



Billingshurst Primary School
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Newsletter No.3
Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers



It has been another busy week and the children continue to shine. Their smiles really cheer up our days as the national picture bring much to be concerned about. In order to keep us all safe we are asking all adults coming onto the school site to wear a mask. We have become increasingly worried about adults finding it difficult to keep a safe distance from each other. As our new mantra goes 'Don't make us ask...wear a mask'. I thank you all in advance for your co-operation.

As the weather gets colder we face another challenge. We have to keep all external doors and windows open to ensure the rooms are thoroughly ventilated to help minimise infection risk. We have the heating on to keep the building as warm as possible but the fact is classrooms are going to be cooler. Please dress your children to help manage this – trousers, tights, an extra layer under their shirt (a vest or T-shirt) will really help. We also ask that children do not wear trainers to school. These are not waterproof like school shoes are and once wet, they stay wet. All children also need to bring a coat to school.

New Website

Our new website is live <http://www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk/web> . There is now a redirect from the old site and new photos are appearing – we think it looks great and hope you do too.

Clubs

Because of the pandemic we cancelled all clubs until half term. I am sorry to say that we have made the decision as a local group of schools that we will have to cancel all after-school clubs until Christmas. This is because we are unable to maintain bubbles. Teachers are also required to be off the premises by 5pm to allow for thorough cleaning and they are already stretched to get everything done that they need to. I am sorry that clubs will not be resuming but we have to make tough decisions whilst we deal with the pandemic.

Parents Consultation Meetings

Some good news is that these will take place but will not be face to face in school. Details coming soon but our consultations will take place by telephone this term.

FSM eligible children

Children who are eligible for free school meals are still entitled to receive these meals if they are self-isolating for COVID symptoms. For the first day the school will offer a packed lunch that can be collected from the school, if your child has a positive test or is self-isolating for two weeks then a weekly food parcel will be provided, also to be collected from the school. You may ask a friend or neighbour to do this. Please let the school know if you want the packed lunch when you report your child's absence.

Census Day – School Meals - 1st October

We ask every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try the hot meal on Census Day then your child will be fully funded to have hot meals during the year. All children will be given a hot meal in the dining halls, but if you really feel that your child will not eat anything (though there is a special fun menu planned for the day), then they can have their packed lunch once they get back to the classroom. We would like to encourage all parents to see this as an opportunity for their child to try hot meals which are after all free, highly nutritious and much quicker in the mornings than packed lunches and have proven benefits for children's concentration and learning in the afternoon. As the meals are usually £2.35 (for children not in Years Reception, One and Two), you could save nearly £450 a year if your child ate them every school day. If all children, in Reception, Year 1 and 2, have a hot meal on Thursday, we will be funded so that there will be no additional cost to the school and we will have enough meals for every child that wants one. In these times of extremely tight budgets this is vitally important.



Yours sincerely,

Helen Williamson

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

Letters Home This Week

All – Covid Letter 24 September 2020
All – PHE Letter to Parents

Dates for Diary

Autumn Term - Thursday 3rd September 2020 – Friday 18th December 2020
Half Term - Monday 26th October 2020 – Friday 30th October 2020

Spring Term - Monday 4th January 2021 – Thursday 1st April 2021
Half Term - Monday 15th February 2021 – Friday 19th February 2021

INSET Day - Monday 4th January 2021 and Friday 12th February 2021

Summer Term - Monday 19th April 2021 – Friday 23rd July 2021
Half Term - Monday 31st May 2021 – Friday 4th June 2021

INSET Day - Monday 19th April 2021

29th September – Year 2,4,5,6 Individual Photos