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**Headteacher**

Mr Richard Catchpole BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Weekly Update from Headteacher #2

In a previous world we would currently be packing up in school in readiness for the Easter Holidays. But things are rather different just now, as you well know. Thank you for all you are doing with your children at home. We know that this is not an easy time for so many reasons. The teachers and I have enjoyed hearing about the many interesting things you have been up to.

### Easter Break

We won't be setting any school work or home learning over the Easter break, however I suggest that you do keep reading to and with your child(ren) as well as continuing with some times tables work.

Having said this, we appreciate that under the current lockdown situation the Easter break may well be challenging. As a school we have set up an [Easter Activities page on the VLE](#) which may be useful. It goes live on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. This page is not visible on the parent login so it will need to be accessed via the children's login. The children access it by:

1. Logging in
2. Clicking on 'me' at the top of the page
3. Clicking 'my groups'
4. Selecting Easter Holidays

You may wish to have a look through the various activities with your family and make a plan with your child of what you will do and when. Enjoy!

### Year Six KS2 Tests (SATs)

Just to confirm, the Year 6 SATs tests will not be taking place this year. However, we will be posting on the VLE Year 6 SATs papers from previous years for Year 6 children to complete at home. We will not be taking them in. However, completing them is a way to keep skills sharp ahead of KS3 transition in September 2020.

**Keeping in touch with your child** : A quick update in this area.

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding [teacher-child 'Zoom' virtual meetings](#). These will involve your child's teacher and a small group of about six children. We plan to do these weekly. Information to follow.

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April children are asked to 'hand in' / [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.



Every Monday morning 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 are currently investigating 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. We are debating amongst ourselves whether we should deliver lessons in real-time or provide video-lessons. There are pros and cons for both. Your thoughts are welcome.

### **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.

Over the Easter break class pages will be refreshed and cleared of current work and instructions, ready for a fresh start on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

You may like to know that from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April the BBC Bitesize website will be delivering daily lessons for every year group.

Year Group Project Page: Starting from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April children can upload pictures of what they have been doing for their year group to see. The teachers will upload the images sent in onto a page which can be viewed by all in their year group. Children can start sending items to their teacher from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Teachers will start to populate it from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Big news! The VLE messaging function has now been activated. This means that children will be able to message each other using the VLE. We know it is sad not being able to see friends, but at least the children can chat over the VLE if they wish. 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. The teachers can see what the children write, but it will not be possible to monitor everything , so your support in monitoring is appreciated. Please inform the school if you see anything which is rude or offensive and we will take action.

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 over Easter: if your child qualifies for attendance at school-led provision over Easter and you wish to take up this offer please let the school know ASAP.

Provision after Easter: likewise, if you / your child meet the criteria and you wish to take up a place at school-led provision please let the school know so we can plan our activities for after the Easter break.

## **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 entitled to extra support. We will be contacting you in regard to this.

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.

## **Well-Being and Health**

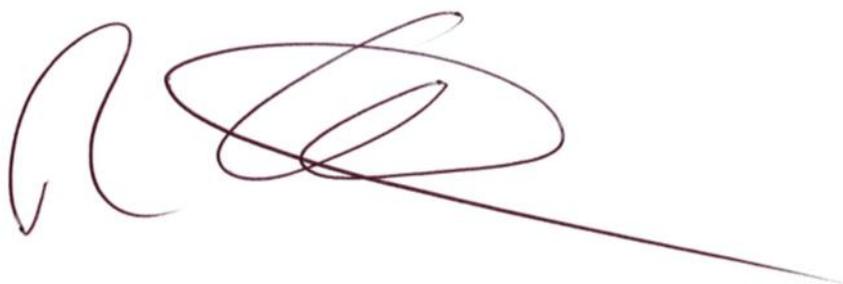
If your child is struggling in any way we are still around. Send us an email and we can get back to you. You and your children are still part of our BJS family. Don't forget to refer to the 'Stay Positive, Keep Learning' piece which I attached to my update #1 – this provides some useful thoughts around maintaining positive well-being at this time.

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.

And finally, Happy Easter to you and your families.

Take care,



Richard Catchpole  
(Head teacher)

