

# FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Castleman Academy Trust. Registration No 9101036.  
Registered address: Tudor Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8AA. Registered in England and Wales

Newsletter No 11

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

## WELCOME BACK!



It's almost time! School will re-open for all children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and we can't wait. Please read this newsletter carefully. There's lots of information to share with you about our plans, preparation and expectations, over the coming weeks.

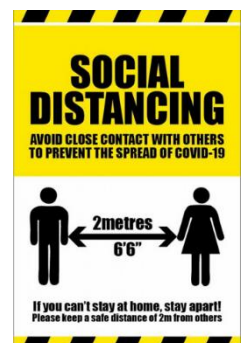
We are all looking forward to see the children on Monday. Please follow the same entry and exit routines that were in place before school closed on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Social distancing measures and all other control measures remain in place.

Please check ParentMail for a special letter for your child, which has been prepared by the staff in each Year team. These letters have been written with the children in mind to help explain what we are planning for their return to school. We would be grateful if you could sit with your child and read this with them. Thank you.

## FACE MASKS / ONE ADULT ONLY / SOCIAL DISTANCING

We continue to ask that all parents, older siblings (Upper School age) and other adult family members wear a face mask when on school premises, please (unless you are exempt for medical reasons).

Only **one** adult or **one** older sibling from each family should bring or collect children from school. If you ask an older sibling to do this, they must not bring their friends with them, please.



## SCHOOL CAR PARK - CLOSED



The school car park **remains closed** to all parents (except those who have a school disabled badge parking permit). Contractors working at the new care home on Church Road have been parking in Mountbatten Drive for some weeks now, making street parking limited after 8am. We strongly suggest parents avoid Mountbatten Drive.

Alternative parking can be found at Ferndown Leisure Centre or Tesco.



## PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES

We are sorry that we are unable to offer any public toilet facilities. Children's facilities are available during **school time only** but are closed after school to allow for cleaning.



## PLEASE RETURN BOOKS / RESOURCES



Please return all school resources which have been borrowed and all reading books on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March in your child's book bag. Thank you.

## UNIFORM / PE DAYS

All children should return to school in full uniform, please. Long hair (collar length or longer) should be tied back and trainers are not permitted in school. Please ensure your child has a named coat in school. Children should come to school in their PE kit on their allocated PE days.



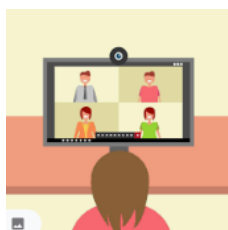
## LATERAL FLOW TESTS FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN

Government advice states that primary school children will not be regularly asymptotically tested due to low levels of transmission between younger aged children but will continue to need to come forward for tests if they have symptoms. Parents now have the option to order simple Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) to their home. More information can be found via the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## ONLINE GROUP MEETING FOR PARENTS



Towards the end of term, we will be arranging for parents to meet with their child's class teacher in an online group meeting.

Each teacher will invite parents to a group Zoom meeting where they will provide you with a general update and reassurance about how the children have settled back in to school.

We will schedule these from week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, which gives us a couple of weeks back to work with the children. Teachers will then tell you, in general terms, what is going well and what we are noticing that the children need help with.

Please note: Personal parents' evening appointments will be made available later in the year.



## **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

We are aware that a number of our families have had to deal with a bereavement in their family in recent months as a result of Covid19. If your child would benefit from some support following bereavement, please let us know. We will do our best to help.



## **LET'S COUNT – CENSUS 2021**

The Let's Count census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. This helps to plan and fund public services in our area. The next census is taking place on **SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2021**.

Further information will be sent home about a special project we will be doing in school, to include the children in this special event and help them understand the census.

## **GARDEN PROJECT – THANK YOU!**

Mrs Smith and Mrs Bramley have been busy making plans for our new garden project.

We would like to thank the Talbot Village Trust who have agreed to make a generous donation towards our new garden and outdoor learning environment.

This is amazing news and will mean that we can push ahead with plans to make better use of our wonderful outdoor space which will include tidying and repairing the beds ready for new plants, moving the sensory bed to make it more accessible, providing more bird boxes and insect houses and re-surfacing the flat surfaces together with refurbishing the 'fire pit' area.



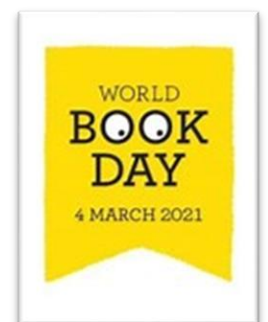
We look forward to seeing how good the garden will look in the very near future!

## **WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

Thank you for uploading a photograph to Tapestry of your child dressed up as their favourite book character.

As we can see from the photos, lots of children (and parents) have made a fantastic effort in putting together some great outfits – we hope you all enjoyed celebrating this annual event.

Please look out for a website article, coming soon!



## YEAR 1 – 4: 'THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ' PANTOMIME



We look forward to welcoming back M&M Theatrical Productions on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March for their Cinematic Theatre in Education (TIE) pantomime production of 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz'.

The format of this show will take on a slightly different look this year and will be a cinematic experience for the children who will view the pantomime on a big screen, with one actor from M&M

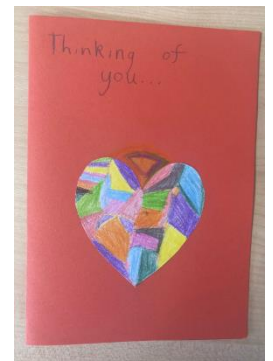
Theatrical Productions visiting the school and interacting between the children and the screen production.

'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' is age appropriate for those children in Years 1 – 4 only and will take place in the hall. Each year group will view the pantomime separately and socially distant.

As a warm 'welcome back' to the children, the school will be funding the visit from M&M Productions this year, so we will not be asking for contributions towards this hugely popular show. We are sure the children will enjoy it!

## 100 LETTERS FOR CARE HOMES PROJECT

To recognise and celebrate the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore who passed away recently, we have been busy writing 100 letters and cards for the residents of ten local care homes. This project, in conjunction with Parley First School, has made us think about how lockdown has affected the elderly in our local community. By writing letters and cards and including beautiful origami hearts, we hope to brighten days and put smiles on faces. The 100 letters and cards made by children at our school and at Parley have been delivered today. We are hoping we might receive some replies!



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

During lockdown, roads have been a lot quieter and many children will not have taken part in the "school run" for the last couple of months.

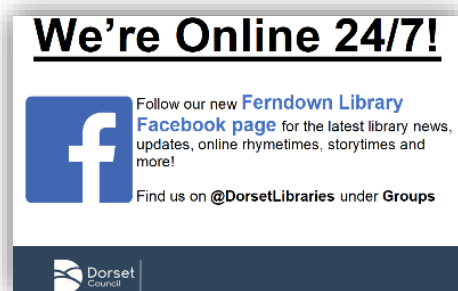
Please find attached a letter from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service encouraging you to discuss road safety with your child. The letter also includes the importance of driving and parking considerately during drop off and pick up as well as safety as a pedestrian.



## **MESSAGE FROM FERNDOWN LIBRARY**

### **Ferndown Library Facebook**

We invite you to join our Facebook group! We are offering lots of story times, rhyme times and crafts. As well as local information and services. Our team are posting book reviews, quotes, quizzes, inspiration and fun. We would love to connect and engage with our library users and the community. So join in and give us a 😊.



### **DANNY THOMAS – DTCA ACTIVE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS**

Danny Thomas' after school clubs will be resuming from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. A ParentMail has been sent home recently providing further information. Details are also provided at the end of this Newsletter.

Parents should be aware that ALL Danny's clubs will be outside as there is no access to the hall before the Easter holiday due to building work taking place.

### **NEW LUNCH MENU**

Parents are advised that the new lunch menu from week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March is now on the school website for your information under 'Parents' 'School Meals' section.



### **CHILDREN WHO ARE ILL AT SCHOOL.**



If a child attending school develops symptoms of Coronavirus, we will be following the guidance provided by Public Health. Children will be isolated in school until an adult collects them and they will need to be tested or self-isolate for at least 10 days. We can provide a PCR test kit.

Children who are unwell should not attend school.

### **SCHOOL OFFICE – REMAINS CLOSED**

The school office remains closed to parents and visitors, unless by prior appointment. Please either email the school at [office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk) or ring 01202 873747 if you have a query. Thank you.

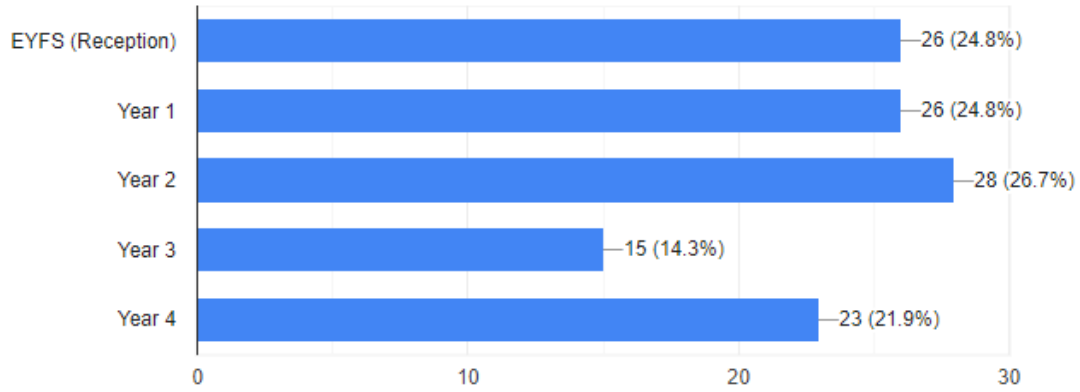


# REMOTE LEARNING REVIEW

Thank you for taking part in the parental questionnaire regarding Remote Learning. We were overwhelmed by the amount of positive feedback we received. Thank you for your comments which have been shared with our local governing board.

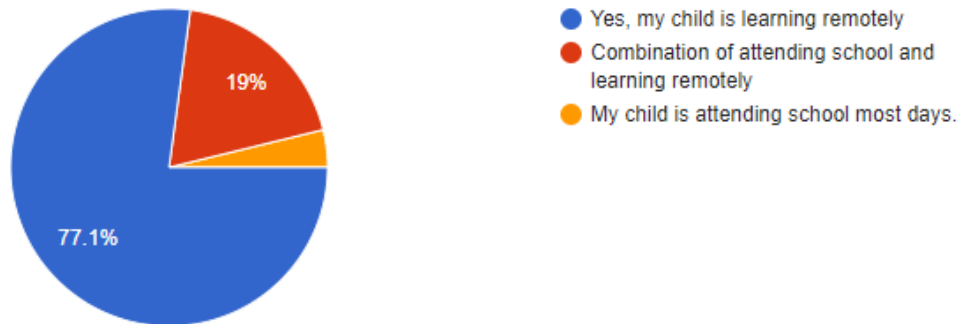
Year Group (Tick all that apply)

105 responses



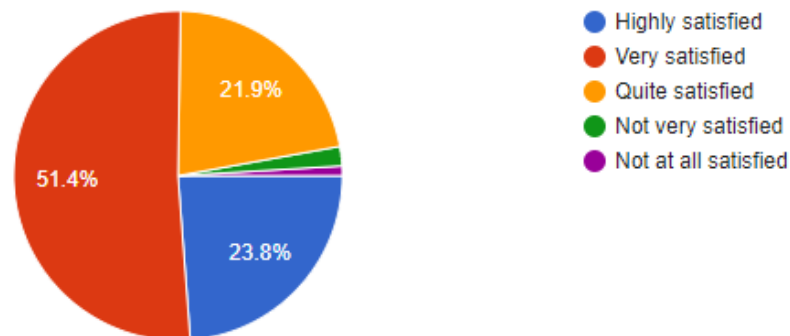
Is your child learning remotely?

105 responses



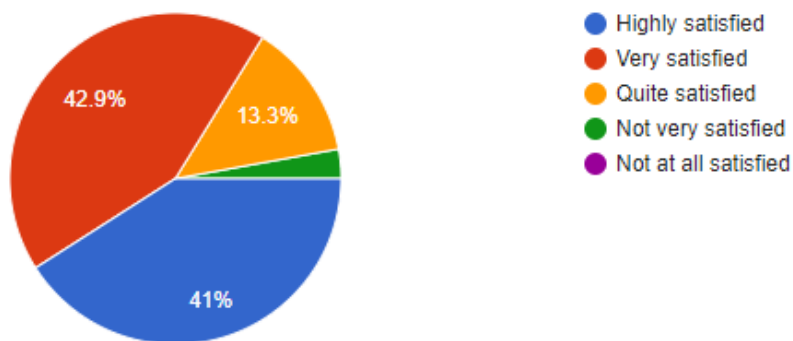
Overall, how satisfied are you with the remote learning support from school?

105 responses



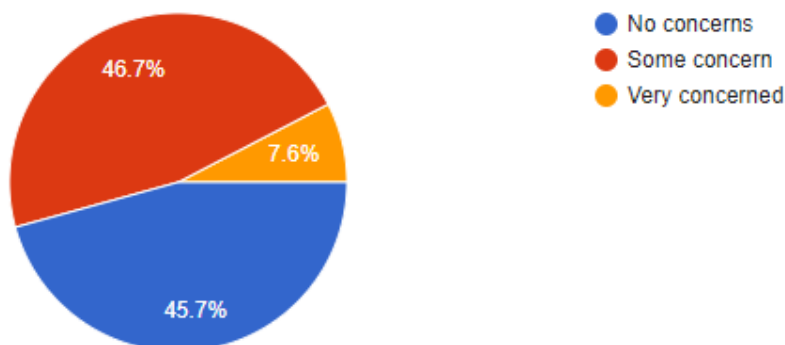
### How satisfied are you with communication from school during Covid19 school closure - Jan/Feb 2021?

105 responses



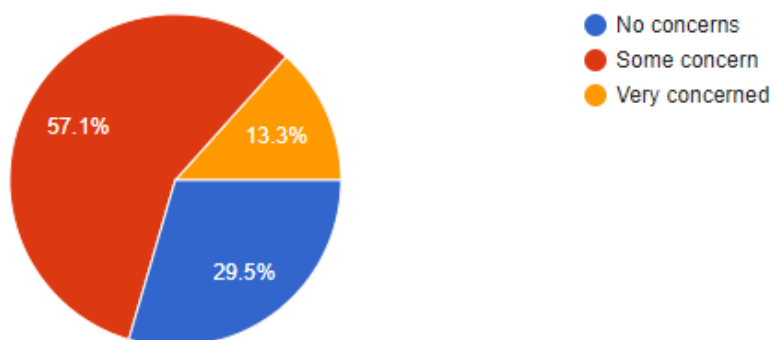
### How concerned are you about your child's mental health, during this period of lockdown?

105 responses



### How concerned are you about your child's learning, attainment, progress and the impact on their likely future success, as a direct result of school closure?

105 responses



105 responses	Highly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Quite Satisfied	Overall Satisfaction	Not very Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied
Overall, how satisfied are you with the remote learning support from school?	23.8%	51.4%	21.9%	97.1%	2.9%	
How satisfied are you with communication from school during Covid19 school closure - Jan/Feb 2021?	41%	42.9%	13.3%	97.2%	2.8%	

	Not Concerned	Some concerns	Very Concerned
How concerned are you about your child's mental health, during this period of lockdown?	45.7%	46.7%	7.6%
How concerned are you about your child's learning, attainment, progress and the impact on their likely future success, as a direct result of school closure?	29.5%	57.1%	13.3%

I'd like to address a comment received from a small number of parents who would have preferred us to offer live lessons. We completely understand why some parents think this would have been "better" but we don't share this view.

Every school has had to take into account their individual context when deciding how best to provide remote learning. The classroom experience for young children cannot be replicated by a live video lesson and only a small number of our children would have been able to access this type of learning and gain anything from it.

I hope that we never have to endure another lockdown scenario that brings such disruption to our children's education and to family life.

We know you've done your best to support the children learning at home and the responses we've received demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of our families are very satisfied with our provision during this time too.

Have a wonderful weekend. We will see you all bright and early on Monday morning.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Di-Pede  
Headteacher







**ONLY  
£16  
FOR 4  
SESSIONS!**

# DTCA ACTIVE



### Tuesday Multi Sports (Year 2)

Tuesday 9th March to Tuesday 30th March  
15:00 to 16:00

### Wednesday Multi Sports (Year 3)

Wednesday 10th March to Wednesday 31st March  
15:05 to 16:05

### Thursday Multi Sports (Year 4)

Thursday 11th to Thursday 25th March (£12)  
15:05 to 16:05



dannythomascoachingacademy.co.uk



@Danny Thomas Coaching Academy



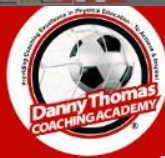
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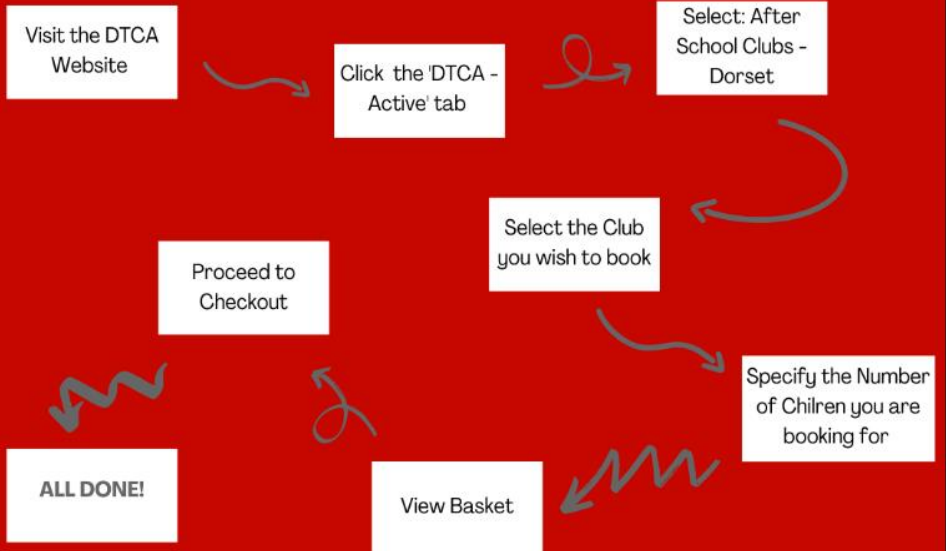
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# DTCA ACTIVE HOW TO BOOK



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