



Byfleet Primary School

King's Head Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7AT

Telephone: 01932 403116

Twitter: @byfleetprimary

Email: info@byfleet.surrey.sch.uk

Mrs C. Meyrick Headteacher



Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe we are halfway through the school year! I would like to express my thanks to all the parents/carers and Byfleet families for your continued support over the past 6 weeks. Needless to say, it has been a demanding half term for all of us, trying to juggle remote learning, working and not being able to go out and socialise due to this lockdown. The additional pressures placed on us this lockdown appear to be unlike any of the previous two, but I am confident that once the weather starts to warm and the days become lighter, so will our spirits lift in the coming weeks. Thank you for making things a little less onerous for us at Byfleet; whether you have been home-schooling or working as a critical worker – we appreciate everything that you have done to support Byfleet whilst we have been trying our best to provide learning for our children.



I would like to extend this gratitude to the wonderful staff at Byfleet who have worked tirelessly to give our Byfleet children and families the best deal possible. I hope you all have a well-deserved break and keep safe and well.

We have had some wonderful feedback from parents regarding the 1-1 pupil google hangout calls teachers made this week. It sounds like the children really benefited from this dedicated wellbeing time, which we thought would be a great way to end this challenging term.

Great things to celebrate at Byfleet this half term:

- The installation of a 16-piece outdoor gym, a climbing wall and climbing equipment for Key Stage 1 & 2 children
- The installation of climbing equipment and a moving bridge for Reception children
- A successful introduction of Google Classroom and G-suite which has allowed us to offer strong remote learning, daily contact between families, the class teachers and children and opportunities for video calls to take place for all our children
- An additional 32 chrome books to help increase our computing and curriculum provision for all our children
- 97% staff attendance – staff wellbeing continues to be a priority for us. Without healthy, happy staff, we are unable to offer our best to the children
- 97 % pupil attendance – well done. This is above the national average (96%)
- We are fortunate to have had no bubble closures or confirmed COVID cases at Byfleet
- Year 5 liaised virtually with famous author Michael Morpurgo – what a memorable moment!
- All staff have had access to *Google Level 1 Training* as part of our dedication to professional development





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- We won a Safeguarding Award from *Safeguarding Alliance* – in recognition of our efforts to keep our school and community safe during COVID

Year 6s

- It was great to see our Year 6s wearing their new 'leavers' hoodies' with their names on. If you haven't already done so, please collect your Year 6 hoodie from the school office. Year 6s are welcome to wear these into school each day (and online too!) to celebrate their final year with us.
- It won't be long until the Year 6s find out which secondary school they've received a place at the start of March.



Returning to School

- We are yet to hear from the government regarding arrangements for the Spring term. As mentioned in my Headteacher Briefing Google Hangout call with you, we often find out what is happening at the same time as parents, which poses challenges for us being able to keep you updated. I believe there will be a government briefing on Monday 15th February (during half term). As soon as I have more information, I will let you know.
- From Monday 22nd February, for week 1 and 2 of Spring 2, Byfleet Primary will be open for the current Critical Workers and Vulnerable children only, and anyone who we have contacted personally to invite their children back. We have increased our pupil numbers to 15 in each class and any pupil rejoining us in school has been notified this week and accepted their space. All other children should continue to access remote learning via Google Classroom from home. Please be aware that teachers will continue to take the morning register via Google Hangout for the children accessing remote learning, however will then be teaching full time once this register call has ended so may only be able to respond to your child's work/queries at the end of the school day. **We appreciate this may add some pressure for parents as they may need to monitor their child's learning more closely from Monday 22nd February as class teachers are unable to be 'on hand' as frequently - thank you for your patience and understanding with this.**
- From week 3 onwards (Monday 8th March), the government is proposing changes for additional children returning to school - we'll keep you updated when we know more.
- Reading books continue to be available in the atrium for you to swap each week. On top of all that you do, please continue to make time to read with your child every day.
- If you require additional writing or maths books for your children to use, we have made these available in the atrium for you to help yourself. Year 1, 2, 3 and Year 5 are ready to move onto their Maths No Problem text book 2 – these are also available in the atrium for collection so please pop down to collect these so your children can start their new workbook when we return in Spring 2.



School Update

- Parent/Carer meetings will take place on Wednesday 3rd March and Thursday 4th March. A separate email has been sent out for you to book your session. Please note, if your child is on the SEN register, then a double slot will be made available to discuss their SEN Support Arrangement targets so please book 2 consecutive slots.



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Test and Trace over half term

Please note that as we break for half term we are required to be involved in track and trace 2 days after the last day of teaching.

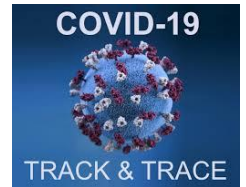
If your child gets COVID symptoms in the 2 days after Friday 12th February (either Saturday 13th February or Sunday 14th February) and they have a test that comes back positive, you should contact the school. You are able to email the school on info@byfleet.surrey.sch.uk to let us know up until Tuesday 16th February at 10am. This would be to inform us that your half term plans will be to isolate for 10 days, and we will be in the position to inform any other families whose children have been in contact with your child during the last couple of days at school.

If your child develops symptoms after Sunday 14th February, you should not contact the school. Instead you should follow the government's track and trace procedure

www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works. The main symptoms of Coronavirus in children are:

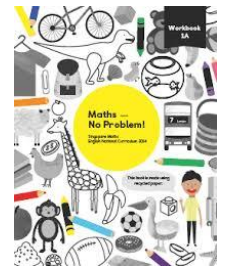
- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of taste or smell

We have also been advised that in some cases children display a sore throat or upset stomach.



Remote Learning

- You asked for some additional support with how MNP (Maths No Problem) is taught, so we have added [some maths videos to our school website](#).
- Please follow us on Twitter [@byfleetprimary](https://twitter.com/byfleetprimary) to see some of the children's work that is being shared. Please feel free to tweet some of your children's learning from home and tag us in as we'd love to celebrate their great work.
- Just a reminder - if you are struggling with accessing remote learning due to not having a device or having to share a device with siblings, please be in touch so that we can help.



Internet Safety and Parental Controls

We hope your children have enjoyed the different themes we've learnt about each week over the past 6 weeks. **This week we emphasised the importance of keeping ourselves safe as part of Safer Internet Day.** As most of us would have experienced the occasional inappropriate online link, advert or song pop up, these are often due to our settings not being secure enough. [This can be managed by setting parental controls, which can easily be done by following this link.](#) We urge parents to please check that the necessary controls are in place to avoid our children being exposed to inappropriate content - thanks.



Parent Support

Young Minds is a charity that has some great advice to support parents to help their children at home cope with the stresses of Covid. [Here is a link to their page.](#)



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Star of the Week

Well done to these superstars for doing something extra special this week.....



Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Oscar	Darren	Theo	Oliver S	Oliver R Ella	Indigo	Neve

Plea for Help

We are currently trying to improve our Reception playground area on a limited budget. New climbing equipment has been installed and there are long term plans to invest in upgrading the outdoor facilities in this playground. We are looking to move a metal fence that is concreted into the ground. Once the fence has been removed and reinstalled in a different location, we would then like to move the existing large 'playhouse' to the back of the playground. If you are aware of anyone who is able to assist us, ideally voluntary or for a small fee, then please do let the office know.



Weekly Themes

Next half term our weekly themes are changing slightly. Instead of having a theme to focus on over the whole week incorporating all subject areas, we will be focusing on a different subject area each week. This will ensure that we are able to focus on the core skills/objectives for each subject in each year. Where possible, we will still try to make the planning link so that siblings can work together on this. Here are the areas we are focusing on over the next six weeks:

- Week 1 (22nd Feb) - Geography
- Week 2 (1st Mar) - History / Reading week (World Book Day is Thursday 4th March)
- Week 3 (8th Mar) - Science (British Science Week is this week)
- Week 4 (15th Mar) - Modern Foreign Languages (French) / Computing
- Week 5 (22 Mar) - Creative Week - Music / Art & DT / Dance
- Week 6 (29th Mar) - RE (Easter)



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Diary Dates

World Book Day Dress up - Thursday 4th March	Year 5 Bikeability Week - 29th March (tbc)
Parents Evening - Wednesday 3rd/Thursday 4th March	End of Spring term - Thursday 1st April Reception & KS1 - 1.45 Year 3/4 - 1.55 Year 5/6 - 2pm
Science Week - 8th March	Summer term starts - Monday 19th April
Comic Relief - Superhero Mufti £1 donation for charity - Friday 19th March	INSET day - Monday 7th June Last day of Summer term - Wednesday 21st July

Just a reminder that we will be celebrating World Book Day in Week 2 when we return so please start thinking about ideas for dressing up (both at home and in school!) - we have many fun activities already planned to encourage our children to read more and celebrate reading for pleasure.

Thank you again for working so hard to support your child's home learning. Please enjoy a well deserved half-term break and keep safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs Meyrick
Headteacher