

Buxted Church of England Primary School

Hurstwood Road
Buxted
East Sussex
TN22 4BB



Inspire and Aspire

Interim Headteacher: Mr G Alexander

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Hart

Telephone: 01825 733185

www.buxtedce.e-sussex.sch.uk

12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot tell you how happy we are to be back in the building with all of us together, despite never actually 'being together'. I should imagine our happiness is second only to your own! It has been wonderful to meet the children this week and get used to the hubbub of school life here at Buxted. Despite pick up and drop off arrangements that make me think Lewis Hamilton is about to pull in to change a tire, I have had a lovely week.

I'm glad some of you have commented that we have managed to improve the pick up and drop off procedures, but I know that they are not perfect. At the moment, I really don't think it is possible to make them any quicker unless more of you are able to walk; but I am told that there are lots of you that live too far away to do so, and that there is very limited parking nearby. If anyone has any constructive ideas about how we can improve these procedures then please do get in touch.

My first impressions are that your children are a credit to you. The behaviour around the school and the attitudes towards adults and classmates are really excellent. I have spent most time with the Year Sixes as I have covered a few lunchtime duties with them. I can honestly say that in all my years I have not met a more polite and pleasant set of Year 6s. I'm so pleased that I will get the opportunity to wish them well as they progress to secondary school in a few months' time.

We've had almost a 100% return to school with big smiles, and not just the ones on the parents faces as they drive away. It is really clear to see how much the children enjoy school. I don't want you to worry about the headlines around 'catch up' and how much 'learning loss' there has been. I can assure you that whilst the progress would have clearly been better if we hadn't had so much disruption, the engagement with and quality of the online learning will have mitigated much of that. What was clearly missing from children's lives was the ability to see their friends. That is now remedied, and we will all keep our fingers crossed that the virus continues to die down and that we have minimal further disruption.

We do all play a role in making sure that happens. Our risk assessment is on the website if you want to see all the measures we are taking, but we need you to take measures too by ensuring that you follow the Government guidelines outside school. All staff are testing twice weekly with home tests that give results in 20 minutes. They are really easy, if a little unpleasant, to do and they give us confidence that we will catch any asymptomatic cases early.

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These tests are now available to you and your family for free. We encourage as many of you as possible to test yourselves and your household regularly to ensure that we keep the virus at bay. I believe that the nearest testing center where you can pick up the tests is at the Waitrose in Crowborough. Further details about this are in the other letter attached to the parent mail.

Thank you for all the support you have shown the school and indeed your children during this crazy period. I am really pleased I have this opportunity help at Buxted.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Mr Alexander

Interim Headteacher