



12th June 2020

The new normal?

As we returned to Bridestowe school this week for the first time since March, I thought it was time to get back to some of our 'normal' routines and the newsletter is certainly one of those. This week has been successful given the huge changes, pressures and anxieties within the school about re-opening. The children have been happy to be at school and the teachers have been delighted to see them. There are now only 5 weeks until the end of the summer term and we will maintain our high level of support for all our families throughout that time.

This week at school

This week we have welcomed children of key workers, vulnerable children and those from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back to school. We have had a total of 15 children across two classes. The two groups have been kept completely separate with staggered break and lunch times whilst also maintaining a 2 metre distance between desks and work stations. You will have seen that the classrooms have been largely stripped of resources. It is testament to the skill of our staff that the children have so enjoyed this week at school despite this, and continue to have a smile on their faces when arriving and going home.

You may have seen the Government's announcement this week that children from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will not be invited back to school before the summer holidays. Whilst we are disappointed that we cannot support more of our children at school, we believe it is the correct decision in the current climate and we will continue to support all other children with home learning.

Home Learning

We are continuing to support all those at home with their learning through the use of Class Dojo along with emailing home learning activities. Feedback from our recent survey (May 2020) suggests that the home learning has been very well received and families feel supported. There have also been many positive comments about the video messages and tutorials.

You may see some slight tweaks to home learning in the coming weeks as we adapt to the pressures of supporting some children at school as well as those at home. It may be that teachers who your child does not normally work with are commenting and giving feedback, or that home learning is being designed jointly across classes. This is to ensure teacher workload is manageable and achievable. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

If you have any questions about home learning, please don't hesitate to contact your class teacher.



Clearing the Environmental area



Myla's winning photo entry

Good News Newspaper

Mr Hill would like to create a 'Good News Newspaper' to be distributed to all children and into the local community to celebrate the good things the children have done recently. We are hoping this will provide some relief from the barrage of less than positive news many of us read and watch on a daily basis. Children are invited to submit a news story of something positive they have achieved in recent weeks. This can be from something as simple as cooking cupcakes and delivering them to grandparents, to raising money for charity, or extending bike rides/walks. Photos would be great too. You can send these via email or Class Dojo clearly labelled as 'Good News'.

2. How helpful have you found the home learning planning sent home by your teacher?

[More Details](#)

Very helpful	30
Somewhat helpful	13
Neither helpful nor unhelpful	2
Somewhat unhelpful	0
Very unhelpful	1



Transition for new September starters and Year 6

Unfortunately it has become clear that we will not be able to offer any face to face transition for our new intake of children. By now we would have been welcoming the children in for taster sessions and activities to familiarise them with the school and our routines. We are working on plans for more virtual transition so that the children can get to know the staff as well as one another.

Okehampton College and other secondary providers have been working on transition for our Year 6s. We are considering ways to mark the end of their school career with some sort of celebration – we will keep you updated.

September

At the moment, we still do not know exactly what September will look like in school and we are waiting for the Government to advise. We are making several contingency plans and will keep you updated when we know more.

Lockdown photo competition

Thank you to all those who entered the Lockdown photo competition – it was fantastic to see so many smiling faces. The overall winner was Myla – a brilliant photo of her smiling face backed by the blue sky. Alex and Hayleigh were overall runners-up with other class winners Alistair and Liam. Class runners-up were May, Molly Eg and Riley.

Be prepared for the weather

If your child is attending school at the moment, please bring the appropriate clothes for the weather. As the rooms need to be cleaned twice daily, children must go outside at lunch time and so need to be adequately protected from the weather.

Diary Dates

All previously planned events have been cancelled.

July

17th – Last day of the summer term.

Mr A. Hill – Acting Head of School

head@bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk

01837 861361