



THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL



THE BATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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No. 01

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome back to you all, and a particularly warm welcome to all our new friends. I look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks. Although it might be difficult in the current circumstances, please re-introduce yourselves to me on the playground when you can.

This is the first of the weekly newsletters intended to keep everyone up to date with what is happening at school. Next week's newsletter will be written by the different departments and will include information about the curriculum, routines etc.

Arrangements for Full Re-Opening

I hope you found the Q&A document about arrangements for the full re-opening of our school useful and informative. Clearly there will be some things that will need to be adapted as we move through the next few days and weeks and I appreciate your support and understanding during these unusual times.

In terms of the staggered arrival times, as I said in the ParentMail message yesterday morning, it is really important that parents and carers arrive at their allotted time and not before. This will reduce the number of people queuing along Marlborough Lane. It is better to be a few minutes late than a few minutes early.

When dropping children off in the mornings, please ensure only one parent accompanies them. We have removed one of the metal barriers near the gate for a quicker exit which means parents of older children will not need to go all the way across the playground and around the tree in the middle.

The end of the day yesterday worked reasonably well, and is again reliant on everyone arriving at the correct time. Please can you ensure that you wait and collect your children in the areas suggested in the Q&A document please. Infant parents should meet their children outside their classrooms, Lower Junior parents should meet the children between the tree in the middle of the playground and the Oak trees next to the Astro turf, and the Upper Juniors should be collected from the Netball court outside the main entrance. I would be grateful if you could leave the school grounds as soon as you have collected your child to allow space for other parents and carers as they arrive a little later.

I am sure we will all get used to this new way of dropping off and collecting the children and I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding with this in particular.



Scooters and Bikes

To simplify arrival and departure times, and to reduce the number of items coming to and from home, I would request that unless it is necessary for their journey, ie you are travelling a significant distance, children refrain from bringing scooters or bicycles to school at present. Thank you.

Who's Who at The Batt

Alongside this newsletter, I have produced an information sheet with photographs of the staff your children are most likely to have contact with in their year group or department, including teachers, Teaching Assistants and office staff. I hope you find this helpful in putting a name to a face.

Staffing News

We have welcomed five new members of staff this term. Miss Zoe Mills has joined us as a teacher in Year One and she will be supported by two new Teaching Assistants, Mrs Sarah Jones and Miss Holly Dunstan. Two new Teaching Assistants have joined the team in Reception class – Mrs Amanda Foster and Miss Ellen Leafe. Mrs Kathryn Wilson will be sharing the teaching of Class 4EW with Miss Elam. I would like to wish them all the very best as they join our team.

Premises Improvements

During the summer holiday we had some significant drainage work carried out which will make a big difference to our playground and other areas when it rains. Unfortunately, they have not been able to re-lay the artificial turf adjacent to the traversing wall. New replacement turf will be laid in a couple of weeks' time. We also had two large Beech trees felled in the Infant garden. Both trees were coming to the end of their lives and it was deemed wise to remove them for health and safety reasons. Their removal has resulted in a much lighter garden for the infants.

Children with Allergies

We have children in school with severe allergies to both peanuts and sesame seeds. I would appreciate it if you could avoid sending your child to school with either of these food items, for example peanut butter sandwiches, sesame seed rolls etc. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

This term's Parents' Evenings have been scheduled for Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th October. It is likely that these meetings will take place over 'Zoom' but I will be able to confirm this shortly. We would normally have held 'Meet the Teacher' evenings towards the end of September, but unfortunately these cannot take place because of the restrictions on large gatherings. We will try to organise something different instead.

School Packed Lunches

Although we are currently not able to offer hot school lunches, because of the restrictions of large gatherings in the hall, we are still offering school packed lunches. All children in the Reception, Year One and Year Two classes are entitled to free school lunches. For children in the Junior classes, the cost remains at £2.20. The school packed lunches will include a roll (Ham, Cheese or Tuna), a homemade cookie, cake or shortbread on Mondays to Thursdays, a smoothie on Fridays, a bag of crudities every day and a box of raisins. Yoghurts and cheese and biscuits will be available instead of the biscuit option.



Teachers' Planning, Preparation and Assessment Time (PPA)

As you may already be aware, since September 2005, schools have a statutory requirement to ensure that all teachers are given a specified amount of time (10% of their teaching time) out of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA or "non-contact" time). This usually equates to approximately half a day per week for full-time teachers. Some teachers may be entitled to more than this for extra responsibilities or training. PPA will be covered by teachers and Teaching Assistants who already work in each class. If you have any questions about PPA cover, please do not hesitate to contact me or the teachers.

Collective Worship/Values

Unfortunately, we are unable to have our usual Collective Worship in the hall at present. The clergy team at St. Mary's Church will be recording a weekly Collective Worship on Zoom which the classes will be able to experience on Mondays. I will continue to do my Friday Collective Worship live on Zoom every week and this will be watched by each class. Other Collective Worship sessions will be recorded and will be available to classes at other times in the week.

As most of you will know, our school's core Christian values are Friendship, Respect and Perseverance, with an overarching value of Love. The children learn about the values both in Collective Worship (Assembly) and during lessons. The Value is usually changed monthly. This month's value is Friendship and you may want to talk to your child about what has been discussed in Collective Worship and in class.

Swimming

Because of the coronavirus, we are unable to take the children swimming at present. I will keep you updated as to when this will be restarting.

Post Box

We will have a temporary post box on the playground if you would rather use this instead of the one on the wall by the front door. This can be used for letters, permission slips etc.

PE Kits

Children should wear their sports kits to school on the day they have PE. This will again reduce the number of items coming to and from school. The classes have PE on the following days:

Monday	–	RAW, 3CW, 3M, 5C/H, 6PH, 6PJ
Tuesday	–	1M, 4D, 4EW, 5W
Wednesday	–	RAW, 2D, 3CW, 4D, 5C/H, 5W, 6PH
Thursday	–	2D, 4EW
Friday	–	1M, 3M, 6PJ

Mobile Phones

Please be reminded that the use of mobile phones on the school property is strictly prohibited for safeguarding reasons. This includes on the playground before and after school. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Parents in the Armed Forces

The government provides a little extra funding to schools that have children with parents in the armed forces. Please let the office know if you or your partner is in this position.



First Aid Information

If your child has a medical issue, including Asthma, you may well have been asked to complete a Health-care Plan or other paperwork that helps us to ensure we have all the necessary information. Please return these forms to the office as soon as possible. If your child has a medical issue and you think you should have completed some paperwork, please email the office.

Dates for the Term

I have included a list of dates over the page for your information. Letters about specific events, including trips, will be distributed nearer the time. Clearly there are less events in the diary than there would be normally because of the current restrictions.

We are looking forward to another good year despite the issues and restrictions around coronavirus. We are still very committed to developing the relationship and partnership between home and school, and communication between parents and teachers is central to this. Although it is more difficult to meet with parents and carers, we will find a way of communicating effectively, particularly about your child's progress and welfare, either via email, telephone or Zoom.

I look forward to being able to talk to you properly over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Chris Payne
Headteacher



Dates for the Term

Monday 28 th September	- European Day of Languages
Thursday 1 st October	- Harvest Festival (Virtual)
Friday 2 nd October	- INSET Day – School Closed
Tuesday 13 th October	- Parents' Evening (via Zoom, or similar)
Thursday 15 th October	- Parents' Evening (via Zoom, or similar)
Wednesday 4 th November	- School Photographer (individual and family portraits)
Thursday 5 th November	- Flu Vaccinations for all children
Wednesday 25 th November	- Young Shakespeare Company with Year 6
Thursday 26 th November	- Young Shakespeare Company with Year 5
Tuesday 15 th December	- Carols by Candlelight (tbc)
Friday 18 th December	- Christmas Service (probably virtual)
	- 1.45. End of Term

Later in the Year

Monday 4 th January	- INSET Day – School Closed
Monday 10 th May	- Year Six SATs week

