

Boasley Cross Primary School
Bratton Clovelly,
Okehampton.
Devon. EX20 4JH
Tel : 01837 871362
Fax : 01837 871251

Email: admin@boasleycross.devon.sch.uk
www.boasleycross.devon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs D Petersen

15th May 2020

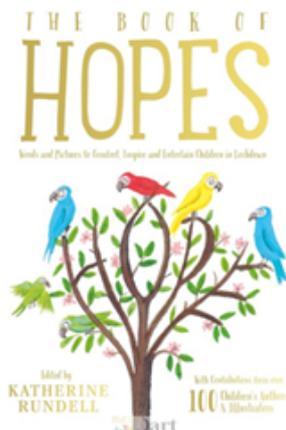
Dear Parent/Carer

Another fortnight has flown by and this week has brought new guidance around opening schools from the government, which are changing on a daily basis. Please refer to the letters sent out yesterday which aim to explain the Trust and school approach to this and aid your important decision.

Looking after your child's well-being

As lockdown restrictions continue and school is closed, it may become more difficult for children to express their feelings. It could be very easy to get sucked into a downward spiral of doom and gloom with everything in the media and it is difficult to completely shield our children from the news. Despite everything, we need to focus on the morale and well-being of our children and ourselves.

Award-winning children's author, Katherine Rundell, has launched *The Book of Hopes: Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain Children in Lockdown* <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

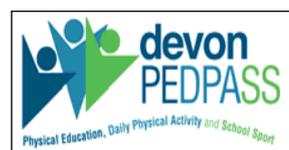


The Book of Hopes aims to comfort, inspire and encourage children during lockdown through delight, new ideas, ridiculous jokes and heroic tales. There are true accounts of cats and hares and plastic-devouring caterpillars; there are doodles and flowers; revolting poems and beautiful poems; and there are stories of space travel and new shoes and dragons.

The collection is dedicated to the doctors, nurses, carers, porters, cleaners and everyone currently working in hospitals. Take a look and share with your children.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, we may be feeling less secure and missing our usual routines. But just as doing exercise improves physical health, you and your child can do activities to boost their mental health. Here are some useful links you may want to look into to support your child's wellbeing: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/childrens-wellbeing-activities-for-teaching-staff-and-families.html>



Home learning

Once again, I am so impressed with the home learning that is flooding in through Class Dojo. I want to thank the class teachers for their feedback which I hope is helpful. If there is an aspect of our home learning that you find challenging or are unsure of, please contact your child's class teacher through the messaging service on Dojo. This offers a direct line between parent/ child and teacher. Check out this week's Celebration assembly for some examples of the work being done!

There are also some examples in our photo gallery this week. The following link has advice for parents on continuing learning at home during this time:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The key pieces of advice are to have a clear structure and to try to reduce screen time. We could make sure that children:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day
- have regular meal times
- have regular breaks
- make time to be active – children are used to regular play at lunch and break times

Although home learning often involves the use of a digital device, there are useful tips on getting the balance right. Digital devices are not the only way to learn. Manage screen time with a timer and break up screen time by getting your child to:

- use books and other printed materials that their school has provided or that you have at home
- write by hand – try asking them to complete work by hand, write a diary, a summary of things they have done each day or 'to do' lists
- be active and get away from the screen regularly – get outside!
- stop using digital devices at least an hour before bed

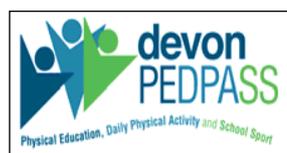
Year 6 Transition

You will by now have received a letter from the College on your child's transition. Unfortunately, Federation Week will not be happening this year due to Covid-19 but the College are working hard on a virtual programme of transition as well as support packs which you should receive shortly. As the information is released, I aim to keep you up to date. I understand that this is a tentative time for Year 6s as they prepare for the next step and we all agree that the current situation is not ideal in order to maximise transition. Please be reassured that Boasley Cross is working with the schools your child will move onto to ensure that transition is the best it can be in the current circumstances.

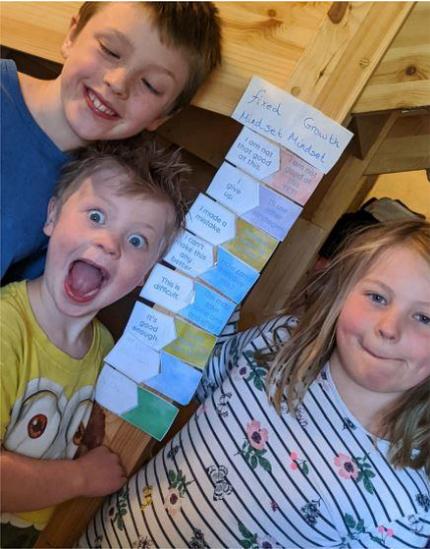
Lastly, thank you all for your patience as the situation unfolds and changes daily. I hope that you have some family time in the sunshine over the weekend.

With warmest wishes,

Deirdre Petersen



GALLERY





Book-tastic competition!

While you are at home why not:

Read a book

Listen to an audiobook

Or share a book with your family

Show us what you have read by creating a bookmark about the book

Cockatoos by Quentin Blake.
Tuva and Linnea aged 'nearly 5'



Rainbow Magic by Daisy Meadows
Jade aged 8



Enter our Competition. Winner receives a book token and extra books for your school.

Yiva aged 5
Good Little Wolf by Nadia Shireen
Five Little Reindeer by Stuart Lynch



Take a photo and ask your teacher to send it to us at Babcock School Library Service at the e mail address below.

£20 of book tokens to be won. £10 for the best KS1 entry and £10 for the best KS2 entry. Schools of the winning pupils will each receive 10 new books for their school library (Subscribing schools only).

Closing date 26th June 2020



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