

Dear parents and carers,

We are at the end of the sixth week of lockdown and school closure, and I think this week has proved to be very difficult for many of us. Whatever novelty there may have been in the early days has worn off, the weather has been rubbish, the children have been stuck indoors (you will understand why we hate wet play days!) and at the moment, there is still no indication of when and how we will start to re-gain the freedom of choice and movement that we took for granted only a couple of months ago. I think all of this is probably taking its toll. I have a video meeting with the teachers each week and I know from their conversations with you that so many parents and children have found this week to be very challenging. If you have been feeling like this, know that you are not alone. It is, however, important to recognise when we feel a bit flat and gloomy and take action to do the things we know boost feelings of wellbeing. (In taking my own advice, I am going for a run when I get home, even though it is the last thing I feel like doing!) As well as this, however, the teachers have all fed back what amazing work you are all doing in supporting your children. You should feel proud of doing so well in a job you definitely didn't sign up for! Everyone is doing this differently, and that is absolutely fine. If you are also managing to work from home at the same time, a sincere 'well done' from me!

On a similar note, the teachers too are finding this time challenging. They prepare the weekly resources for home learning, they update the class blogs on Purple Mash, have been developing the website, and they are making weekly phone calls. Behind the scenes, they are also using this time to plan for the curriculum when the children return, and of course, they also have their own children to home educate and supervise. The phone calls are a really important way of keeping in touch with you all, but I have now asked teachers to try and keep their phone calls to no more than 10 minutes. Some calls were becoming very long and it makes it difficult for the teachers to fit in the 30 calls in the time they have available, particularly if they are working at Bourn Club as well. I hope you find the support teachers are giving you is useful, both on the phone and via email. If you need more support for your child's learning, or have questions about your child's wellbeing, please could you email this to your teacher and they will respond when they can.

Message for the children

I have also written an email for the children, which will also be sent today. It contains a link to a video of my message, so you can play this for your child. I have given them some instructions which I hope you will find helpful, and I thought it was important that the children see it really is me telling them to keep up with their school work and do what their parents ask them to do!

Website

Please also keep checking in with the website. The tabs being used now are the Pupil tab for Home Learning and other educational links <https://www.bournschool.co.uk/pupils/>, the Parent tab for links to advice and support <https://www.bournschool.co.uk/school-office/advice-and-guidance/> and Latest News for current school wide competitions, achievements and birthdays <https://www.bournschool.co.uk/weekly-reviews-winners/>. There is now a new page of music related activities co-ordinated by Mrs Armitage. <https://www.bournschool.co.uk/weekly-reviews-winners/musical-mix-up/> We will continue to add more fun items on here – coming soon, teachers reading stories! Please do keep sending in photos and short videos of what the children have been up to – and birthday photographs. It helps us keep a sense of community when we are all apart.

Educational Concerns

I know that many parents are worried that their child is falling behind, and that parents of children in Year 6 especially are worried that their child might not be ready for secondary school. I have been in touch with Peter Law, Principal at Comberton Village College and they are currently working on

options for transition, depending on whether and how schools are open between now and September. He gave a reassuring message that they know that, 'everyone is in the same situation so try not to worry and as and when pupils come back we will pick up where things left off'. The key point I would like to reiterate is that everyone is in the same boat.

Moving On

Hopefully, by the end of next week, we will have a clearer idea of how we move on from here. In terms of schools, the only thing I am reasonably sure of, is that when schools open, it will be a partial and gradual opening. We won't be 'going back' to how we were before, we will be moving on from where we are now. We will need to continue to adapt and change according to the circumstances. The first sentence of our vision is that, '*Bourn is a school filled with hope.*' We will move on with hope and optimism, making the best of the opportunities that present themselves and always believing that tomorrow will be a better day. According to the BBC weather app, the sun will start shining in Bourn tomorrow at 8am – get out there and enjoy it – everything seems better in the sunshine!

With best wishes,

Laura Latham

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