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Our **Value of the Month** for September is **RESPONSIBILITY**

September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Safe Return

Welcome back to our new academic year and I hope you have been safe and well this summer. Last academic year ended so abruptly with school closures in March that we didn't get the chance to complete our usual transition for all our pupils. With so much uncertainty around how the Covid-19 situation would affect schools, we are just pleased to open and are working hard to support pupils to settle in and catch up on their learning. In order to keep everyone safe, here is a reminder of the necessary steps:

- Please wear a face covering in our school reception hatch area if you need to speak to office staff.
- We will continue to welcome children through the side gate with **one adult only per family** and ask parents to leave by walking up the ramp and out the top gate. We ask that parents follow social distancing guidelines.
- To collect your child(ren) you will also enter through the side gate and leave via the top gate.
- No staff will be on the yard at the start or end of day to talk to as staff need to get every child out safely and ensure parents stay apart.
- Communication with school needs to be via the telephone or email and visits to the school hatch should be kept to a minimum and for essential reasons only.
- Children need to return to school wearing uniform and appropriate school shoes.
- They can only bring in essential items such as a named water bottle for water only (no juice), packed lunch (if your child brings one) and their PE kit.
- All stationary items will be provided to ensure children bring in the minimum, essential items to school.
- No snacks from home may be brought in.

We thank you for adhering closely to the above to keep everyone in our school community safe.

Curriculum Grids and Helpful Guides

We have put the new curriculum grids on our school website which outline what your child will be learning in school across the year. Also, on our website are 'Useful Guides' to help with Literacy, Phonics and Maths at home written by subject co-ordinators. The following links will take you to them on our school website:

- <http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/our-curriculum-maths/>
- <http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/our-curriculum-literacy/>
- <http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2015/02/Helpful-Phonics-Guide.pdf>
- <http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/curriculum-grids/>

Curriculum and Catch Up

Part of our curriculum focus this year will be on providing home learning in case any children need to self-isolate. We very much hope that all children can be taught in school for the full academic year but will ensure that home learning continues to be a focus, in case of need. The government have outlined their plans that children are able to catch up after such a prolonged period out of their school environment and schools are being advised to teach a 'broad and ambitious' curriculum to enable this to happen. Your support with home learning in the past few months has been greatly appreciated and we will all need to continue to work together to support pupils to achieve their very best.

Attendance Information

We have been working hard over the summer period to prepare and welcome back all pupils in the new academic year, including a range of protective measures have been put in place in order that parents and children feel confident of their safe return to settings. It was wonderful yesterday to open our gates and welcome pupils back to school. As a school, we understand that, as parents, you may have anxieties or concerns about your child's return and we encourage you to contact us if you have any specific concerns that you would like to talk through or any help and support that you or your child may require. As echoed by the Government, it is vital for all children who can be at school to return, given that the sooner children can return to school, the better it is for their health and mental wellbeing, wider development and their educational prospects. The Government have made clear the expectation that all children will return to school in September 2020 when school attendance will, again, be mandatory and the school's attendance policy clearly mirrors this (see below). The Government have planned for a range of potential scenarios detailing the actions that parents and schools should take in the event of one of the issues arising and this is attached in the summary attendance policy leaflet. I would be grateful if you could familiarise yourself with this. Please click the links below:

Attendance Policy: <http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2020/09/Attendance-Policy-2020-to-2021.pdf>

Information Leaflet to Parents regarding Attendance: <http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2020/09/Attendance-Policy-Information-for-Parents-Leaflet.pdf>

Key Dates

At the start of the year we would normally provide an extensive list of dates for key events in our calendar where parents/family members can come to school. Due to social distancing restrictions, and the need to keep our school community safe, we will provide dates for any events that are safe to do nearer the time. I appreciate this makes planning ahead more difficult and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Below is the list of school holidays for your information. This will ensure that holidays are taken out of term time to allow your child to attend school - see <https://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolholidays>.

School Holiday Dates

Wednesday 2 September 2020	Children return to school
Autumn half-term 2020	Friday 23 October 2020 to Monday 2 November 2020
Friday 27 November 2020	Staff training day (school closed to pupils)
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 December 2020 to Monday 4 January 2021
Spring half-term 2021	Friday 12 February 2021 to Monday 22 February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 March 2021 to Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 April 2021 to Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer half-term 2021	Friday 28 May 2021 to Monday 7 June 2021
Friday 25 June 2021	Staff training day (school closed to pupils)
Summer 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021 to Wednesday 1 September 2021

Yours sincerely, *Mrs Laura Snowden* (Headteacher)