



Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School  
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## Headteacher

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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Weekly Update from Headteacher #5

It is Star Wars Day! If we were at school today we would be admiring each other's Star Wars mufti and having light sabre fights on the school field. Happy days! If we come back before the Summer holidays we will need to have our own Star Wars Day, so don't despair – it can still happen. In the meantime, your children are more than welcome to send in pictures of themselves decked out in the Star Wars mufti for their year group project page. They might also want to wear their Star Wars costumes to their Zoom meetings.

### VE Day Commemorations

This week also sees the VE Day commemorations taking place nationally on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The teachers have set some work to mark this event in the life of our nation. We are also holding a whole school VE Day Assembly via Zoom on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. It will start at 12 noon, and a Zoom invite will be sent out in due course. The assembly will not be interactive (so please mute your device), but at key points will unmute to sing the National Anthem and say the Lord's Prayer together. A reminder that as Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday we are not setting any work for that day.

### Congratulations to Mr Pearne on his new teaching appointment

School life continues despite our partial closure. One aspect of school life which is always hard is saying 'goodbye and good luck' to members of staff who move on. However, we need to say this to Mr Pearne as he has been offered a teaching promotion at Downsend School, Leatherhead. We are both sad for ourselves but very excited for Mr Pearne. His new post starts in September 2020, so 4P will still see him if we return before term ends.

### Returning To School

Although there is a growing amount of discussion in the press regarding a return to school it is all speculation at this moment. Headteachers and Governors have not been given any official indication of when a return will be.

### Teacher – Small Group Zooms

Thank you for facilitating your child's attendance at their weekly teacher-led Zoom. We appreciate that timetabling use of devices at home can be a struggle, however to aid this we are keeping each child's Zoom time the same from week to week. From this week the Zoom sessions will start to also have a learning focus through a discussion of the English task for the week.

### Head / Deputy VLE Page

Mrs Barker and I are looking into setting up another VLE page which will enable us to share work and activities with the children. This will include things like assemblies, 'Have a Think' discussion pieces, 'Have a Go' activities. These will be optional but will add to the repertoire of tasks on offer to your child.



### **Online Learning – live and recorded teacher-led learning**

One of the beauties of our education system is that each school is able to act independently (to a certain extent!) planning and delivering their curriculum in a way that best suits their situation. This is also true in how schools are responding to the challenges of aiding learning at this time of partial school closure.

Having compared our provision to that offered by other schools I am extremely happy with what we are providing. Having said this, we are always looking for ways to develop and improve what we offer. The feedback that we have received from parents, children and staff is clearly important, so thank you to those who have made contact.

We are very aware that the novelty of home learning has (or will soon!) start to wear thin, and as the weeks grind on we are continually reviewing how we share, lead and monitor the learning at home. We are aware that face-to-face interaction between the child and their teacher may be needed in greater measure if the learning impetus is to be maintained. This is not easy to establish and maintain, but we are looking at possibilities.

We do not have any immediate plans to introduce in-house recorded or live lessons. We are signposting to the White Rose learning videos for maths as they exceed the quality that we can produce. However, we are aware that they do not contain an important ingredient : the voice and face of your child's teacher. As mentioned above, from this week the Zoom meetings will start to also have a learning focus through a discussion of the set English task.

### **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 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.

Attached are two short easy-reads which you may find useful. The one from O2/NSPCC talks about Online safety and the other from Surrey CC is entitled 'Stay Safe at Home'.

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.



Another source of support at this – and any – time is our church here in Busbridge. The following is a message from Judith, their Children and Families Worker:

*Dear Parents and Carers*

*Just a note in these challenging times to remind you that if any of you are in need of support, the Children and Families team at Busbridge and Hambledon are here to help you in any way we can. Please do feel free to email me at [Judith.hawkey@bhcgodalming.org](mailto:Judith.hawkey@bhcgodalming.org) and I will ring or email you back. Please remember we are here and we are praying for you and your families.*

*Warmest wishes and blessings*

*Judith Hawkey*

*4-11 Children and Families worker  
Busbridge and Hambledon church*

Looking forward to seeing and hearing the children during our VE Day assembly on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon.

Take care,



Richard Catchpole (Head teacher)

