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Our **Value of the Month** for September is **RESPONSIBILITY** and for October **POSITIVITY**

### September/October 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome all the children back to school last week. The term has started very positively with everyone working hard and settling in so well. We continue to keep the wellbeing and safety of all our school community at the heart of what we do and work with Durham Local Authority to offer a safe environment. Last year we did not have a case of Covid in school so no bubbles were sent home. We aim to keep everyone safe and ensure that pupils can have a consistent education again this year. From 16th August 2021 the government relaxed Covid rules with the aim of returning to some normality. We all welcome this after such a difficult 18 months but want to ensure we promote safety in our school environment. Therefore, we ask that you support us so please click on this link to see how to do this: <https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/parents/how-we-will-reopen-our-school-safely/> Also please click for the latest government advice for schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

### **Applications for School Places in 2022**

The application process for admission to Reception in September 2022 opens on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. For more information please visit: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2188/School-places-important-dates>. 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.

### **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. You can find them under 'Curriculum' <https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/>

### **Photos**

The school photographer will be in on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October to take class and individual photographs. As long as it is safe to do so, we will also ask for family groups in school so photos of siblings can be taken. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have any younger sisters or brothers who do not attend our school come in for this and we appreciate your understanding with this. The photos will be taken across the school day so your child just needs to attend in uniform as usual.

### **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 2021. We update 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**

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. Just a reminder to parents who are paying dinner money on ParentPay to ensure the account stays in credit.

### **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. Last year children had their achievement assembly together in their class so they could stay within their bubbles but this term we will meet weekly in the hall. Our Rock Star Reader Mascot (shown above) was designed by one of our former pupils 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.

### **Reading Ideas**



We continue our focus on the importance of reading in our school to develop a life-long love of texts and stories. If you would like some ideas for books that your child might like then you could look at [www.booksfortopics.com](http://www.booksfortopics.com) as this site has lots of suggestions especially linked to History, Geography or Science. Also try looking at:

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

*Specific reading lessons aimed at Key Stages One and Two.*

Book Trust: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/Games,activitiesandvideosofstoriesaimedatEYFSandKeyStageOne>

Oxford Owl: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

*Free downloaded e-books for all ages.*

### **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 and your help with this is appreciated.

### **Family Support Advisor**

Just a reminder that our Parent Support Advisor is Claire Donnelly. Mrs Donnelly works in school each week and is keen to support children and families. If you would like to speak to Mrs Donnelly please contact school on 01913854291 and we can arrange an appointment. She is in school each Wednesday morning and is available to meet with children and families to offer support and advice. In addition, if you have a concern or query please telephone, email or speak to a member of staff so we can listen and try to resolve any issues raised. We really appreciate the opportunity to talk about any concerns you have and to work with parents and families to support.

### **Key Dates**



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 – you can find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website.

### **School Holiday Dates**

Wednesday 1 September 2021	Children return to school
Autumn half-term 2021	Friday 22 October 2021 to Monday 1 November 2021
Staff training days (school closed to pupils)	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 and Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Christmas 2021	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 to Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Spring half-term 2022	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 to Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Staff training days (school closed to pupils)	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022
Easter 2022	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 to Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Bank Holiday 2022	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 to Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022
Summer half-term 2022	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Staff training day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 and Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Summer 2022	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022

Yours sincerely, *L A Snowdon* Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)