



Headteacher

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Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Back to School Autumn 2020 – update #2

Almost the end of September. Even with the required changes to school life the start of term has gone remarkably well. Lots of happy children, learning and laughing in school: brilliant! Interestingly, our current attendance rate is slightly 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. Information new to this update is *shown in italics*.

23rd September - PHE Letter to Parents & Guardians – testing your child for Covid-19

We have been asked by the DfE to share with you a letter from Public Health England (PHE) for all parents and guardians. It explains when to get your child tested for Covid-19, and related matters. The PHE/NHS letter has been sent out with this update. Please do have a read as it answers a number of questions which parent have asked us, for example, individuals do not need a test if they simply have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell.

Staffing News

Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to our new staff members. Thank you also for the kindness shown through the many donations and kind words for Mario upon his retirement. He has asked me to share the following message:

During a quarter of a century at Busbridge Junior School, I have spent some of the happiest days of my life with colleagues (past and present), parents, contractors and suppliers and, above all, with the children. It has been a privilege to watch them develop from tiny tots to confident young people and even parents themselves. Thank you all so much for your gifts and best wishes. I will miss you all and hope to see you around Godalming over the coming years. With heartfelt best wishes and gratitude, Mario Nasti.

Reading Books – in school and at home

We have decided to change our policy on reading books. We are now allowing reading books to travel between home and school. We suggest that they are kept in your child's school bag when not being read. School books being brought back in to school to be changed will be kept in quarantine for at least 72 hours before being placed back in the book boxes / class libraries. Reading Records will be issued but for the time being but these will only be filled in at home, so please do not send them in to school.

Homework

We are modifying our homework procedures for this term. From next week we will issue homework via the VLE and/or paper copies. We will ask for some homework to be brought back to school for marking/feedback. Weekly homework will be set in English, maths and topic. Your child may experience a slight delay in receiving feedback from paper homework as we will quarantine all paper brought into school for 72 hours before teachers handle them to mark.

Start of school times / Drop-off arrangements

- 8.50am start (gates open from 8.40am): Year 6 and Year 4
- 9.00am start (*enter school from 8.45am onwards*): Year 5 and Year 3.

Please do be mindful of the potential for crowding on the pavements. A swift drop-and-go is best.



PE Kit on PE Days

As you know, we are asking children to come into school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days, and remain in their kits throughout the school day. This is working very well: thank you for your cooperation. Thank you also for your flexibility over the Monday arrangements. Again, these are working well.

PE days are as follows:

Year 3: Monday and Wednesday ; Year 4: Tuesday and Friday
Year 5: Tuesday and Friday ; Year 6: Wednesday and Thursday

School Tours for Prospective Parents

Due to current restrictions we will not be holding school tours as in previous years. Instead we will be posting a series of short videos on the school website for prospective parents to view. These will be posted in the week beginning 12th October. Maybe you and your children can also be flag bearers for the school when chatting to Year 2 parents.

Harvest Festival – Tuesday 6th October

We are really pleased to still be able to celebrate Harvest across at Busbridge Church this year. The children will all be attending a short assembly in the church in their class bubbles, led by Judith and Anto on Tuesday 6th October. All involved will clean hands before and after attending, etc. Gifts for the Godalming Food Bank will be gratefully received as in previous years. If you are able to, please send a harvest gift in with your child in a bag. We will be taking them across to church with us and leaving them there.

SEND support documents

Mrs Barker will be meeting with class teachers over the course of the next two weeks to write SEND support plans for children on our SEND register. In a slight change to normal practise, these will be emailed to you once they are completed.

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.

So far so good at BJS this term. Thank you for your understanding, patience and cooperation as we implement Covid-19 modifications to school life.



Richard Catchpole (Headteacher)

