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Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Term 2021 – Headteacher Update #6

As we reach the end of the second full week of our partial school closure, we have been reflecting on the resilience and dedication of all members of our Busbridge family. Our staff are working hard to support learning, both for children at home and those at school. The children, be they on Zoom or in school, have been fantastic in their response to the different ways in which their learning is delivered, and finally our parents have been simply wonderful, taking the time to write in and tell us how things are going whilst also juggling the demands of home life. We have so enjoyed reading your positive emails as well as your suggestions for ways in which we could make changes to our provision. We are aware that so many parents are working so hard to carry out their own day-job as well as support their children. Team BJS really is pulling together and, as Head teacher, I am very proud of all involved.

Below you will find a number of updates re Home Learning: various additions to our provision and ways of supporting you and your child(ren) are mentioned.

Home Learning

(i) Afternoon Zoom Lesson

Thank you for your feedback on our survey regarding this. As the feedback was very positive we have decided to trial a 'live' afternoon Zoom lesson each week day, starting on Monday 25th January. Here are the details:

- 2 week trial (w/c 25th January and w/c 1st February) from Monday 25th January.
- Y5 / Y6 at 1.15pm; Y3 / Y4 at 1.30pm; each lesson will be between 20 to 30 minutes long.
- It will be for the whole class together. There will be no registration and attendance is optional.
- The lesson will focus on the foundation subjects set for that afternoon, introducing the tasks and covering the main learning points and expected outcomes.

These sessions are optional as we are aware from the survey that not every family has the capacity for more Zoom lessons in their week. We are looking into recorded lesson content produced by our teachers but for now we are not introducing this.

(ii) Friday morning Zoom Lesson

From Friday 29th January, the current Friday registration Zoom will be extended into a longer lesson:

- Y5/Y6 at 8.45am; Y3/Y4 at 9.30am (a different time to the rest of the week); 30 to 40 minutes long.
- The whole class will be together and we will register the children.
- The lesson will start with class well-being activities: rewards, certificates, notable pieces of work, Show 'n' Tell, etc.
- There will be a main focus on either English or maths. It will comprise a mini-lesson for that day.



- There will be an explanation of the other core subject not covered, introducing the tasks and covering the main learning points and expected outcomes.

(iv) Exercise Books

We have bought one A4 lined and one A4 squared exercise book for each child. These will be outside the school gates on **Monday 25th January** (9.30am to 4.30pm) for you to collect whilst you are out and about on your daily exercise. Please note that there is only one lined and one square book per child. If the weather is wet we will reschedule. Please do follow the 'HandsFaceSpace' guidance when collecting the books.

(iii) Reading – please do it every day, no skimping

Ensuring that children continue to read regularly and enjoy a range of texts is key to their continued educational progress in all areas of the curriculum. We have a number of ideas for supporting this at home and at school. We are trialling small group reading lessons via Zoom, whilst also engaging all children with reading across the school. To this end, Miss Mistry has designed a 'Spring Reading Challenge' which we have attached to this email for the children to complete at home. Certificates will be awarded at the end of February for reading 5, 10 or 15 books. It has been set on the **VLE** as a homework. Children need to fill in the rows with the books they have read over Home Learning and upload the completed sheet onto the VLE for their teacher by **Thursday 11th February**. If you wish to save on your printer ink a copy of the challenge can be collected from the school gate on Monday 25th January when you pop by to collect your child(ren)'s two exercise books.

(v) Additional online content

During the last partial school closure, we issued a curriculum planning grid, sharing the topic themes of each subject in the curriculum. We have produced a similar document for this first half of the Spring Term which is attached with this update. This time we have included links to recorded teaching content from the Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize websites. There are some very good resources on these websites so if your child is champing at the bit for some additional work, please do take a look. Mrs Broadbent (Year 6 parent) has also shared an exciting 'Tech Tuesdays' opportunity that your children may be interested in looking into: <https://techwecan.org/tech-tuesdays/>

(vi) Project Pages – how to access them

To access whole school recordings such as assemblies, your child must log into the VLE. (Please note that these recordings are not visible on parent logins) and then click on 'my class' at the top of the page. Current projects will then be displayed. These include the Assemblies Spring 2021 project and the Story-Time project, both of which will be added to weekly.

(iv) Assemblies

We hope you have been able to watch the assemblies posted on the VLE. The school-led assemblies will continue to focus on our 6Rs - Behaviours of Lifelong Learning: Respect, Ready, Resourceful, Responsible, Resilient, Reflective. These 6Rs are very relevant to Home Learning, so hopefully you will find them useful to discuss with your child. Please note that we have not had the opportunity to roll these out with the Year 3 children yet, so this will be new to them. A copy of our 6Rs can be viewed on the school website: https://www.busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk/web/the_6rs_-_behaviours_for_learning/390399.



(vii) Parent Comms with Teachers

Could parents please remember to communicate with teachers via the teachers email address, not the VLE message board. The VLE message board is really just for children to use. This is helpful for the teachers as currently they do not know if a VLE message is from a child or a parent.

(viii) Zooming Behaviour – a brief reminder

The children have been overwhelming well behaved on the Zooms – very responsible and respectful. By way of a reminder may we ask that children are dressed in day clothes, are not eating or drinking, and please leave pets on the floor (we know that children love to show their furry friends, but it is very off-putting for others in the Zoom lesson).

Year Six SATs – end of Key Stage 2 National Tests

You may have noted in the news that the DfE have decided to suspend the Year 6 SATs test for the current Year 6 cohort. There are mixed reactions to this news, but the key thing is that at school and at home we need to keep on with the Year 6 learning so that our Year 6 children are as secondary-ready as possible upon transition. We will still be carrying out teacher assessments, using amongst other strategies past SATs papers.

Additional community support

Last week in my update I mentioned that Seymours estate agents in Godalming are offering to print anything that will help children with their work (simply email them the content to print). There are other support mechanisms out there in the community too. We have listed a few on the attached document.

Hardship and Food Poverty

We are very aware of the negative impact this shut down will be having on families in many ways, especially financially. Those families who meet the threshold to receive 'free school meals' due to their income, benefits etc. are receiving some extra support. If you are experiencing hardship but didn't previously qualify for 'free school meals' do get in touch as we may be able to arrange some support for you, or you may now qualify for entitlement to 'free school meals' support. There has been a lot in the news recently about food poverty. We have ways of helping if you are struggling - please ask. Likewise, please get in touch if you have IT needs.

Please remember that If you have a Safeguarding concern around any child please contact us or Surrey Children's Services: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-services> or phone 0300 470 9100.

The leadership team has been busy devising contingency plans should illness or close contact cause a staff member or in-school child to self-isolate. On the last count we had 15 different possible scenarios to consider. Hopefully these won't be needed. Remembering the 'HandsFaceSpace' guidance will certainly help us carry on with our new normal.

Take care

Kind regards



Richard Catchpole (Headteacher)

