

24<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Dear Parents,

As the first half of the summer term comes towards an end, the children have continued to enjoy our learning adventure 'The Fantastic Laboratory of Inventions and Experiments'.

Across the school, children have been helping a range of clients, who have visited their laboratory looking for help with their scientific and technological problems, these have included: Mr Bumble visiting Foundation and asking for help to look after some caterpillar eggs, resulting in the children carrying out a range of learning activities linked to butterflies and caterpillars; Cinderella visiting the laboratory in Year 1 and needing help to clean her very dusty and dirty castle, which has resulted in the children designing their own special robots that can perform a range of cleaning duties; the Year 2 laboratory was visited by Mr Toad (from The Wind in the Willows), who asked the children to design and build him the most amazing car ever - as a result, the children are carrying out a Design Technology project using wheels and axels to make him a new car; in Year 3, the laboratory had a visit from one of the Borrowers, who couldn't get back to their home behind the skirting board due to a very scary cat - the children set about helping the Borrower by building a device using pneumatics (Design Technology) to help scare the cat away; in Year 4, the laboratory was visited by Buzz Lightyear, who needed help to fix his broken laser - as a result, the children investigated electrical circuits as part of the science curriculum, including making circuits with working bulbs and buzzers.

As you are aware, the school is hoping that some activities and events will be able to go ahead for the children and their families during the next half term although some adaptations will be required to minimise risk to the school community. It is anticipated that each year group will hold their own sports afternoon and a special Year 4 Leavers event will also be held towards the end of the summer term. In line with most local schools, there will not be a whole school summer fair this year.

The provisional dates for the sports afternoons are as follows:

- Year 4 Sports Afternoon - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June [entry from 1.00 pm, for a 1.15 pm start]
- Year 3 Sports Afternoon - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June [entry from 1.00 pm, for a 1.15 pm start]
- Year 2 Sports Afternoon - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June [entry from 1.00 pm, for a 1.15 pm start]
- Year 1 Sports Afternoon – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July [entry from 1.00 pm, for a 1.15 pm start]
- Foundation Stage Sports Afternoon – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July [entry from 1.00 pm, for a 1.15 pm start]

All events and dates are subject to change in line with national and local guidance. It is hoped that infection rates will remain low. The school will be taking a cautious approach to the holding of different events and inviting families to attend. The health, safety and wellbeing of the school community is paramount. The number of adults attending the sports afternoon per family will be restricted to a maximum of 2, helping to enable social distancing between those adults attending. Each sports afternoon will commence at 1.15 pm and there will be a staggered entry. Unfortunately, adults and siblings will not be able to enter classrooms/the school building during each sports afternoon. It is anticipated that the afternoon will finish at the end of the school day enabling you to take your child home on time. If the school is not able to invite parents to join the sports afternoon, the year groups will continue to hold each sports afternoon for the children. Further details will follow in due course.

It is anticipated that the special Year 4 Leavers Event will be held towards the end of the summer term. It is hoped that the school will be able to invite parents to join the special event, if however in the event that we cannot invite parents, the school will create a film for you to watch at home with your family. Further details will follow in due course.

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**Headteacher:** Mrs C Mahon

I would like to thank everyone for their continued 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 support and cooperation is much appreciated.

#### **Year 4 Bikeability**

A reminder that permission slips are to be returned to the school office as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you. [Please refer to the letter sent out to Year 4 parents previously.]

#### **School Photographs**

The school is hoping that the children's individual school photographs will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The photographer will be taking the photographs in our lovely grounds. If the weather is inclement, the session will be postponed and we hope that it can be rescheduled although this cannot be guaranteed. There will not be class photographs this year.

#### **PE Kits**

Please can all children have their PE kit in school each day. For PE all children are required to wear the following: Rushcombe white PE t-shirt, Rushcombe red PE shorts, plain black trainers or plimsolls.

#### **Local Library and the Summer Reading Challenge**

The local library has asked the school to remind everyone that it is free to join Dorset libraries and you can join online: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries-history-culture>. Further information about the local library is available on 01202 659755 and from [corfemullenlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:corfemullenlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk). You can request books and check your library account through [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk). This summer the Reading Challenge is 'Wild World Heroes' which is a nature-themed reading challenge. You can join the 'Wild World Heroes' and discover how you can make a difference to the environment too. Participation is completely free, and children can collect special stickers and a medal. The reading challenge will launch in July.

#### **Department of Education: 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**

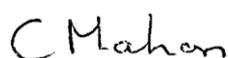
A reminder that **the school office is only partially open to parents and visitors and we ask that you refrain from visiting the school office wherever this can be avoided. In the first instance, we request that all communications are made via email or phone to the school office**, including any messages 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. 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 more information is available.

A reminder that this half term will finish on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May and the half term break will begin on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May. I hope you all have a good week and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon  
Headteacher