



# Newsletter

01420 472358

<http://bordoninfantschool.co.uk>

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Welcome to the start of the new school year

We really hope that your children are enjoying the start to the new school year. They certainly seem to be loving being back at school and loving being with their friends again. As staff we are all enjoying having everyone back and getting back to some level of normality.

We hope that the new restrictions we have had to put in place, especially around drop off and pick up time are working for you. If you are having any issues, for example, struggling to pass messages to your child's teacher, then please let us know. If you are having difficulties, you can phone or email and we will get back to you.

While we may be limited in some of the parent activities we can offer at the moment, what is going on in class is exactly the same as it would normally be. The children are learning the same things as normal in the same way, they are also having just as much fun as they would normally do! To help with their learning the more you can support your child's reading and spelling the more progress they will make.

## Upcoming Events

### **28 September 2020**

Tiger Class – Local area walk

### **29 September 2020**

Kangaroo Class – Local area walk

### **1 October 2020**

Special lunch

### **5-9 October 2020**

Walk to School Week

### **21 October 2020**

School Photographer in

### **23 October 2020**

End of Term

### **26-30 October 2020**

Half Term

### **2 November 2020**

Start of Term

### **11 November 2020**

3.45-6.45pm Parents Evening

### **12 November 2020**

3.45-6.45pm Parents Evening

## Contingency Plans

With the ongoing national situation with the coronavirus and especially at the moment with the difficulties in booking a test, I am asking all parents to make plans for keeping your child at home in the event we have to shut a class, year group or the whole school. I am aware that following a similar letter from Oakmoor School they shut a year group the following day, I can promise parents we have no knowledge about needing to shut any classes, this is purely forward planning.

I very much hope this is not needed but if it is then it will likely happen at very short notice. Classes will shut if public health tell us we need to, following a case or cases of confirmed COVID 19. In this event children will likely need to stay at home with you for two weeks.

Classes may also shut due to lack of staff. If staff have symptoms then, just like the children, they cannot come to school until they have been tested or they have self-isolated for two weeks. Shutting a class under these circumstances will be an absolute last resort. If I do have to shut a class due to a lack of staff then we may only be able to notify parents that morning.

As I said shutting classes will be an absolute last resort. I am however constrained by the fact I cannot mix children into other year groups at the moment and I have to ensure classes do not go above the legal limit of 30 for Infant Schools. Having a back-up plan that you can use at short notice would be very useful, though hopefully it will not be needed.

Matt Greenhalgh  
Headteacher

## Remote Learning, Parents Evening and other Events

If for any reason we do have to shut any classes we will move to learning from home again. As a school, we will be using the Microsoft Teams platform to conduct virtual lessons alongside other resources, we will email out as we did during lockdown. The idea would be to hold virtual lessons in the mornings and give you activities to do with your child in the afternoons.

It would be worth parents downloading Microsoft Teams in case we do have to move to remote learning for any reason. It would also be worth parents testing out their hardware to make sure that they can see and hear any presentations.

We will also be trialling using Microsoft Teams for parents evening this year if current restrictions remain in place.

If the technology works well enough we may well be able to be more creative in its use and show some class assemblies or other special events the same way. We are working on this currently and we will let you know the progress we make.

The program can be easily downloaded by Googling Microsoft Teams.



### Stars of the Week

**18<sup>th</sup> September**

Isla Gregory  
Sam Anderson-Beer  
Archie Nash  
Alex Smith



### Birdworld Tickets

As a school we have one free family ticket to Birdworld to give out every day.

To get the family ticket all you need to do is pop into the school office, or give us a ring.

We will need to know the day you would like, the number of adults and children you will be taking and an email address you would like the tickets sent to.

As long as no one else has already booked that day the tickets are yours.

### Year R playground - Drop off and pick up times

The Year R playground is one of the most difficult areas of the school for parents to socially distance. As there is only one entrance and exit, and the pathway narrows at that point, maintaining a 2 metre distance from others can be very challenging. The government guidance currently is that if people are unable to maintain a distance of 2 metres then face coverings should be worn. As a school we are recommending to Year R parents that if you feel unable to maintain a distance of 2 metres or you are in a high risk group, you wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting your Year R child. Children do not need to wear face coverings.

If you do choose to wear a face covering **please remove it when the teachers start sending the children out**, as we do not want there to be any confusion and a child go with the wrong adult.

Could we also ask parents not to wait near the gate to the playground so we can keep that area as clear as possible. We know as a parent you want to watch your child going into class but at the moment we need to ensure that all of our parents are kept safe from the virus and we must ensure that we are doing the very best we can to maintain that 2 metre distance from others.

None of the procedures currently in place are what we would normally want for parents and children starting school but the priority at the moment is people's health and we do hope you understand.