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Monday 27th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update from Headteacher #4 – containing important information re changes to work we are setting

Welcome to another week! From the class teacher emails today, you will have noticed that we have made some changes to the work that we are setting your children. More info in this letter. Huge thanks to Mr Allpress (Emily 6E, Gemma 3B) for carrying out some remedial work on our school field last week. I hope that we will be back in school for our Friends BBQ in July to appreciate his hard work.

As we continue to navigate through these times there are ongoing thanks that need to be made daily to:

- Parents who are being asked to multi task juggling work, home and all manner of anxieties
- Children who are adapting as they go, producing some excellent work but also missing their friends
- Teachers and all staff for their dedication, efforts and flexibility. They too have home situations to juggle along with a new way of working to adapt to.

There is a real sense of team spirit with home and school pulling together to make the very best of a situation that none of us deem to be ideal. So a huge thank you from myself and Mrs Barker to one and all.

Changes to the work and learning that we are setting:

This week sees some changes to the work we are setting. We will now focus on new learning based on the planned work for the Summer Term and we will be increasing the amount being provided.

- The class work overview and tasks for the week are now posted on the class pages by Saturday lunchtime. This is to try and avoid VLE access issues on Monday morning, and to help you plan the week ahead. Some content will still appear over the course of the week (e.g. maths answers and set work for Wednesday and Friday).
- The year group Summer Term topics and Learning Objectives for Foundation Subjects (subjects other than English and maths) will be posted on the VLE on Monday 27th April.
- VLE Class pages and content will be 'live' on a 2 week rolling basis to ensure the VLE does not become cluttered.

Weekly set work:

Maths –(i) White Rose lesson videos with follow-up activities will be set for most days. These are professionally produced lesson videos that follow our planning. (ii) 'Keeping Skills Sharp' differentiated 5-a-day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday will focus on TTRockstars.

English – We are now using English units of work that are 3 weeks long. There will be a writing activity for children to upload every week (Friday). The deadline for teachers to receive written work to mark is 'end of school on the following Monday'

Other subjects – we will set weekly work in the following subjects: RE, Science, History or Geography, something 'creative'. Some of the work set for these subjects will be ongoing (e.g. music and PE) so there won't be a new activity stipulated each week.



Learning Log – the areas on the initial Learning Log should still be covered, e.g. PE, ‘being helpful’.

‘optional extras’ – the teachers may well set some optional extras for your child to do. These are not necessarily linked to a set topic.

- **Home initiated learning:**

VLE Home Learning page – this continues to feature a wide range of web links to learning resources. Dip in and out as you wish.

Year group planning over view to aid home learning – These overview plans show details of what we are covering this term. They are provided so that you can select home-initiated learning that complements the work to be set by the school.

We fully appreciate that different home situations dictate that different amounts of the school-set learning and home-initiated learning work will be covered. Please just do your best with the learning. It is about quality not quantity.

Teacher-child Zoom meetings.

Feedback from parents, children and teachers has been very positive. Thank you for helping to make these happen. Some quick points to consider:

- We want your child’s Zoom meeting to be as professional as any work virtual meeting.
- Please keep background noise down to a minimum.
- Laptop/tablet cameras use a wide angle. You will be surprised what teachers (and other children) have seen in the background.
- Recording / screenshots / photos : for safeguarding reasons please do not in any way record the Zoom meeting.
- Zoom Policy : this single page A4 doc is attached again with this letter. Please do read it.
- Security : we take this very seriously. We are confident that our Zoom meetings are secure as (i) we are using passwords and invitations, (ii) the meetings are not open as teachers control who can enter.

Using the VLE

Year Group Project Page: Each child now has access to the 'projects' tab on the VLE. This can be found by logging in with your child's log in, clicking on 'my class' and then 'projects'. It is wonderful to see the activities that your children have been up to. Please continue to upload to the VLE photographs of activities that they have been doing, or art work perhaps that they want to share. For safeguarding reasons, please help your child select appropriate images. These will be reviewed by a member of staff before posting to the projects page.

If you have any difficulty uploading photos, please email Mrs Barker (rbarker@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk) and she will be able to help.

The VLE messaging function has now been activated. Your child may have already started to use it to chat with their classmates. This is a great way of staying in touch, telling jokes and being together.

Please remind your child: no rude words, be kind in what you say. Your help in monitoring this is appreciated.

Provision for Key Worker children and other specific pupil groups

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



Hardship

We are very aware of the negative impact that the shutdown is 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.

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.

Attached are two short easy-reads which you may find useful:

- Details on a Bereavement helpline from the charity Jigsaw.
- 'Advice for parents during coronavirus from RCPCH' – what to do if your child is generally unwell or injured, not C19 linked

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.

Thank you for all you are doing at home. School just is not the same without the sights, sounds and smells of your wonderful children!

Take care,



Richard Catchpole (Head teacher)

