



8th January 2021

Dear Parents

It seems a little disingenuous to wish everyone a Happy New Year, but I am sure we all hope that this year will be better than 2020! May I start with saying a huge thank you for all the gifts that you gave to both the office and me – it was most generous and very much appreciated 😊

It is with real sadness that I have to write again and apologise for not being able to take in all the children that we would wish. I know that there is huge disappointment and frustration with this third lockdown and that there are many families who are struggling financially, and with childcare. I just hope that the measures that have been put in place by the government are effective and we can then welcome back all our children following the February half-term.

Remote Learning

We sent out a letter on Wednesday giving some details around our remote learning provision. Having had a couple of days to experiment both with uploading material and responding to work and parents, I just want to outline a couple of changes that we have made.

Some parents have asked for work to be uploaded the day before, or outside the times that we have specified (8.30am). We recognise that home learning can be a logistical nightmare, especially if there are several children at home or if parents are trying to work, and we therefore need to be flexible about when work is returned. We will be adhering to the 8.30am time for work to be set, but if that is not helpful for individual families, then please access it when it suits you, and return it the next day or even at the weekend if that is the only time that your child can complete the activities.

We are delighted with the amount of work that some children are completing, but we are finding that giving detailed feedback on all pieces of work is becoming too onerous and ultimately unsustainable. A minimum of three pieces of work will be set daily for all year groups – English, maths and another subject (e.g., history, geography, science, RE, art, DT, PSHE, French). Whole class general feedback will be given for English and maths daily; also, every child will receive more detailed feedback in those two subjects weekly. Some weeks you may receive more information. Weekly phone calls will be made to those families where there is little or no engagement to see if we can help in any way. Any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Permission Slips

Each week we would like to hold a 20-minute 'live session' with each class, their teacher and TA. The sessions will be quite informal and a chance for the children to see each other and to exchange greetings. The sessions will need to be carefully timetabled so that we do not have any overlap between classes in case there are siblings involved and there is only one device in the home. Unfortunately if the time does not suit you, then we will be unable to reschedule. In order for your child to take part in these sessions we need to obtain your permission. We have sent out an email today asking for your consent. All the sessions will be secure and will be led by the class teacher. Once we have received your reply, the class teacher will send your child an invitation via Teams to join them on the online meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, then please contact the office.

SUPERSTAR MATHEMATICIAN AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2

December's Superstars are: Oscar Dransfield, Eliza Lee, Rayan Casas, Tyler Heginbotham, Callum Thorne, Alice Giffin, Benjamin Trueman, Alice Smith, Alfie Franklin, Chhokar Yasmin and Qaylah Wark.

You should be very proud of your hard work – well done!

SUPERSTAR WRITER AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2

December's Superstars are: Isabelle Read, Lucy Dickinson, Aimee Marshall, Amelia Woodward, Jacob Curran, Scarlet Costello, Lucas Fulker, Szonja Brandhuber, Jack Hall, Leo Thornton and Anrudh Raj.

Well done – what a lot of brilliant writers!

Reading support for home learning

You can join Bracknell Forest library service as a temporary member, if you are not one already, to access ebooks for your children to continue reading at least four times per week.

Information from the Library Service:

Joining the library during coronavirus

If you are not yet a library member you can visit one of our re-opened libraries to join.

If you are unable to visit you can sign up as a temporary member to access our collection of free library e-books, e-audio, e-magazines and e-newspapers.

Just email bracknell.library@bracknell-forest.gov.uk and we will set you up. In your email state that you are requesting digital access and provide:

- your full name
- your phone number
- your date of birth
- your home address



THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Puffins (Nursery)

We hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday and are looking forward to the new year and exciting new term ahead. A warm welcome goes out to our new parents whose children have started this term in Nursery.

Our topics this half term will be; winter, traditional tales, people who help us and innovating for the future!

Throughout the term we will be spending time outside exploring the outdoor area. To help keep school shoes looking smart, please supply a pair of named wellies as the ground is very wet and muddy at present. We have a welly rack outside for storing wellies so that they do not need to be brought in every day. The children use our outside area throughout the year so your child needs to have a warm coat available every day. Please remember to name all items of school clothing to make it easier to return mislaid items to its owner.

Shortly your child will be sent home with a Chatter Bag. Once a week we ask that they bring the bag to school with an object from home to share with an adult and small group of children. This activity is intended to develop the children's speaking and listening skills. More detailed instructions will be sent out in your child's Chatter Bag.

Thank you to all of the parents who have already been donating to the 50p fund located on the nursery trolley. Your contributions have helped massively last term to replenish our messy play materials, as well as to buy items for the children to explore whilst learning about our different topics. Your continued donations are greatly appreciated.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank parents and children for our lovely Christmas presents. We were overwhelmed by all of your generous gifts.

Lastly we would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2021.

Miss Grant, Miss Dickenson and Mrs Read

Reception

Happy New Year and welcome back to what has been an interesting start to the term. We hope that were able to enjoy a relaxing break with your family. We would like to take this opportunity to **thank you** all for your kind and very generous gifts we received from the children for Christmas. They were very much appreciated.

This half term our topics are 'Winter' and 'Traditional and Modern day tales'. We are working really hard in school to ensure that the children continue to receive the very best learning that they deserve. So far we have loved seeing all their work in video or photo uploads and we loved seeing them for our meet and greets on a Thursday. Thank you.

We would like the children to go on a winter walk to see how the seasons have changed from autumn, in our/your environment, and we will be learning about the story 'The Sneezzy Snowman'. If you have any relevant books or artefacts linked to our topics that you would like to share with the class, we would love to see them uploaded as videos or photos.

As always, we will be focusing on **reading**. We are already closely monitoring the reading diaries. There are many children who are reading regularly but not having their diaries updated by their parents, as well as a few children who are not reading very much at home at all. Please ensure that every time you listen to your child read in lockdown you update their reading diary by dating, signing and including a very brief comment. We have uploaded all teddy, rocket and penguin words to the file section on Teams, so please continue to read these and 'Oxford Owls.' Is a great tool to use, just make sure you select book in your child's current book band. We would love to create a reading display so please could each child upload a photo of themselves reading their favourite book, in their favourite place or maybe in a different place such as in bed, in the kitchen, on a log, in the woods, in a park, up a tree, with a sibling or dressed up and then upload on Teams. The funnier the better! Be creative. Please could these be in by 22nd January. Thank you so much and stay safe.

Mrs Layton- Matthews, Miss Edwards and Mrs Hunt



Year 1

Welcome back to school or home school. We hope you all had a good Christmas and managed to have a nice rest. All the Year One staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely Christmas gifts you sent in, we have all felt thoroughly spoilt. We have an exciting term planned with our Geography topic, 'The Seven Continents'. We will start by finding out what a geographer is and look at the whole world. Each week, we will spend time exploring a different continent thinking about how it is the same or different to ours.

In science, we are leaning about materials. When you are out and about, please encourage the children to think about what objects are made from and why they are made from that particular material. For example, why are houses made using bricks? Why are windows made out of glass?

It is very important that the children are heard to read on a daily basis if possible (four times per week at least). This does not have to be a book – for example, it could be a recipe, a comic, instructions, a piece of text from the internet, etc. We would be grateful if you would continue to record reading in the Reading Records.

Links to free e-books:

<https://phonicsplaycomics.co.uk/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

We wish you a happy and healthy new year and hope to see you soon.

Mrs Wood, Mr Horton, Miss Wakelin

Year 2

Welcome back to learning, whether that is at home or at school. We would like to say a very big thank you for the many gifts we received at Christmas and let you know how much we appreciate your generosity, particularly in these difficult times.

This term we will be learning about living things and life processes in science and would encourage you to look out for mini beasts and British birds in your gardens or on exercise walks when possible. In history we will be comparing Queen Elizabeth II to Queen Victoria so do share your own knowledge about our reigning monarch and any news events that involve her with your child.

Regular reading remains vitally important for your children's progress and we would like to encourage you to continue to hear your child read 4 times a week. With this in mind you may like to explore the local library's 'e-book lending scheme' through the Borrowbox, which allows you to borrow e-books from a variety of children's authors.

We are looking forward to sharing our spring term topics with the children and thank you for your continued support, which is invaluable in our shared learning journey.

Year 2 Team

Year 3

Welcome back after what we hope was a fantastic Christmas break. All of the teaching staff and teaching assistants would like to express our sincere thanks for the wonderful cards and gifts we received before the holiday. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated. 😊 Our new history topic is, 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. We have also introduced our new science topic, 'Rocks and Soils'. If the children have any books or interesting items linked to either of these topics, they are welcome to bring them in to show us at school or read them at home. With the spring term already upon us, could we remind you of the importance of regular reading as well as times tables and spelling practice. Times tables and spellings should be practised daily and reading should take place at least four times a week.

Thank you for your continued support.



Miss Hadley, Miss Barton and Mrs Brown-Nicholson

Year 4

Welcome back! Whether you are learning at school or at home, we are sure this is going to be a great term. We hope you had a good break. First, we would like to thank you for the gifts we received before Christmas. We were all very grateful for your generosity.

Well done for doing your remote learning this week and sending in your work- we were very impressed. We know it is very different but we will get used to it and find it easier.

This term we have new exciting topics: our geography topic is on storms; our science all about electricity; in design and technology we will be looking at lighthouses. Please continue to support your child with their reading. They should read at least four times a week, to an adult if possible, and discuss what they have read. This will help them improve their understanding of the text. There are books that you can borrow from the local library's 'e-book lending scheme' through the Borrowbox, which allows you to borrow e-books from a variety of children's authors. The Oxford Owl website also has free access to a wide range of reading books and other useful resources.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 4 Team

Year 5

Well – this was not quite the start to the new year we were expecting, but we remain hopeful that we will see all of the children back in school in the not too distant future – fingers crossed!

We would like to start with heartfelt thanks for all of our wonderful Christmas cards and gifts – they were very much appreciated by the teachers, TAs and LSAs in the year group. The children who were in school during the final week of the autumn term all took part in a Rudolph Rave with their classmates. The performances were recorded and saved onto Microsoft Teams under 'Assignments'. We hope you enjoyed watching the children's super dance moves – we had great fun practising them 😊.

The spring term will be full of new and exciting lessons: our history topic is all about the Viking invasion of Britain; in science we will be exploring materials and their properties; and we will be using the book, 'The Wizard of Oz' by L. Frank Baum, as the focus for some of our literacy lessons. Please can we request that your child continues to read aloud, ideally to an adult, at least four times per week at home. There are a number of children who read fluently but find it difficult to explain what they have just read in their own words, or to answer questions about the text. These are skills that can be developed at home by reading for twenty minutes every day. Your child should also spend time practising their spellings daily so they can spell accurately in their written work. Thank you for your support with these important areas of learning.

Mrs Fish, Miss Hunt and Mrs Reed

Year 6

Welcome back after what we hope was a fantastic Christmas break – we hope you managed to relax before a hectic new year, what a strange start! All of the teaching staff and teaching assistants would like to say thank you very much for our wonderful Christmas cards and gifts we have received! Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Well done to everyone who has been doing their remote learning this week so far, we know it is very different and is something we are all having to get used to, so thank you!

Our new history topic is the Victorians and our new science topic is Inheritance and Evolution. We hope the children are as excited as us to learn about these new topics and we look forward to seeing all your wonderful work!

We hope you are staying safe,

Miss Parkinson, Miss Horner and Mr Charman



Yours sincerely

EA Cole

EA Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher

DIARY DATES:



Monday 8th February – Science Week begins
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February Pupils return to school
Monday 1st March Book Week
Friday 19th March World Poetry Day
Wednesday 31st March Virtual Parent Teacher Consultations
Thursday 1st April Term ends 2.00 pm