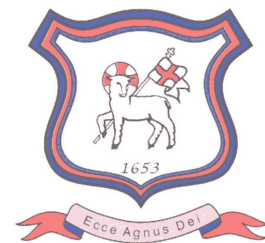


Bretherton Endowed CE Primary School Newsletter

26th February 2021



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Well March 8th is our Welcome Back Day and we can't wait!

We will continue to plan learning through Google classroom next week and we will use the platform for some sessions in school and homework. Thank you for your participation on it along with your children— we know that no platform is a substitute to in school education but we feel that it has enabled us to continue our curriculum.

We know from our previous experience of returning after lockdown that many children will come back, ready to learn, happy and content. However, others may have some anxieties or find that they struggle with their learning behaviours such as motivation, focus and stamina. They may find new learning and their memory recall a challenge but with well planned lessons, opportunities to reconnect with friends and focused staff intervention, this will be overcome. If you have any information that you feel you would like to share with your child's class teacher, please ring school next week and they will call you back. Sadly, we will continue to have the Covid restrictions on adults in school for a while longer.

As everyone has been so busy since Christmas, I would like to remind you of some key points for our return. There is a lot to say, so thank you for reading.

- Although we are nearly into the Summer term, we appreciate that your children have not worn their uniform this term and so for the remainder of this year, children can wear either their summer or winter uniform. Winter uniform consists of grey skirt/pinafore/trousers/shorts and/or summer dresses. Please note we have many pieces of pre loved uniform now in the entrance of school – please do come and use them as they are in good condition.
- Please can you ensure ALL uniform is labelled. A jumper misplaced with a name in it is much more likely to be returned to its owner.
- Due to ventilations in classrooms, children need a jumper/cardigan until the warmer weather arrives.
- School will be open from 8.40am in the morning for Class 2,3,4 through the playground entrance with parents leaving them with the staff member at the gate and 8.45am through the hall doors for class 1. If we could ask you not to arrive before this time as they will not be supervised.
- School lunches will continue to be offered and can be ordered on the day. The menu can be found on our website, although there will be a change in menu for the Summer term which will come into place not long after we return. Children will continue to eat in their class bubbles and will play outside in them too.
- We have loved holding the virtual worship on Friday while we have been in lockdown as it has been lovely to see everyone. However, we will resume our outside worship on a Friday from 12th March. We will still celebrate birthdays, so children can bring a card and on the 12th and we will celebrate all birthdays that happened during the lockdown. We will resume our bubble birthday parties at the end of March and will celebrate all those who've had them since January.

Continued ...

PTFA

We would like to be able to hold a virtual PTFA meeting very soon after Easter so that we can fulfil a requirement of a charity to hold an AGM and to plan for the opening up of social events.

Speaking of which, we are hoping to be able to offer a virtual chocolate family bingo event for children and families before Easter and if we have interest will organise a family quiz so we can socialise together.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please can we remind all parents not to park near the school or gates or opposite the yellow zig zag lines otherwise it adds to the dangers for families crossing the road. Please park along South Road further away from school and walk in. If we can ask you to let any adults dropping off or collecting your child know.

TWITTER for school

For those of you on Twitter, to keep you right up to date with the great learning and sporting opportunities we have our twitter feed @BrethertonEP



Remember our door is always open— contact us on bursar@bretherton.lancs.sch.uk

or 01772 600431 to arrange a chat

FURTHER INFORMATION

Romans 15:13

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

- If your child has a 1 to 1 Chromebook, please could we ask you to charge them overnight (so they don't need to bring their charger into school as they last 12 hours) and bring in their cases for insurance purposes. If we could ask you to ensure their names are in the case and if possible on the bottom or top of the device. The cases for the 512 devices are due in this week— apologies for the delay. Although we won't replace remote learning at home with remote learning using the Chromebooks in school, we will be maximising learning by using them every day. We would therefore ask that your children bring them in everyday!
- As the Government guidance in all other aspects of our lives are the same apart from schools opening, we are not expecting a significant change in the demand for The HUB after school places. Due to the challenges we are facing with staffing, we will continue to offer 8.00-8.45am at a cost of £2.00 before school and 3.15-4.30pm at a cost of £3.00 after school until we break up for Easter. We will review the timings and demand as we return on the 8th and review the impact of restrictions beginning to ease to make changes as they are needed after Easter. If you feel that this significantly affects your ability to work, please let me know and I will look at possible individual options. Thank you for your understanding.
- The end of the school day did cause some concerns last term due to the safety of parents and children on the footpath and children crossing over to meet parents. So to operate a smooth end to the day, we propose that:
Class 1 will leave from their usual double doors at 3.10pm and the children's older siblings will be released through the same door at this time so parents can leave with their children altogether.
Class 4 will walk through school and leave through the hall double doors at 3.15pm.
Both of these classes must leave the school grounds through the pedestrian gates and not the car park for safety reasons.
Class 2 and 3 will be collected from their teacher on the playground at 3.15pm and we would ask all parents to enter the playground to collect their child so there is no congestion on the footpath. Unfortunately, we cannot welcome dogs onto the playground. If we could ask you to continue wearing face coverings and always maintain the 2m distancing guidance we can continue to minimise the risk for all. We will continue with the one way system at the end of the day using the gates outside the porch. Thank you in advance.
- There will not be any after school sports clubs until after the Easter holidays, but on our return in April, we hope to be able to offer the usual and some additional sporting after school activities. This also applies to Spanish which will restart on 13th April 2021.
- Please can you continue to read often with your children as we will be prioritising reading and additional support while we are unable to have volunteers in, it would be greatly appreciated.
- Toast for class 1 is paid for through school money. We are aware that some had already paid for last half term which will cover until we finish for Easter. You will receive a text to inform you that you have paid in case you have forgotten, but if you do not receive a text but would like your child to receive toast for the remainder of this half term please contact the school office. The balance from this half term will be taken off next half term's charge which you will receive notification of via email. Class 2/3/4 can purchase toast for 20p daily. Please ensure if your child brings a snack from home that it is fruit as we want to encourage a healthy snack mid morning.

Saying Goodbye

I informed you that Mrs Williams (Class 1 teacher) will be leaving us in the summer term to spend more time with her family. Having worked at Bretherton Endowed for over 25 years, we will find it hard to say goodbye. We are grateful for the advance notice that she has provided so we can search for a high quality teacher to complement our team. Mrs Williams and the Class 1 team cannot wait to see the children back in school. I am certain that you would join with me in wishing her a happy last term and fulfilling future chapter.

Pre-school

We are hoping to commence Pre-school from Thursday 18th March 2021 1.30—3.00pm with Mrs Vincent. We can't wait to invite our Pre-schooler's back into school.

Swimming for Class 2

We have heard from West Lancs Sports Partnership that they hope to commence swimming after 12th April. We will inform you of the Covid-19 measures that will be put in place for the pool, changing and transport before the Easter holidays. We are encouraged that this can be offered as water safety is an important life skill.

Class 3 Brass—Wider Opportunities

In anticipation of this, the brass teacher has asked that all children try and play their instrument a couple of times before we come back to loosen their valves. Even if they just blow through their mouthpiece would be really useful. They have prepared to maintain the instrument on the first day, but it would be great if this preparation can happen to allow them to play during the session.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PE and physical exercise

PE this term with West Lancs Sports Partnership will be with Class 2 and 3. This is every Tuesday. However, we are keen to maximise physical exercise and activity along with PE lessons so we would like to ask your child to have their PE kit in school every day and old trainers to enable us to run the Daily Mile regularly throughout the week. Your child may like to have a pair of joggers in school for colder days.

In addition to this, our staff may use our local area for walks, exploring and investigations and for outdoor learning when teachers feel it appropriate and so your child will need a waterproof coat every day.

Although we cannot hold sports after school for a short while, we will be participating in the School Games virtual competitions with other schools in our cluster.

Parent guide for coming back to school

The Government have provided parents with a guide for returning to school. It can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=1f898095-4d1d-462f-a416-5d644ff84026&utm_content=immediately

World Book Day

Attached to this newsletter is an electronic voucher for World Book Day. Please feel free to print the voucher if you can and use in accordance with the terms and conditions on the voucher. If you cannot print, please let us know on our return to school and we will print one for you. These vouchers offer a great chance to discuss books and your child's enjoyment of reading. Choosing a new book is always a delight for children and the free £1.00 books are always great or you can use the voucher towards another higher priced item.

Book Hunt

Thank you to all our families who engaged with the Book Hunt around Bretherton. We hope that our children enjoyed the extra reason to exercise last week and they lost themselves in an adventure too. He hid 35 books (all stamped with Bretherton Endowed School) so we would be grateful if you could bring them back to school if you have them or if you see any about the village, could collect them for us. Thank you for the photographs, I loved seeing them in the holidays. Well done Lucy for completing our Reading Challenge—great achievement.

Golden Time

Wow— you have been amazing! Thank you so much for participating in our Golden Time badge activities. It has been a delight to share your creativity and fitness activities and what a great way to have some 'no screen time' each week. You have shown yourselves to be fantastic bakers, karate experts, art and crafters, fitness, walking, Yoga and mindfulness stars. I can't wait to present you with your special badges on our return. I won't be posting any for the next two weeks but instead, I would like you to **share with me a picture that you have taken** (on your device, parents phone etc) posted on the Golden Time page of something you have loved doing in lockdown or a scene that you have enjoyed over the last 6 weeks and I will create a memory display in school ready for your return.

Cycling incentive

This March we're inviting everyone to sign up for **Ride it Out** – a month of reasons to get back in the saddle! Or even for the first time. We'll have a different theme each week.

Ride HEALTHY – ride your bike to sleep better, live longer and smile wider

Ride RELAXED – it's not all about how fast or how far, shift down a gear and enjoy your ride

Ride GREEN – ditch the car and try one of your regular journeys by bike

Ride FREE – big or small, this week is all about adventure and going somewhere new to you by bike

There will be some great prizes on offer as well.

It only takes 30 seconds to register at: <https://www.lovetoride.net/lancashire>

Year 6 High School offers

Our Year 6 children are expected to find out their High School offers on 1st March 2021. Parents are usually notified before school. We wish all our Year 6 all the best for their first choices but if for any reason this doesn't happen, please contact us and we will try and help.

Online Safety

I have talked a lot about online safety throughout all the lockdowns but I cannot stress enough the importance of knowing what your child is accessing increased screen time. Some of the safeguarding concerns come from areas such as creating their own free Spotify accounts and creating playlists with artists known to use explicit language, watching Tic Toks that are age inappropriate when you may think they are accessing harmless content—there are many which use inappropriate language, older content, some which encourage 'copy crazes' that could be dangerous etc. YouTube can offer content that harms, or promotes harm of animals, children and peers in a 'funny' way. A couple of easy ways to protect your child are to set up filters on your network; limit their time on screens in private areas such as bedrooms; check conversations if using headsets in gaming; regularly check the history on their devices; regular conversations about their viewing choices; avoid devices in their room overnight.

Donations

We are grateful to the generosity of our local community. During the last 6 months, we have had donations from local businesses, parents and the local authority from Chromebooks, reading books, to storage containers. It is humbling to know that our community cares for our children's education and wellbeing and are prepared to help. We are extremely grateful for their support and would like to thank them all very much for thinking of us.

Many of our donors wish to remain anonymous, which we will respect but I cannot thank them enough for their support of our children. Money and physical items can't solve everything, but they can certainly support us in our big plans for our children's return, education and future. I would like to say thank you to Mr Bradley and Roocroft for the container at the rear of school as this storage will help us remove the broken storage we have off the play area at the rear of school, allowing more space for children to play.

Windows and building repairs

You may have noticed that we have had our windows replaced and we have had the floor of the Wilson Suite and some floor boards and doors replaced over the last 9 months. This has not been paid for by school but rather with a successful grant from the Diocese and a commitment from the Feoffess/Trustees. We are thankful for this and know the children will benefit from the additional warmth in the winter and ventilation all year round.