

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families are all well. Thank you to everyone who sent in a photo of your child with a poster for VE Day – we have made a collage and also put the photos on the website <https://www.bournschool.co.uk/weekly-reviews-winners/ve-day-celebrations/>. It has been lovely to see so many of the children's faces on these and other photos you have sent in and I can't believe how much they have grown!

Potential Re-opening of Schools

You will have noticed that speculation on schools re-opening has become more intense over this week, with some papers writing articles as though decisions have already been made. This has been frustrating and anxiety provoking for all those involved in schools; staff, parents and children. The truth is that we still do not know, and speculation does nobody any good. What we do know is that Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, stated at the Education Select Committee only last week that all schools returning on day one with a full complement of pupils would not be realistic.

It appears that announcements will be made by the Prime Minister on Sunday evening, and therefore, we will all learn at the same time what the proposals are. I will be meeting with the school's Senior Leadership Team on Monday to discuss the next steps. I will write to you as soon as I can with further information about how we will proceed locally at Bourn. Whilst closing schools at two days' notice was challenging, the logistical implications of re-opening, in whatever format, will be even more so. You will undoubtedly have many questions and concerns, including how we can ensure social distancing within school with children (of any age), how we can use resources safely, how we can reduce the likelihood of parents gathering in small spaces, how we will ensure that the school is kept as clean as possible throughout the day – the list is almost endless. These questions are at the top of my list too, and once we have a clearer idea of what is being expected of schools in the next phase, we will be able to work on how we resolve them in our own school. Please rest assured, however, that my first priority is always the health and safety of the children and staff in school.

Cambridgeshire Local Authority has been instrumental in supporting schools over this period, and has continued to provide excellent support and guidance as we prepare to re-open, in whatever form this takes initially and over the next weeks and months. They will be producing further guidance for schools over the next week as the government's intentions become clear. A really important part of schools re-opening, of course, is that parents must feel confident to send their children in. I will continue to write to parents with information as soon as it is appropriate to do so. I don't want to give partial information, or information that may change, so I may not be able to answer individual queries from parents about the general position. If however, you have particular concerns or family circumstances I should know about, please do contact me.

This week has been almost as anxiety provoking as the week before schools closed and this is due to the uncertainty of how our lives will change again. But, we must move on from this phase, and in doing so, one of our other values comes into play – that of courage. We have all been in our own bubbles for many weeks, rarely venturing out. This next phase of lifting the lockdown will put us back in situations we have deliberately avoided for some time. We

will need to show our children how to make these changes, whatever they are, with courage and optimism; and always with a positive attitude that things will get better, even if they might seem difficult at first. *'To have courage for whatever comes in life – everything lies in that.'* Saint Teresa of Avila

An Educational Distraction!

Cambridge Science Centre is providing a free science virtual school trip to all schools. We can have access to one of its shows for one week only. You can watch it at any time for free, as many times as you like during this period. It is suitable for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils, and lasts for 25 minutes. The date that we will have access to the show starts from Monday 11th May and will end at midnight on Sunday 17th May.

Parents will be sent a website link and a password 11th May.

Thank you!

I would like to say thank you to all of our parents for everything you are doing to keep your children educated, entertained and safe. I know how challenging this has been for everyone and I have been so impressed by the way in which families are dealing with this situation in the best way for them. Remember, this will be different for every family; don't compare yourself to others, just focus on what is right for your child and your family. We love seeing and hearing from you and particularly enjoy seeing the photographs of what the children are up to. Please keep looking at the website Latest News tab to catch up.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff at school for their continued hard work both behind the scenes at home and in Bourn Club. They have been amazing and have moved into different ways of working with immense flexibility, creativity and good humour. We are a very lucky school to have such dedicated, caring and thoughtful staff.

I hope you all have a very good Bank Holiday weekend. Relax, enjoy the sun and we will see on Sunday what next week brings.

Best wishes,

Laura Latham
Headteacher
Bourn Primary Academy
01954 719282



hope courage justice forgiveness friendship