



Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School  
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## Headteacher

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Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Weekly Update from Headteacher #6

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Zoom VE Day assembly last Thursday. It was such a joy to see the faces of children and staff mingling on Zoom. The excitement that children showed when seeing the face of a friend was truly touching. We will be looking to repeat the whole school Zoom assemblies across the summer term.

### Returning To School

You may have heard the Prime Minister talk on Sunday evening about the Government's possible next steps to move the country forward from 'Lockdown'. He shared a thought that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 may be the first to return to school in some way from early June. As yet we have no more information than you do about this plan. We expect to receive some guidance from the Department for Education at some point in the next day or so, and at that point we can begin to make plans in accordance with that guidance.

### Monitoring Your Child's Learning

As you are aware, we already ask your child to upload a piece of written work a week. This enables the teachers to provide feedback and gauge how the children's learning in English is progressing.

Answers for maths activities are posted on the VLE for children and/or parents to use to mark the maths work completed. We will now be posting maths answers with the work. This enables instant feedback to be given to the child which, from a learning point of view, is preferential to waiting a day or two for marking feedback. The teachers are going to set a maths assessment task for the children to complete at the end of each maths unit. The activity will compose of between 10 to 15 questions of varying difficult. We are asking for this task to be uploaded so that the teachers can mark it and review your child's progress in maths in readiness for returning to school. We ask that no parental help is given to the child when completing the end of unit assessment so that an accurate picture of understanding can be gathered.

### New exercise books needed?

From tomorrow (Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May) we will have a plastic box left by the school gates for you to collect a new exercise book should you need one. There will be a selection of lined, squared and plain books available.

### Weekly introductory video from the class teacher

As I mentioned in last week's Update, we are aware that the learning activities set do not contain an important ingredient : the voice and face of your child's teacher. From this week, the teachers will be posting on their class VLE page a very short video clip of themselves giving the children an introduction to the learning for the week. The clip will not contain any teaching, but it will hopefully make a connection between the class teacher and the set learning tasks.



The clips are being recorded on teacher's own phones without any editing, so please take them for what they are. I have heard that some clips from teachers in other schools appear on social media. Please do leave ours on the VLE. There will no doubt be technical glitches, so do bear with us. The VLE already struggles on a Monday morning, so maybe ask your child to access the video later in the day.

### **WALT : We Are Learning To ...**

To provide further guidance as to what the learning focus is for a given activity set by the class teacher, we will be including a WALT at the top of each piece of work. The children use WALTs in their class work and understand that they point to the learning focus of the given task.

### **Home-School Communication via email**

As expected, the teachers are fielding a much higher number of emails from parents just now. Teachers do not have instant access to their email accounts for a number of reasons. Teachers have been asked to respond to an email from parents within 24 hours (not including weekends). Depending on the response needed and the work load of the teacher at that point in time the reply may simply be an acknowledgement of the email, with a full answer to follow. Please also bear in mind that a number of our teachers work part-time, and I have asked them to still work within the time scope of their role. Thank you for your understanding with this.

### **Head / Deputy VLE Challenge Page**

Well done to everyone who had a go at the 'Hall Challenge' that featured on the new VLE page which Mrs Barker and I are hosting. The page will feature optional 'Have a Think' discussion pieces, 'Have a Go' activities, as well as links to things like assemblies.

If your child wishes to respond to a challenge than they can do so by messaging Mrs Barker and/or I via the VLE.

### **Provision for Key Worker children and other specific pupil groups during May Half Term Break**

If you / your child meet the criteria and you wish to take up a place at school-led provision during the May Half Term Break please let the school know. We can be very flexible over days and times.

### **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 don't previously qualify as '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 see the attached form to complete and send into school if you think you may qualify. If you have any queries or need any clarification around Free School Meal eligibility, please email our school Bursar Mrs Kirsty Morris on [finance@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk).

### **Well-Being and Health**

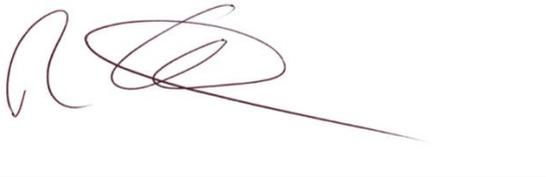
If your child is struggling in any way we are still around. Send us an email and we can get back to you. You and your children are still part of our BJS family.

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.



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,



Richard Catchpole (Head teacher)

