



3 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Safeguarding and Pastoral Updates

I am pleased to write to you this half term with my regular guidance and updates on important pastoral and safeguarding issues. Copies of my previous updates can be found on the school website [Safeguarding - Testbourne Community School](#)

The main theme of this half-term's letter is mental health, and I should like to draw your attention to:

1. Our upcoming non-school uniform day on Friday 11 February 2022
2. Our mental health booklet, co-authored by Mrs Day and me, attached for your information with this letter.

## Non-School Uniform Day – Friday 11 February 2022

We are taking part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health week, fundraising to support the mental health of children and young people across the UK.

You can find out more about Place2Be and their fundraising activities at the following link

[About the Week - Children's Mental Health Week childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://About the Week - Children's Mental Health Week childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

The theme is 'Dress to Express' and as a school community we will be asking students and staff to use colour and clothing to express a diverse range of emotions.

We are asking that all students donate a minimum of £1 via their ScoPay account, to be allowed to wear their own clothes for the day. Please ensure that your child has paid the minimum of £1 before Friday 11 February if they are in non-uniform, otherwise they should be in their full school uniform.

We want students and staff to be creative in how they use their clothing to express themselves, entering into the spirit of the day. I would ask, however, for your support in ensuring that students dress in a way that reflects our school ethos and values. This includes suitable footwear, avoiding clothing with offensive logos or slogans and

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

Mr Jon Beck BSc (Hons), NPQH, Headteacher, Testbourne Community School  
01256 892061 • admin@testbourne.school • www.testbourne.school





avoiding clothing that is revealing, for example exposing bare midriffs or shoulders. The usual school rules will apply to jewellery, makeup, and hair.

## 'You can't stop the waves but you can learn to surf' – Mental Health booklet

This half-term I am sharing with you our Mental Health themed booklet. This booklet looks at:

- The school's mental health strategy
- Support and guidance that is available for students and their families.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the educational landscape and now, more than ever, schools, students and their families need access to high-quality and evidence-informed information that will support the successful re-engagement of students with their learning.

I have endeavoured to ground this guidance document in key psychological research to set out:

- The principles that underpin Testbourne School's approach to recovery, reintroduction, and renewal.
- The steps that can be taken for early intervention when there are concerns about a student's mental health.
- How the school will work in partnership with other agencies to support students and their families.

I am hugely grateful to Mrs Day, our Senior Mental Health Lead, for both her contributions to this document and for her leadership in school of this vital and challenging agenda.

Mrs Day and I intend to host a series of mental health live webinars that will explore the issues covered in this document in due course. Further information about these will follow.

## General safeguarding information

Finally, as I do every half-term, I should like to remind you about our safeguarding reporting procedures.

We have a trained team of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). They are:

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

Mr Jon Beck BSc (Hons), NPQH, Headteacher, Testbourne Community School  
01256 892061 • admin@testbourne.school • www.testbourne.school





- Dr Hall (Senior DSL)
- Mrs Harper
- Ms Jenkins
- Mr Tiley
- Miss Yacoby
- Mr Alderman
- Mrs Wheeler
- Ms Bateman
- Mrs Day

Concerns can be raised via the DSL team or indeed any colleague in the school that a student feels comfortable to talk to. All staff receive annual safeguarding training, including how to support when disclosures are made.

If a student does not want to speak directly to a member of staff, then there are also students trained in anti-bullying and/or mental health support who can be approached. As well as providing immediate peer support, they will also ensure that the DSL team is informed.

We also have our Stay Safe ([staysafe@testbourne.school](mailto:staysafe@testbourne.school)) and No to Bullying ([ntb@testbourne.school](mailto:ntb@testbourne.school)) alerts that can be used to raise concerns with our DSL Team.

In the meantime, and as always, if you have any concerns or questions, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Dr Hall  
Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

Mr Jon Beck BSc (Hons), NPQH, Headteacher, Testbourne Community School  
01256 892061 • [admin@testbourne.school](mailto:admin@testbourne.school) • [www.testbourne.school](http://www.testbourne.school)

