

# Bramble Infant School & Nursery Newsletter



Tuesday 21st April 2020

Issue: 12

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been just one month since we sadly closed our gates due to Coronavirus. In that time staff here at school and nursery have been busy providing child care for children of key workers and vulnerable children as well as preparing distance learning materials for children at home. It has been really uplifting to see all the work that has been completed by children and messages that have been sent in from home! Thank you!

This newsletter contains news and information from school and nursery and updates about services that are available through Portsmouth City Council to support families.

I hope that everyone in our community continues to stay safe, stay positive and stay in touch. Remember that our admin office remains open and if you have any questions or find your self needing additional support please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Mr O Bradley—Headteacher

## Y2 Tapestry Sign Up

Before the Easter break we took the decision to extend the use of Tapestry to the children in Y2. Tapestry is currently being used by children in Y1 and YR successfully as it allows teachers to upload more personalised work for children including video messages from teachers.

Parents in Y2 need to make contact with the admin office to give permission for us to sign you up and to confirm which email address you would like us to use.



## Staffing News

I am pleased to inform everyone that we have successfully recruited to fill our Nursery Manager vacancy. On Tuesday 17th March we appointed Vicky Taylor as our new Nursery Manager. Vicky is currently the Room Leader in the Pre-School room, so will be know to many of you, and has a track record of excellent practice. The recruitment process was very rigorous and at every stage Vicky excelled. She will be starting in her new role very soon.

I would like to thank Sharon Widnell who has been our Acting Nursery Manager since the Autumn Term whilst we have been searching for a new Manager. She has done a sterling job in leading the nursery (especially during the latest crisis) and ensuring all of the children have received excellent outcomes in their learning. Sharon will be returning to her role of Deputy Nursery Manager when Vicky takes over.

## Free School Meals

In line with government guidelines, we continue to provide food for children from families who claim for benefits related free school meals. In school we use a company called Caterlink to provide our catering. They have been supporting us and schools across Portsmouth to fulfil this important responsibility. Over the past four weeks, how we provide this food has changed from daily 'grab and go' lunch bags available to all children to now fortnightly food boxes for children from families that claim benefits related free school meals only.

In the press you may have read about e-vouchers being available for families of children that claim benefits related free school meals. We will resort to using the less efficient voucher scheme only if Caterlink are unable to fulfil their contract to us. The guidance we receive about free school meals seems to change on a weekly basis. We endeavour to keep families informed about any changes as soon as we can, so please bear with us.

## **Safeguarding & Child Protection**

As the way in which we are operating at the moment has fundamentally changed it has been appropriate to create an addendum to our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. This addendum sets out the extra measure that we have put in place to ensure that we continue to fulfil our statutory duty of protecting all children from harm. The addendum sits alongside our main Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, which is still active, and can be accessed on our website in the policies section.

## **Online Safety**

As children are spending more time at home, their use of electronic devices and the internet will increase. This will be due to them accessing entertainment as well as educational resources. We strongly recommend that e-safety is prioritised by parents at home so that you can keep your children safe whilst having fun and learning. It is more important now than ever to:



- Check that suitable parental controls are in place on all electronic devices so your children are not accessing unsuitable content (as an example; think about your subscriptions to Netflix and Amazon Prime. Are your children safe from inappropriate content?)
- Make sure that if your child is making contact with someone online. Do they know who that person is in real life? If they do not then they probably should not be in contact with them on line. This is a message that you should be reinforcing to your children.
- Re-cap rules for being safe online, including not sharing personal information, clicking on any unknown links and sharing pictures without permission.
- Check age restrictions on any games they might be playing (For example; a popular online game is 'Fortnight'. This is rated a '12'. Children under the age of 12 must not play this game due to inappropriate content. I have serious concerns that many of our child do, in fact, play this game!)
- Check the suitability of You Tube clips before you allow your child to access them. Even if you use 'You Tube for Kids' inappropriate content can slip through the filtering systems. (As an example; many 'Peppa Pig' videos that appear suitable can sometimes have inappropriate dialogue dubbed over the top of the images)



With this in mind ThinkUKnow.co.uk have provided age related materials that teach e-safety to children and provide information for parents. Below is a link to this information:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/thinkuknow/documents/thinkuknow/parents/pdf/thinkuknow-parents-helpline-primary.pdf>

## **Domestic Abuse**

Tragically, during this national 'lock down' the number of people experiencing domestic abuse in Portsmouth and across the nation has increased. If anybody reading this feels that they are experiencing domestic abuse please get in contact with staff in school and nursery and we will listen, and sign post you to the most suitable support agency. If you are in immediate danger call 999.

During the COVID-19 crisis the National Domestic Abuse Helpline is available 24hrs a day Freephone: 0808 2000 247. Online support: [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/Contact-us](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/Contact-us).

We have access to contact details for a vast range of support networks (too many to publish here) so please, if you need help, phone or email the school and nursery admin office.

## Nursery Distance Learning

As a reminder to nursery parents learning ideas for children aged 6 months to 5 years are posted on our Facebook page each week. Please visit our page if you need some fun, age appropriate learning suggestions. In some cases staff are also posting next steps in learning on Parent Zone.

## Celebration Assembly



In order to celebrate the amazing home learning that is happening I will be holding weekly virtual Celebration Assemblies. I will post the videos of the assemblies on Tapestry every Friday until schools re-open. Each teacher will nominate a **Reader of the Week, Writer of the Week, Mathematician of the Week** and (in a new category to reflect that not all learning is reading, writing or maths focused) a **Home Learner of the Week**. The children selected will be celebrated for all to see and a certificate awarded. We will try to post these out but if that is not possible we will save them up for you so the children can collect them when we all come back together. As Y2 children have not yet started using Tapestry fully, this week the Virtual Celebration Assembly will be just for Year 1 and Year R.

We will also be including nursery children in this. The Virtual Celebration Assembly for nursery children will be posted on Parent Zone each week. They will be celebrating some **Home Learners of the Week** from each class.

We hope that this will motivate learning and keep the momentum of home learning going during the remainder of the closure period.

