



# GODALMING LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Hambledon Road, Godalming, UK, GU7 1PJ  
A charitable company limited by guarantee  
Reg no: 11717912

**Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School**  
Brighton Road  
Busbridge  
Godalming  
Surrey  
GU7 1XA



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Transition news

For the past decade the Godalming Learning Partnership schools have been working together to improve transition arrangements for our children at all levels: as they begin their school career, as they move Key Stage and as they move school. This has been a fundamental element of our partnership working because we know the impact that it can have on a child's emotional well-being and academic performance. We have improved communication between schools, improved transfer of assessment information and trialled new initiatives based on feedback from pupils, parents and receiving schools.

The restrictions placed on us the current pandemic, however, have thrown our usual plans up in the air. So, whilst managing a staff team who have suddenly had to become digital teaching gurus and infection control experts, drowning in ever-changing government guidance, ensuring support staff have sourced the requisite amount of hazard tape/sanitiser/PPE, working out where to store myriad soft furnishings and furniture and juggling staff rotas to look after the children who have been coming into school throughout this lockdown, our Headteachers have also been thinking hard about how to help children through their next important move.

Just as each school has had to find its own, often very different, way to extend opening to our Reception classes, Year 1s and Year 6s, based on their particular staffing and premises circumstances, so we will all have to adopt a slightly different approach to how we support transition to and from our schools. We have all agreed, however, that we want to allow time for the transitioning children to be in both schools; we recognise that saying goodbye to their current school will be almost as important as the help the children get to feel confident about their new school. We aim, therefore, to bring our Godalming area Year 2 pupils back into school before the end of term and accept that this will – as guidance currently stands – mean that another year group does not attend. All primary phase schools plan to use at least 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July to focus on transition activities and work. We will continue planning with our main transition schools, including the secondaries, to agree the final format.

I am sure you understand that any plans we make now are subject to change if government guidance alters significantly and we do thank you for your understanding and patience. At our school, the initial plans are as follows:

- (i) The school year will finish for Year 6 children on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. This is in line with other schools in Godalming.
- (ii) The school year will end for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, as planned.
- (iii) Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: these days are being used as transition / Bump-Up Days. Our new Year 3 and current Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 children will be invited in to school to say 'farewell' to their current teacher and to meet their new teacher for the next academic year. Timings and organisational details for these days will be issued in due course.
- (iv) We will confirm details for our Key Worker children group for these 3 days as we get closer to the end of term.

Whilst the finer details need to be confirmed with our feeder infant schools, we felt we needed to let our BJS community know our plans as early as possible.

Obviously, our new and current parents will not be obligated to send their children into school during this time. However, we feel this is the safest way to manage transition this year for our pupils (new and current), who have had a significant amount of time out of school during this time and many will be especially anxious about moving schools and moving year groups.

Unfortunately, our local secondary schools are not in a position currently to host any on site transition sessions for Year 6 children as they focus on delivering live teaching to their Year 10 students. We are in close contact with both local secondary schools and are doing whatever we can virtually to help support the transition process for our Year 6's.

Each individual school in the GLP will manage their transition arrangements in the safest possible way for their school community. As a result there will be some variance from school to school.

Thank you for your patience during this difficult time. Rest assured every Headteacher and member of staff in all our schools are committed to making the transition for all our children across the GLP as safely and as smoothly as possible.

Yours faithfully



Mr Richard Catchpole  
Headteacher  
Busbridge CE Junior School



Mr Michael Guest  
Chair of Governors  
Chair of GLP Board



Mr Adam Samson  
Headteacher  
Chair of GLP Headteachers

