



Head teacher

Mr Richard Catchpole BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School
Brighton Road
Busbridge
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1XA

Telephone: 01483 417302

Email: admin@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk
Website: www.busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk

Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term 2020 – Headteacher Update #6

I started writing this Head Teacher Update on Monday but stopped as the week unfolded. This final version shares our way forward following the significant events of this week. With four staff members self-isolating due to Covid and six other staff unable to be in school for other **Covid-related reasons we need to make some changes to school for next week w/c Monday 14th December.**

Since Monday, when our first positive Covid case was confirmed, I have had daily conversations with either the DfE, Health Protection Team (PHE), Surrey Local Authority or the Guildford Diocese. This afternoon the school Governing Body held an extra-ordinary board meeting to decide on the best way forward. The health, well-being and safety of your children and the staff have been at the very heart of all these conversations and discussions.

You will appreciate that we are making plans in a very fluid and changeable situation. The plans that I am outlining below may need to change again as we go into next week. Hopefully not. In making these plans we have sought to ensure that children and staff are: (i) Covid safe, and (ii) 'Health and Safety' safe.

The plans are thus:

Monday 14th December:

The school will be closed to all children and staff. This is so that a professional cleaning contractor can come in to school and carry out a deep clean and fogging of the whole school. This will eradicate traces of the virus in the school. We were only advised today to carry out this deep clean in response to the number of Covid cases in school.

On Monday, teachers will set Home Learning to be accessed via the VLE. These will not be interactive Zoom sessions, but your child will be expected to complete the work posted on the VLE by the teachers. The teachers will be planning the work for the week ahead on this day.

The leadership of the school apologise profusely for the extremely short notice regarding this closure. It is unavoidable as we have not been able to secure a contractor able to clean at the weekend at such short notice.

Tuesday 15th December to the end of term

Alongside the deep clean we are introducing a very strict policy of no adult moving between year group bubbles. This means that clubs and music lessons will not happen next week. This also means that the Breakfast Club and After School Club will also not take place next week. This is because the staff in the club mix with all year groups, and we need to take the extra precaution of not letting this take place. Again, I apologise for the inconvenience this will may cause regular users of the Club.



Year 3:

Class 3W will continue to self-isolate next week. As Miss Warner has tested positive for Covid I have instructed her not to take part in teaching and learning activities until she has recovered. Please do not make contact with her until we inform you. The Home Learning will be led by the Class 3B teacher, Mrs Barrett.

Class 3B are also asked to stay at home for the rest of this term. They will have Home Learning, also led by Mrs Barrett. Please note Class 3B are not self-isolating.

Mrs Barrett cannot be in two places at once (ie. teaching 3B and Zooming 3W) so we have taken the difficult decision to ask class 3B to also stay at home.

We will write to Year 3 separately on Monday 14th December with further details of the Home Learning setup. However each child will have daily face-to-face sessions with Mrs Barrett. She will be supported by LSAs.

Year 4 and Year 5:

These year groups will **continue to attend school as normal from Tuesday 15th December.**

Year 6:

Class 6E will continue to self-isolate next week. As Mr Evans has tested positive for Covid I have instructed him not to take part in teaching and learning activities until he has recovered. Please do not make contact with him until we inform you. The Home Learning will be led by the Class 6M teacher, Miss Mistry.

Class 6M are asked to also stay at home for the rest of this term. They will have Home Learning, also led by Miss Mistry. Please note Class 6M are not self-isolating.

Miss Mistry cannot be in two places at once (ie. teaching 6M and Zooming 6E) so we have taken the difficult decision to ask Class 6M to also stay at home.

We will write to Year 6 separately on Monday 14th December with further details of the Home Learning setup. However each child will have daily face-to-face sessions with Miss Mistry. She will be supported by LSAs.

I can appreciate that our plans for next week may not be easy for many families. I can only apologise for this. However the plans and decisions have been made with the sole aim of keeping your children and the staff as safe as possible using the limited staff resources that we have at this point in time.

On Monday 14th December we will send out further information for Year 3 and Year 6 parents regarding Home Learning.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in what are challenging times for every single one of us.

Take care

Kind regards



Richard Catchpole (Headteacher)

