

Buxted Church of England Primary School

Hurstwood Road, Buxted,
East Sussex TN22 4BB



Acting Headteacher: Mrs H. Simpson

Thursday 2nd July 2020

Inspire and Aspire

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for all of the wonderful messages we have received from yourselves regarding the current situation with Covid 19. It is really great to read such positive comments and has given the staff a real lift. This has been an extremely difficult situation for all and very challenging having some children in school with many still at home. We are awaiting Government guidelines for September; once these are received, we will be in a position to give you further information concerning plans moving forwards. Of course, all plans are subject to change, due to the shifting demands of Covid 19.

The children attending school are doing extremely well. Teachers are doing a fantastic job of getting work onto Seesaw for children who are at home, as well as teaching groups of children who are at school all day. We now have around 80 children attending school from year 6, year 1 and reception, as well as key worker and vulnerable children across all other year groups. We are using every available space within the school and all staff are working with these groups of children in separate bubbles. There is also a strong uptake of children working on Seesaw, who are still learning remotely. In one of the year groups, we actually have 100% of children responding to work set and doing tasks each day. This is absolutely brilliant and well above the national average on children working from home. Clearly, this is no replacement for actually being in school and socialising with peers and interacting with the class teacher. What we have noticed, is for the children attending school, they have adapted well and are happy to be here, working under very different circumstances. This has helped their well being and we anticipate this being the case for when all children hopefully return to School in the next academic year.

We are currently putting arrangements in place for all children to remotely meet with their new class teachers before the end of term. We are trying to set up Office 365 meetings for those still at home, as we can have nine visible children on a screen at the same time. We are already experiencing difficulties with this and are working with ICT services to try and resolve the problem. We are unable to use Zoom as this is not supported by County as not a safe site to use. We therefore envisage that transition meetings will not be happening in the same way for all children. For the children who are in school, teachers will be able to meet with them from a distance, to help them prepare for next year. For those who cannot access the teams meetings, we will be recording a video of the class teacher welcoming the children to the class and showing them around their new classroom, which will be put onto Seesaw. Phone calls will be made for some children who do not have access to a computer.

With the difficulties around transition, I have made the decision to let you know about staffing arrangements now, so that there is sufficient time to allow for the various different meetings to take place. I also think it will help children to know who their class teacher will be to reduce anxiety about a possible return in September. All meetings will be planned to take place in the last full week of term, which is the week beginning the 13th of July. Details will follow shortly on arrangements for this.

The last day of term for pupils currently in school is Tuesday 21st of July. Children in Oak class will be able attend a day each on the last two days of term, as Mr. Shevels and the staff have kindly offered to deep clean before group B arrive. This will mean that group A will attend on Monday 20th July and Group B on Tuesday 21st of July, making it fair for both groups. Thank you for your understanding with this.



TERM TIME DATES

Wednesday 22nd July:
INSET DAY

Thursday 3rd September 2020: INSET DAY

Friday 4th September 2020: INSET DAY

Staffing Arrangements for September 2020– 2021

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant</u>
Oak:	Miss Shaw	Miss Buckley
Apple:	Miss Young	Mrs Morley
Cherry:	Miss Ramsay	Mrs Hone/ Mrs May
Silver Birch:	Miss Ward	Mrs Spratling Mrs Severn (INA/T.A)
Copper Beech:	Miss Chapman	Mrs Fowler/ Mrs Packham Mrs Hutchings (INA)
Willow:	Miss Puttock	Mr. Severn Mrs Medhurst (INA)
Yew Tree:	Mr. Bryce	Mrs Nutbourne

We look forward to welcoming back Mrs A. Jones and Mrs Spratling, who are both returning two days per week in September. We will be delighted to have them back. The classes that have two teaching assistants are job shares. INA's are Individual Needs Assistants who work with specific children within a class.

In the afternoons, teaching assistants may be deployed to carry out interventions throughout the school, which is organised by Mrs Goldsmith, our Inclusion Manager.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

Mrs H. Simpson

Acting Headteacher