



Billingshurst Primary School
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Newsletter No.15
Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers



Well here we are again! Although this week has been tumultuous and challenging, the children we have in school have settled in to the new way of working really well and we are really pleased to see what you have been doing at home. I hope you find the videos helpful and that your children are settling into home learning again.

Please find attached a letter from Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education and Skills at West Sussex County Council

Learning at Home

The message that I really want to give is that you do not have to do it all. We are trying to get enough resources online to support you and so it can look quite a lot but there is actually only English, maths and one other subject each day. Do what you can and pace yourselves. Use the year group emails to ask us questions and also allow children time to play, read and get outside. Some days you will get lots of school learning done and on others not so much. If it snows, we should all declare a Snow Day and get outside!

Remember printed packs are available and will be delivered if you really cannot get to school to collect them. If you would like some reading books for your child, email the school and I will work with the librarians to get some books ready for you to collect.

Laptops

I know some families really struggle because they do not have laptops or computers. We have designed our curriculum to be accessible with a printed pack and a mobile phone. However we would love any donations of working laptops or computers that we could get



to some of our families. We have signed up to the Give a Laptop to School scheme and we have already had some possible donations today. Just let us know if you have something to donate and we will do the rest. Unfortunately the laptops promised by the DfE are still unavailable but I am chasing this up.

Keyworker places and children attending school

Really importantly, please do not send any child into school if they are displaying any of the symptoms of COVID: temperature, cough, change of taste or smell. If your child is unwell but not displaying symptoms I would also suggest keeping them at home to be sure. If a sibling is unwell we would appreciate keeping all children at home until we are sure they are safe to come into school. This does go beyond the guidance but we are doing all we can to keep everyone safe and would appreciate your support with this.

Please only ask for keyworker places if there is no alternative. This is a very serious pandemic with much increased transmissibility. Children who can be looked after at home really should be so that we can prioritise spaces for frontline workers. If you are a key worker and your partner is not, and is at home, please consider keeping your child with you. We are seeing a much greater uptake this year and, along with the vulnerable children, have over 100 children per day next week. Two year groups are at capacity. If we have to extend this further we will do so but it will mean bringing in staff who are currently supporting children's learning at home, with the result that there will be slower responses and less support for the majority of children. We really do not want this to happen so ask if you could all be as careful as you can in asking for places. We really want to support you through this difficult time but need your help to do this.

If your child is attending school please do provide a morning snack.

Hot School Meals

All children who are in school during the lockdown period to February half term, are entitled to a free hot school meal. This applies to every child in school during this time. We would like you to encourage your children to take up this offer so that they can enjoy a tasty cooked meal with their friends and save you money at the same time.

Collection of Work

If you are collecting work for your child please do not come before 10am on Mondays so we can get the packs printed. Thank you.

Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Williamson
Headteacher

Letters Home This Week

FSM – Letter to FSM Parents
All – Supported Home Learning Letter
All – Letter to all parents dated 5th January 2021
All – Curriculum Support Letter
All – Letter to all parents dated 4th January 2021
All – Letter from Paul Wagstaff 8th January 2021

Dates for Diary

Spring Term -	Monday 4 th January 2021 – Thursday 1 st April 2021
Half Term -	Monday 15 th February 2021 – Friday 19 th February 2021
INSET Day -	Monday 4 th January 2021 and Friday 12 th February 2021
Summer Term -	Monday 19 th April 2021 – Friday 23 rd July 2021
Half Term -	Monday 31 st May 2021 – Friday 4 th June 2021
INSET Day -	Monday 19 th April 2021