



St George's School Bourton

A Church of England School

**work together, play together
learn together ... shine!**
"Let your light shine" ~ Matthew 5:16

Church Track
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Dear Foxes

Welcome back! We have waited so long to be able to say this to you all. We have never been so pleased to see so many smiley faces and have all the seats in the classroom full again. Whilst there are some adjustments to our usual running procedures, we hope to bring back a sense of normality to all our lives.

As you are aware, Mrs Westerman-Loe is unable to be with us for the time being. Therefore, Mrs Welshman will be joining us in Foxes, teaching on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and all day Friday. Mrs Shears will be teaching the remainder of the days: all day Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Mrs Moores will continue to support us in Foxes on Mondays to Thursdays.

The school day

A copy of our timetable can be found in the pupil's reading records. Lunchtimes and breaktimes are staggered throughout the school day to avoid us having unnecessary contact with pupils in other classes. Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesdays so pupils will need to come to school in their PE kit on these days. As the weather gets cooler dark jogging bottoms and a jumper will be required.

What pupils need

We need to keep what the children bring into school to a minimum. We kindly ask that pupils only bring in the following items:

- Water bottle (essential)
- Lunchbox
- Snack – fresh fruit and/or vegetables only please
- Jumper/cardigan (essential) – windows and doors will be open whatever the weather
- Coat (essential) – we like to ensure the children have some fresh air, even if it is a bit drizzly, so please, please ensure your child brings a substantial coat every day WITH A HOOD!
- Hat and sun cream (Over the next few weeks if appropriate – we would like to make the most of the sunshine whilst it lasts)

All other equipment, including pens and pencils, are provided so please do not bring these into school.

Homework

The children will have mental maths and spellings to learn on a weekly basis. They will bring home new sheets on a Monday and be tested on these in class the following Mondays. We recommend pupils complete these everyday rather than all in one go as research shows 'little and often' is far more effective.

Reading remains crucial at Upper Key stage 2 and we recommend your child reads at least 4 times a week and records this in their reading record. Pupils will continue to be able to borrow books from the class reading corner and library (on Tuesdays) and returned books will be put in quarantine before being put back on the shelves for others to select.

As we begin to prepare our Year 6 for secondary school, they will have Maths and English study guides to complete on a weekly task. This will be set on a Tuesday and books need to be returned to school by Monday.

Whilst Year 5 will not usually receive other formal homework, there may be an occasional research task linked to the class topic – we have a learning log planned for the end of this half-term. We also recommend pupils to continue using their TTRockstar and Mathletics accounts. It is incredible over a year how much progress our pupils have made learning their times tables through TTRockstars and we need to keep this knowledge bubbling away.

Class topic

To ease everyone back into school and to create a sense of community, the whole school will start on the same topic for two weeks. We will be basing our sessions on Oliver Jeffers' book 'Here we are' which gives pupils an opportunity to marvel at the world around them and reflect on the past 5 months and express themselves through writing, art, drama etc.

After this our class topic is 'Transatlantic Travels.' We will be finding out about life in the Americas with a particular focus on South America. Please see our topic web for more information. We would like to draw to your attention to the fact that we will be having a dress up theme day on Friday 13th November to celebrate our learning in the topic – more details to follow.

We are aware that some of you will be anxious about lost learning time. Please be assured that we will be continually monitoring the children and putting interventions/catch up programs in place where needed.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. We ask that, where possible, you communicate with us via email for any non-urgent messages. Our emails is: foxes@bourton.dorset.sch.uk Alternatively you can phone the school office and leave a message for us.

We really are very excited to get going this term and are sure we will all have a fantastic term of fun and learning.

Kind regards

Mrs Shears

Mrs Welshman