

Brookwood Primary News



Friday 8th January 2021

Issue 16

I hope this finds you all safe and well at the end of a very turbulent week.

I am incredibly proud of the way in which the whole school community has worked together to prepare for a very different looking school in such a short space of time. All staff arrived in school on Monday for our Inset day and met (virtually) as we prepared to welcome all children back to school. We updated staff on our revised risk assessment and discussed additional measures in place. Following the Inset, it was great to meet with so many parents on Microsoft Teams to update you on the term ahead and outline further safety measures in school. Ironically, I was informed by parents during the meeting that there was likely to be a partial school closure announcement later on that evening.

With such late notice following the Government announcement, we spent Tuesday preparing for the half-term ahead to ensure we were ready to offer a high quality education to both children in school and at home. As a staff, we agreed our vision and values around our approach to the next six weeks before working in teams to agree what would work best for each year group. In addition, we considered the feedback we received from parents and hope you feel that is reflected in the remote learning. I wrote to parents this afternoon regarding our concerns at meeting the needs of all our of vulnerable and critical worker families as well as providing for the children learning at home. We are asking you, as we did in April and May, to keep your child at home unless it is safer for them to be in school.

After all of the planning and preparation, it was a very welcome distraction to start Wednesday with a whole school assembly (with the exception of Reception Class who had a separate event with Miss Rowland), and talk to the children about the half term ahead. My message to them was that by learning at home, they are playing a significant role in helping reduce the spread of Covid-19. We are incredibly proud of them all and will work our absolute hardest to support them and you. My vision was and remains to build relationships between home and school and although we face a challenging half term ahead, I am confident that this will continue to bring us all together.

Please can I encourage you not to engage with Seesaw over the weekend but for any urgent communication or Covid-19 questions or concerns, please email me: david.gunning@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk

I really hope you and your children are able to enjoy the weekend and switch off from school. Next week's theme is Jigsaws and Board Games and will kick off with a live assembly on Monday at 9am.

David Gunning
Head of School

End of Consultation on Term Dates for 2021-2022

Thank you for all your responses to the term dates consultation. We are considering all of your views and comments, and will respond shortly.

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Important Reminders— Covid-19

The main symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you (or a family member) have any of these symptoms, you should get a test to check if you have coronavirus. You should stay at home until you get your result. You can book a test by visiting <http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call the NHS on 119.

Closing Date for September 2021 Reception Applications

If you have a child that is due to start school in September 2021, Surrey County Council have asked us to remind you that the closing date for Reception applications is Friday 15th January 2021.

They encourage online applications via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app> however parents can also request a paper application form or seek impartial help in completing an application via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004). Full information is available on Surrey County Council's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

Update on KS2 Residential Trips in 2021

We are now able to confirm that the KS2 residential trips postponed from 2020 to 2021, have sadly been cancelled. At this stage the government advice is still against overnight residential stays, so we have had to cancel the trips before we have to make any further payments.

Refunds for any deposits paid for the Swanage trip in May 2021 have been processed. Some refunds for the Henley Fort trip in April 2021 have been processed and the remaining refunds will be processed next week. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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Important Dates

2021

Monday 15th to Friday 19th February — Half Term

Wednesday 31st March — End of Term

Thursday 1st April — Moderation Day (Children not in school)

Monday 19th April — Start of Term

Monday 3rd May — Bank Holiday

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June — Half Term

Monday 7th June—Inset Day

Thursday 15th July—End of Term

Friday 16th July — Records Day (Children not in school)

Monday 19th July - Inset Day

Community Activities and Resources

- Surrey Family Learning provides free online parenting courses for parents and carers, including grandparents, who lack confidence or are struggling to support their children with school, homework or behaviour issues. For further information please go to: <https://mailchi.mp/7ff45a59ac84/family-learning-parent-bulletin-732968>
- CBBC have launched [Blue Peter on YouTube](#) which may be of interest to you and your children. Blue Peter is the longest running children's TV show in the world and they are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. They have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. They also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about their presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog. It is free to subscribe to at <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter>

Further information on these items can be found on the school website under the News and Events section.

We are not recommending any of the companies, services or events listed above. It is up to individual parents to make their own enquiries.