

# Dunchurch Schools' Federation

Newsletter 22nd May 2020

On Wednesday I wrote to families to explain our approach to assessing the risks in having more children in school from June 1st. As well as details of the risks, I wrote about the actions we were taking to make things safer. By the time you read this we will have finished taking 'bookings' for places. Further information will be sent out next week to families who have asked for a place. A reminder that schools opening is dependent on the government's targets being met. Assuming we are allowed to and our risk assessments (which we are reviewing regularly) don't change for the worse, both schools will be open for eligible pupils from June 1st.

I have had a lot of positive feedback following Wednesday's letter, thank you to all those who have got in touch. The media speculation in the last few weeks has been relentless and it has been frustrating seeing so many people at national level play politics with the issue. Since I wrote to parents on Wednesday I have corresponded with dozens of families and it has been a pleasure to have such constructive conversations with people who share our only interest - the welfare of children. I respect the decisions made by those who would rather keep their children at home for the time being and I am glad that we are able to offer full time places to those who do want their children to return. These children will be able to see more of their friends, learn more and for some parents it will allow them to get back to work. In time, I hope we will be able to offer more children this opportunity, but for the foreseeable future this will just be an offer; there will be no compulsion, I understand what a difficult choice this is for families.

There will be a number of adjustments made to the school over half-term. For example we are moving some furniture into spare classrooms to create more space in those rooms which will have children. Another job is putting pencils, glue sticks, scissors and the like into individual wallets so children will have their own set of equipment which other children won't touch. If any parents are available on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings next week and wouldn't mind helping me for an hour or two to get things ready, please get in touch via my email address below. We will of course ensure social distancing at all times.

We have been asked to share two letters from the Warwickshire Local Authority, one from Ian Budd, the Assistant Director of Education and Shade Agboola, the Director of Public Health. Both give further context to the local situation regarding schools allowing more pupils in from June 1st and they are attached to the email this newsletter was sent with.

iandewes@dunchurchfederation.co.uk

### Woody's Blog

Hi Everyone

Firstly, thank you for all your birthday wishes, they were very much appreciated. I had a lovely day with some special treats and a nice walk.

Did you guess where I have been in school? I was in the Year 5 cloakroom and the Owls office. As you can see below, there are details of my new Instagram account that parents can follow. Please follow me @woodytheschooldog, as the challenge is on for me to get more followers than my human brothers .

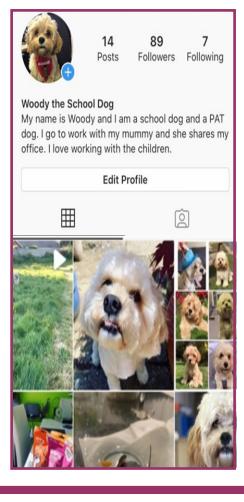
You will see below that Lewey the cat is always sleeping on my bed. As some of you have designed some fabulous doggie houses for me, how about designing a cat house for Lewey. The alternative is to

draw a sign to put by my bed that says 'Keep Off'! 😸 Have a lovely, relaxing half term everyone Love from Woody 🌈 🏷

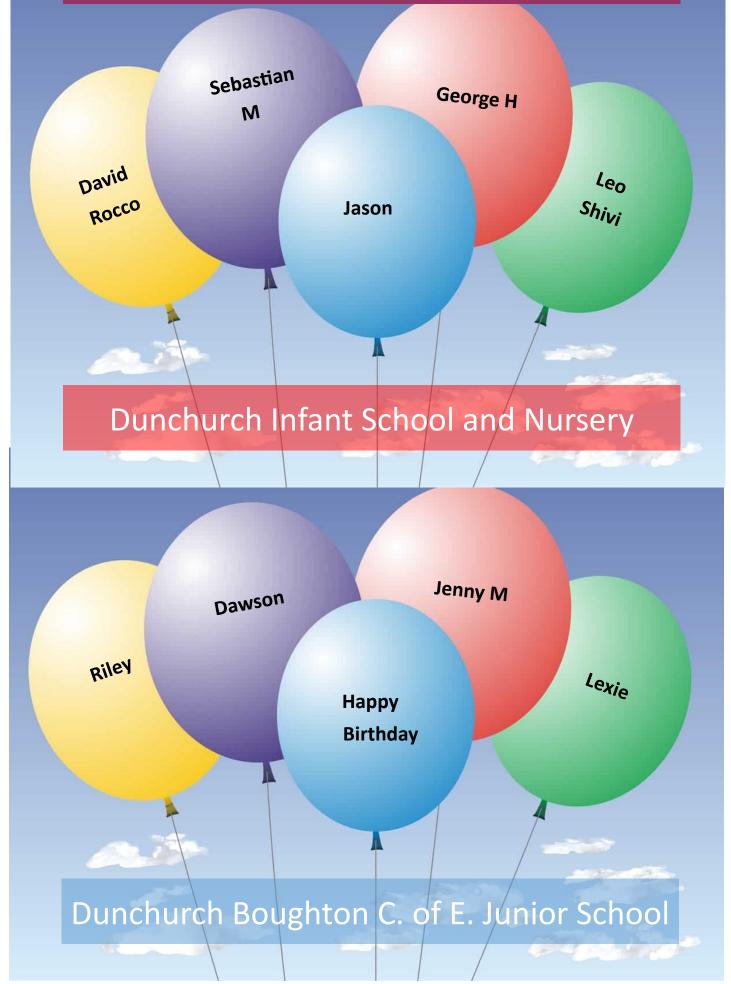








# Happy birthday to...



## **Children In School**

Children in school have made use of the quad. Can you spot the poppy that is in flower today?





The Junior School pupils have created their own Monet style art display.



Helping Children Understand Social Distancing.



This delightful video called *While We Can't Hug* by Eoin Laughlin and Polly Dunbar, is recommended by an Educational psychologist to help children understand social distancing. We recommend you watch it with your children.

You do not need a Facebook account to watch it.

https://www.facebook.com/faberchildrensbooks/videos/676906269709189/?vh=e

### Wales and Castleton residential trips

The school has submitted an insurance claim for the cancellation costs of the above trips. The claim is currently being considered and we will inform you when we have a decision.

### Virtual Balloon Race

Thank you to everyone who has bought a virtual balloon for our balloon race on 1st June. More information can be found by following the link below. <u>https://www.dunchurchjuniorschool.org.uk/home/virtual-balloon-race</u>

# Information from Warwickshire School Health Team Video link <u>https://youtu.be/vDviUVsuWwU</u>

The School Health Team are #HereToHelp Warwickshire families at this difficult time. Text for confidential health & wellbeing advice from their friendly nurses. Young people 11-19: text ChatHealth on 07507 331 525. Parents/carers: text Parentline on 07520 619 376 #COVID19 #HealthyAtHome.

### **Holiday Activities**

Mrs. Fairbrother has suggested these two links that your children might like to look at during the May holiday.

https://www.tate.org.uk/kids

https://learning-platform.roh.org.uk/create-and-learn/



### Warwickshire County Music Updates.

Pupils that are in their first, second or third year of learning an instrument:

Parents of pupils who have been learning any instrument for 1-3 years with Warwickshire Music have been invited to join our 'Charanga' portal where a series of generic instrument specific resources have been put together by our specialist team. These can be accessed to continue instrumental learning.

Parents sign up via the Warwickshire Music Website and we have had huge uptake so far. Parents require an individual log in so we have opened this offer specifically to instrument hire customers in the first instance to manage capacity.

During Covid- 19 lock down Warwickshire Music are providing these instrument specific resources for free. Charanga is a Warwickshire Music partner and the Charanga platform is widely used across Warwickshire primary schools for primary music curriculum delivery.

For more information visit www.warwickshiremusichub.org

### Upbeat.

As a school who receives Upbeat tuition, we are delighted to attach the first video in our series of Upbeat resources for distribution to pupils.

The first of these videos has been done by Kieron Howe, our Singing strategy lead, to distribute to pupils to keep them engaged in music-making at home. Our team of Upbeat teachers will be creating a video each week for the rest of this term.

### Upbeat video 1



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# The Juniors



















