

# Durweston CE VA Primary School

Durweston, Blandford Forum, Dorset

DT11 0QA

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Head teacher: Nicola Brooke

*'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong. And do everything with love.'* 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

What a week! I just want to say a huge well done to you all: staff, children and parents. I think we have managed to move pretty seamlessly from in-school to remote teaching. Thank heavens we practised with Google classrooms before Christmas. So far, we are all hugely impressed that the majority of children are handing in work for the majority of the lessons. That's an amazing start!

Obviously though, expectations are higher this time around – the government has made that very clear. We are expected to be setting at least 3 hours of learning a day and, as we did last time, the work set each day must follow as closely as possible the curriculum that would have been covered in school this term.

Currently, as you know, we are using Google Classroom (or Tapestry for Starfish) to set the daily work. For Dolphins, Seahorses, Sharks and Porpoises we are moving towards uploading a short daily video (Loom) explaining the tasks for the day. All teachers are also planning to provide a daily on-line (Google Meet) story time which will be recorded so that all children who can't get on line at the time can access it later in the day. If you have any problems or queries with any of the tasks during the day, you can raise them via Google Classroom, which will be closely monitored. We hope that offering lessons this way is accessible but flexible.

We do understand that life can be difficult, and even more so at the moment – we too our juggling work and home schooling - but we would ask that you help the children to complete as much as of the set work as they can. Teachers are adapting the tasks to make them more manageable at home but they will also be checking and chasing tasks that are not handed in. Please let us know if this is causing problems and we will do our best help. We know from our data that you did a great job last time, especially with Maths and Reading. Writing suffered more so if you can do your best to keep your child writing to the standard they would in class, it will really help them when, eventually, we all come back together again.

Don't forget the facebook page. If you need an invite, email me at [nbrooke@durweston.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:nbrooke@durweston.dorset.sch.uk). It is a safe place to share your success and your failures and to realise that we are all in this together.



But it's not all doom and gloom. I had a lovely afternoon on Thursday making ice pictures with Sharks and Porpoises and we were all delighted with the results on Friday morning. Some lovely examples on the fb page too.

And if [Jazmyn's weather forecast](#) is correct, we'll be able to keep making them for a few days yet!



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Please remember that we are here to help in any way that we can.

Have a lovely week



Nicola Brooke

