



Dorchester Primary School

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Deputy Head – Mrs N. Van Der Walt BA (Hons), PGCE



Friday 18th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

After some very hot days this week, it is refreshing that the temperature has come down to a more manageable level.

It has been another exceptionally busy week in school this week and the vast majority of our children have shown just how committed they are to their learning – they are a credit to us!

COVID-19

At the beginning of this week, the Prime Minister announced that the current restrictions would remain in place until 19th July. This clearly has an impact on some of the events we had planned in for this half-term, including sports day and transition.

We are currently looking at how and if we can organise events which parents can attend within the current guidelines. Please bear with us as we try to work out the plans. Further information will be sent out over the coming weeks.

Please continue to wear face coverings on site and maintain your distance from others not within your bubble. There is a worry that the new variant will spread quickly if somebody catches it so we need to ensure we are following the agreed protocols to prevent it from ‘taking off’.

Uniform, Jewellery and Toys

We have had lots of queries and challenges about the above three things over the course of this week so I would like to put clarity to the school’s position on them.

Uniform – we have a clear uniform policy in place at Dorchester and this clearly explains what clothes should be worn to school. The Uniform and Jewellery policy is on the website for all to see. As a reminder, unless it is a PE day, where we allow children to come in their PE kit, then we expect children to be in full school uniform. Jeans and tracksuit bottoms do not form part of our policy and should not be worn.

Jewellery – as I have mentioned on several previous occasions, we have a ‘no jewellery’ policy with the exception of a watch and a single pair of studded earrings in the lobe of the ear. Children should not be wearing necklaces, bracelets, rings or any other form of jewellery.

Toys – there has been a sudden increase in the number of children bringing ‘toys’ into school, so much so that it is now having a detrimental impact on learning and behaviour. As a school, we have never allowed toys to be brought into school unless for special occasions. Please do not allow your child to bring such



items into school. If toys are brought in, they will be kept safe by the teacher and handed over to parents at the end of the school day.

I would kindly ask that you support us with all of the above so that we can raise expectations across our whole school. Part of our job here is to prepare children for the next stage of their education and we know that secondary schools are much stricter with all of the above.

If you have any concerns about this, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Whilst I am on the topic of having high expectations, we have had a number of children climbing on the bike sheds before and after school. This is not safe for them and, when other parents have challenged them, they have been faced with abusive language. We have spoken to the children in school but would be grateful if you could reinforce our expectations at home.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those parents/carers that have supported us over the course of this challenging year so far. It has been difficult for everybody, not least yourselves, who have had to adapt so much. As things begin to normalise, I would hope that we can work even closer together to continue to raise expectations and aspirations for our whole-school community. There is no reason why Dorchester cannot be an 'outstanding' school in this community, but it will take hard work from everybody for us to get there.

Have a great weekend!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Mills".

Stuart Mills
Headteacher