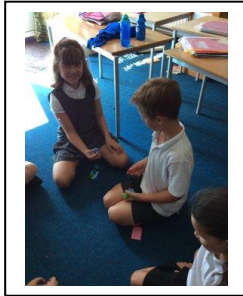




Billingshurst Primary School
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Newsletter No.5
Friday 9th October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers



Thank you for all the kind words and support that the school has received during this difficult week. I know that a confirmed case of COVID in our school is a worrying time for all. Most importantly all the staff involved are well and, apart from the one confirmed case, tested negative for the virus. However, we have to continue to self-isolate for 14 days from the last date of contact because we are all identified as direct contacts. My thanks go to Mr Timmins, Mrs Hanington and Miss Dowley who have, with the huge support of the staff team, managed the school and the school office with the admin team, Deputy Head and myself supporting remotely. The school came very close to having to close but, because we have such a great team willing to go the extra mile, we are able to stay open. The work of the administrative team is essential in keeping the school running and the children safe so it has been a massive team effort to keep the school open.

I know some parents have been worried by the confirmed case but I can reassure you that there is no heightened risk to children. We have strict protocols in place to ensure that the risk of infection is minimised. The fact that those working in very close quarters with the member of staff have not contracted the virus should reassure you all. It has happened, and it was very likely to happen at some point, but we have managed the situation. As the national situation worsens, we are all reminded how important it is to stick to the hand washing, mask wearing and distancing needed to reduce the risk of spreading this virus.

The team working at home are counting the days to get back to school. Mrs Wattam will return on Friday 16th and the rest of the team, including me, will be back on 19th October. Until then I am still available via email and I am in constant contact with the team and emails so if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Wellies

In order to give children as much space as possible, we want to use the fields for as much time as we can so please could children bring wellies to school? If you have any that have been outgrown and are willing to donate them, please drop them into the office. We will quarantine them and then add them to the growing collection outside my office for children who do not have wellies. Thank you.

BPSCA Christmas cards

Although many of the fund-raising activities of the BPSCA have been curtailed by the pandemic, the Christmas cards are going ahead. The difference this year is that these



have been completed in class. They will be heading to the printers soon and you will be given the chance to order these soon. The Christmas trugs competition will also go ahead this year and we will send details of this after half term. We have been unable to have our usual Harvest Festival this year and so will be eager to collect a vast amount for Crawley Open House Trug this year to make up for the loss of our Harvest contributions.

Sickness Bug

We have a sickness bug at school at the moment. Please remember to keep children at home for 48 hours after the last episode.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Williamson
Headteacher

Letters Home This Week

All – COVID 19 Update Letter

Dates for Diary

Autumn Term - Half Term -	Thursday 3 rd September 2020 – Friday 18 th December 2020 Monday 26 th October 2020 – Friday 30 th October 2020
Spring Term - Half Term -	Monday 4 th January 2021 – Thursday 1 st April 2021 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 - Half Term -	Monday 19 th April 2021 – Friday 23 rd July 2021 Monday 31 st May 2021 – Friday 4 th June 2021
INSET Day -	Monday 19 th April 2021