

3.7.20

Dear Parent and Carers,

Learning during Lockdown Photos

We have seen many lovely photos of learning during lockdown put on Class Dojo portfolios. I would like to put some on display in school and on our school website. Unfortunately, we are not able to download them off Class Dojo as they are kept secure on there. If you have a lovely photo of your child learning during lockdown, please email it to admin@buckfastleigh.devon.sch.uk

Classes for September and Transition

Last Wednesday, you will have received a letter from me detailing our new staff in September. It has been great to hear from many of you to say that your children are excited about meeting their new teachers. I can say that this is reciprocated and our new staff are equally excited about starting at Buckfastleigh in September.

Transition is a tricky time of year and we have thought carefully about how children can meet their new teachers when it is not possible for them to come into school to teach them. Next week, I will be sending out some video messages from our new teachers to the children. Please keep a look out for these on Class Dojo. Following this, we will be arranging some Zoom meetings with Years 1 to 5 with their new teacher. When the dates and times have been organised for this, I will send them out on Class Dojo and on Parent Pay.

Extension of our partial opening

Last week, we welcomed our Reception children back into school. It was wonderful to see how quickly the children settled into the school routines and how confident the children were when learning and playing. This week has seen the return of Year 5 for three days and Years 1 and Reception are now in for 5 days. Everything has gone smoothly and we are enjoying seeing so many more cheerful faces around school. This will continue for the rest of this term.

While it is frustrating for us not to be able to accommodate any more year groups, we have started some Zoom meetings with class teachers. This week Year 2 and Year 4 had a meeting and we will be arranging one near the start of next week for Year 3. Again, please keep an eye on Class Dojo if your children are in those classes.

Planning for September

Yesterday, the government published guidance for September to allow schools to fully reopen. I will be working closely with the Trust over the next few days to develop a toolkit and risk assessment template that can then be adapted and implemented at Buckfastleigh. I will also be working with our staff and the other schools to put appropriate plans in place for September. I will communicate with you at the earliest opportunity to enable you to plan for September. Here are some of the 'knowns' at this stage:

· Education is statutory again (with some medical exemptions)

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

Belong

Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered

- Children in class pods – children learn, play and eat in their class pod
- Children back in school uniform
- Regular hand washing during the school day
- No whole school events (e.g. assemblies)

How will your child catch up the learning that they have missed?

During lockdown, we have developed the following plan to support your children over the next 12 months:

- Provide effective home learning and connect to the children through our Class Dojo Stories and Portfolios. In addition, regular messages, email and phone calls (Summer term 2020)
- Supplement home learning with face to face days in school for Reception, 1, 2, 5 and 6 (June and July 2020)
- Zoom catch ups with classes who have not come back into school – Years 2, 3, and 4 (July 2020)
- Teachers provide effective transition information to next year's class teacher - the key objectives that we haven't been able to teach and key information about individuals (July 2020)
- Videos and Zoom meetings to support children's transitions to their new teachers (July 2020)
- Provide an environment and curriculum in September to reinstall our school values, learning behaviours and support the children's well-being as they reintegrate back into school (September 2020)
- In September, teach the knowledge and skills that we weren't able to teach in the summer term. Assess the children and identify gaps for individuals, groups and classes (September 2020)
- Parents' Evening – to discuss how you child has settled and share assessment information – hopefully face to face (October 2020)
- Start teaching the 'normal curriculum' making appropriate adaptations based on assessment information. Use the government's catch up funding to support pupil progress. (October 2020 – July 2021)

Home Learning

Thank you so much for your support this term. From speaking to some of you, I know how challenging it has been to support home learning whilst juggling everything in your own lives. We will continue to provide home learning over the last couple of weeks to compliment / reinforce the learning that takes place in school.

Over the last couple of weeks, my team have commented on the positive learning behaviours that the children are showing in class and how much progress they have made at home with you. My team are looking forward to having your children back in school full time in September and taking the majority of the educational responsibility from you whilst continuing to work in partnership with you.

Next week, our home learning theme is going to be Celebrations and in the final week of term the theme will be Transitions. Home learning will continue to go out on Class Dojo. Make sure you look out for our daily videos.

Have a great weekend.

Eddie Brown

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