



Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many front gardens decorated last week for the VE Day celebrations despite the main village events being cancelled. The children who have been at school made delightful VE Day picnic boxes with tea bags, homemade biscuits and cakes with a string of bunting and delivered to some of our elderly Durley residents, at a distance. Last October we had made plans to invite them in for afternoon tea and hear stories of their memories of wartime life – perhaps another time.



This week I have had a wonderful letter of thanks from the schools nursing team for sending in pictures of rainbows made by the children at Durley School. They have sent them round to their surgeries to remind everyone of the hope we all have that life will soon be returning to a new normal. The children in Key Stage 1 wrote to the Doctors and nurses in the hospital at Chichester thanking them for all their work with patients over the last few months and had this wonderful picture back from the medical team.

Return to school

Following last weeks announcement that the children in Years R, 1 and 6 would be returning to school in June, we have been making detailed arrangements for their return. For those of you with children in Years 2-5, you will find the organisational arrangements for the other year groups on our school website. This week everyone should have received a one week learning pack by email, to take the children up to the half term break. We intend to put the next fortnightly pack onto the school website this Friday 22 May, and it can be collected from the red box from Monday 1 June for those who request a printed copy. We are hoping to receive further guidance regarding the return of all of the children at the end of June, and will inform you of the arrangements in due course.

From Tuesday 2 June, the school will be open for children in Years R, 1 and 6 and children whose parents are critical workers and are unable to look after them at home. We will be closed every Friday (except Friday 5 June and to children whose parents are critical workers and unable to make other arrangements), to enable us to continue to put together the learning packs for the whole school. A reminder to parents of children who will be in school, (Year R, 1, 6 and critical workers) that we will need your signed copy of the agreement which was sent by email and post returned to the school office either by scanned email, post or put into the red box outside the front door of the school **BEFORE** Tuesday 2 June. Children in Years R, 1 and 6 will be expected to be in school everyday and wearing school uniform. Year 6 will need their PE kit each Wednesday. Children in school will continue to be learning from the packs.

If you are a critical worker and you are unable to make other arrangements for the care of your child after the half term break, please could you inform the school office of the days your child will need to be in school before Thursday 21 May to help us to plan for staffing. If you are able to make other arrangements for the care of your child on a Friday, particularly as employers are being asked to be flexible, we would very much appreciate it. The school will be closed over the half term break, week beginning Monday 25 May although the school office will still be replying to emails.

I have received a return to school social story from Miss Baldwin and Hampshire Behaviour Support, which we will post on our school website and ClassDojo. It is a simple way of explaining to children that they will be returning but things will be different.

Finally a huge thank you for all of your good wishes and cakes that are continuing to keep us all smiling throughout this whole period, they have been really appreciated and have kept us all going!

Kirstie Baines—Headteacher