

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families are well and have enjoyed the Easter break. We are now officially at the start of the Summer term, and although it is not quite the start we expected, we still aim to do whatever we can to help and support the children in the most effective and fun way possible, given the circumstances. It feels like such a long time since we saw the children and we are missing them a lot!

### Current Situation

As you will have seen from the government's briefing on 16 April, the coronavirus lockdown was extended for at least another three weeks. There was much speculation in the papers over the weekend about schools opening in three weeks, however the Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that, 'No decision has been made on a timetable for re-opening schools. Schools will only re-open when the scientific advice indicates it is the right time to do so.' The truth is that no one can say for sure how long the lockdown will need to last, so for the foreseeable future, things will stay as they have been.

In the meantime, therefore, the school is continuing to provide: home learning for children; childcare at Bourn Club for the children of key workers who have no other appropriate childcare; support for parents; weekly contact with children through phone calls from their teacher; as well as continuing to run the 'business' of the school remotely. We will be writing to parents this week to outline the position in relation to school trips and residentials that were due to take place.

### Home Learning

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I am aware that there will inevitably be a huge variation in children's experiences during this time, dependent on a wide range of factors. We have taken the decision not to provide online lessons for children to access on a daily basis because we are aware how much pressure this puts, not only on the broadband in a household (especially if parents are also working at home) but on parents to 'keep up' with lessons on the right day. Therefore, our Home Learning approach continues to be to provide Home Learning packs (which will also be uploaded to the website as well as emailed), so that you can work at your own pace with your child. The links in these packs are gateways to an enormous amount of other resources so you will always be able to find something that suits you.

There are also new resources being made available on a daily basis and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the huge range of options and the fear of missing something important becomes very real. We will therefore provide an outline of the websites that we think are helpful but please do not think you have to access them all, they are just further suggestions. Today, the BBC will also launch an education package across TV and online, described as featuring 'celebrities and some of the best teachers.' Further information is available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-major-package-to-support-online-learning>.

Our aim is that the ideas provided in the Home Learning packs will give enough guidance and structure to support your work with your children but also gives enough scope for you to extend their learning in certain areas if this is what is right for you and your child. Again, if you are finding this too difficult in your own current circumstances, I understand. Whilst we all love our children dearly, spending time with them 24/7 for an indefinite period is quite intense and not something we ever anticipated having to do – and when you add the pressure of the current situation, the requirement to teach them as well must at times seem a challenge too far. If you have days like this, accept it for what it is, and try again tomorrow. We are all trying our best, and that is good enough. I know that when we all get back to school, we will need to work from where children are, not just

academically but also emotionally and socially after a long and intense period at home. Please don't worry that your child will be left behind, or will need to catch up – everyone is in the same boat.

I also recognise that learning takes many forms, and is not just academic. If your child has learned to tie a shoelace, or ride a bike or make their own sandwich – this too is an achievement! To help recognise and encourage wider learning, we have put together a Weekly Challenge with three sections; Kindness, Creativity and Mindfulness. You can use and adapt this how you like, but I encourage children to get involved in meeting these challenges. In order to give recognition for when children have achieved something new (either from the Weekly Challenge or something else) please email me ([head@bourn.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:head@bourn.cambs.sch.uk)) to let me know what your child has achieved – and attach a photo if possible!

#### Weekly Phone Calls

Teachers will continue to call to speak to the children once a week, to see how they are getting on. There are one or two families teachers have not been able to get through to. If you have not had a phone call, please email the office and let us know what the best number to contact you is. Remember, the calls will show as withheld.

#### Keeping the School Community Together – Virtually!

As well as keeping up with Home Learning, it is important we don't lose sight of the fact that we are a whole community of children, staff and parents. As part of this, we will be using the 'Latest News' tab of the website to share school wide competitions – all you need to do is email a photo of your entry to [hculley@bourn.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:hculley@bourn.cambs.sch.uk) The first weekly competition is there now and we aim to show all the entries! I would also like to share the children's achievements here too, so we can all see what everyone has been doing and feel part of a wider group again. We are missing our Friday Celebration assemblies, so it would be lovely to share achievements in this way.

Also, keep looking on Twitter to see what is posted on @bournbecheerful – we would love your contributions too.

Remember each class has a blog on Purple Mash (log in details were put in the children's home school reading record), and this is also a great way of children communicating with others in their class and sharing what they have been doing.

We really miss the children and I am sure they will be missing their teachers and other staff too. We have made a video for you all, collated and edited by the amazing Miss Ivory – we hope you enjoy it! We are planning to add other items on our youtube channel – watch this space!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9Vov4tdw6s&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>

Finally, if you need help, support or advice, we have access to different services, so please do not hesitate to email either your child's class teacher or me.

Best wishes,

Laura Latham

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hope courage justice forgiveness friendship