



Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School
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Headteacher

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Monday 23rd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term 2020 – Headteacher update #5

I hope that you are well and managing in this new lockdown situation. We are feeling grateful that we are all in school and still able to carry on seeing your children each day. We have responded to the second national lockdown by increasing our safety and hygiene measures at school and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with this. Like you, we hope to see a relaxing of these after 2nd December. Please see the attached letter from Surrey County Council for your information re the current lockdown. Also please read the information contained in this update regarding arrangements we are making for Christmas in school.

Social Distancing and Masks

Thank you to everyone who is following guidance with regards to social distancing and mask wearing in and around the school site. Please do bear in mind that members of our school community may be particularly at risk from Covid, so please do maintain distancing and mask wearing whilst waiting outside school.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Following clarification from the DfE we have offered club providers the option of restarting their club(s) at BJS from the week beginning 23rd November. Not all club leaders will be in a position to restart at such short notice. However, if they are able to they will contact you directly. Please do not contact the school office for information on this.

GLP Remembrance Writing Challenge

We were bowled over by the quality and quantity of entries for the GLP Remembrance Writing Challenge. Many thanks for encouraging your child to support it. Our four winning entries have been sent to the GLP and they will feature on their website soon (I will let you know when they go live). The Busbridge Junior winners were:

Year 3: Hannah Taylor, Year 4: Rosabel Pike, Year 5: Thomas McWilliam, Year 6: Tabitha Parsons.

As we move through the second part of the Autumn term, our thoughts have inevitably turned to Christmas. We would therefore like to share our plans with you thus far – see below.

Ho Ho Ho: Christmas Info ...

Friends of BJS - PTA Christmas events

Our Friends PTA truly are a wonderful team. You will have seen from the latest Friends PTA newsletter that although the Christmas Fayre cannot take place, our fantastic team of volunteers have worked their magic and are still able to offer a range of creative Christmas activities: from Christmas cards and tea towels to a raffle and secret shopping experience for the children (and much more besides). Please do look at the Friends newsletter for more detail as emailed out and on the school website:

https://www.busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk/web/friends_of_busbridge_cofe_junior_school/150276



Christmas Church Services

Each year, the Upper and Lower school pay a visit to Busbridge Church for their Christmas Church service. Services will still take place this year; however, they will take place in year group bubbles. We would like to thank the members of the church team (Simon, Anto and Judith), who not only send a pre-recorded assembly to the school each week but are also making it possible for the children to have their services in the church.

Christmas Jumper Day

For our first house charity event of the year, Busbridge House will be holding a Christmas jumper day on Wednesday 16th December. The House Captains will write to you with more details nearer the time.

School Christmas Lunch

To coincide with the Christmas jumper day, our caterers Twelve15 are providing a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 16th December. Please see the letter attached with this update - it tells you how to book a Christmas lunch for your child. With extra cleaning procedures in place, we will aim for each year group to eat in the dining hall that day so that year group bubbles can all eat together and enjoy some festive cheer.

Christmas Production

Usually at this time of year we would begin rehearsing our Lower and Upper School Christmas productions. Whilst we need to do things a little differently this time around we will still be producing a 'whole school Christmas assembly'. Each class has their own part to play and through the use of modern technology (and our newly acquired Chrome books from the PTA), we will be putting each video performance together into one whole school 'virtual' production which the children will then watch. This will also be available to parents and carers via the school website. Dates and more details (e.g. costumes) to follow.

Christmas Film

Usually the whole school gets together at the end of the year to watch a Christmas film. This year, we will still have a Christmas film for the children to enjoy and although we will have to watch it in our classrooms, we will still do this as a whole school and make it a fun, end of term treat.

Wishing Service

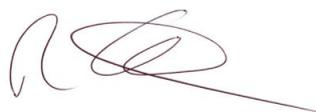
A tradition at BJS each year is for the children to think about their 'Christmas Wish' for the World that goes beyond the presents that they are hoping to receive. This year more than ever we need to think about others; the 'Wishing Service' is an opportunity for the children to make a collective 'wish' for somebody else. This service will take place at school, in year group bubbles, on the last day of term Friday 18th December.

End of term school finish times...

The last day of term is Friday 18th December. For your information school will finish at 1.15pm for year 4 & 6 and at 1.30pm for year 3 & 5.

Whilst we are aware that things are still far from normal, we are working hard to ensure that the children have the best possible experience whilst at school. We hope that by carrying on with these Christmas traditions, albeit in a very 2020 way, we are still making memories and enabling the children to access festive events. Once again, thank you for all of your parental support with everything that is happening just now. We could not do it without you.

Take care,



Richard Catchpole (Headteacher)

