

2nd July 2021

Dear Parents,

The children are continuing to enjoy 'The Forest of Inspiration' Learning Adventure by taking part in a range of exciting learning activities linked to the theme. Over the last few weeks, they have been developing their ideas about what has happened in the forest, which have now been collated to create a whole school story. This week, Years 1 - 4 have been making puppets of the different characters/creatures from the story [Foundation will be making theirs next week]. The aim of the children's puppet making is to tell the story of 'The Forest of Inspiration' by creating a special film, which will involve each child performing with their puppet. Each class will be filming their own section of the story, which will then be edited with the sections created by other year groups. We look forward to sharing our film of the children's story when it has been completed.

With the increase in infection rates, both nationally and locally, we are asking everyone to continue to be vigilant and take care, including maintaining the systems and protocols we have put in place on our school grounds, such as the one way system at drop off/collection times, keeping to the staggered timings, avoiding congregating on the school site, ensuring social distancing and the wearing of masks (unless you have a pre existing health condition). If your child/ren or someone in your household develops any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, including a temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss or a change to their normal sense of smell or taste, please book a PCR test and self-isolate whilst you await the results. You may be aware that a number of local schools and a nursery have had 1 or more confirmed cases, resulting in children and staff self-isolating. If someone is self-isolating, including a younger or older sibling, they must not accompany you on to the school grounds. If in the event that there is a positive/confirmed case at the school, in line with current guidelines, it may be necessary for groups of children or 'a year group bubble' to isolate at home. The school will endeavour to keep parents updated with any decisions by parentmail as soon as we can. If this is the case, the teaching staff will provide home learning for each child/year group via Microsoft Teams. The school will continue to work closely with Dorset Council and Public Health Dorset to inform its decision making. By working together, we hope that we can ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our whole school community.

Sports Afternoons

As you are aware, following the recent government announcement that step 3 restrictions will remain in place for a further period of time and with the increasing infection rates, unfortunately parents have not been able to join us for the children's sports afternoons. The year group sports afternoons have continued to go ahead for the children as planned, providing the opportunity for them to enjoy participating in a range of sports activities. We realise some of you may be disappointed, however, the health and safety of the school community is paramount. Mr Hancock and staff are hoping to be able to compile some photographs of each year group event, which will be made available via Microsoft Teams. Your continued support and understanding is appreciated.

On each of the sports afternoons so far, some parents have chosen to gather along the school fence to watch the events. We would kindly ask that parents refrain from gathering in this manner outside the school grounds, as the current increase in infections both locally and nationally, necessitates that we all continue to maintain social distancing in line with government guidelines. In order to avoid the self-isolation of groups/classes over the final weeks of this term, and to maintain children's in school education, as far as possible, it is important that community transmission is minimised by ensuring social distancing in and around the school grounds. We thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining the health and safety of our school and local community.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to our attention that video footage of at least one of the sports afternoons has been shared on social media. A reminder that it is important that images/video that include children other than your own should not be uploaded onto social media websites unless permission is sought from those children's parents. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Annual Reports and Parent Consultations

A reminder that on Monday 12th July, the children will bring home their annual reports. If you wish to discuss your child's report, you will be able to make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher/s, who has set aside time on Tuesday 13th July, Wednesday 14th July and Thursday 15th July. Telephone appointments, using the online electronic booking system, will be available to book from Tuesday, 6th July. Each telephone appointment will be allocated a 10 minute slot. There will be a short gap between appointments to enable staff to ring the next person. Staff will endeavour to keep to time and ring you as close to your time slot as possible. Our teaching team look forward to talking to you soon.

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

We thank you for your continued support, understanding and cooperation. The school will continue to keep you updated as more information is available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Mahon". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher