

## CJS NEWS

Weekly news from Christchurch Junior School

Issue 4—Friday 2 October 2020



**THE BEST FOR ALL—THE BEST FROM ALL**

Dear Parents / Carers

Over the last couple of weeks, Miss Buller, our English leader, has been giving a good deal of thought into how we can develop a love of reading with our children. Please read on to hear our initial thoughts and rationale for how we now intend to enhance this.

Mr Croton is busily working to develop our online learning offer. We are investigating the use of Google Classroom which will enable children to log in from home and access learning set by their teachers, hand the learning in virtually and receive feedback on their work. It also has the capacity to enable teachers to deliver lessons 'live'. Once this is up and running, we will provide a more detailed explanation for how it will work.

Many thanks

*SR Fuller*

### **CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE**

- If anyone in your household has symptoms of coronavirus, the rest of the household **MUST** self-isolate for 14 days from the **FIRST** day the symptomatic person has symptoms.
- The symptomatic person must get a test.
- If it is your child who has any of the symptoms, they must not come to school.
- Tests can be booked online through the NHS website or by calling NHS 119.

Please refer to our flowchart to help you make decisions about attendance when your child feels unwell. <https://www.cjsdorset.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/what-if-my-child-is-ill-September-2020.pdf>

### **ATTENDANCE RACE**

This week our whole school attendance is 97.4%.

The winners of the attendance race for last week are:

Year 3	3BB	97.4%
Year 4	4CC	98.1%
Year 5	5EY	99.7%
Year 6	6AB	99.4%

### **READING—Miss Buller**

We want our children to develop and enhance their love of reading! Historically, our pupils have used Reading Diaries which travel to and from school and within them children have made a record of their reading. The current situation has meant that these diaries should remain in school, so as not to aid transmission of the virus, and this has also presented the opportunity for us to reconsider their value.

What is clear is that for many children, completing the Reading Diary entries is simply a chore that does not contribute to their enjoyment of reading or to their reading ability. This is the last thing we want! As a result, these diaries will now be used in range of other ways in school. Within guided reading sessions, children will be asked to develop specific reading skills, such as reflecting on a character's emotions or predicting the next part of the plot. They will record this within their diaries as a useful response to the text being studied. Children will also reflect on their partner's reading (Reciprocal Reading/Reading Buddies) and adults will support children in making suitable and helpful next step comments: this will in turn require children to develop a deeper understanding of what constitutes good reading.

To encourage your children to be reading at other times, classes will run 'DEAR' - Drop Everything And Read! Teachers will monitor this carefully so that there are no passengers in the room pretending to read(!), and classes will work towards positive whole-class outcomes to recognise their effort in completing high-quality reading. At home, we will encourage you to share information with us through ClassDojo. Teachers will be nominating two children each week to share a photo of the book they are reading and a reason why they would recommend it to other pupils. We will then use these pictures, within each year group, to create a visual reading list of recommended books! We believe this will inspire others.

### **CLASSDOJO**

Years 5 and 6 are using ClassDojo successfully already. Next week, Years 3 and 4 staff will be sharing log in information and alongside an explanation for how this application can be used most effectively.

## **GOVERNORS**

Thank you to parent governor, Marta Deka-Turvey, and staff governor, Mr Breeze (6DB), who are each stepping down from their governor roles. A good deal of time and dedication goes into this position and I would like to thank them both for their positive impact on CJS. My thanks also to parent governor, Andrew Jolley, who will be stepping across to become a community governor, providing our Local Advisory Board (LAB) of governors with much needed stability at a time of change.

We will be actively recruiting, next week, for two new parent governors, so look out for the information that will follow. Within our LAB, we are well-represented by governors with financial knowledge and understanding, and would now particularly benefit from parents who may have understanding of education, safeguarding and special educational needs. Of course, you may have another skill that complements our LAB and you are very welcome to apply.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES**

Much of our school leadership recently has been linked to keeping your children as safe as possible. Within the realms of government guidance, there is a good deal of information about physical activity for children. It is well-known that by encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle, we can positively impact on the mental health and well-being of our pupils. This is one of the reasons why we have been so keen to get your children involved in PE/Games lessons from the beginning of the school year. When outside, your children are taking part in activities and games with our staff making use of the advice provided by individual sports' governing bodies. Inside PE is socially distanced, in well-ventilated rooms and organised to maximise exercise and keep risks low. We hope your children are enjoying these opportunities.

## **VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS—TWYNHAM SCHOOL**

Last week Y6 parents will have received a letter inviting them to attend a Virtual Open Evening on Tuesday 13 October at 6:30pm. Please follow the link to be able to book onto the evening— [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BWF8WvxOS96Btdpnf5btXw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BWF8WvxOS96Btdpnf5btXw)

## **PARENTS' EVENINGS**

Parents' evenings are scheduled to take place during the week beginning Monday 19th October. We are in the process of finalising our plans, but these are likely to take a virtual format wherever possible. Phone calls home will replace video calls where they are not possible. More details to follow.

## **HARRISON CATERING**

A reminder to parents that the cut off for ordering hot meals is 9 days prior to the start of the week you are looking to book. For example, to be able to book for w/c 12 October, you must have placed your booking by the end of day Friday 2 October 2020.

## **CHANGING YOUR END-OF-DAY ARRANGMENTS?**

A reminder to parents/carers that if your child is going home with someone different, please send a note with your child for their class teacher, so that are aware. If home arrangements change during the school day, please notify the school office as soon as possible so they can get a message to your child.

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS (sorry...!)**

I know... it really is early to be mentioning Christmas! However, our amazing PTFA, run by Dulcie Menz, have arranged a Covid-secure way to continue raising funds for CJS. Children will be provided with a template and every child who completes a design will have it turned into a Christmas card which they can keep. If you wish, you can purchase packs of Christmas cards of your child's design or even tea towels, gift tags and more! Please return completed templates to school by 9th October at the latest. See the poster for more details.

## **LIBRARY BOOKS and VOLUNTEERS**

Due to COVID restrictions, we are not always able to change your child's library book as quickly as we would like. It would be great if you could access Christchurch Library or read books from home, whilst we are in this situation. Many thanks for supporting us on this. If you feel able to offer us some voluntary time in our library, after the end of the school day when the children have gone home, we really would appreciate it. Maybe this would suit someone whose child is at an after-school club?

## **STAGGERED TIMINGS**

Please stick as closely to your staggered start times as possible. This is especially important now that the weather is beginning to change. Year 5 and 6 children are now being encouraged to free flow into the school grounds and go straight to their classrooms at the start of the day. This will help to limit the congestion on Clarendon Road.

## **WEATHER + COATS**

Keep sending your children with their coats everyday please, regardless of what it looks like first thing in the morning. We will always do our best to get the children outside for a run around, even when damp and cold.

## **HOLIDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERMS**

Schools may not authorise any leave of absence (including holidays) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances may include:

- A parent is service personnel and is returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays
- An absence from school is recommended by a health professional
- The death or terminal illness of a close relative
- Religious observance

- Attendance at a wedding or funeral

Even with these examples, there are still criteria to be met to show that they are exceptional.

Any leave should be applied for using the school's leave of absence form available from the school office or from our website. This is in line with Government legislation; the Educational (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

We are seeing increasing numbers of applications for holiday in term time. Please remember that these are highly likely to be recorded as unauthorised. In some circumstances, for example, when previous attendance has been poor or if the request is for 5 days or more, these holidays will also be subject the school making a recommendation to our Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. The school receives no revenue from this process. We simply need CJS children to be in school and learning.

#### **SCHOOL BASED CLUBS—YEAR 4, 5 & 6**

Last week you will have received our timetable, protocol and information on how to enrol your child in a club. If you are interested in enrolling your child for a school based club, please email [sport@cjsdorset.org](mailto:sport@cjsdorset.org) with the following information

- Child's name
- Class
- Club they would like to join
- Emergency contact details
- Home time arrangements

We are looking to expand the clubs that are on offer to our younger children as soon as possible. We have had to prioritise our older children due to the greater opportunities to take part in fixtures and therefore preparation is required to do this.

#### **COACH ADRIAN SPORTS ACADEMY (C.A.S.A) - YEAR 3 & 4 ONLY**

If your child is interested in Football with C.A.S.A, please visit <https://www.casaltd.net/cjsafterschoolbookings> to sign up.

#### **WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK— W/C 5 OCTOBER**

The week commencing 5 October is National Walk to School Week, where pupils and adults around the UK unite for one week of walking to school. It would be great to see as many families walking to school in support of this.

We are inviting all families to join us in celebrating the incredible physical and mental health benefits walking brings to every individual. Strong hearts, healthy bones and increased muscle strength are all well-documented outcomes of walking, but benefits for the mind are just as powerful. Increased self-esteem, awakened creativity and improved overall cognitive function all make for a happy healthy child. Walking to school for just one day will not only set our learners up for a positive day in the classroom but it will also help create healthy habits for life.

For more information please visit <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week> . This is a healthier alternative, of course, as well as helping to keep our roads safer and less congested. If you cannot walk all the way to school, try parking a little further away and striding the rest of the journey. Bring your umbrellas!

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2020—2021 (correct at time of going to print)**

Wednesday 7 October	3SC Cranborne Trip
Thursday 8 October	3GF Cranborne Trip
Wednesday 14 October	3BB Cranborne Trip
Thursday 15 October	3DH Cranborne Trip
Monday 25 October — Friday 30 October	Half Term

