



**Allenbourn Middle School**  
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Headteacher: Mrs Cindy Pritchard  
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Paula Davies  
Assistant Headteacher: Mr Matthew Golding

5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter our fifth week of school closure, I wanted to write to stay in touch and to update you on what we are doing currently both in and outside of school.

First of all thank you for your continued support and positive feedback during this time. It has been a real pleasure to receive emails from parents with photographs of all the brilliant things your children have been doing at home, including the work they have produced and a whole range of other activities such as baking, painting, building, decorating, art, crafts and film making. We have loved to have this feedback and it's been testament to our pupils that they have managed the challenges of our current situation so brilliantly – engaging positively in their work and so much more. It is also testament to the support and guidance you have given them that they have been able to do so. Thank you to you all for working with us as we continue to face the challenges of lock down together.

Please remember that if your child is struggling either with the work or emotionally, please do get in touch with their tutor or Head of Year and we will do what we can to provide support. It is such a strange time for all of us, adults and children, and it is to be expected that there will be times of struggle – please refer to the links on the website, and the information below which can offer support, and also, as said, please stay in touch with us and we will help wherever we can.

I would also like to say thank you to the staff who are continuing to work hard during school closure. Some are on rota in school, supervising and supporting the children of key workers, alongside adapting, posting and acknowledging work on Google Classrooms, making pastoral calls, supporting with safeguarding issues, completing training, responding to emails and planning both for September, for the transition of our pupils to their new year groups – in particular Year 8 and our new Year 5 – and for our return to school should this be next half term.

As I'm sure you can fully appreciate, there are many unanswered questions at the moment and a whole range of different scenarios to think about, and so we have been having many discussions and devising plans. Our focus, as always, will be to ensure that, whatever the situation, we provide a smooth return to school for our pupils, taking into consideration their academic and pastoral



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wellbeing. We will also continue to communicate with you regularly to ensure that you are kept informed of latest developments and changes.

As mentioned in the previous letter, we receive daily updates from Dorset County Council and the DFE and we endeavour to post anything helpful on the website. We wanted to share the information that was sent through at the end of last week, which may prove useful for you and have included this at the end of this letter.

Finally, I would like to share the following images with you – our pupils in school last week made cards for the residents of Streets Meadow to let them know we are thinking of them and Joe, in 5T also shared a photo of the cake he delivered to his great-nan, surprising her from outside the house, to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last week – we hope she had a lovely day and what a fabulous cake!



With best wishes

*Cindy Pritchard*

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***Educational Psychology Services support for parents - additional telephone consultation line for parents and carers during the COVID-19 pandemic:***

*BCP Educational Psychology Service is offering an additional helpline dedicated to supporting parents/carers to address concerns they may have regarding their child's development, learning or social and emotional wellbeing. This will be available during term time:*

- 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- 10am to 12pm, 2pm to 4pm and 6pm to 8pm on a Tuesday

*You will need to provide some initial information about your child and indicate your preference for when you will be able to receive a call back. We will aim to contact you within 2 working days.*

<https://www.bcpouncil.gov.uk/News/News-Features/COVID19/Changes-to-Services/Services/Educational-Psychology-Service.aspx>



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*Dorset County Council message: Please continue to get the message out to everyone that we are here to help and that residents don't need to wait until their situation becomes urgent - we are here to help for anyone that needs it so, please call the Covid-19 helpline if you need to. Contact details and full brief [here](#).*

**Useful information available**

*There's lots of information on the Dorset Council website, this includes contact information and ideas for things to do, including for children when they're at home. Here are some of the links:*

- *Online resources for families <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/online-resources>*
- *Schools and families: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/schools-and-families.aspx>*
- *Information and landing page: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>*
- *Co-ordinated Community Response: Information about our co-ordinated community response is available [online here](#).*

**Action for Children:** *Please find a link below regarding our 'TALK' service to be passed onto parents:-*

<https://talk.actionforchildren.org.uk/>