



Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School
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Tuesday 21st July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update #14

So, this is the final Head Teacher Update of the school year. Year Six have already finished their term and for the rest of us the finishing line is tantalisingly close.



Update #14. An awful lot has happened since Update #1, which started with *"So, one week completed. How has it been? I take my hat off to all those who are juggling home working and home learning: not an easy combination, I know."* You guys at home have done an incredible job keeping all those balls in the air. No doubt you have had good days as well as truly awful days, but hopefully through it all you can see some positives. In school we talk about our 6Rs for Learning: Respect, being Ready, Responsibility, Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness. No doubt you and your child(ren) have worked on some of these areas intentionally or unintentionally. Both children and parents can be rightly proud of all that has been achieved at home under very trying conditions.

We appreciate the many emails/words of thanks shared by parents with the school. They have been wonderful to read. I have been bowled over by the attitude of our staff team. Whatever we have achieved in terms of going 'above and beyond', let alone simply meeting the expectations of the government, has only been possible due to the unflagging enthusiasm and commitment of every member of staff. I could not be prouder to lead such an indomitable and caring team.

Saying Goodbye on Wednesday 22nd July

As it is the end of term we are happy for parents to congregate responsibly on the school playground to say farewell to staff and each other. We will divide the playground up into 3 areas, one for each year group. We'll facilitate this at both 'Bubble' pick-ups (lunch and afternoon).

Lockdown Provision – Parental Survey

Clearly we all hope that the last few months is never to be repeated. However, something similar may return albeit on a smaller scale. To aid us in our planning we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the parental survey which we will email out this week.

Munstead House Fundraiser

Well done to the Munstead Vice/House Captain team who helped the school to raise £72.60 for Blue Willow Nursery. I know that the nursery will appreciate this support as they look to fund new toys for their children.

Friends of Busbridge Junior School PTA Newsletter

Attached with this update is the latest Friends of Busbridge Junior PTA newsletter. I am very pleased to report that the current committee has agreed to carry on their fantastic work for another year. Champion!



Reading Challenge for the Summer Holidays

We know that you and your children love reading. To help keep the enthusiasm going over the summer holidays, we are sending the children home with a reading challenge card to complete. Certificates will be awarded in September for reading 5, 10 or 15 books over the holidays. There is also a 'reading BINGO' activity to engage the children.

Children, Youth and Families Church Challenge

Judith, the children and family worker at Busbridge Church, has asked us to share with you a challenge which the church are running over the holidays. Please see the attached flyer.

Children's Annual Reports

Your child will come home with their school report today (Tuesday). If your child has not been in school we will post it to you.

School in September

Our plans for September 2020 are moving on a pace. Below you will see an overview.

The DfE guidance for what parents and carers need to know about the autumn term can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

- Basic principles from the DfE: (i) Minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day (ii) Have controls to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Children will be in school full-time, in classes of 30.
- Due to organisational logistics we are organising the children into year group bubbles.
- Timings: we will have staggered drop off / pick up. They will be at 8.50am or 9.00am and 3.15pm or 3.30pm.
- Day trips and visits will still take place
- Breakfast Club & After School Club will start up again (with restrictions in place)
- After school clubs – We are working on plans to enable these to happen, again with some restrictions in place. Risk assessments for each individual club are currently being undertaken and details will be shared once these have been completed.
- Autumn Term curriculum: we will carry on with the planned Autumn curriculum. However we will have more stringent assessments at the start of term to pick up on gaps in knowledge, especially in maths and English. We will look to challenge all children, regardless of whether they have struggled with progress in home learning or made super progress at home during Lockdown.
- Peripatetic music lessons are able to take place. Individual risk assessments are being carried out and further details will follow.
- We have just received information from the government regarding catch-up funding for our school. This will supplement the plans we have already put in place.

With best wishes for a relaxing and recuperative summer break from school (in its many guises).



Richard Catchpole (Headteacher)

