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Our Value of the Month for October is **POSITIVITY**

Newsletter – October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Applications for Reception Class Places in 2021 and Nursery**

The application process for admission to Reception class for September 2021 has opened and will close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. An offer of a school place will be made on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020. For more information visit: [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Please note that if your child comes to our nursery you still need to apply through this process via Durham Local Authority to request a place in our school. If you are looking for a pre-school place in our school nursery then you can apply directly to school and speak to Mrs Snowdon. We offer 5 x 15 hours (morning or afternoon) or 5 x 30 hours (for eligible parents) for 3 & 4 year olds and would be pleased to talk to you if you are looking for a nursery place for your child. Your child can join the term after they turn 3 years old if we have a space available. We currently have a waiting list so if you are looking for a place it is best to get in touch once your child turns 2 years old.

### **Photos**



A few parents have asked us if we are planning on having the school photographer in this term as we normally would. We have decided to wait until we deem it safer to do this as the cases of Covid-19 continue to rise currently and we have to be able to do this safely and with confidence that our small school allows sufficient space to do this with social distancing. We know that parents look forward to getting their individual child's photograph or family group and it is regrettable that this may only be able to happen later in the year. Your patience with this is appreciated and an update on this will be sent out when it is thought safe to take the photographs in school.

### **Home Learning**

If your child has to self-isolate then we will provide home learning for them to complete while they are off school. We won't send work home to children who are absent from school due to illness as they need to rest and recuperate before returning. However, for children who need to follow government guidelines regarding self-isolation, we don't want them to miss out on their learning. Teachers are producing a 'Home Learning' sheet each week which links to what they are teaching in their class and this will be sent out to children who need it. We very much hope that all pupils stay well but have set this up to ensure that the interruption to your child's learning is reduced as far as possible.

### **Wearing of Face Masks on School Grounds**



We really appreciate the support we have received from the vast majority of parents who are wearing face masks on our school grounds. Some parents have told us they are exempt but many are supporting school by wearing a mask. Many schools are asking parents to do this and Durham County Council are supportive of this measure on school premises. They are aware that some schools have raised concerns about social distancing during drop off and pick up times and therefore we need to remind parents that to reduce the risk of catching or spreading coronavirus, to try to keep at least 2 metres away from people you do not live with. Social distancing is essential to stop the spread of the virus, as it is more likely to spread when people are close together. We know that at times when parents are entering and leaving school they may be closer than 2 metres therefore we will continue to wear face masks to protect our school community. We have also noticed the paths outside of school can become congested at drop off and collection times and have been advised by Durham County Council that this matter should be referred to our local wardens and police for advice and support. We have passed our concerns on regarding social distancing in the locality to them.



### **Rewards and Certificates**

Each week in class the children find out who is the 'Star of the Week', 'Rock Star Reader' and also who has achieved the 'Presentation Award'. We know that children enjoy this time as it celebrates their good work and dedication and rewards them for trying so hard. Children are currently having their achievement assembly together in their class so they can stay within their bubbles. Our Rock Star Reader Mascot (shown above) was designed by one of our Year 6 pupils last year to promote and celebrate the love of reading as we know how vitally important it is for children to learn to read and understand the text. If you would like any support with reading at home you can click on the following link which can provide some ideas:

<http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/our-curriculum-literacy/>

### **Safeguarding**

All staff and governors are committed to keeping all children safe at Bournmoor Primary. There is an updated version of the government's 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' which came out in September 2020. We have updated our safeguarding policies and procedures to reflect the changes in this document. If you have any concerns about a child you can speak to Mrs Snowdon, who is Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Seaton who is also a DSL or alternatively you can phone First Contact on 03000 267979.

### **School Dinners**

Just to say thank you to all the parents who are paying dinner money on ParentPay ensuring their account stays in credit. If you would like your child to change from packed lunch to school dinners (or vice versa) then the office requires one week's notice. Your support with this is appreciated.

### **Contact Details**

It is very important that we have your up to date contact details including mobile phone number. If we need to contact you in case of emergency for example, it is vital that you are able to answer and respond quickly. If you have changed your number recently please telephone school so we can update our records. This also includes any phone numbers on your child's 'Collected By' form that lets us know who can collect your child. Please remember that only adults aged 18 or over can collect a child and therefore we will only accept numbers and details for them. We politely request that all children are collected on time after school.

### **School Holiday Dates**

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 Snowdon* (Headteacher)