



School Newsletter

Monday 30th March 2020

It feels very strange to be writing the newsletter from home this week with the school closed. Although the building is closed, the school community is still very much around. Staff have just about managed to have a virtual meeting— however, it was just as well we had no agenda for the first virtual meeting as it took almost an hour to get faces on screens and voices to match! We are also very much thinking of all our school families and hope that you are managing to stay safe and well at home. During the week, staff will be making contact with families via new class email addresses, which we hope will help support communication around learning at home. If you have any other concerns or queries, please do email the school office (office@charmouth.dorset.sch.uk). Stay safe and well.

Learning and Home

Most children were able to either take home or have learning collected before the school had to close. These activities were for the two weeks leading up to the Easter break. At this uncertain time, where we are all feeling anxious and many are trying to juggle some form of working from home as well as supporting their children's learning, we strongly encourage families to do what works for them.

Children in years 1-6 have access to Doodle Maths, English, Spelling and Times Tables as well as to Times Tables Rock Stars and we would encourage as much reading as possible. We would like to hear from parents about what they would find most helpful after Easter, so will be sending out a questionnaire later this week.

Year 5/6 Residential

Currently, we are still planning for the Year 5/6 residential. Of course, we do not know whether or not we will be able to go and we have been in contact with Hooke Court. While there is a possibility that schools will be open, cancelling the trip now would lead to the deposit being lost. If schools are instructed to remain closed, we may be able to get all money already paid back to those who have already made payments.

An automatic email was sent out to parents last week as a reminder for payment instalments and it is up to families to decide whether they would like to make the payment instalment or not. We expect to be able to return all payments made if the trip has to be cancelled, with the possible exception of the deposit.

Means Tested Free School Meals

We recognise that many families may face changes to their circumstances as the current measures impact on work and incomes. Families of children entitled to means tested free school meals, are receiving some additional financial support for grocery shopping. We encourage families to check if they are entitled to support via the website below. Some changes can take time to trigger this support, so you may wish to try again at different times.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/pupil-premium.aspx>

Choose to be positive

