

6.11.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

## What's Going On...

It has been a great start to this half term. The children continue to do themselves proud at school. I have been particularly impressed this week about the effort some of the children in Years 2, 3, and 5 have been putting in to improve their handwriting and present their learning beautifully.

The new lockdown has not greatly affected what we are doing as a school as we already have many systems in place. A few things to note are:

- Any meetings with parents and carers will be over the phone or virtual from now on including reviews for children with SEND.
- Staff have been asked to wear face masks when talking with parents on the playground.
- We are having to ventilate the school regularly despite the cold weather. This means doors and windows are open through the day. Children are encouraged to wear their jumpers and they can put their coats on in class if they wish. Please make sure your child has a suitable coat and hat in school as we get further into winter. Children wearing dresses or skirts may wish to put on tights or leggings underneath to keep their legs warm. While this is not an ideal situation, we are following guidelines from the government.

## One Way System and Leaving the Site

We have a one way system in school to keep a smooth flow of families through the site. Please do not leave through the top gate unless you have a push chair.

At times, there is a backlog of families at the exit to school. This is due to cars coming up Bossell Road preventing families from crossing. We have been in touch with DCC about this and are awaiting a response. To help manage this in a safe way, we have:

- Encouraged push chairs to leave via the top gate
- Placed a member of staff out on the road to stop the traffic (Mr Pepper makes a great lollipop man!)

You can help us with this further by:

- Only sending one family member to pick up your child/ren
- Spacing out on the playground and leaving at least one step between you and the group in front on the steps.

Children are released at the end of the day between 3:15-3:20pm. In the present circumstances, we are happy to hold onto children until 3:25pm if you would rather pick up after the rush. This will spread out the number of adults waiting outside the gates and on the playground at the end of the day.

## SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

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Sustainability

Curious

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## Parent Meetings

A letter will be going out from your child's class teacher today or at the start of next week. On it you will find a date and time for a parent meeting. This term, the meetings will be held over the phone and they will be a great opportunity to hear about how well your child is doing at school. To help the meetings go smoothly and run on time, we'd appreciate your cooperation with the following:

- Keeping meetings to 10 minutes
- Being ready for the phone call at the scheduled time – it will probably be a withheld number

## Remote Learning Agreement

Every child in school has been set up with an email account which will allow them to access online meetings with their class teacher if their bubble is sent home to self-isolate. I will be sending out a Remote Learning Agreement alongside this letter which outlines the expectations on how this should be used. Please read this carefully so you are aware of what we are putting in place to make sure online meetings involving children are done in a safe and secure way.

Further information on how to access an online meeting using Microsoft Teams will be going out next week.

## COVID Tests

Buckfastleigh Primary School has had no positive COVID test this week for either children or staff.

## Children in Need

On a lighter note, next week is 'Children in Need'. We will be having a 'mufti' day and would like to invite the children into school wearing their own clothes. If they wish to be 'spotty', they can be as creative as they like. We will be raising money on the day so send your child in with a donation. This year, the theme is '5 ways to Wellbeing' and we will be doing some activities on the day around this theme.

... and finally, as we move into a second national lockdown, we would like to thank you all for your continued support to the school at what is a difficult time for many people in the local area.

Have a good weekend and take care,

Eddie Brown

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