



Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term 2020 – update #3

October half-term at last. We made it intact with no Bubbles needing to self-isolate. A huge thumbs-up needs to go to our Year Threes and all other September new starters. We have been really impressed at how smoothly our new children have settled in to school life. Our current attendance rate remains higher than our target of 97%. Long may this continue. Thank you to everyone for following the DfE/NHS guidance on school attendance.

These update letters are in place to inform you of key school information and guidance.

Mental Health and Well-Being

We have had a lot of fun so far with our Well-Being DoubleDay. It is a joy to see and hear the excitement of the children as they compare costumes upon arrival. Through a range of activities we are reflecting on the fact that we all experience a range of feelings, from happiness to anxiety, etc. We are also looking at strategies to look after our own mental well-being, and consider how we can contribute to the health and well-being of others.



This term we have also been thinking about the six areas to develop for mental well-being to flourish in all of us. The picture above shows the six areas we have discussed with the children. You may wish to chat about them at home as a family.

Contingency Plan for Remote Learning

A full lockdown of primary schools is extremely unlikely. However we may at some point need to send home a class or Bubble, in line with DfE/NHS guidance. We have posted our Contingency Plan for Remote Learning on our school website and included a copy with this update:

https://www.busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk/web/learning_resources_for_your_child_including_home_learning/390419

In summary, the key principles that have guided our contingency plan for a Bubble closure are:

- Daily interaction with the teacher over the week is of great importance.
- The learning will involve a mixture of live, virtual teaching and VLE-based online learning.
- The full curriculum will be taught.
- Feedback for children on the vast majority of their work will be supplied
- Home learning is an opportunity to build independence and resilience in the children.
- Learning is a social activity. We will strive to facilitate this during each week of learning.
- Equality of opportunity: whatever we provide must be accessible to all children. We will support all families in achieving this.
- We will provide tailored support for SEN / Vulnerable children.



An outline of our Bubble remote learning is thus:

- A **daily live Zoom register / introduction** to the work with their class teacher
- **Live Zoom lessons in English (Tues, Thurs) and in Maths (Mon, Wed)** each week. To enable interaction and feedback these lessons will be led by the class teacher with groups of 10 children at a time. (Zoom group 1: 9.30am; Zoom group 2: 10.30am; Zoom group 3: 11.30am)
- The children will be in the same time-slot each day.
- **We will set daily maths and English and weekly coverage of other curriculum areas**, following the curriculum being covered by each class at the time of closure.
- Resources, instructions, templates, websites and general comments will be posted onto, and accessed via, our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment).
- Children's work will be uploaded to the teacher via the VLE. Teachers will respond via the VLE.

The accompanying document contains further information.

Communications with school staff

Please only use the VLE messaging service to communicate with staff when we are in a period of lockdown/Bubble closure. At all other times an email to school is perfect (see below to find how to access teacher emails).

Parents on School Site

- Thank you for keeping your presence on school site to an absolute minimum. This helps us all to avoid unnecessary contact. If you wish to contact the school office or your child's teacher please do so via email. All email addresses for the class teachers can be found on the school website https://www.busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk/web/class_teachers/369892 (click on the + sign next to the teacher's name). The school office email is admin@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk.
- If you need to send any forms/letters etc. into school please give to your child to hand into the class teacher.
- Face-to face conversations can be had if necessary at the end of the school day. If a longer face-to-face meeting is required we can facilitate this.

School Tours for Prospective Parents

Due to current restrictions we will not be holding school tours as in previous years on the school site. Instead we have posted a series of short videos in About Us/Admissions section on the school website for prospective parents to view: https://busbridge-junior.eschools.co.uk/web/parent_tours/510877

Strangely (or not) Hollywood has not been beating down the school gates bearing contracts for Mrs Barker and I to sign. Looks like we will be here for a bit longer then.

This has been a very successful first half term of 2020/21 at BJS: thank you for your understanding, patience and cooperation. Here's to an equally smooth run in to Christmas!

I do hope you have a restful and healthy October half-term break.



Richard Catchpole (Headteacher)

