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Monday 20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update from Headteacher #3 – containing important information re upcoming Zoom meetings

Welcome back to the school term after the Easter Staycation : quite an extreme ‘staycation’. Hopefully, if your personal situation enabled it, you and your child(ren) were able to enjoy some of the sunshine and warm weather.

During the holiday Mr and Mrs McAdam (Kitty, 4WT) fitted our school 150th anniversary tile mural to the side of the year five block. It looks wonderful, and it is so good to have it up on display for all to see when we return..

This week we start teacher-child Zoom meetings. This letter contains key information about this.

- (i) This week we will be starting weekly Zoom Chat meetings between your child’s class teacher and the children in their class. You will be notified via email from your child’s class teacher re timings.
- (ii) Online Communication / Zoom-use Policy – This new policy has been sent out via email with this letter. This policy contains important information regarding the Zoom chat between your child and their teacher. Please do read it – we have kept it to one side of A4.
- (iii) Timings – The teacher will set up the zoom meeting via the parent email contact. We have not been using, and will continue to not use, children’s own personal email addresses for any purpose, including Zoom chats. Broad timings are thus: **6E** – Tues AM ; **6M** – Tues PM ; **5L** – Wed PM ; **5A** – Thurs AM ; **4WT** – Tues PM ; **4P** – Thurs AM ; **3B** – Tues AM ; **3W** – Wed AM
- (iv) Purpose – The purpose of the meeting is to touch base with your child, to make face-to-face contact, to discuss using the VLE, to have a brief discussion on learning / activities, and generally to encourage your child to keep on going with the learning.
- (v) Questions / content – we are asking all teachers to cover similar questions, such as: How are you? What exercise have you been doing? Are you accessing the VLE okay? Have you had any problems getting on to the work? What have you enjoyed doing? Have you been using the VLE messaging? What are you missing most about school?
- (vi) The group Zoom chat will last for about 20 minutes. There won’t be an opportunity to talk to parents/carers beyond the mechanics of linking into the meeting.
- (vii) Security / safeguarding – As Host, the teacher is in control of who joins the meeting. All meetings will have a secure meeting ID and will be password protected. The teachers will lock the chat/meeting once the children are in the meeting.



Keeping in touch with your child : A reminder of information shared before the Easter break:

From Monday 20th April children are asked to submit their weekly English writing task via the VLE (not via an email to the teacher, please). Teachers will provide feedback to each child via the VLE along the lines of '2 Stars and a Wish'. This feedback will help guide the focus for children in their next writing task.

At the start of each week the teachers will issue a whole-class email for the class via the parent email account. Please share the contents with your child. It will briefly introduce the activities for the week, which will still be accessed via the VLE.

If a personal 'phone call from your child's teacher, Mrs Barker or myself would be useful to encourage and motivate your child then we can do that. However it is not feasible to do this regularly for the whole class. Please let us know if this is required.

We continue to investigate how to introduce On-line Lessons to deliver new learning to your children. These will be delivered by the teachers in your child's year group. Thank you for your feedback around this area.

Using the VLE

When you log on to the VLE please remember to log in with your child's login. This will enable you to access what your child needs to access. It also means that your child can submit work to their teacher.

Year 3 will soon be asked to start accessing their work from the Homework tab like other year groups : details and instructions to follow.

A new VLE page, the Whole School Home Learning Page, will go live on the VLE from Monday 20th April. This is a list of hyperlinks to online learning sites that children and their parents can access if they wish. We are not suggesting any of them in particular, but there is plenty to look at.

Year Group Project Page: Each child now has access to the 'projects' tab on the VLE. This can be found by logging in with your child's log in, clicking on 'my class' and then 'projects'. At the moment these pages are blank but we will make them a page of photos that you send us, sharing the activities that your children have been up to.

Your child has been set an ongoing piece of homework called 'photos to share'. This piece of homework will give them the opportunity to upload to the VLE photographs of activities that they have been doing, or art work perhaps that they want to share. For safeguarding reasons, please help your child select appropriate images. These will be reviewed by a member of staff before posting to the projects page.

You will be able to send photos from Monday 20th April and we will begin uploading these on Wednesday 23rd April. If you have any difficulty uploading photos, please email Mrs Barker (rbarker@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk) and she will be able to help.

You have probably heard that from Monday 20th April the BBC Bitesize website will be delivering daily lessons for every year group. These may prove a useful resource for you to access at home.



The VLE messaging function has now been activated. Your child may have already started to use it to chat with their classmates. This is a great way of staying in touch, telling jokes and being together. Please remind your child: no rude words, be kind in what you say. Your help in monitoring this is appreciated. So far our 'safety filter' has not picked up on any inappropriate language – top marks Busbridge!

Please note: the children can only use this messaging function if they are logged on as themselves; it doesn't work on the parent login.

Provision for Key Worker children and other specific pupil groups

Provision after Easter: If you / your child meet the criteria and you wish to take up a place at school-led provision please let the school know. We can be very flexible over days and times.

Hardship

We are very aware of the negative impact this shut down will be having on families in many ways, especially financially. Those families who meet the threshold to receive 'free school meals' due to their income, benefits etc. are receiving some extra support. If you are experiencing hardship but don't previously qualify as 'free school meals' do get in touch as we may be able to arrange some support for you, or you may now qualify for entitlement to 'free school meals' support.

Well-Being and Health

If your child is struggling in any way we are still around. Send us an email and we can get back to you. You and your children are still part of our BJS family.

Attached are two short easy-reads which you may find useful. One talks about coping with anxiety during the Covid-19 pandemic and the other discusses well-being whilst working from home.

Please remember that If you have a Safeguarding concern around any child please contact us or Surrey Children's Services: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-services> or phone 0300 470 9100.

Here's to a very different but hopefully enjoyable Summer Term – fingers crossed that we return fairly soon!

Take care,



Richard Catchpole (Head teacher)

