



Newsletter no. 3 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearly a third of the way through the school year and fast approaching Christmas. It has been a huge task working to keep everyone safe, happy and learning well so far this term.

I am so proud of the entire staff team who are continuing to go above and beyond each day in these uncertain times.

I am also extremely proud of our amazing children. They are working so hard and have adapted to the way school is working now. Some children have had to isolate at home and have impressed us with what they have achieved while at home.

It is also a good time to think back to when your child started in their current class and think about what they have achieved since September. This is particularly so for Year R, who have settled in extremely well and achieved so much in a short space of time.

While we are all dealing with the impact of COVID in school and at home, it is even more important to reflect on the school's core Christian values of 'Love, Trust and Forgiveness'. These values continue to underpin all that we aim to do in school, they guide every adult and child on how to treat each other every single day. As parents, regardless of your own faith and beliefs, you have chosen to send your child to Bitterne CE Primary, so that they can grow into future citizens who know how to behave in a loving, trusting and forgiving way.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued positive support of the school. This is very much appreciated. Since half term we have had high staff absence for a variety of reasons and your support of the staff team during this time has been much appreciated, Thank you.

School opens for children on Tuesday 5th January 2021 (Monday 4th is a training INSET day)

Christmas cards I know that usually children love to send and receive Christmas cards from their friends in school.

We are unable to run our usual Christmas card post box this year, so please do not bring cards into school.

However, this year please find other electronic ways for your child to send Christmas greetings.

One option is that we will be sending out details of how you can send e-cards to friends and family through City Mission Basics Bank. This will also help raise funds for City Mission who will ensure families that need food over Christmas get what they need. Details to follow.

Prospective parents of children starting Year R in September 2021 All our new intake information is on the school website. Click on the link below for some introductory videos.

<https://www.bitterneceprimary.net/key-information/year-r-september-2021-admission-information/>

If you have a child starting school in September 2021, please do have a look and pass the link on to anyone you know who also has children due to start school in September 2021.

The deadline for submitting applications online to Southampton City Council is January 15th 2021.

Emergency contact details We would like to have at least 2 emergency contacts for every child in school. It is very important in an emergency that we can contact you. If you or a contact have changed phone numbers, please do let the office know. If we only have one working number, we will ask you to provide us with another contact.

Christmas Lunch

This will be on **Monday 14th December**. The Kitchen team will be preparing a special festive menu. The Friends PTA are kindly supplying Christmas items to make this lunch special such as napkins and crackers.

This day is also 'Christmas Jumper' day to link in with the national charity campaign. If you are able to, please donate to the national event.

We are also hoping that on this afternoon there will be a special Christmas online event that the classes will be able to enjoy.

Sadly, we will not be asking for parents to help with the lunch this year. Thank you to the Friends PTA for all their support.

Christmas Presents for school staff

A number of parents have asked me over the last week, about bringing in presents for the staff at Christmas. It will not be possible to have lots of items coming in from homes this year.

Staff do not expect a gift, but I know some parents would really like to do this. Therefore instead of an actual gift coming to school, there are 2 options that parents may wish to do.

You can either donate online through the link below to City Mission Basics Bank

<https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/get-involved/give>

Or The Friends PTA are setting up a special staff gift fund text service for parents to donate to. This will then go towards a special treat for the whole staff. More details to follow on how to do this shortly from the PTA.

Anti bullying week 16th November —was earlier this half term and the children across the school spent time learning about what bullying is and what to do if they are being bullied or see someone else being bullied. If as parents you ever have a concern, please do contact us without delay, as we will always strive to act swiftly to make sure that the children in the school are happy.

Parliament Week 2nd November—During this week, children studied democracy and the role of Parliament. The children also took part in voting for their class School Councillors.

No Parking in Brownlow Avenue outside the school

This has been much better this term. Just as a reminder

It is totally unacceptable to park on the zig zags or single yellow lines.

Mr Spencer (Crossing Patrol) is not supervising the crossing of the road at the moment. We are expecting him to return in early December. In the meantime, the children's safety and that of all pedestrians comes first. Thank you.

Remaining INSET days for 2021

Monday 4th January 2021

Friday 12th March 2021

Friday 28th May 2021