



St George's School Bourton

A Church of England School

*work together, play together
learn together ... shine!*

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This week there is a real feeling of Spring in the air at school. The children are watching on the bird box camera as our school sparrow builds its nest. Our Gold Base children have been working hard in their SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) lessons with Mrs Shears to redesign the activities and zones on our playground at playtimes and lunchtime. We launched the new system last week and it has been a joy to see all the children playing in the warm sunshine! As we move towards Easter, there are lots of events happening in school, please put the key dates in your diaries.

Homework Survey Results

Thank you to all parents who sent back the homework survey last month. The subject of homework always produces a wide range of opinions amongst parents, children and teachers but I'm pleased to see that 81% of the children complete most homework willingly. It's good to see that nearly all parents know what homework to expect each week and are nearby to support their child when needed. The crucial question is whether we are setting the appropriate amount of homework. As you can see, it's 69% in agreement and 31% disagreeing. None of the respondents felt we didn't set enough homework. Although this isn't a result of Brexit or Trump proportions, it is a significant minority which was backed up with many comments such as the older children getting more than they do at secondary school, some homework being too easy or too hard, whether we could set more electronic homework and if we could do it in school time or avoid homework in holiday periods.

We are having a review of our homework policy on the next Inset Day (24th April) and will consider the comments and statistics during that review. Two things I would say at this stage, firstly, the Assessment requirements from the Phonic Check in Year One, right up to the Key Stage Two SATs, have been set at a highly challenging level for primary age children. For example many of the elements of the Grammar/ Punctuation, Writing and Maths curriculum are being taught two or more years earlier than in previous years. In order to give our children the best possible chance of reaching Age Related Expectation or above, we need to make use of homework time to reinforce areas covered in school so that we can still do all the other important subjects in the curriculum during the school day. Secondly, it's really important for children to do lots of interesting things out of school, and to do their homework as well. It's much better for them to be busy than have too much time on screens and devices!

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	I know what the normal weekly homework expectations are for my child	36 (56%)	25 (39%)	2 (3%)	1 (2%)
2	My child completes most homework willingly	33 (43%)	29 (38%)	8 (11%)	6 (8%)
3	My child normally has an adult with them when they complete homework activities	29 (42%)	32 (46%)	7 (10%)	1 (1%)
4	My child has the appropriate amount of homework (if you disagree, please write in the comments box whether you think they have too much or too little homework)	12 (21%)	28 (48%)	10 (17%)	8 (14%)
5	My child reads to an adult or alone at home at least three times a week	35 (51%)	20 (34%)	8 (14%)	5 (9%)
6	My child gets homework more than once a month that I find hard to understand or help them with	6 (10%)	6 (10%)	14 (22%)	37 (58%)
7	I like the school setting a Learning Log from time to time (where children in Blue, Silver and Gold Bases find out about a part of their class theme over a period of a few weeks and share it at school as they go along)	14 (25%)	29 (52%)	11 (20%)	2 (4%)

8	I see the value in homework activities for children of my child's age	17 (28%)	31 (52%)	9 (15%)	3 (5%)
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Some nice things coming up this term...

Red Nose Day – Friday 24th March – Wear Red and bring a donation of at least £1

We will be supporting Red Nose Day by wearing red and having a mixed age board games afternoon, starting at 1.30pm. If you would like to play a board game with a little group of children that afternoon, please let us know. Children can bring in a game from home if they'd like to. 'Red Noses' are on sale in the playground but are selling fast. **There will be no Achievement Assembly on Friday 24th March.**

Mothering Sunday and Posy Making – Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March, both at 10am

Please come along to St George's Church to celebrate Mothering Sunday at 10am on Sunday morning, where all mothers will be given a posy of flowers made by children and adults on Saturday morning in the Church.

Spring Concert – Thursday 30th March at 6pm

All of Gold Base and Silver Base are involved in our annual Spring concert. Mrs Miller has also asked some of our musicians to perform. Many of our school groups will also perform along with adults and former pupils. No tickets needed for this event, everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be provided by the PTFA. All performers should arrive at 5.45pm please.

Easter Service and Easter Hat Parade – Thursday 6th April

Our Easter Service will be in the church at 2.15pm. Children are invited to make an Easter Hat to wear to school on the day and wear up to church in the afternoon. There will be prizes for the best hats in the parade.

Swim the Channel

Many lengths have been completed by adults and children. Please send in your sponsor money to the school office or PTFA Treasurer Ameer Perry so we can find out the grand total swum and raised.

Garden Tidy-up – Saturday 25th March 10am-12noon

Volunteers needed for a garden and veg; growing box tidy session Saturday 25th March 10am-12.00noon...bring garden gloves and a spade...all ages welcome.

Use of the Car Park

Our most recent problems with parking have been that our bins couldn't be collected due to congestion at the bottom of the car park, a large vehicle blocking in a member of the Church community at the end of the day and a car driving the wrong way on the one way section. Please avoid driving in to the car park unless you have a special reason for being in school. If you are dropping off, please park away from the car park and walk in. **The spaces along the Church wall are for staff use only.** If we cannot solve the difficulties we have in the car park through voluntary regulation we will have to ban non-staff vehicles altogether. Thank you to everyone who parks responsibly.

Start of the School Day

Please try to ensure all children are on the school playground by 8.50am each day. For reasons of security and safeguarding, **parents shouldn't go in to the classrooms or to the children's pegs at the start of the day.** Messages or forgotten items can be given via the office or to the staff on the playground.

Born to Move – Run by Mrs Davey at Wincanton Sports Centre

This is a programme designed to get children up and moving. It focuses on their fine motor skills during a fun packed, age-appropriate class that improves agility, balance, coordination, endurance, flexibility and speed. Fun is the number one priority – from the music and moves, to the style of teaching and the group environment itself. After all, everything is more fun with your friends!

2-4years (pre-school) Friday 2pm, 4-7years (school age) Friday 4pm, 8-12years Friday 4.30pm

All classes are at Wincanton Sports Centre. It's £2.50 per child and they need to book in on 01963 824400.

Inset Day – Monday 24th April

We have our next staff Inset day on the first Monday of the Summer term. The children will return from the Easter holiday on Tuesday 25th April.