



Lambourne Close, Bournmoor, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 6HF 0191 3854291
 e-mail: bournmoor@durhamlearning.net web: www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk



Our Value of the Month for March is RESILIENCE and for April is COURAGE



Newsletter – March and April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is nearly the end of term already and it seems to have flown by! It is getting lighter and warmer each day so we are looking forward to when we can get on the school field and enjoy the lovely grounds we have. Soon it will be lighter for longer as the clocks spring forward on Sunday 29th March so not long to go. This has been a busy term and all the children have worked very hard. Their manners, kindness and enthusiasm for learning shines through. We recently had a visit from lots of staff who also hold the Quality Inclusion Mark and they were full of praise for the calm, polite and hard-working children they met as they toured the school.

Easter Egg Competition 

Each year we hold our very popular Easter Egg competition where children can bring in their own home-made entry to be judged by our Chair of Governors, Mrs Bell. The standard is very high each year and it reflects the children’s great imaginations. The eggs will be judged on Wednesday 1st April so the entries can be brought in on Monday 30th March and Tuesday 31st March. There will be Easter Egg prizes for the winners and we wish everyone who enters the best of luck.

Here are some of our previous winners...



Staffing News

We welcome Mrs Scott to our team as our new HLTA, following the previous retirement of Mrs Lowder. Mrs Scott has many years of experience in teaching and she brings her expertise and enthusiasm to our school in this role. Also, we would like to wish Mrs Malik all the very best when she leaves her role as Admin Assistant in our office at the end of this term. Mrs Malik has a long connection to our school as a parent and also through her time working here. We would like to thank her for her dedication to our school and wish her the very best.

Attendance Prizes and Letters 

Our aim is that every child has excellent attendance to help them learn and thrive in our school through quality first teaching and accessing our carefully planned curriculum. We offer many positives to support attendance including: 100% wrist bands per term, 100% Bournmoor Bears at the end of the year, a free trip for the highest attending year group, Barney Bear weekly prize and also end of term prize draws. We are very pleased to let you know that we are offering a prize draw on the last 9 days before the Easter Holidays. Children who are in school on time will have their name put forward to win a daily prize bag. We know this is very popular and we have already drawn the first winner out today! Also, we will be completing our termly attendance monitoring so letters will come home with your child’s current %.

Nursery Expansion

We are currently looking to expand our nursery to include 2 year olds in our Early Years provision. Initially we will offer a small number of places while this is established. Our 3 & 4 year old provision has proved very popular and successful so we want to offer this to our local community as part of our wider offer. When we have more news about this, we will let you know. Currently we are looking to recruit an excellent, fully qualified Early Years practitioner who will join our team.

Beat Asthma Awareness Award



This year we will be applying for the Beat Asthma Awareness Award. Miss Purdy as our SENCO has looked at achieving this as part of our offer of support to pupils. Achieving this award will validate the work we do to support pupils with asthma in our school. If you would like to find out about this or access more information about how to support people with asthma, visit

<https://www.beatasthma.co.uk/>

Rights Respecting – Articles of the Month

As part of our commitment to being a Rights Respecting School, we learn about an article each month children know and understand their rights. The Rights Champions share their knowledge in assembly with the school to summarise the key messages for the chosen article for that month. Miss Hartley meets with our Rights Champions to support their knowledge and ensure that all staff continue to promote Unicef’s Convention on the Rights of the Child. You can find out more about this by clicking on this link: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

World Book Day 

The children enjoyed World Book Day and got the chance to read with other pupils in school as part of our encouragement of reading for pleasure. As you can see in photos below, children got the chance to sit together and enjoy a story as part of our World Book Day activities. As part of World Book Day, teachers set a homework activity for pupils which was to take a picture of themselves reading in a funny or unusual place! The entries were all great so many thanks. This year we added in something new where quality used books were sold for donations after school by staff in our hall. We receive many donations of books so it was great to give back to the community through this event.



School Sports Partnership Cycling Skills 

Many thanks to the School Sports Partnership for providing cycling skills training in our school this week, organised by Mr Seaton. Coach Darren supported the children to develop their riding skills as we know that many of our pupils enjoy cycling.



Breakfast and our school wraparound

Working with the Greggs Foundation, our aim is to provide each child who attends our school with a free breakfast each day. Our free daily breakfast has been going for a while now and is proving very popular. Also, we have our Wraparound Care which means we offer this to parents from 8am to 6pm and the information about this can be found on this link:

<https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/pupils/school-clubs/>. Bookings for our wraparound are via ParentPay (to be booked in advance) and our school office staff can assist with any questions you have.



Nurture training for staff

Staff have completed refresher training with the Durham SEN team after setting up a nurture group within our setting. This was to focus on the principles of nurture as part of the inclusive ethos of our school. This is in addition to our Drawing and Talking therapy with Mrs Donnelly and Zones of Regulation that we currently offer. We have a designated space within our school, organised by our SENCO Miss Purdy. The nurture group is led by Mrs Winter who greets children each morning and welcomes them to the Sunshine Room.



School Policies and Curriculum Information

You can access our school policies by clicking the following link in the 'Policies' part of our website:

<https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/key-information/school-policies/>

The following link lets you see what your child is learning across the year (including this term's topics) so you can continue to help at home. Your support with this is greatly appreciated: <https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/curriculum-content/>

Dates for statutory tests

Year 6 SATs	
Monday 11 May 2026	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 12 May 2026	English reading
Wednesday 13 May 2026	Mathematics papers 1 and 2
Thursday 14 May 2026	Mathematics paper 3
Year 4 MTC	
2 week period from Monday 1 June 2026	Year 4 multiplication check
Phonics Check	
1 week period from Monday 8 June 2026	Year 1 phonics

Dates for all statutory tests in primary schools can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/primary-assessments-future-dates>

Key Dates – update



Our list of school holidays and PD days are available on our school website to ensure that family holidays are taken out of term time. You can also find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website <https://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolholidays>

We close on Thursday 2nd April at 3.15pm for the Easter Holidays and we re-open to pupils on Monday 20th April 2026

Yours sincerely, *L.A. Snowdon* Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)