

**Covid-19 - 27th March 2020**

## **Weekly Newsletter from Mrs Hunt**

Dear Parents,

Hope you are all **keeping safe** and well during this very worrying time. It has been a strange week for us all, I am sure. Whilst school has been open all week it has been very surreal. Schools should be full of children. You have also found yourselves in situations that we would not have dreamed of two weeks ago. There have been so many changes and they have happened very quickly. There has been little time for anyone to adjust as we've all reacted to changing advice and guidance. It must be difficult for many of you, not being able to work and having no certainty over income or even how long this will go on for. I'm sure that by taking all efforts to follow the lockdown as fully as possible we can all do our bit and that life as we knew it will return more quickly.

I know you are working really hard with your children, some of you are combining this with also trying to work from home, whilst others are still going out to work but trying to keep the learning going. This is NOT easy and **you are all doing an amazing job**. I mean it. We know at school, more than most, how much energy and time it takes to keep the children motivated. It has been great to see the photos coming in on **Tapestry**. Please keep doing this. We miss the children and it is a good way to share what is happening. I feel like I have been learning with you all at home! I am mindful, however, that although staff can see these lovely photos you can't see each others and I thought it would be helpful if you could share with your children other families at work and they could see what their friends are up to. To this end, we will be putting a **weekly slideshow** together on the Covid page of the school website. Mrs Andrews is compiling this. Please email no more than three photos per family per week to Mrs Andrews [audrey@milborne.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:audrey@milborne.dorset.sch.uk) putting PHOTOS in the subject heading. If these can be sent by midday each Friday we can add them to the website before the weekend. By sending these in you are **giving consent** for them to be used on the website in this way. I hope that this will help to maintain a sense of community while we are all apart, in some small way.

There are loads of websites offering wonderful learning opportunities but it can be a bit overwhelming. I would suggest finding a few that work for you and sticking with those.

Many of you have been doing the **Joe Wicks Body Coach Daily Workout** from youtube.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wzoy\\_J3I\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wzoy_J3I_c)

These are great 5 min videos for activities you can do in your living room and are broadcast at 9 am each morning.

Another one is new and has just been released by Andy Cope. This is Wellbeing Wednesday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IPV8JmUMrU&feature=youtu.be>

We have had training with Andy and he is really easy to listen to and very motivational. He helps children to see things in perspective and understand themselves and how they are feeling better. He's sure to brighten up your day.

Miss Grimshaw has also shared the following message:

David Walliams is reading one of his stories everyday at 11 o'clock. I think the recording stays online until the following day at 11 when he puts a new reading up.

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/>

If you click on the link above and then scroll down to "elevenes" and click on that, then it will take you to that day's reading.

Table tennis at home:

[https://www.ttkidz.co.uk/play-at-home/?utm\\_campaign=1717178\\_TT%20Kidz%20at%20home%20Mar%202020%20primary%20schools&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Table%20Tennis%20England&TTID\\_Auto=&dm\\_i=38NL,10SZE,7GCOJU,3VWI2,1](https://www.ttkidz.co.uk/play-at-home/?utm_campaign=1717178_TT%20Kidz%20at%20home%20Mar%202020%20primary%20schools&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Table%20Tennis%20England&TTID_Auto=&dm_i=38NL,10SZE,7GCOJU,3VWI2,1)

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors>

My advice to you as you continue through the weeks ahead is to pace yourselves! Quality of work and experience is more important than rushing through everything. Challenge the children to do their very best work. This is an opportunity to really improve presentation, spelling and layout as you can watch over them as they do it. **Have high expectations.** They can do so much more than you think, and sometimes more than they think themselves. **Reading** is key. If you do nothing else make sure there is quality reading going on every day. Read together, read separately, ask questions, discuss the book, talk about what you are reading. Discuss words, look them up, make it interactive and engaging- just read!

I have, as my previous message mentioned, ordered books for each child in school to support Literacy. I think these will be a great resource for you and be exciting for the children. **They were expensive so please look after them** . As I've said I am not charging but you WILL incur a cost of £20 if the book goes missing or is damaged or written in. These are not for writing in EXCEPT in Reception. I have been tracking these and it looks likely that they could arrive before the end of the day Friday. We will confirm when these have arrived and let you know how they will be distributed.

I would just like to be absolutely clear. Unfortunately, **Hooke Court** has been cancelled. Discussions are in place as to what might happen, if anything . If nothing else is planned then you will of course get your money back. These are Mini pyramid discussions and are not in my full control. As soon as I know anything at all about any plans I will let you know.

**From Monday 30th March , we will be fully closed.** Children who have been identified previously can attend Piddle Valley school until further notice. Staff will continue to support at Piddle and you can still contact all staff members by email as we are all working, some from home, some from Piddle. Staff will also be in contact to talk to the children.

We will be putting an assembly recording on My Page of the class pages each week. This week is from a very easily distracted Headteacher!

There is also a song to sing weekly (or whenever you fancy). Hopefully this will help to keep some structure and a sense of belonging to a school community during these unusual times.

Keep up the great work and try to enjoy these moments and new experiences,

Enjoy the weekend, and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hunt