



An Academy

22nd October 2020

Dear Boughton Families

As we approach the end of term 1 at school, I thought I would write to celebrate our successes and update you regarding many of our policies and procedures. This is quite a long letter, so as I always suggest, you may wish to sit comfortably with your preferred choice of beverage and snacks before you start reading.

WELCOME TO OUR RECEPTION CLASS

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our 28 new starters and their families. It's been lovely greeting you at the gate on a few mornings. The children have settled very well into their new routines and all seem to have enjoyed their first term at school. Mrs Cook and Mrs Augustin have done a fantastic job of helping them all to settle and I'm sure parents and carers are finding the communication via Tapestry helpful. If you do have any questions or concerns, the staff will be more than happy to help.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Thankfully we've managed to keep school and all its bubbles open throughout this term. It's due in no small part to the efforts of our parent community and all of our staff in trying to keep everyone safe. As always, thank you all for your ongoing support and co-operation.

With various parts of the country having increased measures in place, we need to remain mindful that at any point we could have further restrictions imposed across the county. However, primary schools remain open at tiers 1, 2 and 3; it would only be national tier 4 restrictions that would force closure OR an outbreak within the school.

It is my hope that we will be able to stay open throughout the next term and beyond but we must all play our part in ensuring we are managing distancing, hand washing and use of face-coverings when needed.

I have some infographics to share via the school website and parents can access the latest guidance [here](#).

If you live with other people and anyone in your household tests positive, everyone has to self-isolate and follow this guidance

The person who tests positive should isolate for 10 days and:

- 
Stay in their room and isolate from the rest of the household
- 
Use their own bathroom if possible, use their own towels and clean thoroughly after each use
- 
Use the kitchen separately, eat in their own room and wash their own cutlery and crockery

Other members of the household should:

- 
Self-isolate at home for 14 days, even if they have a negative test result
- 
Keep separate from the infected person
- 
If you must share spaces, create a rota to minimise transmission, the infected person should always go last

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

I hope that parents in Y1 to Y6 found our consultation meetings useful during this term. They have continued right up till this final week of term, so we will be looking at a date late in term 2 for our official autumn term parents' evenings. Again, these will need to be held in a Covid-safe way, so we will advise parents of the arrangements as soon as we are able to. My thanks to all teachers, who have used their PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) sessions, and given up time after school over several weeks, to ensure they've met with as many parents as possible.

PARENT SURVEY

I have developed a survey for parents to establish your views on the re-opening of school, including what we've done well and what could be even better.

You can access it by following this [link](#).

Each child will earn 50 House Points if their parent returns a survey! You will need to complete one for each of your children; thank you in advance. Your views will be used to help inform our next steps in developing our safe practices and policies.

REMOTE LEARNING

All schools must have a Remote Learning Plan, outlining the measures they will take in the event of individual isolation or bubble/school closure. Our Remote Learning plan has been published on the school website today and can be accessed [here](#).

The plan will be subject to updates and amendments as we increase our capacity regarding the technology we can use plus other resources we can send home.

CATCH UP PLANS

You may be aware that the government has allocated some funding to all schools to enable pupils to catch up. Schools are free to decide how to utilise these funds and can be flexible in their use. The funding is allocated to the budget in three payments, in the autumn, spring and summer terms and is for this academic year only.

You can read more about the Catch Up Premium [here](#).

Our initial funding allowance for the autumn term has been allocated to increase teaching assistant hours where we can, in order that children who need it can have some additional support either in class or within small intervention groups.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

I am the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENCo for short) and my role is to co-ordinate the work of adults in school and outside agencies in order that children reach their full potential, with additional support if needed. To that end, I have enlisted the involvement of a consultant SENCo, Mrs Rachel Creamer. Rachel has many years' experience, having worked for the County Council as a leading SENCo, supporting and advising schools across the county. She is supporting me in ensuring that we are fully meeting the needs of our pupils; her role includes observing, assessing and making recommendations for the school to follow. Over the coming weeks, I will be making contact by email with parents and carers of children who have an identified additional need and are on our SEND register, to let them know if Rachel is going to be observing or assessing their child and to create an individual plan where needed.

CHRISTMAS PLANS

Covid-19 has impacted upon our plans for the usual Christmas activities and events.

Rather than focusing on what we won't be able to do this year, we will focus on what will be possible.

A full plan will follow but our intention is to hold either key stage or class assemblies during the final two weeks of next term; these will be via Zoom and will involve presentations of awards and (if allowed within Covid-19 guidance) performing a few Christmas songs.

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BOUGHTON SUPERHEROES

You may remember that last year we launched our four Boughton Learning Superheroes:

Captain Curiosity

Colonel Co-operation

Metacognition Magician

Resilient Ranger

These are the qualities that we agreed as those we'd like to see the children demonstrate in all they do at school, to set them up as lifelong learners.

This term, the staff have been spotting which children are "Resilient Rangers", with each class working towards earning a whole class tea party. This will carry on during next term and, when a class earns their tea party, we will move on to another of the superheroes.

I must say that I've been so impressed with how the children have adjusted to the "new normal" at school; they have taken everything in their stride and it feels as though school is as close as it can be to our pre-Covid time. They are working hard and striving to do their best. This is all credit to you, their families, and to our fabulous, dedicated staff team.

ONLINE SAFETY

During (and since) lockdown, our children developed much more of an online presence than ever before. Many of them have spent much more time online, partly through necessity for the purpose of learning at home, but also because we've all been so much more restricted in our activities with family and friends. With that in mind, I felt it was timely to remind everyone to supervise and monitor their children's online activities.

One particularly popular game with the primary age range is Roblox. Parents should note it is recommended for age 7+ and that there is a chat option on the site. I have recently heard reports that even with chat filtering on, children can still come across inappropriate language or messages. Some of the games on Roblox feature cartoon fighting with guns or weapons, which some children may find upsetting or transfer into their breaktime play.

As the mum of a 15-year-old who is very into gaming, I have experienced the same struggles as most parents in trying to strike a balance between allowing him an online presence, whilst also trying to limit his screen time where possible.

Primary school is the time when you, as parents, have the most control over this. It gets much harder the older your child is!

I highly recommend the website <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> for parents to use, as a great help to navigating their way through this new online world. It's fantastic and very user-friendly. It allows you to research the games, apps and sites that your children may be using or visiting and gives safety ratings based on evidence.

OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR/CHANGE OF SHOES

As you will be aware, we are making use of our spacious field for break and lunchtime play. This allows us to have each key stage outside for their break, without the bubbles crossing over or mixing. It means that every class has guaranteed time outdoors every day, which helps to contribute to the children's fitness and well-being.

However, the field is becoming quite muddy now and is likely to get worse over the winter months.

This means that the children's shoes will also get muddy.

The majority of children now have a change of footwear in school, either wellies or trainers that they can use for outdoor play. Many thanks to parents for providing these, I realise it's an additional expense and inconvenience but it is much appreciated.

Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils are in the habit of having outdoor footwear available, so can continue as they have been doing so far.

For Key Stage 2 pupils who haven't been bringing a change of footwear, I can offer the following solution; use your usual shoes for breaktimes and bring a change of footwear for indoors. This can be a slip-on soft

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shoe, e.g. a plimsol. This could be a more cost-effective option for parents and, in turn, will save our carpets! However, parents will need to be aware that we go outside whatever the weather, so children's footwear will get wet and muddy.

Key Stage 2 pupils who are already bringing a change of footwear (trainers, wellies, etc) can continue to do so.

For all pupils, the change of footwear needs to remain in school and can be taken home at the end of each term, unless absolutely necessary. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Senior Leadership Team are in the process of reviewing our Anti-Bullying Policy. During the past term, I've led a series of assemblies around positive behaviour and anti-bullying. As much as I would hope that bullying is very rare at Boughton Primary, it would be foolish of any Head Teacher to believe it doesn't or couldn't happen.

The purpose of the policy is two-fold:

1. To identify the ways in which the school community strives to prevent bullying;
2. To outline what happens if a case of bullying occurs and how we support the pupils involved to ensure it is dealt with quickly and effectively.

Our six Boughton Values underpin all of our work in addressing behaviour and preventing bullying:

Responsibility; Tolerance; Respect; Compassion; Honesty; Courage.

This term's value, *Responsibility*, reminds us that we own our behaviour and have to take the consequences of our choices – good or bad.

With the children, we have revisited our Behaviour Promise:

Be Kind

Be Safe

Be Responsible

We have identified that all the children who keep the Behaviour Promise are being what we call **Anti-Bullying Allies**; friends and helpers who are preventing bullying by making the right choices.

Our next step is to elect two **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors** in each class. Their role will be to help the Senior Leadership Team shape the policy and procedures, by collecting the views of the children in their class and by relaying information back to their teachers.

The children will take home an application form to complete during half-term, if they would like to be considered for this role.

FINALLY

Thank you all for your patience, support and good humour during this first term. It's not been without its challenges but as always, our philosophy at Boughton Primary is one of honesty and openness. We work together to try to solve concerns or issues that arise as quickly as we can. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you a restful, safe and enjoyable half term break.

School closes at the normal time on Friday 23rd October and will reopen to pupils on Tuesday 3rd November.

With very best wishes

Mary James

Head Teacher

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