

Non-uniform

Following updated guidance received yesterday, we no longer have to ask our pupils to wear uniform. As we are doing a daily PE lesson, it would therefore be sensible to ask pupils to be in non-uniform that is suitable both for doing sport, and the current cold weather.

School Lunches

Please be advised that with immediate effect the school canteen has now closed until further notice. Therefore, should your child be in school, please can you ensure that they come to school with a packed lunch.

Choosing to not deliver live lessons

Thank you to all of the parents who have let us know that what we are providing is working well for their children so far. We have decided continue to use Google Classroom supported by videos of us delivering content and using online learning materials as we believe this offers good access to the learning for the largest number of pupils. For some pupils, live lessons would work. For some pupils, they would be an additional stress in an already tough situation.

For the vast majority, having access to teachers via pre-recorded video, and Google Classrooms works well. We always look at all of the options available, and will choose the best one that fits what we understand about our pupils and families. We know that we will never perfectly please everyone with the decisions we make, and will always review what we are doing to see where improvements can be made. In the meantime, we will all continue to do the best we can, when we can.

Again, for every family who is dealing with this challenging time, thank you. Everyone has their own circumstances, and some of the situations we find ourselves in at the moment are so difficult. Please know that we are there to help in whatever way we can, even if it just to listen. We are only a phone call away.

Increasing data allowances for disadvantaged children

Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile
- O2

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

Please contact our school office on 01725 517348 if you would like any further information about this scheme.

Additional financial support for families

As part of the COVID Winter Grant, we have funded Citizen's Advice to help families with the cost of utility bills. They can make rapid £200 payments to support families, as well as connecting to additional areas of help. You can apply online or by calling the number in the poster below.



**Get help with
utility bills**

01929 408950
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reaching-out

WATER
ELECTRIC
GAS