



Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School
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Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello! Welcome back after your Staycation! I hope that you have been able to enjoy the summer holidays, spending time with loved ones and possibly exploring a different part of our wonderful country.

Staff have enjoyed a lovely rest over the holidays but have also been spending time prepping for the new academic year. We simply cannot wait to welcome your children back to school tomorrow and are looking forward to seeing their smiling faces and hearing the sound of the school filled once again with the sound of children enjoying each other's company. We are especially looking forward to welcoming our new year 3 children, and their families.

We say a big Hello to new members of our staff team as well: Mr Max Stuart (5S teacher), Miss Abigail Friend (3BF teacher), Mrs Annie Carter (school office) and Mrs Kathy Gilham (LSA). Huge congratulations to Miss Mistry who got married over the summer. She is now Mrs Buchan: and her class are now 3MB (as opposed to 3M).

At the end of last academic year, we carried out a survey asking parents, staff and children about the changes that we had made to some aspects of school life during the Covid restrictions. This feedback has helped to guide our school plans from September 2021:

Start and finishing times: 9.00am start and 3.30pm finish of the school day for **ALL** year groups. There will be a member of staff on duty from 8.45am so children may be dropped off from that time onwards (not before, please). School can be accessed by all children via either the main pedestrian gate or the Brighton Road gate. Breakfast and After School Club is running as normal so please do contact Jackie McPhail (jmcp@mail@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk) should you wish to book a place for your child.

Parents on the playground before school: We ask that parents do not come onto the school playground but 'drop and go'. The only exception to this is the new year 3 children. For the first few weeks of term, year 3 parents may wish to come onto the playground with their child and wait with them until the bell goes. A bell will be rung at 9.00am, upon which the children will stand still. At the second bell they will move into class (however on the first day of school the children will be asked to line up in class lines in front of their new teacher).

Parents on the playground for pick up: Parents from all year groups are welcome on the playground at the end of the day to pick up their child although as usual, we do encourage the older children to walk where possible to avoid traffic congestion in and around the site.

Parents visiting the school office: We ask that these visits are kept to a minimum and that if possible, an e-mail is sent rather than queuing in the office area.

Year 3 'Welcome to Busbridge' assembly at Busbridge Church: On Tuesday 7th September our Year 3 children will be visiting Busbridge Church for a welcome assembly lead by the church team. Parents are welcome to attend as well.

New Parents Coffee Morning: If you are a parent of a Year 3 child or a parent new to our school family you are invited to join us for tea/coffee (maybe even biscuits) in school on Friday 10th September at 9.05am.

Bikes / scooters: Children are welcome to cycle or scoot to school. These can be left in the bike sheds in school. However please do remind your child about safety and consideration for others (especially if they are scootering on the pavement).



School PE Kits: Children will continue to wear their school PE kits to school on their PE days, the days are as follows (starting from Monday 6th September):

Year 3: Monday and Wednesday

Year 4: Monday and Tuesday

Year 5: Monday and Friday

Year 6: Monday and Thursday

On these PE days trainers are fine, but school shoes must please be worn on all other school days.

Lunchtimes: For the Autumn term, we are keeping to a slightly shorter lunchtime with a staggered element to the lunchtime to enable children to access a range of activities that will be on offer. More details around lunchtime activities available will be shared in the Clubs letter which will be sent to you tomorrow. Children will continue to eat in the dining hall in their year groups, with school dinners and packed lunches mixing freely. A change to the lunchtime organisation that we are trialling this term is that each year group will have an allocated time slot in the dining hall and children will stay in the dining hall for this time. We hope that this will encourage children to take their time when eating, having more of a social time whilst partaking of luncheon. We aim to reduce the number of children who are either leaving food in a bid to get outside quickly, or walking out of the dining hall with their mouths full (!). We are aware that this is a change to our usual practice and will be seeking feedback from staff and children once we have given it a try.

Clubs: We will write to you later this week with details of all of the clubs on offer for the children.

Assemblies: We are looking forward to being able to have whole school assemblies again and will resume these in the first week of term. We will also hold class assemblies where we invite parents to watch and, as long as it sits within DfE Covid guidelines, a Christmas production. More details to follow.

Curriculum Evenings: At the start of the Autumn term, we hold Curriculum Evenings for parents in each year group. These will be pre-recorded, with the link being sent out to parents in the first couple of weeks of term. Feedback from parents on having access to recorded curriculum meeting was very positive as it helped widen access to the sessions both on the day and later on.

Meeting your child's new teacher: The teachers will be outside on the playground after school for the first couple of weeks, so please feel free to pop over and introduce yourself to them.

Parents' Evenings: These have been scheduled for the following dates: Wednesday 20th October (4.00pm - 6.30pm) and Thursday 21st October (6.00pm - 8.30 pm). We will advise nearer the time whether these meetings will be virtual or face to face but please do add the dates to your diary.

Much planning has already gone in to making the new academic year enjoyable and we very much hope that the impact of Covid on the academic year can be kept to a minimum whilst still of course keeping everyone as safe as possible. We will be continuing with the mantra of **'hands, face, space'** and encouraging good hygiene practices during the school day. In line with government guidelines, we no longer have to operate in bubbles and should there be a case of Covid amongst the school community, only those with symptoms or confirmed cases will have to isolate. We will be doing our best to ensure that we keep our children and staff safe and ask that you support us in doing so by following all guidance from the government.

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school tomorrow.

Warm wishes



Richard Catchpole
Headteacher

