



Billingshurst Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Learning, growing and achieving excellence together

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

April 2020

Hello,

I find myself writing this at an unprecedented time of change and uncertainty in the world, but I am secure in the knowledge that the school has responded quickly and effectively to the situation ensuring the safety and well-being of children and staff. It is at times like this that the importance of keeping our pupils, teachers, staff and whole community safe is more paramount than ever, and it is so inspiring to see all the positives and community spirit coming from such an adverse situation.

The decision by the Government to close all schools except to a minority of pupils last month is an essential part of the fight against Coronavirus and, like Miss Williamson, Governors would like to thank all parents and carers who have supported the school with this. By maintaining school provision for those who need it, Billingshurst Primary school can rightly be proud of the dedicated teachers and staff who are coming in each day so that critical workers can stay at work and support the nation in tackling Coronavirus, something which the school will continue to do over the Easter break. The Governors and I would like to express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to the teachers, TAs, office staff, midday-meal supervisors and cleaners and everyone who has contributed to ensure that we are all staying safe.

I know Miss Williamson and all the teachers will miss seeing your children every day, I am equally aware that this is an unsettling time for pupils, particularly for our Year 6's who are unsure whether they will get to say a final goodbye to the school before moving onto secondary school. Fingers crossed that they will!

As Governors we have really enjoyed following all the posts on Twitter and Facebook from the year groups on suggested activities for your children and all the responses that have followed. We would also like to reiterate the message that has been given by the school which is simply, the mental health of your children at this time is far more important than whether they have practised their spellings or worked on a complicated maths problem. Of course, if your child is eager to learn then great but don't feel compelled or indeed, guilty, if at this

Links for learning:

Reading and literacy:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/quizzes/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Maths:

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

<https://www.themathsfactor.com/>

BBC History for Kids website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/>

The Tate Art gallery website for children

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>

The Science Museum website

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/home>

Discover facts at the Natural History Museum site

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover.html>

unprecedented time that doesn't happen, and instead we give ourselves and our children a bit of a break.

If you're working from home it can be especially tricky to try and juggle everything. As Governors we agree with the suggestions in the Parent Newsletters and by teachers online that keeping things simple, safe and fun for your children – and of course lots of lots of reading – is all that is needed. Children often have great resilience in these situations and we should let that and their creativity shine through.

It is crucial that everyone plays their part in this battle against Coronavirus so that we can begin to get our lives back to a semblance of normality. It might seem a long way off presently, but it will come, and I know every single student and teacher will be pleased to return to their classrooms when it does!

Finally, if there was ever a time that social media could light up a low-mood then the video that has been put together of the pupils and teachers waving to each other & smiling away then this video is worth its weight in gold. Thank you to everyone who took part (animals included!) and to Abi Smith for putting this together. If you haven't already seen it, you can see it on our school Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Billingshurstprimary/>

We can't wait to see you back in school when the time comes but for now, Happy Easter, stay at home, stay safe and look after yourselves and each other.

Jo.
Chair
Governing Board

Please continue to follow the Government guidance and make sure you are aware of what to do if you or anyone in your household starts to display any symptoms. For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-ukgovernment-response>