

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER  
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633  
Absences: 01308 861917

Email: [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)



HEADTEACHER  
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER  
MR D WITHERS NPQH

Website: [www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has seen staff leading **Key Stage 3 read-aloud** sessions from the Carnegie Medal winning writer, Robert Swindells. After reading his book, *Stone Cold*, staff have been focusing on subject specific reading and ways to engage students with a wider variety of challenging literature, increasing their range of vocabulary and cultural literacy, and gradually building a confident school-based reading community over the next few years.

It wouldn't be a Friday ParentMail without a further update on the changes to government guidelines with regards to Covid-19. As you are aware, **face coverings are no longer compulsory in classrooms** and, from next Thursday, will no longer be required in communal areas unless local case rates rise. However, there is still a compelling case for additional measures and we will be maintaining good hand hygiene, careful social distancing and sensible ventilation over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your attendance at **Year 12 Parents' Evening** on Wednesday, which provided an excellent opportunity for staff from both Beaminster and Colfox to meet new parents and carers. The **Year 8 Parents' Evening**, on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January from 4.45pm, is already looking busy, so please do sign up to ensure you can speak online with subject staff. With **Year 9, 10 and 13 reports** going home this half-term, as well as **Year 11 Parents' Evening** on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, it is a busy time for our staff and I thank them for all their efforts.

Kingston Maurward have their **College Open Event** on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January from 10am. This is a great opportunity to visit their campus, ask any questions and find out more information about their programmes, transport, study levels and more. Attendees are asked to pre-register for this event at: <https://www.kmc.ac.uk/college/open-events/>

Thanks to your support, the **BSPTA** raised the fantastic amount of **£2,206** from the Christmas Fair, concert and raffle and are inviting all parents and carers to come along to their next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss how the money should be used. The new **school minibus fundraising** campaign has been kickstarted with a £1,500 donation from the BSPTA, and Governors have also kindly pledged another £3,000 from the Frances Tucker Trust, but the BSPTA would love to have any fundraising suggestions, help or ideas from you, as there is still a long way to go to the £30,000 target!

An early warning that Dorset Healthcare will be doing **Covid vaccinations for eligible students aged 12-15 in school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January**. E-consent forms for this will be sent out early next week, so please do look out for them.

Finally, assemblies this week focused on the sad passing of **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** at the ripe old age of 90! Sharing his story as a prominent opponent of South Africa's apartheid system, and those turbulent days to freedom in the late 1980s, reminded us all how, even in the darkest of days, a bright light can shine through. A quote I recently saw, from Maya Angelou, seemed to nicely capture Desmond Tutu's approach to life: "Each of us, famous or infamous, is a role model for somebody, and if we aren't, we should behave as though we are -- cheerful, kind, loving, courteous. Because you can be sure someone is watching and taking deliberate and diligent notes."

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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