

Headteacher: Andy Peterson
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23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you so much for all your ongoing support. What we have all collectively achieved since September has been remarkable and I know how hard the staff team have been working to ensure your child is safe, happy and learning well. The positive support from you all has been much appreciated and has kept us going! This letter is an update on a few matters before half term.

Warm clothing

We will keep the classrooms well ventilated for everyone's safety. This has not been too much of an issue to this point, however as the weather does get colder, we will still keep the windows open, as much as we can, so please send your child with warm layers under their uniform. We will also be leaving the heating on longer, when needed, to ensure the working areas remain warm whilst being well ventilated.

P.E. Clothing

Every year group will wear their P.E. kit to school on P.E. days after half term. Year R and Year 1 parents should have already received an email to let them know the days for this.

As a reminder, we expect the P.E. kit uniform to be:

Dark blue or black shorts, plain white t-shirt and suitable footwear such as trainers. During the colder weather, children may wear a plain dark coloured tracksuit to keep warm.

Face Coverings

After half term, the staff on the gates and doors at the start and end of the day will be wearing a face covering. The Covid-19 situation has changed greatly since we started back in September and this small change will hopefully keep our whole school community bubble safe.

We are also encouraging parents and carers to wear a face covering when they drop off or pick up. Children do not need to wear a face covering. Please pass this on to grandparents or others who may be picking up or dropping off your child. Staff will not challenge anyone not wearing a face covering, as some people are not able to wear them due to medical reasons.

If you do need to speak to a member of staff urgently and you lip read or are unable to clearly hear the conversation with a face covering in place, we will make sure there is a social distance before removing the face covering so we can communicate safely.

If your message is not urgent, then please do continue to ring the office on 023 8049 9494 or email info@bitterneceprimary.net

Start and End of the School Day

Please can each household only have one person to drop off and pick up. This really helps to reduce congestion for everyone and minimises possible contacts. Now that we are all in a routine and feel safe, there is the temptation to stop and chat to friends on the playground or just outside the gates. We ask all parents to avoid this as much as possible.

Spellings - Seesaw and Tapestry

After half term, we are going paperless with spellings. Spelling sheets for Y2 to Y6 will be sent out via Seesaw and via Tapestry for Year 1. If you are not yet connected to Seesaw or Tapestry Y1 then please email info@bitterneceprimary.net

If your child does not have access to a device / laptop or the internet at home, please do let us know this, so we can make sure they don't miss out. Our recent survey about this is still accepting responses and can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-fUPKxVuBgyStpUGCJclvb5DtIBCJvk2kMn2i_Q_-7GaAEg/viewform

Half Term - Please Keep Us Updated

I know we are all looking forward to a relaxing break next week. Please let us know if your child tests positive for Covid-19 over the half term. Please email info@bitterneceprimary.net

Depending on the timings of when the symptoms started and when the test results come back, we may need to ask anyone who has been in close contact over the last few days of this week to isolate for 14 days. In the event of this situation we will contact Public Health England for further guidance.

I am sincerely hoping we will not need to contact you for this reason.

I hope you all have a great half term and look forward to seeing everyone fit and well on **Monday 2nd November**.

Yours sincerely

Mr Peterson
Headteacher