

# “Hermes”

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Summer Term

Issue No. 530

Dear Parents

Without doubt we all sense and experience the impact of a continued lockdown on the many children and families isolated at home. With the virus very much on the back foot in Dorset I do wish there was some sense of “regionality” about the battle against Covid 19. It seems to me that the wellbeing and financial threat posed are beginning to outweigh the risk of the impact of catching the virus, particularly for those who have a strong immune system and don’t have underlying health problems.

The latest government release of information on the return to school for the remainder of the junior school children has not served to raise spirits either.

Without wishing to over-promise and under-deliver, a glimmer of hope has been given to us in that schools are allowed to admit other age groups with the Junior School range (Form 1 to 6) if it is deemed safe to do so. I can firmly promise you that we are looking very closely at what we can do to find opportunities for all of these age groups to return to school in some capacity before the summer holidays. It won’t be full time and it certainly won’t be “business as usual” but we all recognise the need for the children to spread their wings and stretch their minds, extend their horizons and mess about have fun with their friends. We are looking at utilising outlying classrooms, isolating new “bubbles” and of course having safety as the top priority.

Sadly, we have been given no clearance to find a way to bring Form 7 and 8 children back to school which heaps further despair on an already worrying scenario.

Whilst children and adults aren’t faring so well, our local wildlife continues to profiteer from the extended peace and quiet and reduction in vehicular traffic as this lovely picture of this hind shows. A similar scene was photographed in Weymouth as one of our most athletic families was running along the esplanade at Weymouth and bumped into an unusual marine mammal visitor.

I have avoided all temptation to use puns in this paragraph. I hope you appreciate my restraint!



They say armies and schools march on their stomachs and I think it's very true. It is why food often features regularly in Hermes and also because I have the appetite of a Labrador. A special member of the catering team celebrated a milestone birthday this week. Vicky's job is to keep us all on our toes, a job she is particularly talented at. Few things pass by her beady gaze or sharp wit.

I promised sincerely not to publish this photo or reveal her age. Ooops!



Looking on the bright side, many positives continue to arise in terms of how we might shape education in the future. We have all really enjoyed starting each day with vigorous exercise, stretching and mindfulness.

We have also taken every opportunity to take learning outdoors, particularly from the perspective of improving social distancing and having lots of fresh air. Pictured below is Form 1 having their Friday spelling test "al fresco" under the watchful gaze of Mrs Pitman who has made a fabulous transition to Form 1 working with Ms Livesey and her assistant Betsy.

Mrs Sewed and Mrs Smith have been working really hard to engage the Form 8 children in a virtual Lion's Lair contest. This week, Form 8 began their **Virtual Enterprise project, 'Tenner from**

**Home'**.

Representatives from the four teams opened their challenge envelopes this morning to receive their start-up funding!

Over the coming weeks they will be working with their team members both in-school and at home (via video-conferencing) to set-up their businesses and create a prototype product.



A video of envelope opening can be found at:

[https://app.seesaw.me/pages/shared\\_item?item\\_id=item.23329c04-c4fb-467e-8cd6-41ea9f78fa5d&share\\_token=bBh76M0gT8e6T3JuBGn3Nw&mode=share](https://app.seesaw.me/pages/shared_item?item_id=item.23329c04-c4fb-467e-8cd6-41ea9f78fa5d&share_token=bBh76M0gT8e6T3JuBGn3Nw&mode=share)

More details on the challenge are available at: <https://www.tenner.org.uk/about-tenner/tenner-from-home/>

Mrs Fernley continues to inspire children to think deeply via her regular “Thunk” challenge. This week their challenge is, “What colour is Tuesday”.

Well done to Lottie Allison who was last week’s worthy winner.

Perhaps a few adults might want to proffer a suggestion too this week. Answers on a postcard to Mrs Fernley please.

In Nursery and Reception, the topic for this week has been summer. They have painted summer pictures and been hunting for different plants and flowers around the school grounds, using their checklists to tick off each one.

## What colour is Tuesday?



Sholto and Tabatha were keen to exhibit their hand print flowers whilst James is absolutely engrossed in producing a very impressive “moody” scene on a stormy day, with dark clouds on the horizon, either that or if you squint and crank your neck 90 degrees it could be a woodpecker drilling a hole into a rotten tree. You can never be quite sure with Reception children and it’s never wise to second guess!

With editorial content in short supply and with humour temporarily under government rationing, perhaps you would like to email me the first thing you are going to do when we all escape from Covid 19. It will make a good feature for next week’s edition.

Finally, as I put the finishing touches to this week’s edition I gaze out of my window and see that months of drought have finally been broken by a good deluge. All the gardeners amongst you will be thanking your lucky stars and welcoming a new flush of life to your vegetables, shrubs, roses and lawn.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend with your family and hopefully a couple of friends in your back garden too!

Mr Thorpe