



Upper Beeding Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs R Linford

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure that many of you will have been following the news this week and will agree it is good for us all to have some advance notice and clarity about what will be happening in the coming weeks (although we are, of course, disappointed that we won't have everyone back in school for a little while yet). The key announcements this week in parliament are as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8th March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22nd February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of remote learning under the current arrangements, which I know will be bitterly disappointing for many families and children, as it is for us as a school. However, I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.



We also received confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) that schools would not be asked to open over half-term for children of critical workers, as was the case in the first lockdown.

Moving forwards, we will continue with everything that we currently have in place as well as seeking ways to keep everyone supported and motivated.

Critical Worker Children School Provision Request

On Monday, we will be sending out Critical Worker Children School Provision Request forms for completion. These are for parents who are critical workers to cover the period from **22nd February until 5th March**. We are currently extremely full with children in school and would kindly ask if you could think really carefully about the need for a place, especially if you do have provision for children to work at home, as per current government guidelines. We appreciate that this may change for some of you as work patterns alter, but would ask you to let us know as soon as possible if you need to amend the dates requested.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (1st - 7th February)

Next week is 'Place2Be's Annual Children's Mental Health Week'. The aim of this event is to promote wellbeing and raise awareness of mental health issues that exist in young people. Now, more than ever, we feel this is something that should be recognised in school. All next week, children will be engaging in different tasks around this year's theme - 'Express Yourself'. At the end of the week, on **Friday 5th February**, we are encouraging all children, both at home and at school, to '**Dress to Express**' and wear clothes that they feel express who they are. This could be bright/colourful clothing, a favourite onesie, dressing-up costume or something completely different - just as long as they feel that it shows who they are!



'Do Something Different Day' Wednesday 10th February

We would like all children at home (and at school) to have a school day with no technology! So, on Wednesday 10th February, there will be no online learning or Google meets. Instead, children can hopefully have a day doing something different. This could be going for a hike, long bike ride, baking something you have never baked before, junk modelling, making up a dance routine, writing a song, treasure hunt etc. Your class teachers will also have other suggestions for you.



Learning and IT Support

If you have any questions or concerns about Google classroom, the activities your child is trying to do, or you need any other support from the school, please let us know, either by emailing the School Office or contacting your class teacher directly. We will get back to you as soon as we can.



We have loaned a number of Chromebooks to different families and are hoping to be able to source some more, therefore enabling us to help additional families. Please let us know if an additional device would help you and your children and we hopefully will be able to help.

The children continue to impress us with their resilience and how quickly they have adapted to the new ways of learning and I hope that many of you have found a routine and structure that works for you as a family. We understand that everyone's circumstances are different and would ask that if there are changes that are impacting on learning at home, you could let us know. We will do all we can to help or provide useful links to other providers who may also be able to help.

We continue to be incredibly appreciative of the many messages of support and thanks for all that staff are doing to support remote learning and with the children in school.

Please stay safe and keep well.

Best wishes

Becky Linford
Headteacher



Message to parents from Tony Hill, Interim Director of Public Health, West Sussex County Council:

"We are aware of the difficulty the current restrictions are causing families. [Financial advice and practical support](#) is available to help those who have to self-isolate and cannot work. Families who need additional support can contact the West Sussex Community Hub seven days a week on 033 022 27980.

Thank you for following the national guidance on **Hands Face Space** and for continuing to do everything you can to help keep West Sussex safe.

You can get the latest information in West Sussex on the [COVID-19 section on our website](#); follow the council's Facebook and Twitter pages where daily rates are shared; and [sign up to the council's weekly resident's e-newsletter](#)"

