



All Saints Primary School

Weekly Parent Email

W/E 29th January 2021

Dear All,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I am sure that most of you have seen that schools will remain closed until 08th March at the earliest. Let's hope that this is a realistic aim and that we can enjoy a safe and uninterrupted remainder of the academic year.

I am really aware that this is a terribly difficult time for the pupils. Children, more than any of us, thrive on routine and we are unable to totally offer this at the moment. For all, there will be inevitable highs and lows, frustrations and tantrums. There will be times when it appears they have forgotten everything they have ever learned. Please do remember that the mental health and well-being of your children are – by far – our highest priority.

Our live lessons do give the children some routine and provide an excellent way for them to have contact with their peers. Even if it doesn't appear so, the children will be learning. Please do not get into battles or feel that you need to put constant pressure on your child. If we are concerned about anything, we will contact you.

When we do return (hopefully on 8th March), we will then start to fill in the knowledge gaps and pick up the pieces of a disjointed year's learning. Unlike many other schools, at least our live lessons have meant that we can continue our curriculum coverage of reading, writing and maths. Remember, there are also optional afternoon activities / challenges / lessons available which will focus more on the remainder of the curriculum.

Coronavirus helpline for families

Dorset Council have set up a helpline for families worried about how their child is coping with the coronavirus crisis and lockdown. The helpline number is: **01258 474036**. It is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30 minute phone consultation.

Adverse Weather

Please see below procedures for the closure of school in adverse weather. **If we are forced to close the school, we will not be holding live lessons.**

As a result of the generosity of members of the local community with the kindness and support of some of our parents, we now have a few more laptops available for loan. If there are any families struggling with devices, please give Lou a ring.

Finally, if you need advice, have any worries or concerns or just want a chat, please give us a call. If we can't help you, we will do all we can to find someone who can.

Take care,

Nigel

SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER

We will, of course, endeavour to keep the school open if at all possible, but severe weather conditions could make it necessary to close the school if it were dangerous or unreasonably difficult:

- for children or sufficient numbers of staff to reach school and provide an adequate educational service.
- for children or staff to journey to, and return from, school safely and without undue delay.

To check whether the school is going to be closed, please visit the school website www.bishopscaundle.dorset.sch.uk. A warning message will be clearly displayed on the home page. In addition, Dorset Council also has a website for schools to register with if they are closed due to severe weather. A member of staff will update this as early as possible if we are to close. This should be done by 6.45am.

The Dorset Council website can be accessed in two ways:

www.dorsetforyou/winter or <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>, then click on Closed Schools and if we are closed All Saints Primary School will be listed.

Dorset Council will also advise radio stations on the school's behalf, so please listen to our local radio stations for information if you do not have access to the internet.

Local radio stations:

- **Heart FM (Dorset) on 102.3 MHz**
- **Heart FM (Somerset) 102.6 MHz**
- **Midwest Radio / The Breeze in Yeovil 105.6 MHz**

We will also send a text via your mobile phones to inform you of school closure so it is really important that we have your up to date details on file. In addition to this, we will update our school smart phone App which will send a push notification to your phone.

If conditions permit, a member of staff will endeavour to get to the office but it would be appreciated if you did not ring the school directly, except in extreme circumstances, to avoid 'blocking' our lines.

Nigel Roberts