



IF WE BELIEVE, WE CAN ACHIEVE

Newsletter 2 - Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have reached Friday in what has been a week of new and sometimes challenging experiences for all of us and I think everyone - children, parents and teachers- should take a moment to feel good about what has been achieved. As with any new experience we all adapt at different rates and each family will have faced different challenges – teachers train 3-4 years before they are entrusted with the curriculum and face to face teaching so we want to say a huge thank you for your efforts to provide remote learning in your homes. Having completed a week we have reflected on our provision and would welcome your thoughts. As a staff we evaluated the week according to 2 stars and a wish (challenges to overcome) and this is a snapshot of our views:



- Really great to see so many children during the zoom sessions (thanks for prompt arrivals!).
- Helpful to have feedback from parents and to see some of the work sent in
- Very impressed by the standard of work coming from home

Challenges

- Managing a zoom session to achieve a balance of teaching and interaction
- Adapting teaching plans for parents which give enough support but are not overwhelming
- Managing pupil workload

Much of what you see has been in response to DFE guidance which came to schools last week, however, it would be great to hear from you in a similar format via the office email. We don't have a magic wand but there may be tweaks that can be made to help everyone. If your circumstances are particularly challenging please get in touch with me directly via the school office and I will make contact. As a general rule your child should not be working into the evening and there should be breaks during the day. If you haven't finished the work, just stop and let the teacher know that your child has completed what they could in the time allocated. This is an area which is very hard to judge in school so your feedback is essential. Planning for next week will be sent out in the next day. We have tried very hard to limit both the amount of photocopying and the amount of time spent on devices.

We currently have around a third of the school accessing the site. This means that all staff are working from home as well as teaching in school so I would ask you to bear this in mind when getting feedback for your child's work.

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 continuing the **weekly food box** next week, after which we may be returning to vouchers. These will be available for collection from the school on **Monday afternoons**. Please arrange a time with the school office to collect your box.

Thanks to the Parish Council

A huge thankyou to the Parish council who have provided us with some financial support to purchase IT equipment for those families who need it. The government scheme you will have heard about gave the school one laptop based on deprivation levels and it is due to arrive imminently. This extra funding is very gratefully received.

You may well have seen or heard about the BBC initiative 'Make a Difference'. During the first lockdown they helped members of the public with donating thousands of old laptops and tablets for school children across England. The BBC are once more asking for help and we have signed up to be a recipient. We are happy for donations to be delivered to the school and our IT Support Team are able to wipe any device and set up for school use. If you are able to help in any way or know of local businesses that may have old laptops/tablets, we would be incredibly grateful. Thank you.

Contact with School

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

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.

Finally, thank you for your support this week - a kind comment goes a long way to help everyone and once more the SPH community rises to the challenge.

Stay safe.

Kind regards,



Mrs Rachael Musselwhite (Headteacher)