



Billingshurst Primary School
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Newsletter No.1 **Friday 10th September**

Dear Parents / Carers



Welcome back and welcome to the first newsletter of the year. I want to say, firstly, how wonderfully your children have returned to and started school. Our new children in Reception have all spent a morning in the EYFS unit and it was as if they had always been there – they were so settled and ready to learn.

Welcome to our new team members. To Mrs Jackson (Greece), Miss Shurmer (Egypt), Miss Oakes (Argentina), Miss Cashmore (Chile), Miss Hart (Nepal), Mr Lennon (Intervention Teacher Y 3 and 4) and Mrs Towner, our new SENDCo. They are all excited to be here and we are excited that they have joined us.

Just a reminder that we ask that the children do not bring rucksacks to school as our cloakrooms just cannot house them and they take up space that just is not there, with the result that coats and bags end up on the floor. We ask that children have a book bag (available on the uniform section of the website), a drawstring P.E. bag and a separate lunch box. P.E. kits can come in to school on Monday and stay until Friday to take home for washing. Many thanks - this really does help keep our corridors and spaces clutter free.

New Library!

The school looks good and, most excitingly, we have a WONDERFUL, new EYFS/KS1 library. There will be pictures but, as a library looks best with books in it, I will wait to publish pictures of it until our fabulous librarians, Mrs Costelloe and Mrs Grant, have managed to get all the books back into the library. However, the library does look wonderful and an enormous thank you to the BPSCA who funded this project.

Roar21

The Lion's ROAR education programme encourages children to 'think big and dream big', while developing a 'world changing idea'. Billingshurst Lion's club has funded the entry of all our children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to enter ROAR 2021, which will be run by the award-winning education company, 8 Billion Ideas, throughout the Autumn term. All our children in Year1 -6 will be developing this project in school, starting today and will be developing this over the next few Flexible Fridays.

ROAR is an inspirational and fun learning experience, enabling our children to discover how to use their imagination in exciting new ways, learning how to work in teams, developing their communication and presentation skills and boosting their self-confidence and self-esteem. The school's winning team will represent the school at the National Awards Day on December 8th, which can be watched on zoom by all children and parents. The Awards Day link will be available in November. We would like to thank



the Billingshurst Lions for giving our children this opportunity and we will let you know about the children's amazing ideas as they develop over the next few weeks!

Emails

As you can imagine, we receive a great number of emails and we are rarely in a position to respond immediately. When we receive an email we make a judgement about its urgency and who needs to respond to it. Please understand that we will respond to all emails within three days of receiving them. Of course, where possible, we would hope to get back to you sooner than this however you will always receive a response, even if it is an acknowledgement email while we gather more information. If you have an urgent message, please telephone the school office.

During the school holidays, emails are not monitored. Emails may be sent to us but they will not be responded to until the first three days of the new term. We would prioritise which are most urgent and plan to get back to those that had the highest need of a response. Thank you for your understanding.

Risk Assessment

The new BPS COVID risk assessment is now published on the website, along with the Contingency Plan which details what we will do if cases within school rise again. As you know from last week's letter, I am taking a cautious approach whilst we see what the impact of mixing over the summer does to the rate of infections in our community and school. As soon as we are clear that we can lift things further, and re-introduce things such as clubs and assemblies, I will write to you to let you know.

Please, in the meantime, I would ask that only one adult per family/pick up comes on site to help keep numbers down. We are also not allowing parents into the building for the next few weeks, except for the main entrance but you will need to wear a mask. Thank you so much for your co-operation.



BPSCA News

Have a lovely weekend
Yours sincerely,

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

Letters Home This Week

Year 6 – Secondary Transfer Letter and Leaflet
Year 4 – Swimming Letter
Year 5 – Swimming Letter
Year 2 – Flapjack Tasting Letter

Dates for Diary

Autumn Term -	Thursday 2 nd September 2021 – Friday 17 th December 2021
Half Term -	Monday 25 th October 2021 – Friday 29 th October 2021
INSET -	Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September 2021
Spring Term -	Tuesday 4 th January 2022 – Friday 8 th April 2022
Half Term -	Monday 21 st February 2022 – Friday 25 th February 2022
INSET -	Tuesday 4th January 2022 and Monday 28th February 2022
Summer Term -	Monday 25 th April 2022 – Friday 22 nd July 2022
Half Term -	Monday 30 th May 2022 – Friday 3 rd June 2022
INSET -	Monday 25th April 2022

