



IF WE BELIEVE, WE CAN ACHIEVE

Newsletter 1 - Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to rest and recuperate over the Christmas holidays.

Thank you all for your patience over the last few days as the school manages the logistics of the new lockdown measures. The school is currently open for the children of critical workers and those children who meet the criteria for vulnerable. The same work is set for both remote learning and school learning. The overall message is that the more children who stay at home, the bigger the positive impact on the rate of infection.

Remote Learning

Each week we will send out a timetable of activities over the weekend. The government guidance is that schools provide 3 hours of learning to primary children but please adapt where necessary and make the timetable work for you and your family. Each day we are scheduling two live zoom sessions with your child's teacher. These are staggered across the morning and afternoon so that we don't have clashes with siblings. The lessons will help to set up the learning for the day.

As part of this move to some live lessons we ask you to follow some rules to ensure everybody's safety.

- Your child should arrive promptly for the meeting
- Your child needs to be in a public space in the house
- Your child needs to be dressed appropriately for learning
- An adult should be present (for older children they do not have to sit with them but just be in the room)

Joining the meeting gives consent for your child to access live online teaching

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of benefits you may well qualify for free school meals. If so, please follow the link to the Dorset webpage that will allow you to be assessed. There is sometimes understandable confusion over free school meals as the government provide all children in YR-2 with a hot school meal. These are not the free school meals (FSM) you hear about in the press.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>

For those of you who do qualify for free school meals and who are not in school, we will be providing a **weekly food box** from Local Foods. These will be available for collection from the school on **Monday afternoons**. Please arrange a time with the school office to collect your box.

Contact with School

We ask that you submit your child's work via the class emails. Teachers will provide your child with feedback at least weekly. If you have queries about the work set please contact your child's class teacher.

The office will not be manned every day so please email the school office with all other enquiries.

As previously, during the first lockdown, we will be making phone calls to each household to check in with families during this time.

The email addresses for your classes are as follows:

Bumblebees: bumblebees@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk

Grasshoppers: grasshoppers@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk

Dragonflies: dragonflies@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk

Scorpions: scorpions@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk

Ladybirds continue to use Tapestry as the online learning platform.

Safeguarding

Just a reminder that the designated safeguarding leads in school are Mrs Musselwhite, Mr Read and Mrs Keeble. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding you can contact us or, alternatively, you can contact the children's advice services on 01305 228558.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend and thank you for your support. I am fully aware that the first few weeks may be a bit wobbly, at times, but hopefully we can quickly adapt to the new routines.

Stay safe.

Kind regards,



Mrs Rachael Musselwhite (Headteacher)