home
- community testing, offered by all local authorities
- collection at a local PCR test site during specific test collection time windows
- a new 'Pharmacy Collect' service

See link above for further details. If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Please note that, for anybody demonstrating symptoms of coronavirus, they should continue to book a PCR test through the NHS website.

### **Primary School Children and Rapid Asymptomatic Testing**

On advice from Public Health England [PHE], children in primary schools have not been included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. Recently, the Department of Education have updated their information to indicate that parents may wish to consider whether to test asymptomatic children under the age of 11. The DfE information states that 'Advice from Public Health England is that there is currently limited public health benefit from testing primary school age children with lateral flow devices (LFDs). Primary school age children may find the LFD testing process invasive and unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.'

If a child or a member of your household develops potential symptoms of Coronavirus you should continue to follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child. **Rapid LFD tests should not be offered to individuals who develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, regardless of their age.**

### **Confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction [PCR] Testing for Positive Lateral Flow Device [LFD] Tests**

Please note that a confirmatory PCR test is required for anyone receiving a positive LFD test. The PCR test should be booked immediately either [online](#) or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days. Anyone who had a positive LFD test result and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) and while awaiting the PCR test result. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the person and their close contacts can then end their self-isolation.

### **Coronavirus [Covid-19] Guidance**

Please remember that if your child or any member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus infection [COVID-19], **however mild**, you will all need to stay at home for 10 days from when the symptoms started. The most common symptoms of coronavirus [COVID-19] are:

- **High temperature [feels hot to touch on the back or chest – a temperature of 37.6 degrees and above]**
- **New continuous cough [this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)]**
- **Loss or change to your normal sense of smell or taste [anosmia]**

More details of the symptoms can be found: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

**It is important that anyone with symptoms is tested.** If your child presents with Covid-19 symptoms, they will not be able to come to school and you should book a test. A PCR test can be booked or ordered online via NHS UK, using the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>

**It is essential that the school is advised of the test outcome.** Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school, if they are well enough, and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. If there is a confirmed case in school, it may be necessary for other children/groups of children and staff to isolate at home. We will work closely with Public Health England who will advise us of the course of action.

If your child appears to present with any of these symptoms when they are in school, we will contact you and you will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

You can seek further medical advice from NHS 111 and you can also use the Department for Education coronavirus helpline, which is available to answer questions about COVID-19 on T: 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open between 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).

The school will endeavour to remain open, however, if there are confirmed case/s or insufficient safe staffing levels, the school may have to close or partially close for a period of time. The school will keep parents updated with any decisions by parentmail as soon as they can. If in the event that children have to self-isolate at home or that our school has to be partially/closed, teaching staff will provide home learning for each child/year group via Microsoft Teams.

### **School Office and Messages for Staff**

A reminder that **the school office is only partially open to parents and visitors and we ask that you refrain from visiting the school office wherever this can be avoided. In the first instance, we request that all communications are made via email or phone to the school office**, including any messages for your child's teacher. A telephone appointment to speak with a member of staff will be made for you if necessary. If you need to visit the school office for essential reasons [or if agreed with a member of the school office], the entrance area has been marked with physical/social distancing demarcations and there is a taped line by the office window to ensure the appropriate social/physical distance is in place. In the office foyer, there are two boxes/containers, one for paperwork, such as, letters/permission slips, and one for objects/parcels. Entrance to other areas of the school will not be permitted, unless by prior agreement/appointment. We would be grateful if you could wear a face mask/covering when visiting the school office, unless you have a medical exemption.

### **Finally**

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and cooperation as we deal with this ever changing and complex situation. By working together, we hope that we can ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our whole school community. The school will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops and more information is available.

A reminder that this half term will finish on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. The half term break will begin on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May and the children will return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon  
Headteacher