



**Billingshurst Primary School**  
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**Newsletter No.24**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Dear Parents / Carers



Spring is in the air and the days are getting slowly warmer and longer. I know that it is tempting, with schools re-opening, to think that the lockdown has passed. West Sussex County Council are asking us to remind families that all the lockdown restrictions remain in place and that these must be abided by to ensure the long term route map out of Covid19 restrictions becomes a reality. This is also important to ensure that schools stay open. A recent outbreak in an Early Years setting shown how virulent this virus is and how easily it can take hold. Please do not meet up with people outside the home until the guidance says you can. Please be especially careful not to crowd outside the school or at the gate. **Wear masks and keep a minimum 2m distance.** Thank you so much.

Unfortunately on Thursday a member of staff was verbally abused when asking a relative collecting a child to put their mask on. Such events are rare but they do happen. I have to remind all adults entering school property that they are entering private land by licence – permission of the school. If an adult's behaviour is abusive or threatening, this will not be tolerated by myself or the governors. If such behaviour persisted, the adult could be banned from entering school property. Thankfully these events are rare and we thank the vast majority of parents for the understanding and kindness they show us each day.

**Easter food vouchers**

West Sussex, through the government Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme, are giving £30 supermarket vouchers for all free school meal eligible children for the Easter holidays. If you think your child might be eligible for Free School Meals, please apply online here <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/> or ask at the office for a form; there is still time to apply for eligibility before the orders are placed. If your child is already eligible, you will receive a voucher either by email or paper copy before the end of term.

**Break Time Snacks**

Please can children be provided with a healthy snack / fruit at break time rather than items such as crisps and cakes. Thank you.

**Fitbits**

It was a while ago that I made a clear statement to parents and children that children should not wear fitbits/smart watches to school; I am aware that some children are wearing them again. We have an inclusive policy regarding uniform and equipment. Fitbits are expensive items and are liable to be lost at school or damaged. As we strive to be a fully inclusive school we do not want children to have items that identify the ability to have the extras or items that are expensive –

that is also one of the reasons we continue to strive not to have rucksacks in school as they often have a status in the name or brand. Please make sure children leave their fitbits/smart watches at home. We make sure they are active – at playtime and in PE. Children really do not need fitbits/smart watches. They may wear a simple analogue watch to school. Thank you for your support.

### **Inset**

A reminder the school is closed for Inset day training on 1<sup>st</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday!

Yours sincerely,



Helen Williamson  
Headteacher

### **Letters Home This Week**

Year 6 – Blackland Farm Letter

### **Dates for Diary**

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