



Newsletter no. 2 October 2020

It has been a very long half term and the children have been working incredibly hard in school. As you know, we aim for **every child to be happy, to feel safe and to learn well**. On top of this everyone has been getting used to new Covid safe ways of working in school. I am so proud of how every staff member and child has settled back into school, thank you to every parent for your support. It is a huge community effort and we all have to work together to make sure we all remain safe both in and out of school.

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent survey on how the term has started. It was reassuring that the vast majority of parents felt the staggered start and end to the day were working well and they felt safe.

You will have seen my letter a few weeks ago about the slight changes we made to how we are working and that we are NOT moving to year group bubbles at this time to continue to try and reduce contacts where we can.

PE Kit update—Currently, children in Year 2 to 6 are being asked to come to school in their PE kits on their PE days, this will continue until further notice. **After half term, we will be asking Year R and Year 1 children to come in their PE kit too on PE days.** The teachers will communicate the exact days. With the autumn weather in mind, please make sure on these days your child has black or dark blue tracksuit trousers and sweatshirt.

Parent phone calls If you have any feedback from the recent parents' evening phone calls home, please do let us know. I hope you found them useful to be able to speak to your child's teacher. If you need to speak to your child's teacher on any other matter, please do email the office—info@bitterneprimary.net or telephone on 023 8049 9494 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

Harvest Service Thank you to Miss Allen, and Tony and Barry from Holy Saviour Church and Matt and Ellie from Southampton City Mission for creating such a great online Harvest Celebration Service. Even though we could not all get together at the Church, as we usually do, we were able to come together to give Harvest thanks. Thank you to any parent who was able to make an online donation to the City Mission to help continue their crucial work in making sure local people have the food and support they need in these uncertain times.

If you missed the virtual Harvest Service, please click on the link below.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?campaignId=14030&charityId=1017468>

Christmas Nativities and Christmas Dinner

It may seem a long way away but we have already been thinking about Christmas. **Sadly this year, we will not be having the KS1 and KS2 Nativities** when the halls are packed with children and families as we re-tell the events of the birth of Jesus. However, we will be having an online Christmas Service, where we hope to bring some Christmas cheer to the school community.

There will be a special **Christmas dinner** for the children on **Monday 14th December**, but it will not look the same as before with every child eating in the halls with lots of parents helping. There will still be Christmas dinner fun with music and crackers in the class bubbles—more details of the menu and how to book will follow after half term. **Monday 14th December** will still be **Christmas Jumper day (non uniform)** for anyone who wishes to take part. Rather than bringing money to school, please donate to the national campaign, if you wish to.

Restorative Practice. In school we use restorative practice:

- To learn ways of helping to resolve a disagreement and repair relationships.
- To understand how actions and words make another person feel.
- To find a fair and just way to get along.
- To seek a way of stopping the same thing from happening again.

If there has been a disagreement between members of the school, then they will be asked to follow steps to resolve the disagreement. Sometimes calming down time is needed before people are ready to talk. Occasionally, children will be asked questions individually and responses shared with the children separately. Adults and/or Peer Mediators will listen to each person who has concerns by asking them a set list of questions. Where needed there will be a consequence, restorative practice is not instead of a sanction but helping to find a resolution.

You may find these questions helpful to use at home.

Step 1- What happened?

Each person shares their side of the story without interrupting each other.

Step 2- What were you thinking at the time?

Each person shares their thoughts without interrupting each other.

Step 3- How do you feel about it now?

Each person shares their feelings without interrupting each other.

Step 4- Who do you think has been affected and how?

Talk about the other children or adults involved and how they might be feeling.

Step 5 - What needs to happen to put things right?

Each person shares what they think should happen and come to an agreement.

Breakfast club

The main office doors for breakfast club open at **7.30am.**

Please avoid arriving before 7.30am to allow our staff to arrive. Thank you

If you are a few minutes early, please wait outside in a socially distanced way.

Y6 Prefects

Congratulations to the following Y6 children who applied to become Prefects. They were all successful in the recent zoom interviews with myself, and two governors (Mrs Humby and Mrs Iles). The role of our Prefects is to promote respect around the school and act as role models for the younger children.

Well done to:- Sophie H, Alicia T, Owen R, Crist J, Demi H, Imogen A, Scarlett N, Jessica S, Chelsy M, Elodie H, Seth L, Declan M, Dean S, Lexi W, Emma T, Leo P, Ethan G, Charlotte T, Ellie May B, India W, Jacob B, Mia B, Elijah P, Grace D, Kelan T.

Bitterne Friends PTA

Please note that **The Friends PTA are not able to run the Christmas Fayre this year.** For those of you who have been before, you will understand that it can get very crowded and so would not be safe to hold it this year.

In the past, The Friends also come into school for a couple of days so the children can choose and buy secret presents for family members. Sadly secret presents will also not go ahead this year.

I know you will all be disappointed but our priority at the moment is reducing contacts to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Sporting competitions— There are no face to face sporting events between city schools at the moment. However, after half term, all classes will be participating in the virtual Hampshire school games. They will compete in a variety of activities that may include badminton, basketball, football, cross country, hockey, multi skills, sports hall athletics or table tennis.

Competitions and fixtures are under ongoing review. At the moment we will be competing virtually in the school grounds and igniting a love for sports in all of our children. The Hampshire Games are enjoyed year after year by the children and we are looking forward to being part of the virtual events.

Miss Knocker is now our in school PE Leader. If you have any questions about sport in school, please do leave a message in the office for Miss Knocker.

Attendance Thank you all for your support on attendance. It has been very challenging at times this half term. **If anyone in your family develops a new persistent cough, a high temperature and / or loss of taste or smell, the whole household needs to isolate.** If you break this law not only are you putting children, staff and parents at risk in the school community, but you could also receive a fine from the police.

Go to 111 online for advice and then, if needed, ring 119 or book a test online. Children must **not be in school until the person with symptoms has had a negative test result.**

For up to date information, please click on the link below for the Wessex Healthier Together website

<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/popular-topics/coronavirus>

If your child has another illness, that is not Covid related and you would like advice on whether they should or can be in school, please click on the link below for guidance.

<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>

Punctuality has also been really good. Thank you for getting your child to school between **8.30am and 8.50am.** Some classes start at 8.30am and some at 8.40am. Peartree Gate closes at 8.50am. After this time, entry is via the main office.

When a child's attendance rate is below 90%, they are classified under DFE guidelines as a 'persistent absentee'. I have to discuss the attendance record for children below 90% and the reasons for absence with Liz Cummings (SCC Education Welfare Officer). We know that waiting for a test for a family member can take some time. Please don't worry if you are having to self isolate by law as we always take this into account when looking at attendance rates. Only if your child is having repeated days off for non Covid related reasons, will we get in contact to offer support, which may include referring to the school nurse.

Dinner Money for KS2– online payments only please

£2.45 is still great value for a packed Hot Picnic at lunchtime. We ask that you pay for your child's meals In advance. If at the end of a week your account is in debt, we will contact you as a first reminder to transfer money to pay the outstanding balance.

If you are having trouble paying online , please

Requests for leave during term time

Please check term dates before booking holidays. Holidays in term time could still result in a penalty notice of £60 per parent per child where the number of days reaches the threshold of 5 unauthorised days in any 8 week period.

If you are requesting leave for a wedding or other planned event, please either scan/email or provide a copy of the invitation to the office team.

Medical appointments

All planned non- emergency medical appointments should be made outside of school hours, wherever possible. Where an appointment with a specialist has to take place during the day, **please email the appointment letter or card to the school office.**

Regular dental check ups should always be booked for after school or during the school holidays and not made during the school day.

IMPORTANT

Do we have your most up to date contact details ?

Mobile number ?

Postal address?

Email address?

Limiting bringing things to school— We want to continue to limit the items coming into school. These are limited to a coat, bookbag/small bag, lunchbox and water bottle. Children have all the other resources they need in school for their own personal use.

Recently some children have started bringing in Lego cards to swap in school **Children should not bring Lego or any other swapping cards to school.** Although we do a lot of handwashing and gel using in school, swapping cards increases transmission risks and is not allowed. Please keep the cards at home.

Please also **do not bring in cakes or sweets** when it is your child's birthday to give to the rest of the class. We will respectfully return these to a parent at the end of the day.

Sustrans Survey Success I am really excited to let you know that Bitterne CE Primary School had the best percentage of returns from the Sustrans Parent Surveys completed in the Summer term. Thank you parents for supporting us. This now means that the school has been gifted two balance bikes and some other goodies. Well done everyone for working together.

Please continue to support Walktober: walking for well being and remember to look for the links for the family competitions link www.myjourneysouthampton.com/walktober

Focus areas for this year

Our main focus this year is developing our transition curriculum. Mr May (Curriculum Leader) has already shared information on what we are doing to identify gaps in your child's learning due to lockdown.

The teachers are revising their teaching plans for every subject on the basis of their assessments and making sure that missed content is taught and children catch up as quickly as possible. There is more information on our website in the curriculum section.

We also continue to have a focus on 'reading' in school. Mrs Sullivan is our English Leader and is responsible for this aspect.

Welcome to **Mr Prior— Mills** who joins our team as an HLTA and will work with individuals, groups and covering classes.

Up and coming dates—please add to your diary

- **Anti bullying week—wb 11th November**
- **Children in Need—Friday 13th November** non uniform day for online donations to Children in Need. Please don't bring money to school—donate by phone or online during the national campaign. Come dressed in spots or what ever you choose to wear.
- **Road Safety week wb 18th November—** children will have sessions on road safety over this week
- **Children's Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day—Monday 14th December**
- **Last day of term — Friday 18th December**

Thank you to our Governors!

Governors are all volunteers who want the very best for Bitterne CE Primary. During lockdown they continued to attend numerous zoom meetings making sure that Mr Peterson, along with all school staff were doing their very best to keep the children and staff in critical worker school safe before the summer. Governors have also worked tirelessly behind the scenes supporting the full re opening of the school in September.

Our governors continue to make sure the school is run effectively and efficiently and that every child is happy, safe and learning well. They are a very dedicated group and it is a pleasure for me, as headteacher to work with such an enthusiastic, determined and committed Governing Body.