

8.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

On my way to work this morning, it occurred to me that this time last week it was New Year's Day! This was unofficially the last day on my holiday before spending time over the weekend getting ready for the start of term. So much has changed over the week for us in school and I know that you have all needed to react and adapt at home too. I would like to wish you all 'Happy 2021'. We know the start of the year is going to be exceptionally challenging in so many ways. The exit date for the majority of restrictions is currently unclear however there is light at the end of the tunnel.

On Tuesday, less than 12 hours after the lockdown was announced, we were preparing to open two new schools. One was for face to face teaching for the children of critical workers and the other our remote learning provision through Microsoft Teams. The first week of remote learning has presented many challenges and it has been a pleasure to see the resilience of the children both in school and at home with their positive attitude to learning. As we move into the second week, we are looking forward to trying new approaches and learning new ways to teach children and excite them about learning.

Last night, I went outside with my children and made some noise as the Clap for Carers returned. Usually during this time my thoughts are dominated by the NHS. However last night, I reflected on the incredible achievements of my team this week to create, adapt and be resilient in the face of challenges. Additionally, and most importantly, how once again they have crossed the white line to come into school during another national lockdown. I want to personally thank them for everything they do on a day to day basis to support the children of Buckfastleigh.

During the last lockdown, you all did an exceptional job supporting your children with their remote learning. To a certain extent, I can empathise as I have 2 children at home too. For the next 5 weeks, we will provide remote learning for your children so that, with your support, they are able to make good progress. In the foundation stage and KS1, this will be approximately 3-4 hours a day and 4-5 hours for our children in KS2. I cannot stress the importance of the home learning enough. I know that you will do the best you can but I need to remind you to be realistic too. If you are working from home, you cannot be the best teacher and be at your best for your work too – you need to find a middle ground and reflect positively when you find it. We are here to support when you need us. Please contact the teachers directly through Class Dojo or contact the school office if you need support or advice.

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

Belong

Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered

Remote Learning

As each week goes by, we are aiming to develop and improve our Remote Learning offer. Next week, teachers are increasing the number of live lessons they are teaching on TEAMS. An additional letter is going out with the newsletter which gives more detail.

Wild Warriors

Well done to Buckfastleigh Primary's Wild Warriors who together raised £225 to save Ecuador's Chocó Rainforest, one of the richest places on earth for wildlife, home to the Jaguar, Marsupial Frog and Harpy Eagle. A recent expedition there took only 45 minutes to discover a new species. Your donations will preserve and protect this beautiful, important place for future generations.

Wild Warriors now has 22 members representing every class in the school. If you are already in Wild Warriors and would like to receive Jan/Feb wildlife packs, can parents email Charlie and Vicky their postal address and we will post them to you. Our email address is theclockworkmoth@hotmail.com

Unfortunately we can't sign up anyone else at the moment as we are at the limit of the amount of wildlife packs we can produce in time. We will let you know if this changes in the future.

All the best, keep safe and stay hopeful!

Charlie and Vicky

Internet Access and Technology

At a time when so many children are accessing Remote Learning, it is essential that you have enough data and a good internet connection. If you are having problems with either of these things, please let us know as there are ways to access free support at this time.

In addition, we have some extra devices which we can loan out to families if you do not have a suitable one at home for your child to access Remote Learning. Again, contact the school office for more information.

COVID Tests – There have been no positive tests from children or staff this week.

We have received some nice messages from parents this week about the start to the new term. Thank you for your continued support and positivity at a time of national crisis.

Take care and stay safe over the weekend,

Eddie Brown

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

Belong

Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered



Please follow [this link](#) to a short survey that is designed for children aged 5+ and a parent/carer to complete together.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed over the last few months, your child may now be entitled to funded school meals. Click on the link below or ask Kirsty in the school office for further information.

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal_live

Free School Meals Vouchers

Christmas holiday 'Funded School Meal' vouchers are already being sent out to families who are entitled to them. Keep an eye on your emails if you haven't seen them already or call our school office if you are having any problems and Kirsty will be able to direct you to the correct place.

COVID Tests

...and finally, Buckfastleigh Primary School has had no positive COVID tests this week for either children or staff.

I hope you have a great weekend,

Eddie Brown

Thursday 17th December is now the last day of term for the children

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

Belong

Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered



WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST