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Wednesday 10th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Term 2021 – Headteacher Update #8

Here we are within touching distance of the February half term break. Whether the model of learning for your child(ren) has been at home, in school or a combination of the two, please do take a breather to reflect positively on what you and the children have achieved. This time has been a challenge for all of us, and I know that for some it has been very tough. However the likelihood of returning to school in March is, I think, high.

Upper / Lower School Zoom End of Half-Term Assemblies on Friday 12th February

We often have whole school events to mark the end of a term or half-term. We are doing the same this Friday to mark the end of this half term. We are holding, via Zoom, an assembly for Year 5/Year 6 (12.45pm) then Year 3/Year 4 (1.30pm). The assemblies will be very light-hearted: Mr Evans will be performing some tricks, I'll be hosting a quick quiz and Mrs Barker has a mashed-up photo ID challenge. It will last around 30 minutes. These afternoon Zooms will replace the usual class afternoon Zooms on Friday (the morning ones will still go ahead as planned). Log-in details for these assemblies are as follows:

Year 5&6 assembly: 12.45pm

Meeting ID: 898 2454 5362

Passcode: BJS2021

One click link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89824545362?pwd=MmQ0Q2RiOWFPS2YxQ0dWeWdEQVBQQT09>

Year 3&4 assembly: 1.30pm

Meeting ID: 813 7858 9852

Passcode: BJS2021

One click link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81378589852?pwd=ZzZVdnUyWE9yVDBIRjFwbHFFRIZOdz09>

(Many thanks to Busbridge Church for the loan of their Zoom account.)

Spring Reading Challenge – closing date Thursday 11th February

Hopefully your child(ren) has enjoyed taking part in this challenge to encourage reading. If they have not read many books because their books are many pages long then feel free to indicate after the book title the length of the book (we can make allowances!). Certificates will be awarded at the end of February for reading 5, 10 or 15 books. The recording sheet was set on the VLE as a homework. Children need to fill in the rows with the books they have read so far in 2021 and upload the completed sheet onto the VLE for their teacher by **Thursday 11th February**.

Reading – please do it every day, no skimping

Ensuring that children continue to read regularly and enjoy a range of texts is key to their continued educational progress in all areas of the curriculum. We have a number of ideas for supporting this at home



and at school. The Zoom group reading lessons which we have introduced for every Year 5 and Year 6 child are working well, and we are looking to roll these out further. However they are no substitute for daily reading at home.

Additional Support with Phonics, reading and writing

Mrs Barrett has put her Key Stage One experience to fantastic use in a parent support video to share with you how we teach children phonics acquisition and their application when reading and spelling. If your child is currently accessing any of our intervention programmes, such as Read Write Inc or Fresh Start, this video will be particularly useful for you to watch but we would recommend that all parents, especially those with children in the lower school, access this short presentation. The video presentation can be found here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Sk2kqnnLAvwMMIPQ4Yys7toiPXbJu5dscrcefEudXaUYwx5mY3zrYFpfHQbyUQyA.3ybLkYy-62eCq3l>

Passcode: 1?tUGZFG

Children's Mental Health (CMH) Week

Hopefully your child(ren) are enjoying the CMH Week activities planned in for this week. Clearly one week of activities does not put everything right. Further suggestions for support are below:

- Supporting well-being

To complement Children's Mental Health Week, Active Surrey are offering these workshops for parents and children. Courses can be booked via the Active Surrey website www.activesurrey.com.

PARENT WORKSHOP: 'Helping your child be their best: a focus on wellbeing'

Ideal for schools wishing to engage with parents and involve them in the physical and mental wellbeing of children. This virtual 75 minute workshop, developed with Surrey's Clinical Lead Nurse for Childhood Obesity, includes the importance of physical activity, sleep and nutrition, as well as the 6 branches of mental wellbeing.

PUPIL TRAINING: 'Wellbeing Warriors'

Developed in consultation with Surrey Educational Psychologists, this 2 hour classroom-based interactive training programme is for year 4 pupils to learn how mental health and wellbeing can be influenced positively through Physical Activity. Training will include understanding emotions & how physical activity can positively influence them.

- School assemblies

Assemblies this week (recordings can be accessed via the VLE assembly project page) have a well-being focus. On Tuesday we gave an overview to the 'Six Areas to Develop for Well-Being in Children to Flourish'. Reflecting on these six areas with your family will, I hope, prove helpful.

- Talking to your child

This is a very difficult time. It can be very hard for children to comprehend what is happening and how to relate to events in the world. It may be helpful to provide some reassurance around these areas:

- (i) It's okay to not feel okay; others feel this way too; they are not alone in coping.
- (ii) It's okay, and normal, to be missing friends, school, teachers, relatives: we will all be back together sometime soon.
- (iii) It's okay to find Home Learning and in-school learning hard and challenging. As long as the children are trying their best and it is okay not to complete all the work set.

- Informal work/study groups

I know that some families have formed informal study groups for their children to work alongside their friends. This is a great idea. They are down to parents to organise, but please do ensure they are as inclusive as possible. If you are struggling to connect your child then let us know. We may be able to help.



Afternoon Zooms

Although not compulsory we do encourage children to attend. The focus is on the subjects for that afternoon, but there is also the opportunity to meet their friends, teacher, and ask other work-related questions if they so wish. We also understand that the logistics of juggling so many Zooms a day may not be tenable for some families.

Photography Challenge

Are there any budding photographers out there? Has your child noticed anything interesting on your daily exercise walks? Do you have a family pet who has been loving spending time with you at home? Or a craft project perhaps that your child has been working on whilst at home? If the answer to any of these questions is 'YES' then we would like to hear from you. We are going to create a 'photo wall' on the railings outside school which captures all that our BJS family have been up to during the last few weeks. We are hoping that we can laminate the pictures to weatherproof them and then create a display for members of our school and wider community to enjoy as they are out on their daily exercise. Whenever your child captures the right moment in a photograph, please send an email of the image to Mrs Barker (rbarker@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk) and then watch and wait for your image to appear on the railings outside of school.

VLE Science Project Page

Grace Kimber, a student from Godalming College is volunteering in school as part of her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Grace has compiled a VLE science project to engage the children in scientific thinking and related activities. There are experiments to carry out at home and scientific theory to enjoy. Please do encourage your child to take a look. The page can be found by accessing the projects pages.

To do this, your child must log into the VLE (please note that this page is not visible on parent logins) and then click on 'my class' at the top of the page. Projects will then be displayed, including the Science page.

If your child has any questions about the page, Grace can be messaged via the VLE. They can do this in the messaging section, by searching for Grace by her full name: Grace Kimber.

February Half-Term: In-School Critical Worker Provision

Please note that in line with DfE guidance there will not be Critical Worker provision in our school or any school in Godalming over the February half-term break.

Inset Day – Friday 26th February 2021: In-School/Home Learning Provision will NOT be taking place

Please note that there will be no in-school Critical Worker or Home Learning provision on this day.

Year 4 Sayers Croft residential trip

The Year 4 residential trip will of course not go ahead as planned in March 2021. We are unsure at this time whether any further residential dates can be offered by Sayers Croft, but we will look to make it happen if at all possible.

Safeguarding

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.

Take care & kind regards



Richard Catchpole - Headteacher

