



Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School
Brighton Road
Busbridge
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1XA

Telephone: 01483 417302

Headteacher

Mr Richard Catchpole BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Email: admin@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk
Website: www.busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update #8

Welcome back after the half term break. Hopefully you managed to have a change of pace last week, and hopefully you have been able to lift the pace again this week.



Year 6 returning to school

Tuesday of this week saw the full-time return of our year 6 children to school. We have more than 50 year 6 children in school which is fantastic. The school experience is very different though for many reasons. Firstly they are divided into 4 bubbles of a maximum of 15 children, and secondly they are only allowed to play, learn and 'do school' with the children and adults in their bubble. Despite the restrictions, which are obviously in place for important reasons, they are relishing being back at school. We have dispensed with the names 6E and 6M. The year 6 classes/bubbles are now called the 'Covid Kiwis', 'Chilli Pandas', 'Post-it Notes' and 'Raven Cheeses'. Children's imaginations never fail to amaze me!

Year 3, 4, 5 children - Key Workers

Our Key Worker bubble (now known as the 'Fantastic Foxes') has also expanded this term. If you are a Key Worker and have a need for your child to return to school, please e-mail Mrs Barker.

Year 3, 4, 5 Home Learning

Year 3, 4 and 5 continue to be provided with home learning via the VLE. We are continuing with the class Zooms each week, as well as the teacher introduction videos and e-mails, daily English and Maths tasks, and activities in other areas of the curriculum.

Transition

We are also looking into how we can manage transition during these very challenging times. Together with other schools in the Godalming Learning Partnership, we are thinking about how we can support and prepare our children across the local area and in our school to move to new classes with new teachers, and move on to new schools, whilst minimising further anxieties. More information will be shared in due course but rest assured that across all our Godalming schools transition from school to school, and from year to year (Bump-Up Days), will take place in one form or another.

New Class Teacher Appointed

As I have mentioned previously, Mr Pearne is leaving us at the end of this school year to take up a senior teaching post elsewhere in Surrey. However we are very pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Chloe Warner to our teaching team from September. We had an extremely strong selection of candidates to choose from, and we are very pleased with the appointment of Miss Warner (yes, it could get confusing ...!).

Reading Books

We have been asked to make school reading books available for use at home. We will start with year 3 and see how it goes. From next Tuesday 9th June we will place reading books for year 3 out by the front gate - books will be put out



on a Tuesday from 9am until 3.30pm. Our new library will run for class 3B in the morning from 9am - midday, and for class 3W from 12.30pm - 3.30pm in the afternoon. Feel free to pop along and take a couple home and bring them back the following week leaving them by the front gate. Please respect safe distancing when selecting books, and ensure books are returned having been wiped down with anti-bac. We do need the books to be returned as a lot of money has been spent by the school and fundraised by the Friends PTA to provide these books.

ELSA Resources

As the amount of time away from school increases, we are aware that some children have been struggling with their feelings around the virus and its impact on their lives. The Surrey Educational Psychology Service have recommended a book, Coronavirus by Axel Scheffler, which can be accessed by the following web link: <https://axelscheffler.com/books-for-older-children/coronavirus>. This might be a helpful way for you as parents to talk to children and allow them to ask questions. Mrs Brockman, our school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), has also prepared a document which is attached to this e-mail with some links which you may find useful.

New exercise books needed?

Please remember that if you need one, we have a plastic box left by the school gates daily for you to collect a new exercise book within school hours. There are a selection of lined, squared and plain books available.

Head / Deputy VLE Challenge Page

Another challenge video has been posted for you to have a go at. Let us know how you get on with it.



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 receiving some extra support. If you are experiencing hardship but didn't previously qualify for 'free school meals' do get in touch as we may be able to arrange some support for you, or you may now qualify for entitlement to 'free school meals' support.

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.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Catchpole".

Richard Catchpole (Headteacher)

