



# St George's School Bourton

A Church of England School

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

Church Track  
Bourton  
Gillingham  
Dorset  
SP8 5BN

Phone 01747 840409

Fax 01747 841019

Headteacher: Mr Michael Salisbury

E-mail: [office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk)

6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

We are delighted to see all the children in school, looking smart and getting straight in to their learning! A warm welcome to our new children in Rainbow Base; and to Ollie and Hector in Year 3 and Rufus and Ryan in Year 5.

If you are new to the school, please ask us or other parents if there is anything you are unsure about in these newsletters or any other school communications, everyone will be happy to explain things.

All four Bases will be sending out class letters which will give detailed information about things relating to each particular Base.

We have had a busy summer here at school, watching the builders create our new Silver Base classroom and the amazing new Library. I am extremely proud that we have managed to complete this inspirational project in these rather tight financial times. It would not have been possible to fit out the Library without your incredibly generous donations. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has given time and money to this project.

There will be a place in the library where the names of all the contributing families are listed. If you didn't get round to it and still want to make a donation to buy a book or two, there is still time to do so until the end of September. All families donating £5 or more will be listed equally (not with the amount of the donation!) when the library is officially opened in October.

If you would like to come and have a look at the new Library and Classroom, they will both be open after school on Thursday and Friday this week from 3.20 – 4pm.

## **Achievement Assembly this week**

The first achievement assembly of the year will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 2.40pm. All parents, friends and family are welcome to join us. There is one every Friday unless we inform you that it isn't on.

## **Reading Challenge**

A reminder from the Library that children still have a few days left in which to complete the Summer Reading Challenge. The last day is Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

## **PTFA Car boot Sale – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 9am-1pm**

The PTFA have done a fantastic job in raising money towards our new library and many other things over the last year. They are keen to buy more for the school and have the first event coming up very soon.

Please see Anee Perry or send her a note through the school office if you'd like to bring a car to the car boot sale, and please come and support this event or help to run it if you can (it would be lovely to see some of our new parents getting involved straight away).

The PTFA would like to remind everyone to bring in old clothes for our collection point in the playground, we have currently collected 1150Kg, just over half-way to our target of 2000Kg.

## **School Uniform, Water and Snacks**

Thank you for the high standards of school uniform that we have seen this week. **All items of clothing and shoes should be clearly named for their swift return when lost.** We have some unnamed lost property in the blue box outside the Library, please have a look if you are missing anything, we will be recycling it at the end of this week. Please make sure the children wear shoes rather than boots or trainers, and that socks are dark or white. If we get some hot weather in the early part of the term, please send them in with a sun hat and sun cream if required. **All children should bring a named plastic bottle of water every day.** Please make sure the children only bring water for the classroom. We also encourage all children in Silver and Gold Bases to bring some fruit each day for snack time (younger children all get a free piece of fruit

each day through the government scheme). This is a great way for them to establish healthy eating habits. Please name any containers so they can find their way home!

### **Bourton September Show – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2pm – 4pm**

The annual village show takes place next weekend in St George's Church. All families in the school are encouraged to take part in this lovely village event; you don't have to live in Bourton to enter any of the classes.

As a school, we feel it's really important to help shows like this to survive and thrive. They encourage lots of important skills for children and adults, are very educational for children to visit and raise vital funds for our church. All the children will be bringing home a piece of work that could be entered for the show if you'd like to. Alongside this, we would be delighted if you entered other classes for children or adults. We sent home a leaflet about the show to every family in July.

### **Arriving by car**

Our new parents might not be aware of the ongoing issues we have with parking around the school site at either end of the school day. Some reminders are:

-The car park is for staff and visitors to the school. Spaces should not be used by parents dropping children off or picking up. Parents are asked to park on Church Track or West Bourton Road. A little distance of walking from the car to the school is a good habit for the children to get in to.

-It is possible to park on the main road beside the school, but not beyond the school hedge where the road is marked with solid white lines due to the restricted visibility above the Church.

-The more children who are able to walk, ride, car share or get the school transport, the smaller the problem.

Thank you to everyone who parks considerately, it is very much appreciated.

### **Violin Lessons**

Please contact the school office if you are interested in your child having violin lessons in school time this year.

### **Absences**

We did really well to achieve an overall attendance figure of nearly 97%. We would like to do even better this year and get our figure over 97%. Last year, the Gillingham Area schools introduced a new system of warning letters and Attendance Panel meetings where children had attendance below 93% over a sustained period of time. We will continue with this system this year and have been informed that Dorset County Council will be increasing the number of fines issued where a child has had 5 or more days of unauthorised absence in a twelve week period. They have asked us to let parents know about this, and that they will no longer allow fines to be paid in instalments.

### **Harvest Festival – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm, followed by sale of produce in the Hall at about 3pm**

Please come and join us in the church if you can. This year we will be asking for the children to bring fresh produce or other items of food that we will take to the church to be blessed, then donate to the Gillingham food bank or sell in the Hall after the service.

Our service takes place just before the St George's Church Harvest Festival on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 10am. We hope that lots of families will come to this special service.

### **Clubs**

A letter showing the clubs that will run this term will be sent out soon. Please let us know if you would like to run or help at a club.

### **Last Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

We will finish at 1.30pm for Christmas. Any children who can't be picked up at that time will be looked after at school until 3.15pm.

M. Salisbury