



Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, I hope you are all keeping safe and well? It has been lovely to hear about everyone's activities and projects at home through the regular phone calls we have been undertaking. It was suggested to me earlier this week to continue to send out weekly newsletters during our closure period to share updates about the school, celebrate the wonderful work of our pupils and remain in open communication. We would also like to use these newsletters to signpost you to further services and support available for you or your child should you need it at this time. We hope you will find these newsletters both helpful and informative in the weeks going forward.

This week, we launched Google Classrooms and we have been really pleased with the response from children and parents so far. We hope Google Classrooms will provide more of a structure for children who need it and allow us to ensure they continue to receive regular age-appropriate lessons. This will help the children to continue to make progress while they are not at school until we receive further guidance from the Government. As we expressed earlier this week, we understand and appreciate the challenges faced by many families at this time and ask that you just do your best. We will be grateful for all the work we receive. We have sent out an additional letter today, outlining developments in this platform and specifically submission of work.

Although we will be doing what we can to coordinate lessons and support learning remotely, if you are finding this hard to manage, you are not alone. We will continue to be available via email and through regular check-in phone calls.

For support with mental health (adult or child) and other related concerns during this time, [this helpful document](#) contains contacts and links that you may find helpful. (This also accompanies this newsletter as an attachment). If your child is feeling worried at the moment there are lots of things out there designed to help like a [presentation from the Children's Commissioner](#), either of these e-books for children: [Coronavirus for Children](#) or [Covid-19 for Kids](#), or explain it through some of [Julia Donaldson's](#) much-loved characters. There's also this [Kid's Guide to Loneliness](#) which might help deal with self-isolation and social distancing.

Do get in touch with us if you need **help and support** at any time. Thank you 😊

Celebrating Wonderful Work

This weekly newsletter also gives us a space to share and celebrate the truly wonderful work undertaken at home. Here is a selection of pictures of the children undertaking their work and challenges this week. In future weeks, we will share work and photographs that have been submitted. If you do not wish for your child's work to be shared, please inform the office via email.





Jenna is thrilled to have a family of blackbirds nesting in her garden! She has named the male bird "Orange-Eye", but the female and chick also need names. She'd love some name suggestions – if anyone has any ideas, please send them to the office email address and we will announce the names next week!

Thorncombe Covid 19 Support Group

Members of the village community have set up a Covid-19 support group in order to support anyone locally who is struggling with life under lockdown. Please see a flyer at the end of this message with further information and contact details should you wish to contact them.

West Dorset Family Partnership Support:

If you feel you require further support for your family at this time you can contact the West Dorset Family Partnership Zone directly on westfamilypartnershipzone@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk The panel can decide whether to give you some phone advice or whether or not you need more support and allocate a family worker or activity/parenting worker.

7 tips for home schooling primary school children during lockdown

You can view some great advice via the link: <https://jonoxtoobywrites.wordpress.com/cdn-ampproject.org/c/s/jonoxtoobywrites.wordpress.com/2020/04/21/7-tips-for-home-schooling-your-children-during-lockdown/amp/>

Best Wishes and Stay Safe
Miss Smith

Thorncombe Corona Virus Support UPDATE

**Do You Need help or Are You Worried About
Someone You Know In The Village ?**

If you need shopping, prescription collections or dog walking you can contact the
Thorncombe Volunteer Team

We will do our best to help, we have many people wanting to help

How To Contact Us:

Ring us: Simone 01460 432 095 or 07968 781269
or Cerri 07731 342304
or Mickey 01460 432 858

You can also **Email us:** Thorncombe.Corona@hotmail.com

or **Message one of us** via the Thorncombe Coronavirus Support facebook page
Please visit the page if you can to stay updated & like it

Food Bank

We have set up a food bank donation point within Thorncombe Community Shop and
would welcome any of the following items:

Cereals .. Tinned Soup .. Dried Pasta .. Toiletries & Feminine Products .. Household
Products .. Biscuits .. Tea & Coffee .. Pasta Sauces .. UHT Milk & Fruit Juice ..
Tinned Fruit or Vegetables .. Childrens colouring pencils, etc ..

Access to Food Bank Items

Please tell us if you require any food/toiletries either because you are ill or because you
don't have the funds at this time. We can deliver small food parcels to help tide you over
straight to your door

We want to help any families and individuals within the community that are struggling in
the current circumstances. We have access to funding from Dorset Council and want to
be able to help anyone who is in need.

If you need help from the Food Bank, please make us aware of any dietary requirements
or allergies & the number of people in your household.

Please Let Us Know If You need Help ...

If you are isolating due to illness or shielding to stay safe, we can shop for you & deliver
your shopping, fresh fruit & vegetables or pick up prescriptions completely confidentially &
directly to your door, within the safety measures set up by the government

Keep In Touch, Mickey, Cerri & Simone xx