



## Dorchester Primary School

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Headteacher – Mr S. Mills BA (Hons), NPQH  
Deputy Head – Mrs N. Van Der Walt BA (Hons), PGCE



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head into the final weeks of the Autumn Term, the festivities are certainly warming up. It has been yet another busy week at Dorchester, and our Christmas Jumper day today has been wonderful.

### **Parent Forum**

This week, I met with a group of parents/carers who attended our 'Parent Forum'. It was useful to listen to their views and suggestions as to what would make Dorchester even better, and leaders will certainly be looking into the recommendations made (the notes from this meeting have been uploaded onto our website – under the 'Parents' tab – 'Parent Forum').

One of the issues that seems to be affecting many, is the crowding around the year 3/4 doors at the end of the day. I appreciate that everybody wants to be close to the door so that they can collect their child first, however, this crowding makes it difficult for staff to spot children's parent/carer. As such, and on requests from parents, we will be re-introducing the cones, effective from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December. There will be four cones placed on the playground with class names on and we request that you line up at your child's class cone. This will avoid the crowding and make it easier for the class teacher to spot the parents/carers of children in their class – thus speeding up the end of day process.

### **Christmas Performances / Activities in School**

I am sure you have all heard about the new variant of COVID-19 (Omicron), which seems to be spreading at an alarming rate. There are schools very close to ours who are experiencing outbreaks of COVID-19, and we need to do whatever we can to prevent children, parents and staff from having to isolate over the Christmas holiday period. Therefore, it is with deep regret that we are having to cancel any performances to parents over the next couple of weeks. This has been such a difficult decision and one which I know many of you will be disappointed with. All of us were looking forward to a much more 'normal' end to the Autumn Term, but I need to make sure that none of you, or our own staff, have to isolate as a result of events we have facilitated. The performances will still go ahead in school and these will be filmed and shared with you securely. Anybody who has purchased a ticket will have the cost of this refunded via Parent Pay. I hope you understand the reason for us taking this step and support us in ensuring our whole-school community can experience a Christmas break 'isolation-free'.

### **Our Emotional Well-Being Team**

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, we have increased our emotional well-being team, with Miss Hill joining us. We are aware that many of our children (and families) are experiencing challenges right now and we are here to help. If you have any worries, please get in touch and ask to speak to either Mrs



Boothby or Miss Hill, who will be able to offer help or signpost you to the most appropriate agency. In addition, if you are experiencing hardship, please feel free to pop in and have a chat with either so that we can look at what support is available.



Thank you for your continued support and have a great weekend!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Stuart Mills'.

Stuart Mills  
Headteacher