



PRIDE IN ALL WE DO

<http://www.primaryschoolsnorthdevon.co.uk/website>

email: brattonfleming@ventrus.org.uk

Telephone: 01598 710337

8th January 2021

School News

A message from Mrs. Denham

Dear families

We survived the first week! Well done to all staff and pupils in school and well done to all the families getting to grips with home learning once again. We are so proud of you all and all the hard work EVERYONE has had to put into this. We now have about 95% of children logged into Teams and able to access the work being set. What a fantastic achievement. WELL DONE.

The Government have been very direct asking schools to work through either Teams or Google classrooms this lockdown whereas in the first lockdown it was a case of just getting on a platform to be able to send work home! Seesaw did the job and was simpler but we were unable to deliver any "live" streams though or have easy contact with families. Thank you for bearing with us and supporting us with Teams. Whilst we appreciate how frustrating it's been getting onto Teams, we will all master it and then wonder how we managed without it.

I can't thank the staff enough. All staff (except for anyone isolating) are in school **all day every day**. We most definitely are not closed! We have had a much higher uptake of places for critical workers and vulnerable pupils as more people are working this lockdown. Staff are having to teach in school and plan, deliver and assess lessons for those pupils at home.

The government's expectations for home learning have really increased this lockdown and so we have had to respond in a different way to how we sent work home and the quantity and type of work compared to lockdown 1.0. We really do appreciate how very difficult it can be for you at home – we already have had messages asking for more work and messages saying it's all too much! We just have to provide work that we feel is suitable and of the right amount for as many of our children as possible.

As you may be aware on 7th January 2021, the government published revised guidance called "Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools". Below are the key points:

Children of critical workers

- The school will remain open to the children of critical workers – however the guidance states that "parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can". We will send out a Microsoft Form for critical workers to complete each Friday for the following week, stating the days they would like their children in school
- With this in mind, we encourage critical workers to only send their children to school on days they are working.

Vulnerable children

- Vulnerable children are expected to be in school full time and we will be working closely with parents to meet this expectation.

Remote learning offer

- We are encouraging all families when working from home to see it as a normal school day. Your child's teacher will be sending home more information about this next week. We are seeing if a different approach using "assignments" works better for those working at home.
- We hope to be doing more "live" sessions so children both at home and at school are receiving the same information where possible. However, our school broadband can cause us issues. We will try our very best.
- Please be kind and understanding to staff working on Teams – they may make the odd spelling mistake or write something down incorrect. We are all only human and we all are trying our very best – within a very different world and at a very fast pace.
- As stated in this new government guidance, we aim to provide 3 hours' worth of work per day for KS1 and 4 hours per day for KS2.
- We ask that if you are supporting and helping your child at home, please DO NOT do the work for them. Teachers would much prefer to see a child's own attempt with mistakes on it, rather than a perfect adult completed piece of work ☺
- Please encourage your child to join up at all times if possible in KS2 and to use correct letter and number formations in KS1.
- We will be publishing our remote learning offer on our website, by 25th January 2021. Our remote learning offer will be in line with these new expectations.

Microsoft Advocates

As written in an email yesterday, I have seen that another school has a group of parents that have offered their support (email, phone call or via Teams) to parents who are struggling around Teams. I thought this was an excellent idea.

Therefore, are there a group of parents out there who would be willing to become Microsoft Advocates and support other families through these rather strange and difficult times? We would all be so VERY grateful. Contact could be restricted to evenings only if that suited working parents better.

Amazingly, I have had a couple of parents already volunteer their time which is just fantastic. If anyone else is interested, please let me know and then we can set this up for next week. I am so grateful to our willing volunteers. You are stars.***

Please can children come to school in their PE kits on Monday and Tuesday next week. We will let you know about the following weeks.

Some parents may find this link helpful regarding a Laptop Appeal that has been launched to help North Devon families.

<https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/north-devon-lockdown-laptop-appeal-6891920>

Parents who need support please call the numbers provided.

With very best wishes

Take care, stay kind and keep safe

Sue Denham

School News

Admission to primary school 2021 (for children born between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017)

The application facility opened on 15th November 2020 and closes at midnight on 15th January 2021. It is important that parents apply before the closing date, even if they are intending to defer their child's admission until later in the academic year, they must secure a place before that decision need be made.

Severe weather conditions and the closure of School

I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on the procedures for the closure of the school in bad weather.

1. We will send out a message on the Bratton Fleming Primary School Facebook page as soon as we know the weather conditions, we will also put a message on the Bratton Fleming Facebook page, Bratton Fleming website page and we will also email you.
2. You can register with Devon County Council school closures, alert me -stay up to date. The email link is: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/closure/> They will then alert you if the school is closed.
3. Listen to Radio Devon.

4. If you are unsure, as a last resort please telephone either Bratton Fleming Primary school on (01598 710337). However, if we cannot get into school to man the phone please try Holywell C of E School on 01271 345908 they may be open to assist you. We will always have staff, if possible, to answer the telephone.

We will always try, wherever possible, to remain open. Alternatively, it may be safer to open school later than normal.

Individual families should assess the risk posed by their journey to school and make their own decision. Many families who live close to the school will have a different level of risk to those who have much more complex travel arrangements. Let's hope that we have a trouble-free winter!

Bratton Fleming School is a NO NUT Zone

Dates for your diary

15 th February to 19 th February 2021	Half Term
03 rd March 2021	Rescheduled date for Bags2School
1 st April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 th April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 rd May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday
28 th May 2021	Non Pupil Day
31 st May to 4 th June 2021	Half Term
23 rd July 2021	Last Day of Term

Community News

Bratton Fleming Pre-School

This week we have welcomed our families back to Pre-School and enjoyed meeting some of our new friends! What a great start to 2021 with lots of Wintery activities to take part in. We have been exploring ice, painting our own wintery pictures and seeing if we can use our pencil control to trace the lines to find some snowflakes, hats, gloves and scarves! We love being in the woodlands so we have been out exploring, using our maths skills to count the rocks and working as a team to fill pots and saucepans with water from our water butt.