

16th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Term 2, possibly the hardest term in my memory of being a teacher, everybody is looking forward to the last few days of festivities. Unfortunately, I am unable to experience these this year as I am currently in self isolation. I cannot describe how frustrated and disappointed I am to be at home rather than with the children and staff in school. However, even though the risk is minimal, the safety of the community is paramount.

I would like to thank everybody for making my transition as the new Principal so smooth and welcoming. Bovington is a wonderful school with so much possibility and we are starting to see progress every single day. The school has always been brilliant at nurturing and caring for our children and this has not changed. We all want your children to come to school happy and safe, ready to learn and achieve. Presentation in books has improved and children are showing pride in their work. There is a calm and purposeful feel to the school and teachers are planning exciting and engaging learning. Ask your children about what they are learning in school and do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you would like to know more.

Mrs Muraro is the English Lead across the school and is passionate about the importance of reading for children. Reading opens doors. As adults, we rely on it daily: reading letters and e-mails, reading instructions on packets and bottles and even noticing road signs. Both children and adults learn new things through reading and develop their understanding of a topic. You may have heard that we are counting the words that we read each week – this is published on the school Facebook page, weekly newsletter and celebrated in school. Every Accelerated Reader quiz a child completes will add to their word count so please encourage reading. We will start sending reading books home again after Christmas but in the meantime, there is a huge selection of books on MyOn the online library we subscribe to. Remember that reading isn't all about answering comprehension questions and explaining the impact of a word on the reader. We can enjoy the imaginary worlds created by an author or the characters that we can relate to. We can get lost amongst the pages of a good book and this is something we all want to encourage children to experience for themselves.

As part of this drive for reading, the staff at Bovington have put on their very own '12 days to Christmas' bedtime reading event. Each day from now until Christmas day a member of staff will snuggle down and read one of their favourite Christmas stories for you and your family to enjoy. We had great fun choosing the books to share and reading them; we hope you enjoy listening to some new and familiar Christmas tales. If you haven't signed up to the new school Facebook page, please do. There are QR codes strategically placed around the school for you to scan or just search on Facebook. You don't need to have a Facebook

account to see the posts. Somebody once told me that 'books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside of them...and it's much cheaper to buy children a book than it is to buy them the whole world!' If you are looking for a Christmas present, don't forget about books.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff for working so hard each and every single day. These have been unprecedented times and they really go above and beyond; Dave Amey the caretaker who keeps the school safe, the admin team led by Claire Woodward – the office is the heart of everything at the school - of course the teachers and support staff, the leadership team, the cooks and midday supervisors, Tim Grattidge our IT expert who wears many hats on a daily basis, Mrs Hinks and the PTA, the cleaners and let's not forget the lollipop lady... Every member of the team is as important as the next and I value their hard work and dedication. On behalf of the whole team at Bovington, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'm sure your own family is looking forward to the holiday as much as we all are in school. The Christmas holiday really is a family time, so please enjoy the precious moments you have with your family over the next two weeks, but please also remember to keep safe.

School finishes on Friday between 1.15pm and 1.30pm – there is no after school provision this day. We come back to school on Monday 4th January 2021.

Sara White (Principal)