

Dear parents and carers,

It's the last Friday of the 2019/20 academic year – three more school days to go!

Preparing for the Autumn Term

We are busy preparing for the new school year in a way we have ever had to before. Every normal school activity has to be risk assessed, from how we manage homework, seating in the classroom, sharing of resources and lunchtimes. Everything we do is based on the concept of 'class bubbles' and the need to ensure that these bubbles must not come into contact with each other in school. We have had to review all our routines to ensure that this does not happen. The reason for making sure that the bubbles don't mix is so that if there is a case of COVID-19 in one bubble, we would only need to temporarily close down that bubble, and not the whole school (and I'm sure not many are that keen to go back to home schooling!) Ensuring that bubbles do not mix has a knock on effect on all areas of school and there will be some changes to some of our existing practices as a result.

I also have to do everything I can to ensure that adults maintain a 2 metre social distance, because adults are at more risk from each other than they are from children. I have a duty of care not only to the staff, but also to you as parents who come on to the site at the start and end of the school day. This is the most complex part of the day because this is when over 200 children and their parents are the site which only has one entrance. I have to ensure that the bubbles that we carefully protect in school do not mix as soon as they get out of the building (except for siblings of course). Until government guidance changes, I have to ask that parents leave the site as soon as they have dropped off or picked up their child/ren. I really hope that this will be a short term measure, and we will review it as soon as we can. We have to see this as being a step towards normality, but that journey is still continuing.

Therefore, we have put together a plan for arrival and departure which gives detailed instructions. I will send this out next week as well as a new Home School Agreement, which will cover the Autumn term. I am afraid that this too is very directive, but everything we have included is necessary to reduce contact between bubbles, and to ensure that as few items as possible transfer between home and school. Many parents have asked how they can help when school starts again. A crucial way in which you can help at this time is to ensure that you and your children carefully read through the Home School Agreement and follow the guidelines and timings for drop off and pick up. I will send this information again before the start of term as a reminder.

All of the measures we have put in place for September are to protect the whole school community – children, staff and parents. You will have seen in the news that people from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities appear to be more at risk from the virus. In our school, 27% of our children are from BAME families. It is vital that everyone plays their part in keeping our school community as safe and healthy as possible and that will mean we all have to strictly follow the measures we have put in place. Thank you in advance for your support in implementing these measures.

Next Year's Classes

Last week, we sent out a Who's Who Guide for your child's new class. This week, the teachers have produced short videos for their new classes to welcome them. The links to the videos are here:

Acorn, EYFS - <https://www.bournschool.co.uk/school-office/acorn-class-new-intake-2020/>
Willow, Year1- https://youtu.be/dCGkY_kG5fw
Hazel, Year 2- <https://youtu.be/DkiM0sce1Sk>
Cedar, Year 3- <https://youtu.be/aLmC3XSLBL8>

Rosewood, Year 4- <https://youtu.be/a5d0Fab6Flk>
Cherry, Year 5- <https://youtu.be/PQLkfi3gHdY>
Maple, Year 6- <https://youtu.be/hQdyImyV3gw>

During the first week, children will also have an opportunity to spend some time with their current teacher who can catch up on all their news.

School Grounds:

Over the partial closure period, we have, with some help from the children in school, taken the opportunity to develop different areas of the school site, and photographs of these areas are attached. A special thanks to Mr Gawthrop, who has temporarily changed his focus from sport to gardening and fence building! He will be back to his normal PE Coach role in September. The sunflowers in the new garden area were planted in the first week of lockdown – look how time passes! You will also notice a new picket fence near the school entrance. We will be using the school grounds much more, including our Daily Mile, which is now a well-established routine in school. We will also be using the front field more often for the younger children. The fence is to ensure children do not walk on the drive (especially near the gate) as there are often deliveries during the day, and to ensure that there is a clear boundary for the younger children.

Thank you

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for the kind messages, cards, gifts and food you have brought in for the staff. The thought is very much appreciated. Having said that, if I could afford it, I would like to buy each one of you a bottle of champagne, or something similar, to say the biggest THANK YOU for being your child's teachers since March! Thank you for everything you have done to keep them engaged with learning, happy and safe. You have stepped up to meet the most enormous challenge and you have done a fantastic job – however you did it.

Have a great weekend.

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